

## Tournament Rules & Format



**Last Updated:** April 2026

Outsiders Volleyball tournaments are designed to provide a fun, competitive, and organized playing experience for all teams. The following rules and format guidelines apply to all Outsiders Volleyball events unless otherwise specified by tournament staff.

---

## 1. Tournament Format

Tournament formats may vary depending on the number of registered teams, court availability, and time constraints. In most events, tournaments will follow a **pool play/round-robin format followed by playoff rounds**.

### Pool Play/Round Robin Stage

- Teams will play a predetermined number of matches against other teams in their division.
- Standings will be determined based on match results.

### Playoff Stage

- All teams advance to playoffs
- Playoff seeding will be determined based on pool play/round-robin standings.

Outsiders Volleyball reserves the right to modify the tournament structure if necessary to maintain schedule flow or address unforeseen circumstances.

---

## 2. Match Format

### Pool Play/Round Robin Stage

- Matches will be timed **28 minutes games**
- A **2-minute transition period** is provided between matches
- The first set is played to **25 points** (win by 2, **cap at 27**).
- The remaining time after the first set is complete, is considered your second set (see **4-Time limits**)
- ALL sets start at 4-4
- Each set won = 1 point

Tournament staff may adjust match lengths or scoring if required due to time constraints.



---

### 3. Start Times & Forfeits

Teams are expected to be ready to play at their scheduled match time.

- A **5-minute grace period** may be allowed at the discretion of tournament staff.
- If a team cannot field the minimum number of players after the grace period, they will forfeit their first set (4-25). After 15 minutes, the team will forfeit the entire match.
- Minimum number of players is four, including one female player
- No females = immediate forfeit

---

### 4. Time Limits

To ensure the tournament runs on schedule, matches may be subject to **time limits**.

- If time expires during a set, the team with the higher score wins the set (do not need to win by 2 points during time limit sets)
- If a set is **tied** when time expires, the next point will determine the winner.
- When the buzzer sounds, play out the point - do not stop the rally

Tournament staff will communicate any time restrictions before play begins.

---

### 5. Co-Ed

For co-ed divisions, teams may have **a maximum of four (4) male players on the court at any given time**.

Teams must have **at least two (2) female players on the court** at all times to maintain the six-player format. Substitutions must continue to follow this rule.

No females = Immediate forfeit

Men's Net Height

---



## 6. Reverse 6's

For Reverse 6's format, teams may have a **maximum of 3 male players on the court at any given time**.

Male players are NOT allowed to jump serve, they must have both feet planted

Female players are permitted to jump serve.

Female players are permitted to swing from anywhere on the court, but male players must only attack from behind the attack line (3 metre line).

Male players are permitted to set the ball. However, if a male player performs a jump set, the ball must remain on their team's side of the net until it is contacted by a teammate. If the ball crosses the net before a teammate touches it, it will be considered an over/backcourt violation, and the point will be awarded to the opposing team.

No females = Immediate forfeit

Rotation is not required, service order is required

Women's Net Height

---

## 7. Ceiling Rule

If the ball makes contact with the ceiling or overhead objects **above your team's side of the court**, the ball may remain in play as long as it does **not cross the net onto the opponent's side**. Yes, it can bounce around up there...

Overhead objects may include items such as:

- Ceiling structures
- Fans
- Basketball hoops or supports
- Light fixtures

If the ball contacts the ceiling or any overhead obstruction **above the opponent's side of the court**, the play is considered a **fault and the rally ends**.

---

## 8. Refereeing

## Tournament Rules & Format



Depending on the event, matches may be:

- Officiated by tournament staff, or Licensed Officials (Cash prize division only)
- **Self-officiated by teams**

When matches are self-officiated:

- Teams are expected to make fair and honest calls.
  - If disputes arise, reserve or a captain from each team can come to tournament table for staff final decision/ rule clarification
- 

## 9. Standings & Tie Breakers

Round-robin/ pool play standings will typically be determined by:

1. Sets wins
2. Head-to-head
3. Point differential
4. Staff discretion

If teams remain tied after these criteria, a coin flip or rock paper scissors may be used to determine ranking.

---

## 10. Tournament Staff Authority

Outsiders Volleyball staff have the authority to:

- Interpret and enforce tournament rules
- Resolve disputes
- Modify schedules or match formats if required
- Remove participants who violate tournament policies

All staff decisions are **final**.

---

## Questions

If you have questions about tournament rules or format, please speak with tournament staff during the event or contact Outsiders Volleyball via Email prior to the tournament.