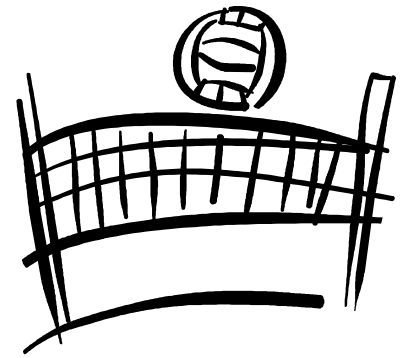


SOCIAL “PICKUP” VOLLEYBALL

What to Expect

After a hard day of work on a fall Tuesday, you want to get together with a group of new and old friends to play volleyball and socialize. There are no standing teams, so you do not have to get to the volleyball courts ‘on time’. If you are late, or you have other pressing responsibilities that will not allow you to show up at all, you are not affecting others. You, or some coach, do not have to get a ‘sub’. No worries. No problems.



Weekly Team Formation – There Are No Fixed Teams!!!

As people show up on Tuesday evening they can warm up, socialize or whatever. At some point in time, enough people will arrive (probably 6 to 8) to form 2 teams. This initial formation of teams should be made in such a way that the two teams have ‘split’ the available volleyball expertise. In other words, all of the better players should not be on the same team. As new players arrive, each new player is placed on whichever team has the least players*. If the teams have an equal number of players, the newly arriving player should be placed on the team that is losing. Some common sense, regarding the parity of the teams on the court, should be applied to the placement of players.

The process above should continue until enough players arrive to make two additional volleyball teams – that will play on the second available volleyball court. Populating these additional two teams should be done in the same manner as described above.

There will be 6 active players on a team with additional players ‘rotating in’ at the front left and front right positions. There may be up to 4 players on a team waiting to rotate in at a time, two on the left and two on the right. At any point in time, if there are enough rotating players, additional teams should be formed. Whenever this happens, the winning team(s) stays on the court and the losing team(s) sits out. The randomness of the team formation process, over the weeks of the program, should assure that everyone will eventually play with everyone else. If this random process results on any given night in one team being far superior to another, the program director reserves the right to reshuffle the teams to provide parity.

* It’s inevitable that some people would prefer NOT to play on the same team with others. It is also inevitable that some people will want to play on the same team with others. (i.e. I have to play with my friend so-and-so.) This is a social league. There might be nights where you would prefer to be on a different team. Get over it, have fun and be part of helping others have fun. You’ll win more friends that way – and that is the preferred outcome of this volleyball program. It is not the responsibility of the program director to accommodate anyone’s personal desires. If you can not play well with others in the “sandbox”, this is not the program for you.



Limited Rules

There are a couple rules aimed at providing a social atmosphere. There are no referees, so ball handling (carries, double hits, etc.) errors are non-existent. Everything should be allowed with the possible exception of actually catching the ball and then throwing it. Whatever is socially acceptable to the teams on the court is the defacto rules for the game. Exceptions should be made for less experienced players. (In other words, give the less experienced players a break as often as possible.) The better players may be held to a socially stricter set of rules. Other rules are:

Courtesy, respect, fair-play, understanding, injury avoidance – these are some of the concepts that should guide your participation in any social sport. These are especially important in a sport activity where the playing expertise can range from novice to expert. These concepts are used in defining most of the ‘rules’ below. Please keep these concepts in mind while participating in this program.

If a setter is used, the person in the front middle position ALWAYS plays the function as setter. It is highly recom-

mended, for the social aspect of the game, that a setter is used. Constantly hitting the ball over the net on the first hit, in an attempt to win a game by avoiding players deemed less talented, is not socially acceptable.

All players, men and women, are allowed to spike and serve overhand. That being said, it is not socially acceptable to injure players in a social league. If in assessing your volleyball abilities you feel that you might injure anyone, take it back a notch. Your consideration will be appreciated (and noticed) by everyone!

Respect everyone's right to play their space!! Everyone on the court owns approximately 1/6 of the playing space. Hogging the ball, for any reason, is socially unacceptable. Invading the playing space of others, is socially unacceptable. At the discretion of the program director anyone repeatedly overplaying their space, especially in a non-apologetic manner, will be asked to sit out or even leave the program. If your volleyball personality is such that you have to dominate on the court at the expense of others, this program is not for you.

Games will be played using 'speed scoring'. This means that every serve represents a potential point for one of the two teams on the court. The first team to reach 21 points AND have a two point advantage wins the game. No game shall go past 25 points. This means that if a team has 25 points the 'win by 2' rule is not in effect.

There may be any combination of men and women on the court at any one time. This means that a team may have 6 men on the court, 6 women on the court or any combination at any one time. There is no requirement to alternate men/women when positioning players on the court.



After Volleyball Socializing at Gallo's Bar

Gallo's Bar on Bethel Road next to K-Mart is sponsoring the Ski Club Social 'Pick-up' program. Their contribution keeps the cost per player for this program low. Their expectation is that the participants in the program use 'Gallo's' for post volleyball socializing on Tuesday evenings. This is a common arrangement for establishments sponsoring sports activities. If you are not familiar with 'Gallo's', the food is good, the atmosphere is good, their location is close to the Bethel Volleyball courts and the drink prices are reasonable. Meeting their expectations, using 'Gallo's' for post volleyball socializing on Tuesday evenings, will help keep Ski Club volleyball participation fees low.