

Fairbanks Volleyball Association Bylaws

2025 Version

Article I: **NAME**

The name of this organization, which organizes and runs the city adult/youth recreational volleyball programs in Fairbanks, shall be known as the Fairbanks Volleyball Association, also referred to herein as the "FVA" or the "Association".

Article II: **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Association is to provide opportunities for adults and youth to play recreational volleyball and to promote the sport in general. The FVA promotes and encourages play of both indoor and sand volleyball through its various programs and opportunities with an ultimate goal of promoting volleyball as part of our commitment to health, wellness, and community-building through sports.

(Per Federal Non-Profit 501(c)3 stipulations, the FVA is organized exclusively for fostering local and national amateur sports competition.) It shall accomplish these goals by organizing and running recreational leagues in the spring of each year and/or at other times as space, time, and interest allow. It shall also organize other opportunities to play the sport such as open volleyball at schools, tournaments, fairs, indoor, outdoor, etc.

Article III: **MEMBERSHIP**

1. The Association shall be composed of all eligible players, coaches, referees, and Association officers.

Eligible players include the following:

- a. Members must be 18 or over UNLESS they are approved to play by a parent/guardian.
- b. At no time is the Association responsible for the actions of any member.
- c. Member (parent/guardian) must sign the required insurance waiver form.
- d. All USAV club team members are exempt from the above age requirements during league play ONLY.

NOTE: If a player is between 14 -15 years of age, their parent/guardian must be a player on the same team as the minor and be present during league play. Parents/guardians are responsible for their children under the age of 18 and must be present during open gyms and league play. The only exceptions to this are for the Elevate Volleyball Club and FVA Youth Division players and teams.

2. Members must pay an annual membership fee as determined by the Executive Board.
3. Only members may vote at the annual organizational meeting.
4. Guests may be allowed to play one time at an open gym event prior to requesting membership of the FVA. Participation in the venue constitutes agreement that they will adhere to all the stated rules and Bylaws.
5. A request for membership of this organization constitutes agreement to abide by the FVA Concussion Policy and Protocol adopted by the Executive Board prior to the 2023-2024 season. To review this policy and the Code of Conduct expectations for each member, player, captain, volunteer, or referee, visit <https://www.volleyballfairbanks.com/Concussion/>.

Article IV: **OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The following Officers shall lead the Association and are hereby named the Executive Board: The President, one or more Vice Presidents, Maka' Ala Division Director, Sand Division Director, Youth Division Director, Secretary, and Treasurer. One or more Executive Board Advisors may be appointed by the President for the sole purpose of advising/assisting the Executive Board or to fulfill any other capacity as requested by the Board. Advisors are non-voting members of the Executive Board. (For example: Former Presidents, Officers, or other League Representatives)

The Executive Board is responsible for determining all fees, policies, and house rules. They are also authorized to make interim changes to the Bylaws, as necessary, throughout the year. These changes will be reviewed at the next Annual Meeting.

Additional Officers include League Representative(s) for each league and the Maka' Ala, Youth, and Sand Division Assistant Directors.

All Association Officers must be current members of the Association in good standing, nominated, and voted upon by the General Membership at the Annual Meeting. There are no term limits for officers within this Association.

The duties of the **PRESIDENT** will be as follows:

1. To carry out the purposes of the FVA.
2. To be intimately familiar with the FVA Bylaws, have Bylaws available, and be willing and able to enforce them.
3. To explore the possibilities of conducting tournaments or open volleyball at schools, fairs, or other venues.
4. To coordinate with the FNSB School District Building Rentals Office and the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Division or any other venue for open gym volleyball times and the spring recreation league. Will also coordinate with the Parks and Recreation for use of the outdoor sand courts.
5. To schedule, advertise, and conduct the annual FVA meetings.
6. To coordinate the annual spring league and its registration.
7. To ensure the Association is current on all insurance requirements.
8. To provide copies of rules, Bylaws, score sheets, and so forth as needed.
9. To oversee the spring league, ensure all participants adhere to the safety rules of the gym, and to provide a liaison to school authorities as needed to ensure a safe and smooth recreational program.
10. To schedule meetings and meet with other officers to settle disputes, protests, Bylaw change proposals, or any other business that arises.
11. To determine FVA financial needs and to budget accordingly.
12. To oversee and/or purchase and maintain accountability of FVA equipment, clipboards, balls, and nets.
13. To oversee the selection, purchase, and distribution of awards.
14. To enforce with other officers the FVA Membership Fee from every player that plays at an FVA venue.
15. To contract a bookkeeper for bookkeeping duties and to coordinate with bookkeeper to have financial reports for annual meeting.
16. To schedule Executive Board Meetings as appropriate throughout the year.
17. Abide by and enforce the FVA Concussion Policy and Protocol.
18. To promote the game of volleyball throughout the Interior. This includes indoor & outdoor play.

The duties of the **VICE PRESIDENT** will be as follows:

1. To assist the President as needed in all matters.
2. To be knowledgeable of the FVA Bylaws, have a copy available, and be willing and able to enforce them.
3. The Vice President will inherit Presidential duties when the President is unable to enforce them. In the absence of a Vice President, a Division Director will fill the position as appointed by the President.
4. Report any Bylaw violations of the referees to the President.
5. To attend Executive Board Meetings called by the President and to discuss and vote on issues as needed.
6. To manage Referees (schedules, training, and stipends).
7. Abide by and enforce the FVA Concussion Policy and Protocol.

The duties of the **TREASURER** will be as follows:

1. To assist the President as needed in all matters.

2. To be knowledgeable of FVA Bylaws and have a copy available as needed.
3. To collect and deposit all monies taken in by the FVA assisted by the Secretary.
4. To attend Executive Board Meetings called by the President and to discuss and vote on issues as needed.
5. Abide by and enforce the FVA Concussion Policy and Protocol.

The duties of the **SECRETARY** will be as follows:

1. To assist the President as needed in all matters.
2. To be knowledgeable of FVA Bylaws and have a copy available as needed.
3. To assist the Treasurer in the collection of all monies taken in by the FVA.
4. To attend Executive Board Meetings called by the President and to discuss and vote on issues as needed.
5. To take minutes at all meetings and provide a copy to FVA.
6. Abide by and enforce the FVA Concussion Policy and Protocol.

The duties of the **Maka' Ala, Youth, & Sand DIVISION DIRECTORS** will be as follows:

1. To assist the President as needed in all matters.
2. To be knowledgeable of the FVA Bylaws, have a copy available, and be willing and able to enforce them.
3. The Division Director's responsibilities include:
 - a. Managing Maka' Ala open gyms rented by the FVA, Youth gyms for organized youth development, or the sand volleyball courts while in use
 - b. Purchasing and maintaining requisite equipment
 - c. Managing all funds
 - i. Collection of fees
 - ii. Payments for equipment purchases providing receipts to the Treasurer
 - iii. Depositing funds into FVA account or delivering them to the Treasurer
 - iv. Providing annual report to the FVA
4. Additionally, the Youth Division Director will:
 - a. Design activities as gym space and community interest allow, to include:
 - i. Recreational league(s)
 - ii. Camps and other training opportunities
 - iii. Open Gyms
 - b. Publicize FVA Youth opportunities and enrolling participants
 - c. Ensure all participants (and/or guardians) have completed proper paperwork prior to play
 - d. Ensure all coaches and volunteers have completed and are current members of USA Volleyball. This membership requires the completion of a background check and SafeSport training.
5. Reports directly to the President of the FVA
6. Abide by and enforce the FVA Concussion Policy and Protocol.

The duties of the **Maka' Ala, Youth, & Sand DIVISION ASSISTANT DIRECTORS** will be as follows:

1. Assume all responsibilities in the absence of the Division Director.
2. Assist in the management of open gyms, youth gyms, or sand courts.
3. Abide by and enforce the FVA Concussion Policy and Protocol.

The duties of the **LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES** will be as follows:

1. To assist the President/Vice President as needed in all matters pertaining to the league they represent.
2. To be knowledgeable of the FVA Bylaws, have a copy available, and be willing and able to enforce them.
3. Report any Bylaw violations of the players or referees to the President.
4. To attend meetings called by the President and to discuss and vote on issues as needed.
5. To produce and manage a league schedule and an end-of-season tournament bracket. See Article XI, #4 for scheduling details.

6. To ensure all league players are current FVA members.
7. Ensure the gym is ready for play for their respective league by game time.
8. Designate an alternate to act on their behalf when they are not at the gym during their League. (For example: League Rep plays late games and will not be at the gym until 8:30 pm. Ensure all the Team Captains know who your alternate is for the early games. They are responsible for setup.)
9. If a League representative fails to uphold the responsibilities of the office, a new representative shall be chosen from within their league.
10. Abide by and enforce the FVA Concussion Policy and Protocol.

Article V: **REFEREES**

Referees are an integral part of managing our league play and are compensated by the FVA for their time/effort currently at \$20/match.

Experience and loyalty are valued by the FVA. A Referee that has worked and was paid for 100 matches for the FVA will be designated as a "Senior Referee." Tracking the number of qualifying matches will be done by our bookkeeper. Extra matches attributed as a Head Referee will count towards the annual qualification. Senior Referees will be compensated at \$23/match.

Referee schedules and matters are managed by the Vice President.

The duties of the **REFEREE** will be as follows:

1. Be knowledgeable of FVA Bylaws.
2. Attend training by other Referees in FVA. No other certification is needed.
3. Arrive no later than 15 minutes before match times.
4. Cooperate with other Referees, League Reps, and players to set up nets as soon as possible upon gym availability.
5. Ensure score sheets are initiated.
6. Start matches on time per the League Schedule.
7. Keep track of the game balls.
8. Uniforms are not required to be worn by Referees; however, a neat appearance is required.
9. Regardless of when the last match of the night starts, it shall be the responsibility of the Referee to stop the match no later than final time posted on the League Schedule. During league play, Refer to Article XI #12 & 13 to determine the winner if this happens.
10. Referees are to be extremely cognizant of a ball or player crossing into an adjacent court during play. Both Referees are to immediately signal a dead ball and award a point accordingly.
11. Ensure all equipment is stored appropriately before departing.
12. Referees are only paid for matches they officiate. If the Referee is not in the gym 15 minutes before game time, he/she will forfeit match pay for the match affected.
13. One Referee is designated as the "Head Referee" each night. The Head Referee is accountable to gather the nights scoresheets, complete the League Rollup form, email it to volleyballfairbanks@gmail.com, and filing the scoresheets in the file box. The Head Referee is compensated for an extra match for the night.
14. Abide by and enforce the FVA Concussion Policy and Protocol.

Article VI: Duties of the **FIRST TEAMS TO ARRIVE AND LAST TEAMS TO LEAVE** will be as follows:

1. The teams scheduled for the first match of the night are to coordinate with League Reps, Referees, and other players to set up the nets and/or lines as soon as possible after the gym or sand court becomes available.
2. When the last matches of the night are over, **everyone** is required to put away volleyballs, nets, and equipment.

Article VII: Duties of the **TEAM CAPTAINS (Team Representative)** will be as follows:

1. Act as the representative for that team in all cases.

2. Fill out Team Rosters at appropriate time prior to scheduled game.
3. Know scheduled game time and court and ensure your team is ready to play.
4. Receive a copy of the season schedule from the League Representative and distribute to team members.
5. Report delayed match start or absence of a Referee to the League Representative.
6. Communicate between the team and the Referee for any disputes. Team Members are not allowed to speak to the Referee regarding a disputed call. The Team Captain may speak to the Referee but arguing is not allowed. Referee judgment calls are not grounds for protest.
7. Notify the Referee or League Representative of any violations of the rules or Bylaws by the Referee or opposing team. This can be grounds for protest.
8. Ensure completed Team Rosters are submitted to the League Representative at the beginning of the 3rd week of the season. Rosters can only be modified after the 3rd week at the discretion of the League Representative.
9. Notify players of the end of season tournament schedule once released.

Article VIII: **MEDIA/PUBLIC RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVE**

The media/public relations representative shall coordinate with the FVA Officers and will be responsible for creating, maintaining, and updating the FVA website, the FVA Volleyball Association Facebook page, and any other social media regarding the FVA. This person will also make contact and update Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base newspapers, the Daily News Miner, UAF and other community outreach opportunities regarding league scores, tournaments, clinics, and community volleyball opportunities, as warranted.

Representative will be voted upon by the FVA membership.

Article IX: **MEETINGS**

The FVA Annual Meeting will be scheduled each November. The agenda should contain the following:

1. Brief description of who and what FVA is.
2. Review/acceptance of the previous Annual Meeting Minutes.
3. Annual Report on the state of the Association.
4. Maka' Ala Division Report.
5. Sand Division Report
6. Youth Division Report
7. Election of officers.
8. New business. Proposed changes to Bylaws: Discussion and voting.

The President is responsible for convening the Executive Board and/or Officers as required for the appropriate management of the Association. Minutes will be taken at each of these meetings and made available to the general membership at the Annual Meeting.

Article X: **FINANCES**

1. The FVA is a non-profit organization. Entry fees for FVA events such as spring league are based on expenses to be incurred by the FVA. Common expenses are awards, balls, equipment, officiating, and gym rental.
2. The Executive Board is authorized to open/close/establish new bank accounts and make financial decisions as needed. A minimum of two officers will be required to sign bank account signature cards. Signature cards will be updated with the most current FVA officers' signatures. Supporting documentation (FVA Annual Meeting minutes) will be on file with bank. Signature cards from any future billing services, will also be on file with the servicing bank, as needed.
3. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes described in section 501(c)(3). No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of

statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article XI: LEAGUE PLAY

1. The Association shall conduct an adult/youth recreational volleyball league each spring. Options for league divisions are Coed B, C, and Youth; Men's B, C, and Youth; Women's B, C, and Youth, and Men's or Women's Royal Leagues. Each league will be represented by a League Representative. A Team Captain will represent each team.
2. The adult season's length is typically nine weeks with two or three weeks of tournament play (depending upon gym availability). The season starts on Monday of the first full week of February and ends on the last full week of April. The season may be adjusted if needed. There is no city league volleyball the week of spring break.
3. There will be a double elimination end-of-season tournament the last 2 or 3 weeks of the adult season, depending on the size of the league. Teams are seeded by their season standings. The Referees send the night's results to the Executive Board via email and the standings are posted on the website. League Representatives will prepare the tournament schedule (bracket) by using these stats. If not posted immediately after the end of the regular season, the tournament schedule will be posted to the FVA website as soon as it becomes available. It is the Team Captains' responsibility to notify their teams of the tournament schedule. The League Representative will post their league's tournament bracket on the bulletin boards prior to the first match on the first week of the tournament so the Referees will know which teams are playing and where.
4. League Representatives develop and manage the league's regular season and tournament schedules.
 - a. All teams play 2 matches per night, back-to-back or as close together as the schedule allows.
 - b. All teams should have a mixture of early, late, or split matches throughout the season as the schedule allows.
 - c. All teams should be scheduled to play on different courts throughout the season.
 - d. All teams should play each other roughly the same number of times.
 - e. Include your name and contact information on the published schedule.
 - f. Include the team names, team captain's name, and their telephone numbers on the published schedule, if possible.
5. Sometimes school activities delay the initial start times. Please wait patiently for these activities to end.
6. The last game of the night must end by the rental contract stated time no matter when it starts. The Executive Board and League Representatives will determine match times and durations based upon the size of the league and allocated time available in the gym. **Everyone must be out of the building by the stated time on the rental contract with FNSB School District.**
7. If gym availability causes a late start of the first matches of the night, the League Representative and Referees will make the schedule adjustments as required. This may include reducing the time per match and the subsequent start times.
8. If the first match of the night is delayed due to team or court readiness, that match time will be reduced and will end per the schedule.
9. A 2/3 majority vote of the League's Team Captains is needed to recommend moving a team up or down between B & C Leagues. This **MUST** occur by the fourth week of League play. The FVA President, League Representatives, and Referees shall discuss the recommendation. The President will make the final decision.
10. The penalty for playing unrostered players is forfeit of every match in which the violation occurred and a reduction down one or two standings for tournament play. If it is determined a team or player knowingly broke this Bylaw, that team will immediately be disqualified from the tournament and lose grandfather

rights for the upcoming year.

11. C Leagues are intended for recreational-level volleyball play and players of all skill levels are present. In the interest of player safety, jump serving is not permissible.
12. During league play, matches consist of 2 individual games. Points and wins are based upon these individual games, not overall match wins. There will be no 3rd games during regular season league play.
13. The duration of the second game will not exceed the stated match duration. The winner of the second game will be whichever team is leading at the end of regulation time. If the game is tied at the end of regulation time, a single serve by the team scheduled to serve will determine the victor.
14. Both teams must agree on which volleyball will be used for the match.
15. Each team will be awarded 2 timeouts at the beginning of the match. They may be taken during either game before the last 3 minutes of the match. No timeouts will be recognized during the last 3 minutes.

Article XII: TOURNAMENTS

1. The last 2 or 3 weeks of the spring league shall be reserved for tournament play. Teams shall be seeded based on their regular season record per standard seeding rules.
2. Tournament match winners will be determined by:
 - a. If possible, the match will be the best of 3 games.
 - i. Each game is independent.
 - ii. Third game is played to 15.
 - iii. A third game may be started if there are more than 3 minutes remaining in the allotted match time. The team with the most points when the time expires is declared the winner. If the match is tied, one final serve will be permitted to determine the winner. No timeouts will be allowed on a time constrained game.
 - b. If time has expired or there are 3 or less minutes remaining in the match time, a meaningful third game is not possible.
 - i. At that point, the team that has scored the most points in the match will be declared the winner.
 - ii. If both teams have scored equal points, then the match will be determined by a single serve. The referee will determine who serves by random draw. (coin flip, rock-paper-scissors, etc.)
3. Teams having forfeited all their games on any 2 scheduled evenings during the last half of the regular season shall not be included in the tournament unless extenuating circumstances prevail. The League Representative is the deciding authority.
4. Players are required to show picture identification (license, school ID, etc) to the Referees for comparison to the Team Roster prior to the tournament match. If an ID is not available, the League Representative, Referee, or any FVA Officer can vouch for their identification, if known.
5. The Tournament Championship will be played using a modified format. If the undefeated team wins the first 2 games in the match, they are declared the winner. If the undefeated team loses one or more of the first games, the match becomes a 3 out of 5 match to determine the winner.
6. In league championship matches, the matches will be played until completion and not constrained to the 40-minute time constraints if possible. The only limitation is the vacate time per the rental contract. The Referees will monitor times to ensure adequate time is available to put up equipment and for people to clear the building.
16. Each team will be awarded 2 1-minute timeouts at the beginning of the match to be used during the first 2 games. If a 3rd game is required, a single 30-second timeout will be awarded. Timeouts may only be taken before the last 3 minutes of the match. No timeouts will be recognized during the last 3 minutes.

Article XIII: AWARDS

1. For adult leagues with more than 6 teams, the top 3 teams will receive awards per the chart below. For leagues with 6 or fewer teams, only the top 2 teams will receive awards.
2. Award Breakdown:
 - a. 1st Place Team= \$250 Visa gift card
 - b. 2nd Place Team=\$200 Visa gift card

- c. 3rd Place=\$150 Visa gift card
 - d. Royals King or Queen= \$100 Visa gift card
 - e. Royals Prince or Princess=\$75 Visa gift card
3. It is recommended that these gift cards be used at the FVA Squad Locker store, but they may be used anywhere at the team's discretion.

Article XIV: **PROTESTS**

All protests must be written and turned into an Officer for review. The President will decide. The exception is during tournament play, in which case the Referee and/or League Rep's decision is final unless the President or Vice President is present. Protestable matters are those which involve player eligibility, inequitable scheduling, or any other violation of these Bylaws. Violations of the playing rules should be called to the attention of the Referee. Consistent misapplication of the rules is grounds for protest. Referee judgment calls are not grounds for protest.

Article XV: **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY & TEAM ROSTERS**

1. ONLY current FVA members are eligible to play at FVA venues.
2. Participants may play in more than one league at the same time, but not on more than one team in the same league.
3. A-level players cannot typically play down into the "B" and "C" divisions. An A-level player is defined as one who has played in "A" division level USA tournaments or collegiate varsity Division 1-level of play in the last 3 years.
 - a. If there is no A-level league, the A-level player may be allowed to play in the B-level league at the discretion of the League Representative and President.
 - b. The safety of the more inexperienced players is of utmost consideration.
4. The President is the final authority on all issues of player eligibility.
5. All players must sign the roster of the team on which they play. Team Rosters may be modified through the third week of play. These rosters are managed by the League Representative.
6. For League Rosters, signing the roster signifies that they are at least 18 years of age or if a player is under the age of 18, they must have parent/guardian sign the Team Roster.

NOTE: If a player is between 14 -15 years of age, their parent/guardian must be a player on the same team as the minor and be present during league play. Parents/guardians are responsible for their children under the age of 18 and must be present during open gyms and league play. The only exceptions to this are for the Elevate Volleyball Club and FVA Youth Division players and teams.

Article XVI: **HOUSE RULES**

USA rules will apply in general. Local rules will apply in all fairness where applicable. Prior to each match, team captains, coaches, and the referees should be clear on local rules. The following is a list of local rules with precedence:

1. Uniforms and numbers are not required.
2. As you are walking into the Ryan Middle School gym the left court is the North or #1 court; the right most court is the South or #3 court; and the Middle or #2 court is in the middle.
3. Rotation on the first serves of your team is optional.
4. A team may play with 5 players utilizing a ghost player if the sixth is not present. If 6 players are present, the team must play 6 players. See #6 for Coed rule.
5. A team may play with one ghost player if only 5 players are present.
 - a. If a team starts with 5 players, the 6th or ghost player's position must be identified and maintained throughout the game.
 - b. When it is the ghost player's turn to serve, the referee will award an immediate point/side-out to the receiving team. Teams playing with a ghost are eligible for tournament matches.
 - c. A ghost player may be substituted for an injured player with an abnormal substitution if and only if there are no other players of the same sex as the injured player. The normal injury time-out is

allowed prior to substituting a ghost for the injured player. If a ghost player replaces an injured player, the injured player may re-enter the game at any time.

- d. A team may substitute a player from its roster for the ghost at any time if there were no other players on the bench when the ghost entered the game.
 - e. If a player is expelled or disqualified, a ghost player may not be substituted for that player. If the team has five players or fewer after the sanction, they shall be considered an "Incomplete Team" as defined by USAV and forfeit the game or match.
6. COED teams consist of 3 women and 3 men. A fourth man or woman may be allowed to play in lieu of a ghost player if the Team Captain of the opposing team agrees.
 7. The ball hitting the ceiling is not out if the ball does not or would have not crossed the net.
 8. When a ball crosses into an adjacent court, both Referees shall immediately call a dead ball. Players are encouraged to yell, "BALL ON!" if this occurs. Safety is the priority here.
 9. A player MAY NOT enter an adjacent court during League play. Both Referees shall immediately call a dead ball and award points accordingly. This is regardless of whether they played the ball before they entered or not. Safety is the priority here.
 10. Forfeits: If a team is short players at the start of the match, that team may play with five players utilizing the ghost rule as long as there are at least 2 men and 2 women present for COED leagues. If a team has less than 5 players at the scheduled match time or start time, the game is forfeited. The second game of the match is scheduled to start 10 minutes after the start time of the first game. If a complete team is not present at that time, the second game is then forfeited.
 11. Serves can be received with open hands as in a setting technique.
 12. Matches are typically scheduled for 40 minutes with 5 minutes between matches. Match time may be reduced due to circumstances at the discretion of the League Representative and/or Referees. Not being prepared to start the match on time is NOT an excuse for extending past the scheduled end time of the match.
 13. Any match of the night may start early if both teams agree to do so and the court is available.
 14. Any unofficial games taking place after a forfeit must finish at their scheduled ending time.
 15. In C-level leagues, Referees have been instructed to let minor ball handling violations go. The obvious scoops, hooks, "beach sets", and slam-dunks will be called. Please confer with the Referee if the calls are too tight or too loose. Confer with your League Representative if the calls are inconsistent between the two teams.
 16. Substitutions during a game must be consistent: either you rotate players in at a given position (server's position is common), or you can substitute as per standard volleyball rules. See Referee with questions.
 17. Players may assist the Referee in calling balls "in" or "out" which land out of sight of the Referee. A replay may be called at the Referee's discretion.
 18. No time outs allowed during the last 3 minutes of playable match time.
 19. The Association will play by standard USA volleyball rules.
 - a. Games to be played by rally point scoring to 25, win by 2. (Unless time expires)
 - b. Net serves are playable
 - c. Balls hit with foot are playable
 - d. Double hits on serves and hard struck balls are allowed
 - e. Blocks are not considered touches
 - f. All net touches by any part of the body (except hair) are violations
 - g. The ball pushing the net into a player is NOT a fault
 - h. Your foot or any part of the body may NOT entirely cross the centerline under the net regardless if there is interference or not. Your foot and hand can be on or above the line.
 - i. Any touch of the backline on the serve is considered a foot fault.
 - j. Any portion of the ball that hits the line is considered in play
 - k. Must wait for the whistle to serve.
 - l. It is illegal to block or spike the serve.
 - m. A back row attacking player must take off from behind the ten-foot line to contact a ball that is clearly above the height of the net, directing it back over.

20. **BALL HANDLING GUIDELINES** In accordance with the spirit of the rules and to encourage longer rallies and spectacular actions, only the most obvious violations will be whistled. Therefore, when a player is not in a very good position to play the ball, the 1st referee will be less severe in his/her judgment of ball handling faults. For example: 1) A player running to play the ball or forced to make a very quick action to reach the ball to set. 2) A player is forced to run or make very quick actions to play a ball after it has rebounded from the block or from another player. 3) The first team contact may be freely made except if the player catches or throws the ball.
21. Standard USA Coed rules are enforced only for the A league. Standard six-person rules apply everywhere else with the exception that 3 men and 3 women are required to play Coed B/C.
22. Open Gym challenge courts will utilize a written sign-up method to ensure waiting players/teams have a fair opportunity to play. A single clipboard used for sign-up will be used for multiple challenge courts. The next up team will be directed to which court they are to play on. A team will play as the challengers when they come on the court. That team will remain on the court for a second game, regardless of the outcome of the first game, for a new challenge team to play. The losing team will come off the court on the first match of the night.
23. A player may only be signed up for one match at a time on the challenge list.
24. A court may be designated as a general use court. There are no clipboards and players can enter/exit at their discretion.
25. The nets and volleyballs are the property of the facility, the FVA, or of other players. Abuse of equipment will not be tolerated.
26. Everyone is expected to help set up and teardown the nets and ensure the facility is cleaned before departure.
27. Maka' Ala open gyms will be managed at the discretion of the Maka' Ala Division Director/Assistant.
28. Sand Division open courts will be managed at the discretion of the Sand Division Director/Assistant.
29. Youth courts will be managed at the discretion of the Youth Division Director/Assistant.
30. To minimize forfeits, each league may implement a "float" player roster for use during the regular season. Float players are those that are not rostered but may be available on certain weeks. If a Team Captain knows they will be short players, they can contact the float players to determine if they are available to play. Float players may play on any team throughout the season but may only play on a single team on any given night. Float players are not allowed to play during the league tournament. Float players must be designated as such on the game rosters.

Article XVII: **GYM RULES AND DISCIPLINE**

The following restrictions apply at any Fairbanks North Star Borough venue:

1. There will be no smoking, vaping, alcoholic beverages, or drugs allowed on the school premises. (including the parking lots)
2. Profanity is not allowed on the court or on school premises. This applies to individuals AND any music that may be played in the gym.
3. No street shoes or boots are allowed on the gym floor.
4. If any school activity (e.g., wrestling or volleyball games/practice) is in progress when players arrive at the gym, they shall wait quietly at the entrance until such activities are concluded. Do not start hitting balls, running across the floor, etc.
5. Because of the large number of participants, use of volleyballs and gym space is limited strictly to FVA players on the teams scheduled that evening. Children and spectators are not to play with volleyballs, basketballs, or any other items on the floor during warmups or game time.
6. Volleyballs are not to be kicked, removed from the gym, or used in hallways, outdoors, or in bathrooms.
7. The equipment room is not a self-service area. Stay out of the equipment room, coach's offices, and other school rooms. We are not allowed to use school volleyballs, equipment, or other school areas.
8. It is strongly recommended that children not be brought into the gym. If children are present in the gym, they must always be under direct adult supervision. This adult CANNOT be the parent that is playing volleyball. If we have children playing with balls in the gym or hallways, interrupting match play, or just wandering around, the parent's team will lose one point each time this is brought to the Referee's

- attention. After three infractions, that parent is no longer eligible to play that night.
9. Unsportsmanlike conduct including, but not limited to, arguing with Referees, Officers, or players, abuse of equipment or facility, or belligerence shall be punished according to USAV rules and will be a warning, point/side out penalty, or player disqualification.
 10. Fighting, drug/alcohol intoxication, tobacco use, or repeated unsportsmanlike conduct offenses shall result in immediate player disqualification and expulsion from school property. Depending upon the circumstances and at the discretion of the President, that player may lose player eligibility at ALL FVA venues for a period of time. Failure to leave school property when requested will result in the notification of the local authorities and a permanent ban from the FVA.

Article XVIII: **Maka' Ala DIVISION**

Maka' Ala volleyball has a long-standing tradition of fair and competitive volleyball play in the Fairbanks Interior. Its primary focus has been to provide a venue for A/B upper-level volleyball. The Fairbanks Volleyball Association became the sponsoring organization of Maka' Ala in approximately 2010.

The following are the rules and expectations for participation in Division play.

1. In order to maintain competitiveness and SAFETY, play in this Division is expected to be at a high caliber. Only qualified players are allowed to play in Maka' Ala.
 - a. A player is deemed qualified if:
 - i. Demonstrated skill level
 1. Knows 5-1 and 6-2 rotations and defenses
 2. Knows & follows the rules of the court
 3. Average or higher fundamental skills
 - ii. All of the other rules of the Division are strictly adhered to
 - iii. Maintains safety on the court
 1. Does not habitually crash into the net
 2. Does not habitually go under the net
 - b. It is the responsibility of everyone to ensure this Division maintains a high level of SAFE play. Player complaint forms are available from the Division representative.
 - i. If a player receives 5 complaint forms, three qualified players will evaluate the player and make a final determination if that player is qualified to play in Maka' Ala.
 - ii. If a player is determined to be unqualified, they will be asked to not play and their playing fee will be refunded.
 - iii. The decision may be appealed to the Division Director.
 - c. Player reevaluation
 - i. A player deemed unqualified may request a reevaluation at a later date
 - ii. Three qualified players and the Division Director will evaluate the player and make the determination.
 - iii. A player may only be reevaluated twice during a single season.
 - d. Player qualification status is only good for the current season
2. This is "call your own" volleyball play. Each player is expected to call violations appropriately. In the event of a questioned play, the point will be replayed.
3. Players are required to be FVA Members to play. Nightly player fees are determined by the Division Director. Each person is expected to pay before they play. It is solely up to the Division representative to allow play on credit.

Article XXIV: SAND DIVISION

Sand volleyball has a long-standing tradition of fair and competitive volleyball play in the Fairbanks Interior. Sand volleyball is a growing and popular sport that offers numerous benefits for participants, including physical fitness, teamwork, social interaction, and community engagement.

1. By incorporating a sand volleyball division into the Organization, we aim to:
 - a. Increase participation in recreational and competitive volleyball at all skill levels.
 - b. Expand the Organization's mission to promote health, wellness, and social connection through sports.
2. The Sand Division Objectives are to:
 - a. Offer Leagues and Tournaments: Organize regular recreational leagues, as well as competitive tournaments, for different age groups and skill levels, including youth, adult, and co-ed divisions.
 - b. Promote Physical Activity and Wellness: Use sand volleyball as a fun and effective way to encourage physical activity, improve fitness, and promote healthy lifestyles.
 - c. Support Local Youth Development: Develop youth training programs to introduce young people to volleyball, focusing on skill-building, teamwork, and sportsmanship.
3. All FVA sand volleyball play will typically be conducted at the Growden Park volleyball courts managed by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department. The FVA will seek to enter into a standard contract agreement with Parks and Recreation or any other venue to ensure access and availability of the courts.
4. The following programs and events will be the mainstay of the Sand Division:
 - a. Tournaments: Regular local and regional tournaments, with the potential to host larger events.
 - b. Skill Development Clinics: Trainings and clinics for youth and adult players focusing on improving technical skills and game strategy.
 - c. Open Play Sessions: Recreational play opportunities for casual participants.
5. This is "call your own" volleyball play. Each player is expected to call violations appropriately. In the event of a questioned play, the point will be replayed.
6. Players are required to be FVA Members to play. Daily player fees, if any, are determined by the Division Director. Each person is expected to pay before they play. It is solely up to the Division representative to allow play on credit.

Article XX: YOUTH DIVISION

The Youth Division of the FVA is established to support the FVA's mission of providing opportunities for youth to play recreational volleyball and promote the sport as a vehicle for health, wellness, and community-building.

1) PARTICIPANTS

- a) For the inaugural season of 2025/2026:
 - i) Eligible players are youth aged 11-14 with the consent of a parent/guardian
 - (1) Parent/guardian has signed the required insurance waiver form
 - (2) Parent/guardian has enrolled youth athlete as a member of the FVA
 - (3) Participants should have played at least one season at the middle-school level or had a season with the Elevate developmental program
 - ii) Coaches will be volunteers who understand volleyball at the recreational level, including current ASAA rules, positions/rotations, and basic mechanics of play
 - (1) All coaches shall be current USAV members and have successfully completed the background check and SafeSport training.
 - (2) All coaches will be members of the FVA
- b) For seasons beyond 2025/2026 we will work to expand the age range of youth participants as gym space and number of volunteer coaches allow

2) LEADERSHIP

- a) The Youth Division will be led by an elected Director who may appoint Assistant Directors as needed to effectively run the Division.

3) 2025 Inaugural Season Format

- a) Recognizing the scarcity of gym space during the current 2025/2026 season, initial Youth Division offering will consist of the following:
 - i) 10 individual two-hour sessions on Saturday morning between the dates of December 6 – February 28 at Ryan Middle School (utilizing all three courts)
 - ii) The first eight sessions will begin with warmups, serving practice, skill introduction/practice with a different emphasis each week (to include setting, transition, serve receive, etc.), and will end with a one-hour scrimmage
 - (1) Coaches will line judge and referee the scrimmages
 - (2) Coaches will emphasize participant understanding of calls and rules
 - iii) The last two sessions will be reserved for a tournament (we envision 45 participants and 6 teams)
 - (1) Coaches will create teams based on observation over the first eight sessions to ensure level competition
 - (2) All participants will receive an FVA t-shirt for the tournament, with each team wearing a different color

- 4) During the 2026/2027 season we aim to create a recreational league that will utilize court space during the week (one night for practice and one for games for each team), as well as retain the Saturday morning gym time for additional league utilization, skills camps, FVA Youth open gyms, etc.

- a) In the spring of 2026, we will coordinate with school coaches, parents, and FVA leadership to understand the potential demand for a recreational league, focusing on youth aged 11-14, but also collecting this information for 8-10- and 15–16-year-olds for future expansion of offerings
- b) We will work with FVA to request FNSBSD gym space in June/July 2026
- c) Once the gym space is secured, the Youth Division members will work with FVA leadership to create leagues/opportunities that best fit the needs of the community within the gym space constraints
- d) Youth Division leadership will then advertise the leagues, recruit coaches, and enroll players
- e) In addition to player fees supporting the activities, we will also work with local businesses to create sponsorship opportunities and reduce the out-of-pocket expenses for participants

Article XXI: LIABILITY

Participation in any FVA venue constitutes agreement that the player:

1. Allows FVA Officers and/or Referees to verify player identity.
2. Releases FVA and its Officers and officials from liability for injury or theft.
3. Will abide by the FVA Concussion Policy.
4. States that player is at least 18 years of age; and/or if a player is under the age of 18, they must have parent/guardian signature on a Team Roster. If a player is between 14 -15 years of age, their parent/guardian must be a player on the same team as Minor and be present during the entire match and parents are responsible for their children under the age of 18. All USAV club team players are exempt from FVA age requirements.
5. Each player must sign the insurance waiver as provided.

Article XXII: CHANGES TO BYLAWS

Any member can propose a change to these Bylaws. Submit any recommendations to an FVA Officer with a recommended implementation date (immediately, next season, etc.). The Executive Board will consider the

recommendation as a temporary change and may approve it for implementation before the next annual meeting. All permanent changes to the Bylaws will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting for ratification.

Individual leagues may adopt season-long amendments/changes to these Bylaws. The recommended changes must be submitted to the League Representative and agreed upon by ALL of the Team Captains of that league.

Proposed changes in rules involving safety issues or the basic tenets of the FVA shall not be allowed. The President will decide.

Article XXIII: **DISSOLUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION**

Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.