

# **IM Sand Volleyball Rules**

## **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

- Teams will consist of 6 players and must have at least four players (minimum two females) on the court at all times. Teams with less than six players may have to adhere to the ghost rule (see below).
- You can never play with more than 4 men.

## **STARTING GAMES AND SCORING**

- A team earns service possession for the start of the first game by winning Rock/Paper/Scissors. The teams will then alternate service every other game.
- Teams will play the first 2 games to 21 (Rally Score). The 3rd game will be played to 15 (Rally Score). "Rally Score" means that every time a point is finished, one team will be awarded a point, whether they served or not.
- Serves that hit the net and go over the net to the opponent's side will be "live" and are good serves provided they land in bounds.

## **SERVICE AND ROTATION**

- Team members must rotate on the court and must remain in that position until the serve has been contacted. The player in the back right hand corner of the rotation will be designated to serve and continue to rotate clockwise.
- The server may not step on or over the end line until the ball has been contacted. The width of the service area is from sideline to sideline. The depth of the service area is infinite.
- The serve may not be blocked or spiked.

## **PLAYING THE BALL**

- **THREE CONTACTS** - Each team is allowed a maximum of 3 successive contacts of the ball in order to return the ball to the opponent's area. (Exception: In the action of blocking an attacking ball, the touch, or contact resulting from the block attempt does not constitute one of the three successive contacts.)
- **ATTACKING THE NET**- Only the three players that are in the front row of the rotation are allowed to attack the net. Violation of this rule would include any hitting or blocking that occurs above the plane of the net.
- **SIMULTANEOUS CONTACTS** - When two non-blocking teammates touch the ball simultaneously it is considered one contact, and any player may make the next contact. When two blocking teammates touch the ball

simultaneously, it is not counted as a contact, and any player may make the next contact.

-When two opponents simultaneously and instantaneously contact the ball over the net, and the ball remains in play, the team receiving the ball is entitled to another three hits. If such a ball lands "out", it is the fault of the team on the opposite side of the net from where the ball lands.

- **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CONTACT** - The ball can contact any number of body parts down to, and including the foot, providing such contacts are simultaneous and the ball rebounds immediately and cleanly after such contact.
- **HELD BALL** - The ball must be contacted cleanly and not held, lifted, pushed, caught, carried or thrown. The ball cannot roll or come to rest on any part of a player's body. It can rebound in any direction.
- **HAND SETS** - A contact of the ball using the fingers of one or two hands to direct the ball toward a teammate is a set. The ball must come into contact with both hands simultaneously and leave both hands simultaneously to avoid a double hit call. A player may set the ball over the net in front or behind them only in the direction in which their shoulders are squarely facing.
- **ATTACKING THE BALL OVER THE OPPONENTS COURT**- A player is not allowed to attack the ball on the opposite side of the net. If the ball is hit above the hitter's side of the net and then the follow-through causes the hitter's hand and arm to cross the net without contacting an opponent or the net, the action does not constitute a fault.

### **BLOCKING**

- Blocking is the action close to the net which intercepts the ball coming from the opponents' side by making contact with the ball before, during or after it crosses the net.
- **MULTIPLE CONTACTS** - Multiple contacts of the ball by a player(s) participating in a block shall be legal provided it is during one attempt to block the ball. Multiple contacts of the ball during a block shall be counted as a single contact, even though the ball may make multiple contacts with one or more players of the block.
- **PARTICIPATION AFTER A BLOCK** - Any player participating in a block shall have the right to make the next contact, such contact counting as the first of three hits allowed the team.

- **BLOCKING A SERVE** - Blocking or attacking a serve is prohibited.
- **BLOCKING A BALL ACROSS THE NET** - Blocking of the ball across the net above the opponent's court shall be legal provided that such a block is:
  - (1) After a player of the attacking team has spiked the ball, or, in the referee's judgment, intentionally directed the ball into the opponent's court, or has exhausted their third allowable hit.
  - (2) After the opponents' have hit the ball in such a manner that the ball would clearly cross the net if not touched by a player, provided no member of the attacking team is in a position to make a legal play on the ball
  - (3) If the ball is falling near the net and no member of the attacking team could reasonably make a play on the ball.

#### **PLAY AT THE NET**

- **PLAYER CONTACT WITH THE NET** - No part of the body may touch the net at any time unless a ball or person driven into the net causes the contact. Player contact with the net in a manner not directly relating to or affecting the course of play is not a violation. Contact with hair or part of the uniform will not be considered a fault.
- **SIMULTANEOUS CONTACT BY OPPONENTS** - If opponents contact the net simultaneously, it shall constitute a double fault and the point shall be played over.
- **INTERFERENCE** - **Beach** volleyball allows any and all parts of the body to cross the center line as long as there is no interference with the opposing player.