

NEWPORT VOLLEYBALL CLUB

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

LATEST REVISION: 07 SEPTEMBER 2026



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REVISION HISTORY

Date	Executive Summary of Major Changes
07 SEP 2024	Document Created
07 SEP 2026	• Facility Jurisdiction Simplification (Sec. 2.c): Replaced specific municipal mentions (City of Newport / Town of Narragansett) with "host facilities" to accommodate all indoor and outdoor venues under one master policy. • Membership System Alignment (Sec. 3.e): Removed the third-party AVP America membership mandate in favor of requiring active NVC Membership in good standing. • Financial Protection & Withdrawal Penalties (Sec. 4.b): ○ Established \$225 indoor league fee due prior to Week 1. ○ Implemented a \$100 administrative fee for post-draft voluntary drops. ○ Enforced total account suspension across all NVC events/leagues (indoor, beach, grass, subbing) until outstanding balances are settled. ○ Updated injury refunds to be pro-rated strictly after a replacement is identified, minus a \$25 processing fee. ○ Removed standalone tournament registration language from the indoor league Code of Conduct. • Punctuality & Schedule Control (Sec. 5.b & Sec. 9.b): ○ Restricted court warm-ups exclusively prior to the first set of the night (no warm-ups between subsequent games) to prevent night-of schedule drift. ○ Granted League Directors explicit discretion to shorten game/set point lengths for match delays and refer repeat offenders to the Disciplinary Committee. • No-Show & Playoff Subbing Rules (Sec. 5.d–f): ○ Formalized 24-hour advance notice requirement for match absences. ○ Set 1st Offense no-show penalty to an official written warning issued directly by the League Director. ○ Standardized playoff sub eligibility to require participation in at least 50% of regular season matches for that team. Change Matrix found in Appendix A

1) PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to specify the Code of Conduct to apply to and be binding upon all Players, Coaches, Referees, Substitutes, and NVC League Officials participating in any event of, or activity associated with, the Newport Volleyball Club (NVC).

2) HOST FACILITIES POLICIES

- A. No Alcohol, Tobacco Products, vaping, or illegal substances shall be served, present, or consumed on any host facility grounds, gymnasiums, or parking areas.
- B. All trash must be disposed of in proper trash receptacles or put in plastic bags and removed from the league site at the end of the evening.
- C. All host facility local ordinances, regulations, rules and guidelines (including mandatory non-marking court shoes for indoor play) must be obeyed at all times.

3) GENERAL

- A. Every Player shall, during all matches and at all times whilst within the league “precinct”, conduct himself/herself in a sportsman-like manner, in accordance with the provisions as outlined in this Code of Conduct.
- B. For the purpose of this document, the league “precinct” shall be defined as all sections of the beach, gymnasium, facility grounds, and parking areas which are under the formal control of NVC Event Management.
- C. For the purposes of this document, the term "set" refers to individual games played.
- D. All players' league entry fees must be paid in full prior to the start of the first league night. Unpaid roster spots prior to Week 1 will be automatically forfeited and reallocated to the official NVC waitlist.
- E. All players must be registered NVC members in good standing to participate in league play (AVP membership is no longer required in NVC leagues). No player may engage in league play without an active NVC membership. If the barring of play by an unregistered individual forces a forfeit, forfeit rules shall be followed.
- F. All players must acknowledge and digitally sign an NVC Waiver of Liability, Release and Facility Policy form during the registration process before engaging in play.
- G. All players must be of the age of 18 or older for eligibility
 - a. Exceptions to the age requirement can be made and require a 2/3 vote of the NVC Board of Directors.
- H. NVC follows and adapts the rules outlined in the official USAV and FIVB Indoor Rules Books with NVC-specific exceptions outlined in the leagues applicable rulebook accessible to all league players via the NVC website.

4) PAYMENT & WITHDRAWAL

- A. By participating in an NVC league or tournament, the player consents to provide the required payment in a timely fashion.
- B. The cost (\$225 for indoor league) and due date of league payments shall be provided to the player prior to the start of the league. Full payment must be completed prior to the start of the first league night.
 - i. If payment remains unpaid prior to the first league night, the player shall be issued written notice of the delinquent payment, and their roster spot will be forfeited to the next eligible player on the official NVC waitlist.

4.1 DROPPING A LEAGUE

- A. If a player voluntarily drops or withdraws due to a delinquent payment or post-draft drop, a \$100 administrative fee will be billed to their account, and the outstanding balance shall remain in the player's account, and the following will be enforced:
 - a. The player's NVC account shall be suspended until the balance is paid in full.
 - b. While a player's account is suspended, they are strictly barred from participating in any NVC event or league (including indoor, beach, and grass leagues) as a rostered player or substitute.
 - c. Once the balance is paid in full, the player shall become a member of good standing and eligibility to participate in NVC events will be restored.
- B. If a player is forced to withdraw from the league due to a documented medical condition or injury before or during the season, their league fee refund will be pro-rated based on matches remaining after a replacement is identified, minus a \$25 administrative processing fee. Failure to settle balances will result in account suspension consistent with section 4.1.A.

5) GAME-PLAY EXPECTATIONS

5.1 PUNCTUALITY, WARM-UPS, NO-SHOWS & SUBSTITUTIONS

5.1.1 Order of Play

Matches shall follow each other without delay in accordance with the advertised order of play or as amended by NVC League Directors.

5.1.2 Match Warm-Ups

A dedicated warm-up period is permitted on court strictly prior to the first set of the night. No other on-court warm-ups are permitted in between games or subsequent matches.

5.1.3 Late Start Penalties

Teams are expected to be on court ready to play at their scheduled match start time. Either team not ready to commence play shall:

- a) Concede 1 point to their opponent for every minute, or part thereof, that they are late after the official match starting time.
- b) If, after 5 minutes, the team is not ready to play, they shall forfeit that set.
- c) The same process shall be repeated for subsequent sets in the match.

5.1.4 No-Show Policy

- a) A match no-show occurs when a rostered player fails to attend a scheduled match without giving their team captain at least 24 hours' advance notice, or fails to arrange an eligible substitute from the registered NVC Sub Pool in accordance with NVC subbing rules (sub's rating must be equal to or lower than the rostered player being replaced).
- b) Penalties for Unexcused Match No-Shows:

- i. 1st Offense: Official written warning issued by the League Director
- ii. 2nd Offense: One-week (1 match day) suspension across all NVC divisions.
- iii. 3rd Offense: Immediate removal from the league for the remainder of the season.
The player's roster spot will be forfeited and reallocated to the official NVC waitlist without refund.

5.1.5 Playoff Sub Eligibility

To be eligible for playoff participation, a substitute must have played in at least half (50%) of the regular season matches for that specific team during the current season and be a registered NVC member in good standing.

5.1.6 Inability to Field a Full Team

In the event that a team has greater than 3 substitutions on any league night, a forfeit will be granted against the said team for all matches scheduled for that night.

5.2 LEAVING THE COURT

- A. A Player shall not leave the immediate playing area during a match without the permission of the League Director or Night Coordinator.
- B. Violation shall subject a team to automatically forfeit the match.
- C. If, in the opinion of the NVC League Director, a player has failed to justify such an action, he/she must show cause to the NVC League Director as to why he/she should be permitted to continue their participation in that or any subsequent NVC league following the violation.

5.3 BEST EFFORTS

- A. A Player must use his/her best efforts to win a match.
- B. If, in the opinion of the NVC League Director, a player has failed to justify such an action, he/she must show cause to the NVC League Director as to why he/she should be permitted to continue their participation in that or any subsequent NVC league following the violation.

5.4 FAILURE TO COMPLETE A MATCH

- A. A Player must complete a match in progress unless he/she is reasonably unable to do so.
- B. Violation shall subject a team to automatically forfeit the match.
- C. A forfeit will be recorded as a loss of match with points recorded as the winning score for the winner and points as they stand for the forfeiting team.
- D. If, in the opinion of the NVC League Director, a player has failed to provide a reasonable explanation, he/she must show cause to the NVC League Director as to why he/she should be permitted to continue their participation in that or any subsequent NVC event following the violation.

5.5 INTERRUPTIONS & DELAYS TO PLAY

5.5.1 Unreasonable Delays

Players must commence play upon completion of the previous play or upon the appointed match start time. Except for allowed periods of time-out, play shall be continuous.

5.5.2 Delays in Start or Game Play

Any unreasonable delays in the start of a match or during active game play (including between rallies or during changes of ends) will result in the League Director's discretion to reduce the length or point total of the active game and any subsequent games. Additionally, the team or player causing the delay will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for formal review.

5.5.3 Time Outs

- a. Each team is afforded two (2) one-minute time outs per set.
- b. Each player is afforded one (1) three-minute injury time out per match.
- c. If an injured player is unable to continue play after three minutes have expired, the player shall be removed from play and continue play with a reduced player count

6) PLAYER EXPECTATION - MISCONDUCT & SANCTIONS

- A. During competition, the following misconduct categories, sanctions, and sanction scales shall apply:
 - a. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** Argumentation, intimidation, or attempts to influence official calls.
 - b. **Rude Conduct:** Acting contrary to good manners or moral principles or expressing contempt.
 - i. Audible Obscenity: Players shall not use profane language uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard by referees, opponents, or spectators within the league precinct.
 - ii. Visible Obscenity: Players shall not make obscene, inappropriate, or offensive gestures within the league precinct.
 - c. **Offensive Conduct:** Defamatory or insulting words or gestures.
 - i. Verbal Abuse: Players shall not at any time verbally abuse referees, teammates, opponents, spectators, or league officials.
 - d. **Aggression:** Physical attack or intended aggression.
 - i. Abuse of the Ball: Players shall not violently, dangerously, or recklessly kick, strike, or throw the ball in anger or outside reasonable match play.
 - ii. Abuse of Net or Court Fixtures: Players shall not violently, dangerously, or recklessly hit or pull on the net, court fixtures, signage, or facility property.
 - iii. Physical Abuse: Players shall not at any time physically abuse or threaten physical harm to any official, player, or spectator. Automatic immediate suspension with zero recourse; law enforcement will be contacted if necessary.
 - e. **Theft:** Taking property belonging to NVC, host facilities, or fellow players.
 - i. Theft of NVC / Facility / Player Property: ZERO TOLERANCE. Any player found in breach shall face automatic immediate suspension with no recourse for overturning the sanction. Law enforcement will be contacted if necessary.

- B. Misconduct penalties shall be enforced via a point penalty against the offending team. If misconduct occurs outside of match play, points may be assessed at the start of the team's next match.

6.1 Disciplinary Enforcement Ladder

Misconduct violations subject to review by the NVC Board of Directors / Disciplinary Committee follow an escalating sanction ladder:

- Tier 1 (Minor Misconduct): Written warning issued by the League Director.
- Tier 2 (Major Misconduct / Repeat Offense): 1-to-2 match suspension without fee refund.
- Tier 3 (Gross Misconduct / Violence / Facility Damage): Immediate suspension, ejection from all NVC leagues, and potential permanent revocation of NVC membership following an Executive Board vote.

APPENDIX A: REVISION HISTORY CHANGE MATRIX FOR 07 SEPTEMBER 2026

Original Template Provision	Affected New Policy Section	Updated Code Provision	Operational Rationale & Board Impact
<i>Referenced City of Newport and Town of Narragansett ordinances specifically.</i>	2	Replaced with "host facility ordinances and guidelines".	Ensures seamless legal coverage regardless of which school district or venue NVC rents.
<i>Mandated active AVP America membership for all league play.</i>	3E.	Requires active NVC membership (states AVP is no longer required).	Eliminates third-party fee barriers for indoor members and aligns with NVC's internal platform.
<i>Contained specific division talent cap drafting notes.</i>	3H	Standardized to general USAV/FIVB rules with local division exceptions.	Keeps the master Code of Conduct clean; specific division skill caps are maintained in league division handbooks.
<i>Included tournament payment terms in league code.</i>	4	Removed tournament clause from league code.	Keeps league governance focused purely on seasonal indoor/outdoor league structures.
<i>Unclear drop deadlines; standard delinquent notices.</i>		Set \$225 fee deadline prior to Week 1; added \$100 post-draft drop fee; cross-league suspension until paid; injury refund pro-rated after replacement found minus \$25 fee.	Eliminates unpaid post-draft roster spot abandonment, protects club revenue, and covers admin costs for waitlist replacements.
<i>Allowed warm-ups after each previous match completed.</i>		Court warm-up allowed strictly prior to 1st set of the night; no warm-ups between games.	Prevents gym overruns, keeps matches strictly on schedule, and complies with facility rental curfew times.
<i>Generic punctuality and forfeit rules.</i>		Added 24h notice rule; set 1st offense no-show penalty to written warning by League Director.	Gives League Directors clear authority to enforce attendance without requiring full board action for 1st minor offenses.
<i>Proposed 2-match sub eligibility in early drafts.</i>		Raised sub playoff threshold to 50% of regular-season matches.	Prevents playoff "ringers" while allowing legitimate long-term substitutes to participate.
<i>Point penalties for delays during rallies or change of ends.</i>		Authorized League Director to reduce game point lengths for delays and refer offenders to Disciplinary Committee.	Gives floor staff a practical tool to maintain the schedule rather than disputing individual points during play.
<i>Board review without defined ladder.</i>		Retained structured Tier 1 (Warning), Tier 2 (1-2 Match Suspension), Tier 3 (Ejection) ladder.	Provides predictable, legally defensible disciplinary escalation for gross misconduct.