



National Collegiate Volleyball Federation

2011-12 NCVF Governance Rules

1. Preamble

In order to promote fairness and meet the season-long competitive expectations of collegiate club volleyball players and NCVF constituent organizations, the NCVF has established the following NCVF Rules. These rules have evolved over years of collaboration and challenge. They reflect the current consensus of opinion among NCVF commissioners, representatives, players and other interested persons. The rules are in addition to those that may be imposed by the various NCVF recognized conferences, leagues, and divisions.

2. General Rules

- 2.1 Players and teams must, in good faith, comply with all NCVF rules by knowing and following them.
- 2.2 The NCVF Competitive Season begins on January 1 of each year and concludes with the NCVF National Championship Tournament (“NCVF Championships”).
- 2.3 As used in the NCVF rules, the term “NCVF Recognized Competitions” are defined as matches or events that are in material compliance with applicable NCVF rules and Best Practices. The NCVF retains discretion to determine material compliance with these requirements.
- 2.4 Any aggrieved player or team seeking an exception to NCVF rules must follow the NCVF Appeal Process. Appeals of player or team eligibility rule applications must be forwarded to the NCVF Compliance Committee.

For appeals filed before February 16:	No Fee
For appeals filed after February 16 but before March 1:	\$50.00
For appeals filed after March 1 but before April 1:	\$100.00

Players and teams are encouraged to seek timely NCVF Rule clarifications from the NCVF Compliance Committee whenever questions arise.

2.5 Rule Changes

- 2.5.1 Major rule changes will be identified on the NCVF website 6 months prior to the upcoming NCVF Competitive Season unless the NCVF determines that a shorter notice period is warranted.
 - 2.5.2 Minor rule changes may be posted at any time before the start of the NCVF Competitive Season.
 - 2.5.3 Rule clarifications can be made at any time.
 - 2.5.4 The NCVF reserves discretion to change any rule at any time in order to promote the health, safety and welfare of participants or to otherwise meet its non-profit purposes. It is within the NCVF's discretion to determine what constitutes major and minor rule changes as well as rule clarifications.
 - 2.5.5 Individuals believing that they have been materially aggrieved by any change or clarification have the right to appeal in accord with the NCVF Appeal Process.
- 2.6 NCVF Best Practices are intended to provide "how to" guidance for those engaged in various aspects of collegiate club volleyball competition administration.
 - 2.7 In cooperation with the NCVF Advisory Council and NCVF Student Advisory Council, the NCVF reserves full discretion to interpret these rules and impose reasonable sanctions against any team or player that fails to comply with NCVF Rule requirements.
 - 2.8 The NCVF does not recognize the appeal decisions or eligibility determinations of any other institution or organization. Any player not in compliance with NCVF rules must file an appeal with the NCVF Compliance Committee.

3. **Team Eligibility Rules**

- 3.1 To be an NCVF Eligible Team, a team must meet the following requirements in addition to other applicable NCVF Rules:
 - a. All participants listed on a team roster must meet individual player eligibility rules specified in the Player Eligibility Rules section.
 - b. All players listed on a team roster must be enrolled in the same 2-year or 4-year degree-granting university in order to be eligible to compete as a team. The NCVF reserves discretion to ascertain the accreditation or status of any degree-granting universities for team or player eligibility purposes.
 - c. Team rosters may only include 2 Former Varsity Players as defined in the Player Eligibility Rules section. Team rosters may not include any Current Year Varsity Players as defined in the Player Eligibility Rules section.
 - d. A women's team roster may not include men and a men's team roster may not include women. No women players are allowed to compete as a player on a men's team, and no men are allowed to compete as a player on a women's team.

- e. Teams must be registered in good standing on the NCVF website.
 - f. Teams must cooperate in the timely submission of all team information, including but not limited to roster information, school information, contact information, competition results and other information reasonably requested by the NCVF.
 - g. Teams that are not in good standing with an NCVF Recognized League, Conference or Division shall be presumed to not be in good standing with the NCVF.
 - h. Among other requirements, “good standing” shall include a team’s adherence to NCVF Code of Conduct requirements.
- 3.2 The following rules apply to the NCVF Championships:
- a. Only NCVF Eligible Teams may participate in the NCVF Championships.
 - b. All teams seeking entry to the event must be actively participating as an NCVF recognized representative volleyball club team from their school during the NCVF Competitive Season.
 - c. All teams must timely submit their current season schedule of competition and results to the respective NCVF men’s and women’s polling and seeding chairpersons, as specified on the NCVF website.
 - d. All teams must either be a Registered NCVF Team, as defined in Section 3, below, or fulfill the guidelines of an Independent Team, as defined in Section 3, below, in order to be eligible to participate in the event.
 - e. The NCVF retains discretion to recognize a school’s representative sport club teams for purposes of admission to the event.
 - f. The NCVF reserves discretion to reject any competition results from any teams that fail to meet NCVF team or player eligibility requirements.
- 3.3 The following rules define NCVF Registered Teams and Independent Teams for purposes of NCVF benefits, NCVF Recognized Competitions and entry into the NCVF Championships.
- a. An NCVF Registered Team is an otherwise eligible team that competes in a recognized NCVF Conference, League or Women’s Division and has fulfilled the team registration requirements on the NCVF website.
 - b. An Independent Team is a team that does not satisfy the definition of an NCVF Registered Team but is otherwise eligible under NCVF Team Eligibility Rules above. To be eligible to participate in the NCVF Championships, an Independent Team must show evidence of “active participation” during the current competitive season, as follows:
 - i. “Active participation” for men’s teams must involve a minimum of two scheduled events after January 1st of the current NCVF season that include competition against at least four or more teams from NCVF recognized conferences at each of those events.
 - ii. “Active participation” for women’s teams must involve a minimum of two scheduled events after January 1 of the current NCVF season, involving four or more similar competitive units (teams), with at least two matches

- being against two different collegiate club teams (not including “B” teams, i.e. a second team from a university).
- iii. It is the sole responsibility of each Independent Team to ensure that their competition results are reported to the designated and applicable NCVF male or female seeding and poll chairpersons within 10 days following a competition or event. The NCVF reserves the right to accept or reject any reported competition results from any Independent Team for any reason.
 - iv. Independent Teams are not entitled to the NCVF benefits that are available to NCVF Registered Teams.
- 3.4 Teams not recognized by their university during the quarter/semester of the NCVF Championships, based on disciplinary reasons, shall be ineligible to participate in the NCVF Championships. At the discretion of the NCVF, the rule will not be used to prohibit a team from participating in the NCVF Championship if the institution’s primary rationale is unrelated to player, team or club disciplinary issues.

4. Player Eligibility Rules

- 4.1 Only NCVF Eligible Players may participate on NCVF Eligible Teams.
- 4.2 **University Enrollment Criteria** – To be an NCVF Eligible Player, participants must meet the following requirements:
- 4.2.1 Be an enrolled student with a minimum of 3/4 full-time enrollment (generally 9 units) as an undergraduate student or minimum of six hours/units as a graduate student at an NCVF recognized 2-year or 4-year degree-granting university *throughout the current NCVF Competitive Season*. For purposes of this section, NCVF Registered teams shall be presumed to be attending an NCVF recognized 2-year or 4-year degree-granting university.
 - a. **Graduating Senior Exception** – Graduating seniors are any undergraduate or graduate students who are graduating during the semester/quarter of the NCVF Championships. Such students may carry any number of units required to graduate. Players who are graduating during the semester/quarter of the NCVF Championships, and are taking less than the required hours described above, must complete a Graduating Senior Certification form and file it with the NCVF Compliance Committee by March 16.
 - b. **Internship Exception** – Students who do not meet the minimum enrollment requirements due to a school required/recommended internship must file an appeal with the NCVF Compliance Committee by March 16, 2012. Students must read the Internship Exception form before filing an appeal.
 - 4.2.2 All quarter-school participants must meet the eligibility requirements for both the winter and spring quarters.

- 4.2.3 Participants must be listed on the roster of a team that meets the Team Eligibility Rules.
- 4.2.4 The following additional participant eligibility criteria apply to all players seeking entry into the NCVF Championships:
 - a. If the NCVF Championships occur during an academic break, the preceding semester/quarter will be used to determine eligibility.
 - b. Players must be enrolled for the minimum number of credit hours at least 45 days prior to the start of the NCVF Championships.
- 4.3 **Current Year Varsity Players** – Current year varsity players are not eligible to participate as roster members of an otherwise NCVF Eligible Team. A “current year varsity player” is defined as any player listed on a school’s varsity volleyball team roster during the same academic year as the NCVF Championships.
 - 4.3.1 The term “roster” includes, but is not limited to, any player listed on a school’s online varsity volleyball roster.
 - 4.3.2 Any such player shall be presumed ineligible for all NCVF Recognized Competitions, including the NCVF Championships, for the entirety of the corresponding NCVF Competitive Season.
 - 4.3.3 Any player listed on a school’s varsity volleyball roster during any academic year other than the academic year of the NCVF Championships shall be presumed to be a Former Varsity Player as defined below.
 - 4.3.4 Timely appeals from teams and players seeking an exception to the current varsity player rule will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the NCVF pursuant to the NCVF Appeal Process.
- 4.4 **Former Varsity Players** – Former varsity players are eligible to participate on an otherwise NCVF Eligible Team so long as the player meets all Eligibility Rules. NCVF Eligible Teams may only include a maximum of 2 former varsity players on their NCVF roster during the NCVF Competitive Season, including the NCVF Championships.
 - 4.4.1 A “former varsity player” is defined as any player listed on a school’s varsity volleyball roster during any academic year other than the academic year of the NCVF Championships.
 - a. The term “roster” includes, but is not limited to, any player listed on a school’s online varsity volleyball roster.
 - b. Any such player shall be presumed to be a former varsity player and may compete in NCVF Recognized Competitions, including the NCVF Championships, so long as the player otherwise meets all eligibility requirements for the entirety of the NCVF Competitive Season.

- 4.4.2 Timely appeals from teams and players seeking exceptions to the former varsity player rule will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the NCVF pursuant to the NCVF Appeal Process.
- 4.5 **Professional Players** - A professional indoor volleyball player is not eligible to participate as a roster member of an otherwise NCVF Eligible Team.
- 4.5.1 The term “professional indoor volleyball player” is defined as any one or more of the following:
- a. Any player that has been declared a professional indoor volleyball player by a recognized professional indoor volleyball team or league.
 - b. Any player that has received a salary, wage or regular and periodic payments, directly or indirectly as consideration for playing on an indoor volleyball team.
- 4.5.2 The NCVF reserves discretion to determine when or if a player has become a professional indoor volleyball player within the meaning of this section.
- 4.6 **Consecutive Years**
- 4.6.1 **Four-Year Universities** - Eligible Players are limited to six consecutive years of participation in NCVF Recognized Competitions, including the NCVF Championships or other previous national collegiate club volleyball championship tournaments. Year one begins the first year that an Eligible Player’s name appears on a NCVF Eligible Team roster, previous national collegiate club volleyball championship tournament team roster, or the first year their name was listed on a school’s varsity volleyball roster.
- 4.6.2 **[Effective for the 2012-13 Season] Two-Year Universities** - Eligible Players from recognized 2-year universities are limited to three consecutive years of participation in NCVF Recognized Competitions, including the NCVF Championships or other previous national collegiate club volleyball championship tournaments. Year one begins the first year that an Eligible Player’s name appears on a NCVF Eligible Team roster, previous national collegiate club volleyball championship tournament team roster, or the first year their name was listed on a school’s varsity volleyball roster.
- a. If a player from a recognized two-year university transfers to a four-year university, that player’s eligibility will be considered under the six-year consecutive rule.
- 4.6.3 Exceptions to the six year and three year consecutive participation rules may be granted by the NCVF for military, medical, religious service, or other “extraordinary circumstances” pursuant to the NCVF Appeal Process.

- Comment 1. An “extra ordinary circumstance” is a narrow exception as it goes beyond what other similarly situated players may be encountering.
- Comment 2. “Extraordinary circumstances” typically describe unfair, unreasonable, or unique factors or situations that are independently caused, i.e., with little or no student control or choice. For example, “extraordinary” includes situations where a fire, flood, or institutionally imposed decision has restricted an individual’s playing opportunities.