

## Grass Stain Open Rules and Regulations

{We've adopted and semi-modified the 2009-2011 USA Volleyball Beach/Outdoor Domestic Competition Regulations/Rules for the tournament.}

1. **BALL** - The tournament ball will be the Wilson Outdoor AVP Traditional Game Ball – Leather (H4100). This ball will have precedence over any other ball UNLESS both teams agree to use another outdoor ball [such as the current yellow and white Wilson AVP Official Game Ball – Composite Leather (H4305)].

*USAV 3.1*

2. **COURT DIMENSION CHANGE** (new this year for the Grass Stain Open) – The playing court dimension will be 16 x 8 m (52'6" x 26'3"), more commonly known as "short court."

*USAV 1.1*

3. **SCORING** - All matches will be best 2 games out of 3 (excluding the AM Pool Play, which will be two games to 21 with a cap at 23, and possibly the Losers Bracket, which might be 1 game to 25, win by 2, and no cap). The first two games will be rally score to 21 points, win by 2 points with no cap. The 3<sup>rd</sup> game (if needed) will be rally score to 15 points, win by 2 points with no cap.

*USAV 7.1 & 7.2*

4. **COURT SWITCHES** - The teams switch sides after every 7 points (multiples of 7's) played for the first 2 games to 21 points AND after every 5 points (multiples of 5's) played for the 3<sup>rd</sup> game to 15 points. For the afternoon tournament, the losers' bracket might be one game to 25, so the court switches would be after every 5 points (multiples of 5's).

*USAV 22.1*

5. **COIN TOSS MODIFICATION** – Instead of using a coin toss to determine the serving or receiving team as well as sides, the captains for each team will meet at the net to "**Rock, Paper, Scissors.**" The winner will choose (a) serve or receive OR (b) side of the court. The loser takes the remaining choice. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> game, the loser will make the choice. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> game, a new "Rock, Paper, Scissors" will be done.

*USAV 8.1*

6. **SUBSTITUTIONS** – There are no substitutions or replacements of players.

*USAV 9.2*

7. **TEAM HITS** – The team has 3 hits for returning the ball (including the block touch). Any player may make the second contact of the ball after the block, including the player who made the block touch.

*USAV 13.1.1 & 18.4.1*

8. **SIMULTANEOUS CONTACTS** - Two players may touch the ball at the same moment. When two teammates touch the ball simultaneously (at the same time), it is counted as two hits (except at blocking). [That means that the next hit has to go over the net.]

USAV 13.2.1 & 13.2.2

9. **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HIT** – The ball may touch any part of the body [yes, folks, that means you may even use your feet], but the ball must not be caught or thrown. During defense of a hard-driven ball, the ball CAN be held momentarily overhand with the fingers as well as doubled with fingers.

USAV 13.4

10. **CONTACT WITH THE NET** – Contact with the net by a player is not a fault, unless it is made during the action of playing the ball, or it interferes with the play. Incidental contact of the hair is never a fault. Some actions of playing the ball may include actions in which the players do not actually touch the ball.

USAV 15.3.1

Once the player has hit the ball, he/she may touch the post, rope or any other object outside the total length of the net provided that his action does not interfere with play.

USAV 15.3.2

When the ball is driven into the net and causes it to touch an opponent, no fault is committed.

USAV 15.3.3

11. **ATTACK/HIT CONTACT** – A player may not use an “open-hand tip” or “dink.”

USAV 17.2.3

A player may not attack-hit the opponent’s service when the ball is entirely above the top of the net.

USAV 17.2.4

A player may complete an attack-hit using an overhand pass (set) {except on a serve}, BUT the trajectory must be perpendicular to the line of the players’ shoulders. [If the ball is intentionally set into the opponent’s court, the player must contact the ball above his/her shoulders and must direct the ball perpendicular to the direction his/her shoulders are facing.]

USAV 17.2.5

12. **BLOCKING CONTACT** – A player may not block the opponent’s serve.

USAV 18.5.3

13. **SETTING CONTACT** – Rotation of the ball after the set may indicate a held ball or multiple contacts during the set, but in itself is not a fault.

A legal set directed towards a teammate that unintentionally crosses the net is not a fault.

*USAV 17.2.5*

No setting of the serve will be allowed, since we don't have officials to make the judgment call of whether the set contact is clean or not.

14. **SERVING** - "Let serve" rule in effect [the ball may touch the net on a serve and go over as long as it is within the imaginary antennae extension]

*USAV 14.2*

A re-toss is permitted, but the ball must be caught and must not hit the ground. If it isn't caught, it is considered as a service.

*USAV 16.5.6 & 16.5.7 and the rules interpreter, Patty Salvadore*

15. **TIME-OUTS** – Each team has one time-out per game (30 seconds long).

*USAV 19.1 & 19.2*

16. **FOUL LANGUAGE** – Please refrain from using foul language (curse words, etc.), especially when frustrated.

*USAV 23.1.2 & 23.1.3*

17. **FINAL AUTHORITY** – The tournament directors [Wade, Tammy, & Krista] have final say in any major disputes. If they aren't present to witness the disputed play or call, most likely they will decide on a replay or remind the players involved what the official rules say about that particular situation.

Since there are no officials and players are calling their own faults, please be respectful of all teams and be consistent in your calls. Let's just play and have fun!

In order to prevent long delays or the tournament schedule from getting behind, please REPLAY a rally causing any disputes.

Finally, the pool play and tournament format may be altered at the discretion of the directors.

18. **TIE BREAKERS** – In priority order: head-to-head match result; head-to-head point differential; overall point differential; coin toss.

19. **GENDER** – No coed teams will be permitted to play in either the women's or men's tournament. Women must play with women for the women's tournament, and men must play with men for the men's tournament. Coed doubles is not the origin of the Grass Stain Open.

20. **ALCOHOL** – Alcohol is not allowed in City parks, so please refrain from bringing it to the park and drinking before, during, or after the tournament. Any person violating this rule is guilty of a misdemeanor, subject to a fine of up to five hundred dollars or six months in jail.

*PARK RENTAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES*

A social gathering at Machinery Row or elsewhere is planned to take place at the conclusion of the Grass Stain Open.

The Park and Recreation Department have sponsored the tournament as well as the Great Falls Association. That means we have no fee to reserve Elk's Riverside Park for the tournament. The GFVA Officers would like to maintain this working relationship with the City of Great Falls in order to continue this fun tradition. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.