

GOVL Rules
Greek Orthodox Volleyball League (GOVL) Rules
Updated 12/19/2023.
Effective 1/1/2024.

****Some sections have been redacted but not removed in the event their implementation is required in the future. All redacted sections (crossed out) are currently not in effect.****

1. GENERAL

a. To ensure a successful and meaningful basketball season, the following guidelines have been established. It is imperative that the rules, policies, and procedures of the Greek Orthodox Volleyball League are adhered to without exception. The GOVL is composed of one boys division and one girls division, ages 13-17 (GOYA). The league website is www.dadgovl.com. The League also operates a Facebook account and Instagram account. The official newspaper of the League is The National Herald (Εθνικός Κήρυξ).

2. PURPOSE

a. The purpose of the League is to teach boys and girls the meaning of good Christian sportsmanship and fellowship; to provide an avenue for teens to participate in an environment with their Greek Orthodox peers; to interact with youth of other churches; to respect your teammates, coaches and other league coaches and players and to learn how to play the game of Volleyball as individuals and as members of a team.

3. ORGANIZATION

a. Children must be between the ages of 13 through 17 to be eligible to play in the League. Exceptions may be made with League approval. The League is organized into divisions for boys and girls ages 13-17. The players/parents must be members of their respective community, or the players must be members of their respective community's athletic program (GOYA) to participate.

Division I Boys/ Girls Ages 13-17

b. Coaches are chosen by each community but are subject to approval and/or dismissal by the League Coordinators with oversight from the DAD Athletics and Youth Coordinator.

4. SCHEDULING

a. There is presently one season, the Winter/Spring regular season plus the playoffs. The league schedule will be distributed at the beginning of the season pending all communities meet the proper deadlines of submitting paperwork and rosters. The number of games per season will be decided once the number of teams has been determined.

b. Games postponed for any reason will be re-scheduled by the League Coordinators and posted on the web site and Emailed to the affected teams.

c. Regardless of the weather conditions, unless otherwise notified by a league official, coaches and their teams are expected to appear on the court ready to play on the scheduled date/time of the game. A team will have 15 minutes to show up after the scheduled game time or they will be issued a forfeit.

- d. The referee is authorized to cancel the game once he/she steps onto the court.
- e. No game will be re-scheduled without the permission of the League Coordinators.
- f. Coaches must be present for the game to begin.

5. SITES

- 1. At the beginning of every season each participating community shall provide the League Coordinators with gymnasium and equipment availability.
- 2. The home team, as designated on the League schedule, will provide the game ball.
- 3. The referee shall have the option of selecting another ball.

6. GAME PROCEDURES

- a. Each game will be officiated by an experienced referee secured by the League.
- b. All games will begin with the Lord's Prayer and a handshake between all team players and their coaches.
- c. Coaches will require team members to be at the gym site 20 minutes prior to the game to ensure all games start on time.
- d. The home site is responsible for providing a first aid kit. The responsibility is no longer on each team; however, the league strongly encourages each team to bring a first aid kit. If a site is found not to have a proper first aid kit the League Coordinators can levy penalties up to and including forfeiture of all future home games.
- e. Each team must have a minimum of 4 uniformed players on the court at the scheduled game time, prepared to begin the game. If a team has 3 or less uniformed players, 15 minutes after the scheduled game time, the Referee must declare a forfeit and award the victory to the opposing team. ~~Boys may borrow two girls from their own church and Girls may borrow one boy from their own church.~~
- f. ~~Teams may borrow a player from another team if and only if it's agreed upon by both coaches and at least one member of the League Coordinators, and only if there are no other players from the borrowing church present.~~
- g. Coaches should designate a team captain prior to each game. The team captains will conduct the opening prayer. The coaches will have their players proceed to center court for the prayer. After the game, at the Referees signal, each team must proceed to center court led by their coaches and exchange handshakes.
- h. Team members and the Referee are the only people allowed on the court. In the event of an injury, only the coach may assist the Referee on the court. The Referee is to stop the game until the injured player is ready to play, or until the player is removed from the gym if medical treatment is necessary. Under no circumstances is the game to restart until both Coaches have consented.

- i. If a game must be stopped while in progress for any reason other than a forfeit, the League Coordinators will decide the status of the game, and if it will be continued or declared final.
- j. The Volleyball size will be 65-67 centimeters in circumference and weigh 260-280 grams (9-10 oz). The balls inside pressure should be 0.30-0.325 kg/cm² (4.26-4.61 psi).
- k. A coin flip will determine who serves first and which side of the court each team will be on for the duration of the evening.
- l. Each team will have 5 minutes to warm up prior to the start of the game. If girls are warming up only the girl's team is allowed on the court, same goes for the boys. Violation of this will result in a point penalty.
- m. The team must line up 5 feet from the court boundary (Basketball court boundary).
- n. The team must line up perpendicular to the 10-foot line when on the sidelines, not passing the 10-foot line. Giving the referee room to move and adjust to make the correct call.
- o. Unsportsmanlike behavior by a player, coach or spectator will not be tolerated and may result in the removal of that person from the gym led by official referee or site/league representative.
- p. Taunting will not be tolerated. A player/ parent/ coach that violates the League Conduct Guidelines will be reprimanded by the referee and a point will be deducted from their church. Yellow card for first offense, red card for second offense.
 - Yellow card – Point deduction from the violating team
 - Red card – Point deduction from the violating team and removal from location.
- q. The only personnel permitted to be on the players sideline are the players, score keepers, referees, and coaches. All other individuals must sit in the designated spectator area. There will be one warning, followed by a point penalty for the violating team.

7. PROTESTS/ COMPLAINTS

- a. Protests/ complaints will be entertained by the League Coordinators Designee.
- b. The protest/ complaint is to be sent by the Head Coach, Community Representative or Athletic Director and received by the League Coordinators within three days of the incident. Otherwise, protests will not be heard.
- c. The League Coordinators will decide on an outcome for the protest/ complaint and forward their decision to all involved parties, as well as the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and Youth Committee.

8. LEAGUE STANDINGS

- a. At the end of the season, in the event of a tie, league standings will be determined as follows:
 - The team with the least number of points awarded will have the higher seed.
 - Forfeits or "BYE"s will be scored as follows: 25-15.

9. PLAYOFFS

- a. The number of teams making the playoffs will vary from year to year in all divisions.

- b. The same rules during the regular season will apply to the playoffs unless otherwise stated.
 - all playoff rounds will be best 2 of 3 games.
 - Finals will be best 3 of 5 games.

10. ROSTERS

- a. Each Team is allowed to have a maximum of 15 players, exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis. The minimum number of players for two teams of the same division is 10 players.
- b. If a Church decides to have an A Team or B Team those teams cannot share players.
- c. The League Coordinators reserves the right to spot check rosters during games and if it is determined that a player is on the court that is not on the roster, it will result in the team forfeiting that game and further disciplinary action will be considered by the League Coordinators.
- d. The minimum number of players to play a game is 4.
 - ~~-Girls may borrow 1 boy~~
 - ~~-Boys may borrow 2 girls~~

11. COURTS AND EQUIPMENT

- a. The home team will provide the scorekeeper for each game. The home team will make its best efforts to provide a mature/experienced person to maintain the Rosters, Substitutions and Score.
- b. The Score table is the ultimate authority on all statistical aspects of the game.
- c. The home team coach for the last game of the day is responsible for ensuring the gym is left clean. All coaches are encouraged to monitor their players and spectators on the issues of garbage disposal, respect for gym property and equipment, crowd behavior and bathroom cleanliness.

12. UNIFORMS

- a. The proper uniform in the League for each team is a matching numbered Jersey. Players without uniforms will result in a 1-point penalty per infraction.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT: Players who normally wear glasses have two options a) not wear glasses while playing b) must use safety (sport) goggles while playing.

- b. Players may not wear hats, earrings, necklaces, other jewelry, or anything that may injure any player. Long hair should be either tied back or a headband should be used. Players with casts of any type are not permitted to play. (At discretion of Referee on site).
- c. Players will not be allowed to play if they don't have the proper safety equipment.

13. REFEREES

- a. The referee has discretionary power from the time he/she enters the court to the time he/she leaves the court.

- b. The referee must check that the team bench is occupied by the coaches and players.
- c. Referees will caution players, coaches, parents, or spectators if there are unsportsmanlike outbursts. There will be one warning to the coach of the violating team, then a point penalty, then the offender(s) will be asked to leave the gym. The League Coordinators is to be immediately notified of this.
- d. The referee has the power to evict players, coaches, parents or spectators from the premises.
- e. Conduct by spectators of any age, which is considered unsportsmanlike, may result in eviction from the spectator's area including the gym and the game being forfeited by one or both teams.
- f. The referee has the final word in all situations on the court.

14. EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE PROCEDURES**

- a. First Aid Kit. See Section 6 (d).
- b. Use common sense when rendering first aid. For trauma, use a cold pack to the affected area. Any player bleeding must be removed from the court and cannot re-enter the game until the referee inspects said player.
- c. If Emergency Medical Services must be called the game is to be stopped. The game is only to resume once all EMS personnel have exited the gym.
- d. If Emergency Medical Services is needed the "Agency Response Form" must be filled out and submitted to the League Coordinators.

15. LAW ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURE**

- a. If Law Enforcement needs to be contacted and responds to an issue within the gym a "Agency Response Form" must be filled out and submitted to the League Coordinators within 24 hours. Follow the directions of the Police Department.

16. FIRE RESPONSE PROCEDURE**

- a. If the Fire Department needs to be contacted and responds to an issue within the gym a "Agency Response Form" must be filled out and submitted to the League Coordinators within 24 hours. Follow the directions of the Fire Department.

17. COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE LEAGUE

- a. A Coach shall be a non-player and be at least 25 years of age.
- b. An Assistant Coach shall be a non-player who is at least 19 years of age or older.
- c. All coaches must attend a pre-season training session and meeting organized by the League and the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Failure to attend a pre-season meeting may result in disqualification to coach. Coaches are required to have their DAD Safety Course and Background check completed prior to the start of the season.

d. Exceptions to the age requirements can be made by application through the League Coordinators.

e. It is the coach's responsibility to present to the League Director:

- All player rosters.
- A letter from the President/Priest of the community or a copy of the policy declaratory page that an insurance liability policy is in effect for the respective community.
- Coaches are expected to dress in a manner respectful to the league and the churches they represent.
- First Aid Kit.
- Emergency Contact Information for Players.

f. All coaches must attend at least one of the preseason meetings or they will not be allowed to coach. This includes both head and assistant coaches. All coaches must also consent to a background check in order to be part of the league.

g. Any coach that knowingly submits false information on a roster shall be suspended from the League for at least one year.

h. Any coach that plays a player that has been deemed ineligible by the League Coordinators, even if an appeal is pending, shall be suspended for at least four games but not more than a year.

i. Any coach who fails to uphold the code of conduct set forth by the League Officials will be subject to disciplinary actions:

- 1st offense: 1 game suspension.
- 2nd offense: 3 game suspension & meeting with respective Parish Priest.
- 3rd offense: Season Suspension & final meeting with respective Parish Priest.
- 4th offense: Ban from coaching within the DADGOVL for 1 year.

18. PARENT/ SPECTATOR/ ADVISORS COMMITMENT TO LEAGUE

a. Encourage good sportsmanship and maintain Christian fellowship amongst other parents/ spectators/ advisors.

b. Uphold the League Code of Conduct.

c. ensure players are brought to the games on time and ready to play.

d. Any parent/ spectator/ advisor who fails to uphold the code of conduct set forth by the League Officials will be subject to disciplinary actions:

- 1st offense: 1 game suspension.
- 2nd offense: 3 game suspension & meeting with respective Parish Priest.
- 3rd offense: Season Suspension & final meeting with respective Parish Priest.
- 4th offense: 1 year suspension.

19. LEAGUE COORDINATORS AND LEAGUE BOARD'S COMMITMENT TO LEAGUE

- a. The League Coordinators and League Board must uphold the code of conduct set forth and approved by DAD.
- b. The league Coordinators and League Board must be up to date on all DAD requirements for adults involved with Youth Programs.
- c. The league Coordinators and League Board must work with each church in an effort to uphold the following strategies:
 - Collaboration
 - Innovation
 - Ethics
 - Inclusion
- d. The league Coordinators and League Board MUST uphold the code of conduct.
- e. The league Coordinators and League Board has a zero tolerance policy of any violations to the Code of Conduct or League Rules. Failure of a member of the league Coordinators and League Board to uphold the Code of Conduct or League Rules will result in that member's immediate removal of their position.

20. GOVERNING RULES

Rules for the DADGOVL will be governed by USA Volleyball
<https://usavolleyball.org/resources-for-officials/rulebooks-and-interpretations/>

- a. Special adjustments and considerations are based on a church-by-church basis.
- b. Games will start at 0 and end at 25. There will be a 28-point cap. Exceptions are tie breaker games in the playoffs and all games in the Finals.
- c. Regular season games will be 3 sets each counting on their own for the standings. Boys and Girls will play on the same night; however, the host church will decide which team (boys or girls) will play their 3 games first. The net heights will be set for the respective gender prior to the start of the games.

****Agency Response forms can be found on the league website. These forms were also provided to coaches and advisors at the start of the season.**