



TIDEWATER VOLLEYBALL
ASSOCIATION

Member Handbook

Abbreviated Rules, Tidewater Volleyball
Association Policies and General Information

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Updated May 5th, 2009

THE Tidewater Volleyball Association

Play at the Tidewater Volleyball Association located at 2644 Dean Drive, Virginia Beach is governed largely by the rules of USA Volleyball. There are some exceptions which are outlined in this booklet.

The purpose of this guide is to familiarize Tidewater Volleyball Association members with the practices, procedures, and playing rules for the Association. It is not meant to serve as a substitute for the USA Volleyball Rulebook, which covers the rules of volleyball in detail. Tidewater Volleyball Association does have copies of the USA Volleyball rules available.

Feel free to pass this booklet along to your team members or friends. If you have questions or comments or would like further information about anything contained in this guide, please contact the Tidewater Volleyball Association office at (757)498-5052.

The Tidewater Volleyball Association is a non-profit charitable organization...

.....dedicated to the promotion of volleyball.

The information contained herein is subject to change at any time. The management of the Tidewater Volleyball Association reserves the right to make decisions for the betterment of the club or its leagues. Situations are considered on an individual basis. Appeals may be made to the Rules and Grievances Committee.

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TIDEWATER VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

I. General Association Information

1. Individual Membership

All participants at the Tidewater Volleyball Association (Tidewater Volleyball Association) must become members before using the facility. Annual membership dues are payable on September 1 or before using the facility during the fall season. Membership is prorated for those who join at other times of the year. Membership entitles a person to participate in league play, as well as Tidewater Volleyball Association sponsored clinics and other events. Members may also utilize the facilities at designated open gym times. All memberships currently expire on August 31.

There are four types of memberships at Tidewater Volleyball Association. The first is a regular adult membership. The second is an Under-21 Individual Membership. A reduced rate may be offered for members under the age of 21. The third is an Associate Membership. Associate members have the same access to court time as individual members with the exception that ***associate members may not participate in regular league play***. Associate members may upgrade their membership to an individual membership at any time by paying the difference in fees to the Tidewater Volleyball Association office. The fourth is a Beach Membership, which is an even further reduced rate for those who just wish to play in any of our beach programs. Beach Memberships do not allow access to any indoor activities associated with Tidewater Volleyball Association. An Association Membership (or Individual Membership) may be required for certain Tidewater Volleyball Association programs. See registration form or contact the Tidewater Volleyball Association office for more information.

2. Tidewater Volleyball Association Board of Directors

The Tidewater Volleyball Association has an all-volunteer, elected Board of Directors. Tidewater Volleyball Association Board meetings are open to the general membership and attendance is encouraged. If you have any questions or concerns, attend a meeting or address the board through written means. The Board is always grateful for input from Tidewater Volleyball Association members. The Board meets once a month. Call the Tidewater Volleyball Association office to confirm monthly meeting time and location.

3. Junior's Program - Youth Development Programs

The Tidewater Volleyball Association supports all aspects of volleyball. Our youth development programs are a major part of our development of the sport. Many participants have gone on to play volleyball at the collegiate level. We have a youth program for everyone up to age eighteen!

The Tidewater Volleyball Association Junior's Program is part of USA Volleyball, the governing body of volleyball in the United States. Our teams participate in the Old Dominion Region of USA Volleyball (USAV). Many of our teams also travel outside the region to play the best teams in the country. All of our teams have the

opportunity to earn a berth in the USA Volleyball Junior National Championship held each year. An informational meeting and tryouts are held in the fall for the Junior Olympic Program. Contact our office for exact times and information. Tidewater Volleyball Association also offers other youth development programs including Youth leagues, high school and middle school leagues, youth instructional classes, camps and more. Many of our programs are offered during the summer months when children are not in school and also after school. To be notified about upcoming youth programs, please visit our website, www.spike.net for all the latest information. Also, please join our Yahoo mailing list, which is a weekly informational email that keeps you up to date with all the happenings at Tidewater Volleyball Association. If you have a child or know someone who is under 18 years of age and is interested in getting involved with this program, contact our office.

4. Children in the Facility (Tidewater Volleyball Association)

The Tidewater Volleyball Association requires all children to be supervised by an adult while in the center. We strongly encourage you to bring a baby-sitter or make arrangements so that your child is under adult supervision at all times. All children must be supervised at all times. Tidewater Volleyball Association is not liable for any injury to children in the facility. Liability and insurance requirements prevent Tidewater Volleyball Association from providing a baby-sitting service. Parents are responsible for any damage their children may cause within the facility and will be billed for these damages. Most problems occur during evening league play. Please respect the safety and enjoyment of other members at Tidewater Volleyball Association by adhering to the above policy. It's for your safety and ours.

5. Other Information

1. Notices concerning the membership are posted at the Center and on our web site at www.spike.net. Please be sure to check these areas for important information.
2. Drop boxes are available at the center for any correspondence with the office, including registrations, add/drop forms, rosters and comment forms. There is a separate box for referee score sheets and Junior's correspondence.
3. Comment forms are available for you to express your opinion or comment (good or bad) on a particular match, referee, or member conduct.
4. Deadlines for registration, rosters, and other events will be posted in advance for the convenience of members.
5. Standings for each division are posted within a few days following each league night. Please contact the office if you detect a mistake in the win-loss records by using the standing correction form.
6. Tidewater Volleyball Association regularly offers classes and clinics for both referees and players. Please check with the office or within the facility and on our website for further information.

7. The club's returned check policy requires a \$25 charge for all returned checks. Membership privileges will be suspended until returned checks and outstanding fees are resolved.
8. Special events sometimes cause schedule changes. Advance notification will be given whenever possible.
9. Tidewater Volleyball Association usually closes for all major holidays. Please check your schedules or the Tidewater Volleyball Association monthly calendar.
10. Due to circumstances beyond our control (weather), league play may sometimes be canceled. Due to time constraints, make-ups are not always possible. There will be notification via our website regarding any cancellations.

II. Facility and Playing Area

1. Smoking / Food & Beverages

1. To provide a healthy and safe environment for all members, smoking is not permitted within the building.
2. Beer, food, glass or open beverage containers are not to be taken onto the sport court flooring.
3. Beer may **NOT** be removed from the concession area **by order of the Alcohol Beverage Control Board (ABC)**. Penalty for this act could range in degree from verbal warning to loss of membership privileges.
4. Anyone buying and/or supplying alcohol to a minor or anyone under 21 years of age in possession or consuming alcoholic beverages will be suspended from all Tidewater Volleyball Association activities for a minimum period of two months. Additional action, including prosecution, may also be considered depending upon the severity of the infraction.
5. Please, everyone do your part in helping to keep the facility safe and clean.

2. Dress Code

Members must wear shirts and shoes at all times while inside the facility. When playing on the court, participants must wear shirts and rubber-soled court-shoes. Sport bra type tops are permitted. Hats, headgear, jewelry (with the exception of flat band rings), and exposed body piercings are not permitted. Bandanas may be worn as long as they are securely tied to the head and for the sole purpose of maintaining the players vision for safety.

III. **General League Information**

1. Team Registration and League Information

1. Teams are divided into leagues based on skill level. Divisions available may change from season to season.

2. Skill levels offered at the Tidewater Volleyball Association:

Open	highest level of play
AA	advanced intermediate
A	intermediate
BB	beginner
B	novice
3. Teams who do not have a ranking equal to the division they request MAY NOT be accepted if that division receives a full compliment of teams at that level. However, if space permits, teams MAY be offered a position in that level.
4. Space in Tidewater Volleyball Association's leagues is limited. Current scheduling allows for 150 teams per season. **Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis!** Registration forms are available at the Tidewater Volleyball Association office.
5. The Tidewater Volleyball Association conducts four seasons per year. Registration fees vary by season and league, please check the website www.spike.net or current flyers for the latest prices and information.
6. Corporate Rates are also available. These rates are good for the lowest divisions of play only. See Tidewater Volleyball Association office for more details.
7. A normal season consists of nine weeks of league play followed by a week of playoffs. A finals night party is held for all indoor divisions after the completion of playoffs.

2. Team Representative Meeting

It is highly encouraged that at least one member of each team attend the meeting. At this time, team representatives will receive a packet containing schedules, team roster forms and other general information necessary for this season. We will also discuss any new rules or league changes at this time. Date and time will be announced well in advance and written on the team registration form. Schedules will be finalized at this time through a lottery system to ensure fairness amongst teams in playing schedules.

3. Playing Schedules

Tidewater Volleyball Association's leagues generally consist of between four to eighteen teams. Each team plays two matches per night, one match against two different teams. A match consists of three 25 point rally scoring games or 55 minutes of play, whichever comes first.

4. Match Starting Times

The following are the typical match starting times for the Tidewater Volleyball Association. These times enable a break between matches and ensure everyone will be able to leave at a respectable hour. The buzzer system will alert everyone of starting and finishing times. All referees will adhere to these times.

Match 1	6:15 to 7:10 p.m.
Match 2	7:15 to 8:10 p.m.
Match 3	8:15 to 9:10 p.m.
Match 4	9:15 to 10:10 p.m.
Match 5	10:15 to 11:10 p.m.

Starting times are subject to change. Sunday leagues may be scheduled earlier. Teams should begin matches on time even if a referee fails to show up on time. Please notify the office by written notice on the comment section of score sheet or by filling out a comment card if a referee fails to cover a match or arrives late to officiate a match.

5. Playoff Awards

Awards will be offered to teams in each division that finish in 1st and 2nd place in the playoffs after the finals night match. Awards are subject to change from season to season. The team representative is responsible for submitting all information regarding the ordering of the awards as well as picking up the awards at the Tidewater Volleyball Association office.

IV. Participants

1. Indoor Player Ratings

All players participating in an indoor league with Tidewater Volleyball Association will receive an individual rating. An individual rating will be the highest league participated in over the past three seasons (this includes if you were a sub for a particular team). Individuals can have two ratings: a coed rating and a men's or women's rating. This rating will carry over into the next season unless a team finishes 1st overall in the regular league standings (members on those teams will automatically be moved to the next higher division), or finishes in the bottom third of the regular league standings (the roster members on those teams will automatically be moved to the next lower division). If a player is not listed on a roster for a period of three seasons, their ranking will drop to "C".

2. Ranking Changes

Any request for a ranking change must be submitted in writing and will be reviewed by the facility director and/or rules committee. Forms are available at the Tidewater Volleyball Association office and through the Tidewater Volleyball Association web site.

3. Upper Level Rule

This rule enables more experienced players to play on lower level teams so they may help develop the skills of less experienced players. Each team may have as many as two upper level players. Coed teams may have only one male and one female upper level players or two female upper level players. An upper level player is any member listed on the roster of a team with an

individual rating higher than the league. Coed ratings only apply to coed leagues and men's or women's ratings only apply to men's or women's leagues. A member's individual men's or women's rating has no bearing on coed play and vice versa. Player ratings are determined by past league play, not league play of the current season.

4. Rosters

1. All teams must file a roster at the time of registration with the Tidewater Volleyball Association office as outlined on the team registration form.
2. Team representatives will receive a roster form with their team packets and must list all team members by their full name.
3. There is no limit to the number of persons on a team roster, only to the number of upper level players. (See *Upper Level Rule* above.)
4. Teams who fail to submit a roster with registration will forfeit all games until a roster is submitted to the Tidewater Volleyball Association office. Wins will not be re-instated.
5. The official player-ranking list & roster listings are kept inside the office. Teams have the right to see or challenge the roster of any team at any time.

5. Illegal Players

1. Under no circumstances may a non-member participate in league play at any time during the season. **After** the second week of league play, all players on a team roster must be members in good standing for the team to avoid forfeitures. Beginning with week 3, a team who has non-members **listed on their roster** will forfeit all games that occurred while the illegal player was on the roster.
2. Any team that participates in a game with a non-roster member playing will forfeit the games in which the non-roster member played.

6. Add/Delete Forms

1. After a team roster has been submitted, changes may be made only via the add/delete form. Players may be added to a roster at any time provided they are a member in good standing.
2. Players are not permitted to play for 2 teams in the same league on the same night. After the second week of league play, players may not be on more than one roster per division per season.
3. After the second week of league play, players may not be dropped and re-added to their team's roster from which they were originally removed.

RULES OF PLAY AT THE TIDEWATER VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

The following is a very basic guide to the rules of play at the Tidewater Volleyball Association. It is not all-inclusive and generally covers only the basic and/or exceptions to USA Volleyball rules. For further explanation or interpretation, refer to the USA Volleyball rulebook or contact the Tidewater Volleyball Association office.

V. *Before the Match*

1. Team captains should report to the referee's stand five minutes before the scheduled start time. The referee should ask if either team has questions and explain any ground rules or any information relative to the match. The winner of the coin toss may choose either which side to play on, to serve first or to receive first. If for some reason there is not a referee for the match, the team captains should meet, have a coin toss, submit their line-ups, and start play on time.
2. Team line-up sheets will be made available at the facility for anyone choosing to use them. This will speed up the amount of time at the referee meeting, and will allow your team a little more time of warm-ups
3. Captains are to have their lineups completed and team ready to start at the match starting time. The captain's name should be circled on the lineup sheet.
4. Teams are permitted to play one player short than is required for their league, (except for doubles and triples, where you need the required number of people to start). Please see specific rules for each division as to where the "ghost" player is to be positioned. See specific rules for substituting in the sixth player in men's, women's and coed divisions.
5. A team is considered ready to begin when the lineup has been submitted by the team captain and the legal number of team players are present and on the end line.
6. If a team does not have the minimum number of players to start, they may not start and they may not call a time-out. The first game will be forfeited after five minutes. The second game is forfeited 15 minutes after the match starting time. The third game is forfeited 25 minutes after the match starting time.

VI. *During the Match*

1. Playing Area
 1. We will follow USA Volleyball guidelines for most rules except noted below.
 2. A player can begin their serve from off the SportCourt, provided that the last contact with the floor is on the SportCourt between the Side Line Extensions.

3. A ball which contacts the ceiling, overhead light fixture, or heater may be played only on the same side of the net. Once such a ball crosses the plane of the net, it is considered "out".
 4. The walls, court divider nets, poles down the center of the facility, referee stands, pads, and net antennae are out of play.
 5. Pursuit of the ball off the court playing area – any player may pursue a playable ball by entering the black playing area between the two courts to make a play on the ball, but at NO TIME are they permitted to continue through the black area towards the adjacent court UNLESS there is not a match being played on the adjacent court.
2. General Rules for All Divisions
1. Teams must rotate after obtaining a side-out, including the first side-out.
 2. League play consists of three rally point games or 55 minutes of play whichever comes first. The first 2 games are played to 25 points with a cap of 25. The 3rd game is played to 25 points and you must win by 2 or time. Formats are subject to change via Rules and Grievance committee at any time during the season.
 3. The playing captain (or an identified non-playing coach) is the only person who may address the referee.
 4. The referee will blow the whistle and motion for serve. If the ball, after having been tossed by the server, lands without touching the player, it is considered a service tossing error.
Commentary: Basically, it is no longer legal to allow the ball to drop after tossing the ball for service. Allowing the ball to drop or catching the ball after the service toss will result in a sideout.
 5. After the whistle is blown for service, the player has 8 seconds to contact the ball for service.
 6. After the whistle for service, no other actions (requests for line-up check, time-out, etc.) may be considered until after the ball has been served and the rally completed.
 7. A block is not a team or individual contact, except in doubles & triples where it is counted as a contact. Block contacts are explained in USA Volleyball Rule 14.
 8. At no time is a player permitted to touch the net during play, with the exception of hair.
 9. If a referee is unable to see a play and no honor call is made, the point shall be replayed.
 10. When the ball is entirely above the height of the net, attacking the serve is forbidden only if the ball is in the front zone. *No player is permitted to complete an attack hit on the opponents' service, when the ball is in the front zone and entirely higher than the top of the net.*
 11. A back row player may attack the ball above the plane of the net only if he/she leaves the court entirely from behind the attack line.

12. Players must be in proper position relative to the players on their left and right and front or back. See rules for further explanation.
 13. Teams will switch sides after the 1st game. Before the 3rd game, a coin toss completed by the referee will decide serve and side between teams.
 14. The third game will not be played if there is less than 3 minutes left in match time. The start of the 3rd game officially begins when the referee blows their whistle for the first service. The game will continue if it has started before the 3 minute warning.
 15. At the end of the match time the point in progress is played-out and the match is ended.
 16. If the game is tied at the ending of match time, one rally point shall be played with the first fault deciding the game.
 17. Tidewater Volleyball Association has chosen to adopt the USAV "Let" serve rule. This means that the serve is legal if it hits the net and continues over.
3. Specific Rules for Men's & Women's League Play
1. Teams are permitted to play one player short than is required for their league, except for doubles and triples, where you need the required number of people to start.
 2. The team is penalized by the loss of serve for the empty position. The official ruling is "out of rotation".
 3. If a sixth player arrives, he/she will be placed in the empty Middle Back position (position #6) on the court.
4. Specific Rules for Coed League Play
1. A complete coed 6's team includes three men and three women. A maximum of three men is permitted at any time.
 2. A complete coed 4's team includes two men and two women. A maximum of two men is permitted at any time.
 3. A legal coed lineup is one where no two men are positioned next to each other in the service order.
 4. When the ball is contacted more than once by a team, a female player must make one of the contacts. Contact of the ball during blocking shall not constitute a contact.
 5. Coed lineups must alternate men and women in service order except in coed 6's when only playing with two men. In this case, men can play opposite each other in the lineup if desired. Under no circumstance may two male players be adjacent to each other in the lineup.
 6. A coed 6's team is permitted to play with five players. If a sixth player arrives, that person **MUST** go into the vacant Middle Back position (position #6) within the rotation.

7. A coed 4's team is permitted to play with three players. If a fourth player arrives, that person goes into position in the vacant spot within the serving rotation.
 8. Coed divisions must side-out when it is the missing person's turn to serve, and **there is a point awarded** for the side-out.
 9. When only one male player is on the front line in coed play, a second male player may come to the front row to block. This player may not attack the ball in front of the attack line.
 10. If a team is playing with two men and both men rotate to the back row, one or both men may move to the front row and be legal blockers. The attack rule for back row players will still be in effect.
 11. If a team has chosen to use a Libero, then that Libero switch must be used on an equal sex basis, as in male for male, female for female. *A female player may not switch in for a male player and vice versa.*
5. Specific Rules for **Reverse Coed** League Play
1. The serving order shall be an alternation of male and female.
 2. When the ball is contacted more than once by a team, a male player must make one of the contacts. Contact of the ball during blocking shall not constitute a contact.
 3. A legal reverse coed lineup is one where no two women are positioned next to each other on the court.
 4. A coed team is permitted to play with five players. If a sixth player arrives, that person goes into position in the vacant spot within the rotation.
 5. Coed divisions must side-out when it is the missing person's turn to serve, and **there is a point awarded** for the side-out.
 6. When only one female player is in the front row at service, only one female back row player may be forward of the attack line for the purpose of blocking.
 7. No male player may participate in a block.
 8. There is no restriction on a male player hitting the ball into the opponent's court if the player takes off behind the attack line before attacking the ball.
(Rule clarification, please notice the previous rule says nothing about jumping or attacking, it simply states where the ball is at the time contact is made. So it is possible for someone to be standing on the ground and be called for an illegal attack if when he makes contact with the ball, the ball is completely over the plane of the net.)
 9. A maximum of three women may be on the court at any one time.
 10. A maximum of three men may be on the court at all times.
 11. If a team has chosen to use a Libero, then that Libero switch must be used on an equal sex basis, as in male for male, female for female. *A female Libero may not switch in for a male player, and vice versa.*

VII. Time Outs, Delays and Interruptions

1. If a player incurs an injury that causes bleeding, the referee shall immediately stop the game. The player shall leave the court for evaluation and treatment. The player may return to the game only after treatment and the bleeding has stopped. If the player cannot continue within the three-minute injury time-out, substitution guidelines must be followed.
2. If the referee observes blood on the playing surface or equipment, the game shall be stopped immediately and measures taken to clean any contaminated area or equipment using universal precautions. Proper Bio-Hazard cleaning and disposal materials can be found in the snack bar.
3. Each team is permitted 2 thirty-second time-outs per game. Time-outs will last 30 seconds no matter which team calls the time-out. In fours play each team is only permitted 1 thirty-second time-out per game.
4. A replay is to be called when, in the referee's judgment, a ball or player from another court interrupts play or creates a potential hazard for the players.
5. Substitutions may only be called after a dead ball.
6. Substitutions are to be called by the floor captain or non-playing coach. Teams may substitute any number of players at one time.
7. Substitutions are unlimited.
8. When 3 minutes are left to play, the referee will alert both teams. If play has been halted because of a time-out, the referee will blow their whistle to signal the end of the time out and play will resume immediately. From that point on, no substitutions, time-outs or other interruptions are allowed. A team delay (team yellow card) will be awarded to a team for any interruption. Libero switches are not considered substitutions and therefore will be allowed to continue as normal.

VIII. Misconduct

1. A verbal or hand signal is a warning; a yellow card is a penalty, a red card is means for expulsion, and a yellow card + red card jointly results in disqualification. See the insert on the next page, and the USA Volleyball rulebook for more details about team and individual sanctions.
2. No jewelry, with the exception of flat bands, or exposed body piercings are permitted. During match play, a penalty of a team delay (team yellow card) will be called for the first offense if any of the players have broken this rule. A penalty of a team yellow card (point or side out in the other team's favor) will be called for each additional infraction.

Category	Occurrence (in a game)	Offender	Sanction	Card(s)	Consequence
Rude Conduct	First	Any member	Penalty	Yellow	Loss of Rally
	Second	Same member	Expulsion	Red	Team member leaves the playing area
	Third	Same member	Disqualification	Red + Yellow Jointly	Team member leaves the playing, warm-up & spectator area
Offensive Conduct	First	Any member	Expulsion	Red	Team member leaves the playing area
	Second	Same member	Disqualification	Red + Yellow Jointly	Team member leaves the playing, warm-up & spectator area
Aggression	First	Any member	Disqualification	Red + Yellow Jointly	Team member leaves the playing, warm-up & spectator area

Definitions:

Rude Conduct: acting contrary to good manners or moral principles, profanity, interfering with an opponent's ability to play, expressing contempt.

Offensive Conduct: defamatory or insulting words or gestures

Aggressive Conduct: physical attack or aggression

3. Any unsportsmanlike act, including obscene language and hanging on the net, may result in a sanction (yellow or red card) at the referee's discretion.
4. Any unsportsmanlike conduct involving physical contact may result in a suspension from all Tidewater Volleyball Association activities and the Tidewater Volleyball Association.
5. Excessive unsportsmanlike conduct: problems may result in the suspension of membership privileges under the discretion of the facility director and/or a designated committee. Any suspension may be appealed to the Board of Directors.

IX. After the Match

At the end of the match, the team captain is to report to the referee stand to verify the results and sign the score sheet.

X. *Playoff / Finals Guidelines*

1. All eligible teams in each division will advance to an end of the season play-off. This play-off will be a single elimination format of best 2 out of 3 games. Divisions which have 5 teams or less may play a best 3 out of 5 games. The first 2 games will be played to 25 points with no cap. The 3rd game (in the case of a 3 game match) or the 5th game (in the case of a 5 game match) will be played to 15 points, no cap win by 2.
2. A playoff schedule will be posted in the club and on the website by the end of the regular season.
3. The league standings will be considered final when the playoff brackets have been posted. No corrections to a team's record can be made after this point.
4. The winners of the single elimination brackets will play on finals night. Finals matches must be played on the designated night. Finals night is a very important time for sponsors and the Association. Please make arrangements for your team to be available for play on finals night since matches will not be played on alternative nights.
5. Tidewater Volleyball Association will provide certified officials for the playoffs and finals night matches.
6. All players on a team roster must have been present and listed on the lineup sheet for at least one third of their games during the regular season to be eligible for playoffs and finals.
7. Any team who forfeits more than one third of their games during the season will not be eligible to participate in playoffs.

XI. *Tidewater Volleyball Association Officials*

1. Teams and Their Referee Responsibilities
 1. All teams are responsible for providing qualified referees who are certified by Tidewater Volleyball Association. Certification is required so that a high level of officiating is maintained during Tidewater Volleyball Association league matches. Only an up referee has to be provided. Certified up referees may use second (down) referees but it is the responsibility of the up referee to ensure the qualifications of the second referee. Scorekeepers must remain behind the referee stand so as not to interfere with play. Teams may choose to hire a contract referee or use the Tidewater Volleyball Association Referee Find Service. See the Tidewater Volleyball Association office for more information on the Referee Find Service or to obtain a list of contract officials.
 2. If you are interested in becoming a contract referee, please contact the office.

3. If a certified official fails to start a match on time or finish a match, that referee and/or team will incur the penalty. Teams failing to provide a certified referee will be charged \$25 per match (\$8.33 per game). The fine is due within seven days. If the fine is not paid within seven days, all roster members will be suspended from play at the Tidewater Volleyball Association and the individual roster members will be charged for the outstanding amount. Fines must be paid before individual membership will be reinstated. The penalty for forging a certified referee's name on a score sheet is suspension of membership for a period of one week. Repeated infractions may result in a more severe penalty.
4. Drinking alcohol during or before officiating a match by a certified official is prohibited. In the event that a Tidewater Volleyball Association official is caught drinking alcohol before a match or during a match, his or her certification may be revoked, as well as their membership privileges.

2. Referee Certification Guidelines

1. So you want to be a referee? To officiate at the Tidewater Volleyball Association it is necessary to become certified. Listed below are the current steps for becoming a certified Tidewater Volleyball Association official. The rules committee formulated the training and certification process. This committee is a volunteer group consisting of Tidewater Volleyball Association members. Your input was also instrumental in forming the guidelines for this program.

3. Steps for Becoming a Tidewater Volleyball Association Official

Take a referee training clinic offered periodically at the Tidewater Volleyball Association. For dates, times, and cost contact the Tidewater Volleyball Association office.

- Pre-Register for the Officials Clinic
- Pass open book test with 85% or better
- Attend Test Correction Session (same day as test)
- Be rated as an official
- Submit proper paperwork as an official
- You must be a full member to be an official

4. Steps for Upgrading Your Referee Rating

Referees are assigned a group of levels that they are permitted to officiate. Referees may not officiate a higher level than their group allows. If a referee would like to be considered for a higher rating, they must be re-rated to determine their new level.

Complete a “referee request for rating change form” and submit it to the office via a drop box or in person. Requests may also be submitted via the Tidewater Volleyball Association web site.

If you would like to change your rating up one level, a rating must be completed in the level desired. If a referee would like to move up more than one level, a rating may be required at your present level. If the rater feels that the referee might be capable of officiating the level requested, a rating time will be scheduled for that level. The new rating level will be determined by the rater based on your performance at the higher level.

A referee may be required to officiate at least five matches at their current highest ranked level of certification prior to being re-rated at a higher level.

8. Your certification will last for 2 years from the date of your last rating. Every two years all referees must be re-rated to continue their certification. Each year all referees may also be required to take a test regarding new or changed Tidewater Volleyball Association rules or USA Volleyball rules.

Notes:

The Rules & Grievances Committee, comprised entirely of volunteers, is the responsible party for the information contained within this book. The committee is comprised of sixteen members, a chairperson and the facility director. The committee meets approximately six times a year to discuss rule changes, suggestions, problems and make decisions on the rules that govern the Tidewater Volleyball Association. If you are interested in the Rules & Grievances Committee, or any other Tidewater Volleyball Association committee, please call the office at 498-5052.

Any comments regarding the Tidewater Volleyball Association Membership Book are welcomed in writing.