

Littleton Volleyball League

Constitution and Bylaws

October 28, 2001

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1 LEAGUE PURPOSE

The Littleton Volleyball League (LVL) has been set up to provide participants with the opportunity to play, learn, and compete at the game of volleyball. The League is a modified co-ed league; each team must field a lineup containing at least two members of each sex.

2 LEAGUE BYLAWS

2.1 Governing Body

A meeting will be held at season's end each year to elect new League officers. This meeting should also cover securing of gyms for the next season, setting an approximate date for the next season's first meeting, and defining any problems to be considered before the new season starts. If deemed feasible by the League President, this meeting may be held electronically, through Electronic Mail or some other agreed-upon method.

The official Constitution and Bylaws of the LVL is the copy maintained by the LVL Secretary.

The Constitution and Bylaws of the LVL may be changed by a two-thirds majority vote of the governing body, following standard parliamentary procedures.

The governing body of the Littleton Volleyball League consists of League officers and team captains. Only team captains or the proxies they designate are voting members, except that the League President may cast a vote to break ties.

2001-2002 LVL League Officers*

E-mail		Officer
TazJM@AOL.COM mann@lmipumps.com	Jim Mann	President
rzee@alum.mit.edu	Roger Zee	Vice President
jonathan.levy@compaq.com	Jon Levy	Treasurer
blew@ma.ultranet.com	Betty Lew	Secretary
tsweeney@alum.wpi.edu	Tom Sweeney	Head Referee

* Last update 10/28/2001

2.2 League Officer's Responsibilities

The League president is responsible for:

- o Initiating activities at season's start
- o Presiding at meetings
- o Coordinating League activities
- o Casting tiebreaking votes as necessary
- o Interfacing with outside organizations
- o Acquiring playing facilities
- o Approving and overseeing League expenditures
- o Review all request for roster changes in a timely manner

The League vice president is responsible for:

- o Filling in for the League president when necessary
- o Acquiring necessary League equipment/supplies
- o Performing other tasks as assigned by the president

The League treasurer is responsible for:

- o Collecting and keeping all monies of the League
- o Paying all League expenses as incurred
- o Maintaining League financial records
- o Preparing and maintaining League budget
- o Reporting on League finances at start and end of season
- o Reporting on League finances as directed by officers or captains

The League secretary is responsible for:

- o Setting and maintaining playing schedules
- o Maintaining League documents
- o Storing the League copies of team rosters
- o Reporting results and standings on a weekly basis
- o Compiling and submitting monthly activity reports as needed
- o Taking and distributing minutes at League meetings

The League head referee is responsible for:

- o Defining and maintaining League refereeing standards
- o Recommending playing rules for the League as necessary
- o Chairing rules committee
- o Chairing protest committee
- o Establishing ground rules for the gym
- o Conducting referee's clinic at start of season
- o Providing assistance and instruction to referees as necessary

2.3 Team Captain's Responsibilities

Team captains are responsible for attending League meetings. Captains are responsible for voting on matters of League business.

Team captains are responsible for collecting all fees due by the team and its players, and transferring all such monies to the League Treasurer, on the schedule established by the governing body.

Team captains are required to have access to Electronic Mail. The current LVL Web page is at <http://newts.org/lvl>.

Team captains are responsible for maintaining and forwarding team rosters to the League secretary.

Team captains are responsible for notifying team members of League activities. In particular, team captains must notify their team members about cancellations and rescheduled play dates.

During games, team captains are responsible for having the team in position and ready for play. Captains may designate lineups, rotations, and substitutions. Captains may request timeouts, discuss decisions with the referees, and otherwise act as coaches.

During games, team captains are responsible for the behavior and courtesy of team members. Only captains may speak to referee crews during a game.

During games, team captains are responsible for the safe use of all League equipment by team members. Captains are also responsible for the recovery of balls "lost" during their team games.

2.4 Player's Responsibilities

Players are encouraged to use the LVL Web page (<http://newts.org/lvl>) to keep abreast of League activities and issues.

Players are required to referee games as needed. A player who is not otherwise playing a League game must act as a referee or line judge, if asked.

It is every player's responsibility to maintain him- or herself with decorum. Verbal or physical abuse of other players or referees will not be tolerated. Players abusing fellow players will be subject to expulsion from a game, or suspension from play for the night. Exceptionally flagrant cases may result in expulsion from the League. Physical violence may cause the League officers to pursue other penalties, as appropriate.

2.5 Rules of Play

USA Volleyball (USAV) rules will be used as a base, and modified only in such cases as deemed best for the League by the Head Referee.

Officiating will be done by players from each team on a regularly scheduled, rotating basis.

The minimum officials for each game will consist of a first referee and a side referee. The preferred officiating crew consists of a first referee, a side referee, and two line judges.

When it is scheduled to officiate, each team is responsible for providing at least four players to referee games, and preferably eight.

2.6 Participation Fee

Each team member shall pay a participation fee each season. The amount of the fee will be determined and announced by the League president before the start of each season. Fees are due in full before a player can participate. As compensation for their League work, the payment fee for the League Officers shall be waived.

If a player joins the League during the second half of the season, the dues are one half the regular dues. If a player pays dues, but is unable to play during the regular season and the postseason, dues may be refunded in full.

Anyone who is at least 18 years of age may play in the League.

Participation fees will be used to maintain the balance of the League account, and to purchase League equipment and supplies.

2.7 League Fund

All dues and other monies will be deposited into the LVL account with the Digital Employee's Federal Credit Union (DCU), and will be used for League expenses as issued by the League president. All League bills and expenses will be paid from the account by the League treasurer upon the direction of the President. All expenses must be documented by receipt, invoice, or other proof of indebtedness, and only items falling within the current League budget qualify for being paid with League monies.

The League treasurer shall keep satisfactory records of all League monies and expenses, and shall assure that expenditures made fall within the League's budget.

2.8 Team Rosters

2.8.1 Eligibility

Participation in the League is limited to:

Anyone who is at least 18 years of age may play in the League. Participants must also sign a liability waiver to be eligible.

Captains are responsible for ensuring that all players on their team are eligible to participate.

Eligibility will be checked against League records before team rosters are accepted.

2.8.2 Maintaining Team Rosters

A team roster lists the team's name, its members, and its captains. Captains are responsible for compiling, forwarding, and maintaining their team rosters. A roster must contain the name, address, date of birth, and gender of every player on the team. Also, the captain and any cocaptains of the team must be identified. The official copy of the roster is kept by the League secretary. A second copy must be placed on the LVL Web site (<http://newts.org/lvl>). A roster must list at least eight and no more than fifteen names. At least two men and two women must appear on the roster. A player must be eligible to play to appear on a roster. A player must not appear on more than one roster on the same night of play. Roster changes must be approved by the League president at least 24 hours in advance. Players not appearing on a roster may not play in a League game.

The League will maintain a list of players who wish to enter the League. Captains must select players from this list before adding outside players, within the constraints listed in the previous paragraph.

2.8.3 Team Selection

The League strives to maximize the number of teams and players participating. The President is responsible for determining the number of teams that can participate in a season.

Prospective teams must apply for admission by contacting the President or by submitting a team roster on the LVL Web site (<http://newts.org/lvl>) before the season kick-off meeting. The President will maintain this list of teams waiting admission.

By the season kick-off meeting, all teams must supply the number of team members and their names, indicating team veterans and LVL veterans. Applications are subject to verification.

If open slots remain after teams are admitted, the League will attempt to create new teams stocked from the free agent list.

If there are more prospective teams than open slots, they will be admitted on the basis of being a returning team, then on number of LVL veterans, and then on a first-come, first-served basis, as follows. If the status of a team cannot be determined using one criterion, the next will be used.

- 1 Returning teams are given preference over new teams.

A returning team is defined as one that includes at least four (4) players from the roster of a single team that was in the League, and on the same night of play, at the end of the previous season.

- A If two or more teams apply as the same returning team, and both have four (4) or more players from the team, the "returning team" will be deemed the team that has the most team veterans.
- B If there are an equal number of team veterans on both teams, then the returning team status will be granted to the team with the most LVL veterans.
- C If it is still impossible to determine the returning team, a random selection will be used to determine which of the two teams is the returning team.

All prospective teams that are not returning teams are considered new teams.

- 2 New teams with four or more LVL veterans are given preference over other new teams.

An LVL veteran is defined as a player who has appeared on the roster of an LVL team in the previous season. New teams will be admitted on the basis of the number of LVL veterans on their rosters; except that a team with four (4) or more veterans from the same LVL team will have precedence.

If two or more new prospective teams have an equal number of team veterans, then the team with the most LVL veterans will have precedence.

- 3 Any remaining open slots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

If there are still remaining slots after the kickoff meeting, the President may add teams to the League on a first-come, first-served basis. The order in which prospective teams apply is the order in which their team application is sent to the Officers or posted on the LVL Web site (<http://newts.org/lvl>).

The President may add teams up until the regular season starts. During the season, addition of teams must be approved by two thirds (2/3) of the captains of the division in which the new team wishes to play.

2.9 Season Schedule

The format of the League schedule will be determined by the President and the captains before the start of the season. Schedule formats include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1 An even schedule, in which each team plays each other team an equal number of times in a predetermined sequence.
- 2 A ladder schedule, in which teams are ranked and then matched against each other from week to week based on current rank.

The season schedule will satisfy as many of the following conditions as possible:

- 1 Each team plays the same number of games
- 2 Each team serves and receives the same number of times
- 3 Each team serves and receives evenly with each other team
- 4 Each team referees the same number of games
- 5 Each team is assigned setup or takedown duties evenly

The schedule format for the season will be announced within a week of determining the number of teams participating. The official copy of the schedule is the one maintained by the League secretary.

Final standings are determined as follows:

- A For a balanced schedule, final standings are determined by the won-lost records of the teams.
- B For a ladder schedule, final standings are determined by the total ladder points of the teams.
Total ladder points are the sum of the weekly ladder positions.

In the event of a tie at the end of the season for any position, the first tiebreaker will be the records of the respective teams against each other. The second tiebreaker will be the total points scored by the respective teams against each other. Multiple ties will be broken in the same sequence, using combined records.

In the event of a tie at the end of the season for the final post-season seed, the last tiebreaker will be a one-game qualifier on the night of post-season play.

2.10 Legal Team Line-Ups

Games will be played with six players on each side. If a team cannot field at least four players, it forfeits the game. Repeated nights of forfeitures by a team is grounds for expulsion of the team from the League.

Only players who have signed waivers may participate in a game. A team rotation must include a minimum of two men and two women. Teams that otherwise have a legal team will be allowed to play, even if this limit is violated. However, the team's opponents will be awarded points at the start of the game based on gender point differential. Scores start at 0-0 if there is NO gender point differential. If the gender point differential is +1, then three (3) additional points are awarded. If the gender point differential is +2, then eight (8) additional points are awarded. Late arrivals will not alter the awarding of points at the start of the game. If an injured player leaving the game creates a violation, no additional points will be awarded.

A team may not waive the violation points.

2.11 Game Postponement

No postponements are allowed. Inability of a team to field a legal line-up within 5 minutes of the start of a scheduled game will result in a forfeiture of the game, and will be recorded as such in the League's records.

2.12 Rotation and Substitution

It is the team captain's responsibility to assure that all members of the team are provided equal opportunity to play during an evening. Teams can use standard rotation or USAV substitution rules. However, you CANNOT use rotation AND substitution in the same game. Team captains must notify the first referee about the method being used before the start of the game.

2.12.1 Using Rotation

If a team fields more than six players, the extra players may rotate on and off the floor in a strict rotation order.

The team captain may designate certain players as not playing in a game. The captain must announce which players are not playing to both the first referee and the opposing team's captain before the start of the game. Players not playing do not count toward mitigating point violations.

When using standard rotation, team captains may not make substitutions unless a

player must leave the game. The substitution is then in effect for the rest of that game. The substitution must be made with the next player in the rotation, or else a player previously designated as not playing in that game. The first referee will settle any substitution dispute.

2.12.2 Using Substitution

If a team fields more than six players, the extra players may be rotated on and off the floor according to USAV substitution rules.

If a woman and man are substituting for each other, then the woman/man does NOT count toward satisfying your gender points.

2.13 Playoffs

The League will conduct a post-season tournament. The tournament will include the top six teams. The format is round-robin, with each team playing the other three teams twice each.

Tournament-night ties will be broken as follows:

- A Two-team ties will be broken by: (1) the head-to-head record that evening, or (2) a single extra game, with the first serve determined by coin flip.
- B To break a three-team tie, the two teams with the poorer regular-season records play one game, with the first serve determined by a coin flip; the winner plays the third team for the championship, with the first serve determined by coin flip.
- C To break a four-team tie, the team with the best regular-season record (team 1) plays team 4, and team 2 plays team 3, with the winners playing for the championship. In each game, the first serve is determined by coin flip.

A player must be on a team roster at least four weeks before the end of the regular season to be eligible for the tournament.

Traveling trophies will be presented to the regular-season champion, and the tournament first- and second-place teams. A team that damages or loses a traveling trophy is responsible for its repair or replacement.

2.14 Cancellation Due to Weather or Other Reasons

If there is a need to cancel volleyball for the evening (for any reason), every effort possible will be made to contact all team captains by 4 PM of that day. Cancellation decisions will be made by the League officers, or by the playing facility's management.

Note: If the Littleton School system is closed due to weather or other unexpected occurrences on a given night (as announced via the local media outlets), there will be no league play that night. A makeup night will be added to the end of the schedule if possible.

2.15 League Equipment Loan Policy

Volleyball equipment owned by the Littleton Volleyball League may be loaned to League members, provided the following conditions are met:

- 1 The equipment is loaned to, and used by, a Littleton Volleyball League member;
- 2 The loan period will not interfere with a scheduled League activity;
- 3 The loan period is not longer than six (6) days;
- 4 The loan is approved by, and equipment signed out with, one of the League officers;
- 5 The League member agrees to take full responsibility for the return of the loaned equipment.

Any traveling trophies awarded to teams remain the property of the League, and the teams awarded the trophies are responsible for their repair or replacement.