

2026 Montana AAU Volleyball Standing Rules

Rules are accepted as the official Standing Rules of Montana AAU Volleyball, effective Feb 12, 2006. (revised 2/28/2023)

1. All clubs participating in MT AAU volleyball will be listed on the State AAU site at mtaauvolleyball.com
2. Tournament space will be allotted on a first come first served basis with entry fees to be received by the tournament director ten days prior to the tournament date. Exceptions to be determined by the tournament director.
3. Rosters must be submitted to tournament directors no later than ten days prior to the tournament. Rosters are to be sent to mtaauvolleyball@gmail.com.
4. **It is required that ALL MT clubs use the AAU website to set up their rosters. These rosters get automatically verified to ensure all players and coaches are current AAU members.** Rosters must include DOB, AAU#, name of players (must match AAU registration), player grade, coaches and club. The tournament director will notify the club of any discrepancies and these must be rectified within 24 hours. Any roster changes must be made prior to the first match of the tournament, regardless of whether or not your team has played.
5. Teams that fail to give less than seven days advance notice regarding nonattendance to a tournament it has entered, lose the right to be reimbursed entry fees. It will be at the tournament director's discretion whether or not that team will be allowed to enter the same tournament the following year.
6. The following age/grade guidelines will be recognized for Montana AAU tournaments:
 - a. 12U-6th grade athletes and younger ** please see 12s specific rules below (number 8)
 - b. 14U-8th grade athletes and younger
 - c. 16U-10th grade athletes and younger
 - d. 18U-12th grade athletes and younger
 - i. You will use the AAU age chart or go by the above grade guidelines, whichever you prefer.
 - ii. Be advised that to play in an AAU Super Regional or national event all players must meet AAU age requirements. There are no age or gender waivers for AAU Super Regional events.
7. No athlete can play on two different teams during the same day of a tournament.
 - a. Athletes are permitted to play on separate teams during the same tournament as long as they do not occur on the same day. For example, a player may play U14 on Saturday and then U16 on Sunday in the same tournament. If the U14 and U16 occur on the same day, the athlete is only allowed to play on one of the teams.
8. 12's Specific Rules
 - a. All tournaments will play on 7' nets with U12 volley lite balls.
 - b. Tournament directors will use a 20' or 24' serving line and have it clearly marked on the floor (if facilities allow for the use of tape, otherwise make it as clear as you can).
 - c. Tournament directors may choose the following when it comes to the 5-serve rule:
 1. If a player serves five in a row, the ball is given to the opposing team who will rotate and then serve. No point is given to the opposing team when this occurs.
 2. If a player serves five in a row from the 20' or 24' serving line, she then must continue serving from behind the 30' line with no limit on serves. The coach will keep track and inform the referee on the fifth serve.
 - d. No foot faults allowed (since the courts have been marked at 20' or 24').
 - e. We encourage 12's players who can serve successfully from the 30' line to do so from the start.
 - f. Tournament directors will communicate what they choose in regards to the U12's when they sanction their tournament. How tournament directors run the U12's will be listed in the description

in AES. This will help teams to determine if they want to register their U12's based on the standing rules of the tournament. For the 2022 season, since events have already been created, tournament directors will let teams know as soon as possible (before their tournaments begin).

9. Warm up times will be 5-5. 5 mins for each team with no shared net time. This warm up will be allowed before each team plays their first pool play match and also during all bracket matches.
10. There are no pools larger than 5 teams allowed per court.
11. A team may start a game with fewer than 6 players with permission from the tournament director. When teams play with fewer than six the ghost rule will apply, allowing teams to play with a minimum of five players. When this occurs and the ghost player is supposed to serve, a point/side out will be given to the opposing team. The opposing team will then rotate and serve.
12. Clubs must provide a ref/scoring clinic for their athletes prior to the first tournament of the season to inform/teach them the duties they will be expected to perform.
13. Unlimited subs are allowed in all local tournaments, unless it is a qualifier.
 - a. The AAU website offers great resources for this: [AAU - Volleyball \(aauvolleyball.org\)](http://AAU - Volleyball (aauvolleyball.org))
14. A team must provide an R1 and R2(up and down ref), a scorekeeper, qualified bookkeeper, and 2 linesman for each working assignment. A coach must be at the net or at the scorer's table while the work team is officiating the match to ensure proper calls and conduct. NO cell phones or headphones will be allowed during assignments. Linesman will remain standing for the duration of the match and the R2 must remain actively engaged in the set. All teams must provide their own whistles. No food or drink is allowed at the score table. It is the work team coach's responsibility to overrule improper calls made by their athletes. If a coach does not feel comfortable or is unable to perform the R1 duties, it is their responsibility to provide a qualified adult or certified official to perform them.
15. Coaches, qualified adults or certified officials will be R1 for all bracket and championship matches. If a coach is uncomfortable performing the R1 duties during bracket play, please let the tournament director know as soon as possible so that the tournament director can find a qualified replacement.
16. Teams will be required to ref the match following their defeat in bracket play. In the case where two teams lose out and only one needs to work, the team who has to travel the farthest has first choice of working or leaving. All coaches must check out prior to departure from the tournament. The check out procedure will be discussed at the coaches' meeting of each tournament.
17. Any person working a match must be verified by AAU to do so.
18. Any time a ball enters the court of play, the officiating crew is to blow their whistle and call for an immediate replay.

2026 Adopted Rules? TBD after Board Meeting and Approval

19. Double-contact is legal on 1st and 2nd contact as long as a legal teammate makes the next contact (3rd).
20. Substitution Rule: 15 maximum per set for Qualifiers, otherwise, Montana allows unlimited subs.
21. Screening: Arms may no longer be above an athlete's head during serve receive. Hands behind the neck are permitted to protect an athlete from the server.