

Tab 1

TOURNAMENT RULES

GENERAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

1. This tournament is hosted by Spectrum Volleyball, a queer volunteer run organization serving the 2SLGBTQI+ community.
2. Space is limited to the first 40 Teams in 4 divisions.
3. The tournament fee is per team (Early Bird) \$805 or (regular) \$875, minimum 7 players, 10 players maximum
4. Full Team registration and payment are **due at time of registration**. Failure to pay will result in your team being removed and your spot given to a team on the waitlist.
5. All games will be played at the Volleymall GYM located at 10 Stonehill PI NE
6. Team Check-in and signing of waivers will take place on Thursday evening (6:00 PM–10:00 PM Location: Home & Away (1207 First St SW)
7. HAVE FUN!

GENERAL TOURNAMENT POLICIES:

Inclusivity and Non-Discrimination:

- This tournament is proudly organized by and for the 2SLGBTQI+ community.
- We operate under a zero-tolerance policy for any form of discrimination.
- We strive to create a safe space where everyone feels welcome and respected.

Team Composition:

- Team rosters are capped at 10 individuals, and there are no gender restrictions.
- All participants must be listed on the team roster, and no additions or changes are permitted after pool play begins.
 - Exceptions may be approved only in the event of an injured player, please see Tournament Rules: Additional Information for further direction.
- Players may only compete on one team throughout the tournament.

Registration and Identification:

- Each player must:
 - Present a valid government issued ID at registration or tournament check-in.
 - Complete and sign the waiver before participating, and have read the tournament rules.
 - Must be 18 years or older to participate in the tournament.

Apparel and Footwear:

- Participants are required to wear appropriate apparel and non-marking athletic footwear for the duration of the tournament.

Jersey Requirement:

- Each team must have numbered jerseys either on the front or back for easy identification during matches.
- Each athlete's Jersey number must be submitted on the registration site before March 31st.
- Team Captains must notify the tournament organizers of any jersey number changes after March 31st.

Refund Policy:

- Full Refund: Refunds will be provided up to 60 days before the start of the tournament.
- Partial Refund: 50% of the registration fees will be refunded for requests made within 40 days of the tournament start date.
- No Refund: No refunds will be issued within 30 days of the tournament start date.
- Note: All refunds exclude service fees, which are non-refundable.

ATHLETE/TEAM ELIGIBILITY:**Player Eligibility:**

- Each team is allowed up to 2 players from a higher division, with only 1 allowed on the court at a time. This promotes a balanced mix of skill levels within teams.
- Players are expected to accurately assess their own abilities and play in the appropriate division. The rule against "sandbagging" ensures fair competition for all participants.
- All Players must be registered with signed waivers and checked in before playing.

Division Placement:

- Players who placed in the top 3 of their division in the previous year must register for the same division or a higher one. This prevents teams from intentionally playing below their skill level.

Fair Play Enforcement:

- Teams attempting to play below their actual ability to stay in a lower pool or division will be removed from the tournament and face future bans. This strict enforcement discourages unfair practices.

Organizer Authority & Discretion:

- Tournament organizers have the authority to move teams up or down a division as needed. This flexibility allows for adjustments to maintain overall fairness and competitive balance.

Consequences for Non-compliance:

- The rules emphasize the importance of compliance, and failure to follow them may result in severe consequences, including player bans or team disqualification without a refund.

TOURNAMENT RULES:**Game Setup Instructions:****Warm-Up Period:**

- Teams are granted a 5-minute warm-up session before each match to prepare for gameplay.

Officiating Responsibilities:

- Teams are responsible for providing their own scorekeepers and line referees, as indicated in the schedule for both days of the tournament. Failure to show up may result in 10 Pt loss in your standing. A volleyball official will oversee matches exclusively on the second day of the tournament. Score sheets must be returned to tournament organizers.

Respect for Officials:

- Participants are urged to show respect for officials' efforts throughout the contest. Officials have the authority to remove team members from the match or the entire tournament based on their judgment.

Pool Play Setup (Day 1):

- During pool play on Day 1, teams will take on the roles of referee and linesman; no officials will be present.
- It is a longstanding Western Cup tradition to swap a treat with your opposing teams on Friday. Participate in the tradition by getting a treat for your opponents and swapping them before you start your games. (Each team will play 3-5 round-robin games, so be sure to grab enough for the day!)

Pool Play Game Format (Day 1):

- Pool play games will follow a two-game format using rally scoring. Each game will be played to 25 points, with a cap at 27 points.
- Ties are not permitted on Day 1 of the tournament.

Pool Play Game Format (Day 1): (Continued)

- Matches will have a maximum duration of 40 minutes (note: there are 10 mins between matches for warm up and court clearing), ending when the buzzer sounds. The matches are over after reaching 25 points or the buzzer. In the event of a tie where your team has not reached 25 points and the buzzer has sounded, one additional serve is permitted to break the tie.
- After each Pool Play game, each team is to nominate one **MVP** and **MSP** from the opposing team by scanning the QR Code provided.

Playoff Game Format (Day 2):

- Playoff games will adopt a double elimination format. If you continue to win all of your games and stay in the **winners bracket**:
 - Matches will adopt a best-of-three-game format with rally scoring.
 - The first two games will be played to 25 points, with a cap at 27.
 - If needed, a third game will go up to 15 points, capped at 17.
 - Matches will have a maximum duration of 60 minutes (50 minutes for the match and 10 minutes for warm-up), ending when the buzzer sounds.
 - Matches conclude after reaching 25 points, 27 points, or when the buzzer sounds. In the event of a tie, where your team has not reached 25 points and the buzzer has sounded, one additional serve is permitted to break the tie.
- If your team loses and moves into the **losers' bracket**:
 - Matches will adopt a single game with rally scoring.
 - The game will be played to 25 points, with a cap at 27.
 - Matches will have a maximum duration of 30 minutes (25 minutes for the match and 5 minutes for warm-up), ending when the buzzer sounds.
 - Matches conclude after reaching 25 points, 27 points, or when the buzzer sounds. In the event of a tie, where your team has not reached 25 points and the buzzer has sounded, one additional serve is permitted to break the tie.
- After each playoff game in the morning, each team is to nominate one **MVP** and **MSP** from the opposing team by scanning the QR Code provided.

Timeouts:

- Each team is granted one 60-second timeout per game, with a maximum of two timeouts allowed per pool play match.
- On day 2 an additional time out is permitted if a third set is required

OTHER: Other than the above exceptions, official Volleyball Canada rules will be followed.

Additional Information:

Organizer Authority & Discretion

To ensure a fair and enjoyable experience for all participants, tournament organizers reserve the right to make necessary adjustments, including moving teams between (up or down) divisions to maintain competitive balance and fairness.

Additionally, organizers may deny registration or participation to individuals or teams who have been deemed to:

- Have violated tournament rules, knowingly or unknowingly
- Have demonstrated unsportsmanlike or discriminatory behaviour
- Or have acted against the inclusive spirit of Western Cup.

These decisions are made with the goal of preserving a welcoming and respectful environment for everyone and made with the community's best interest in mind.

All rulings by the organizers are final.

TEAM CAPTAINS MEETINGS:

Will be held each morning prior to the start of the games. Please meet at the tournament information desk.

SCHEDULES:

Schedules for pool play will be done and available at the registration night as well as emailed to team captains. The schedule will be posted on the Spectrum Volleyball Website and Facebook Page and emailed out to team captains. Spectrum Volleyball will populate a bracket for playoff, and will be filled in based on how each team finishes on Day One.

It is important to acknowledge that significant efforts have been made to ensure fairness in the scheduling process. We kindly ask for your understanding and respect for the work that has been put in by the Spectrum Volleyball board members in creating the schedule.

DEFAULT/FORFEIT:

All games will start on time. If your team is more than 5 minutes but less than 10 minutes late, the first set will be forfeited. If your team is 10 or more minutes late for a game it will be considered a forfeit and the tournament will proceed without you. (Teams may start with as few as four players. If a team is reduced to less than four players at any time during the contest, a default will result.)

**INJURED PLAYER:**

In the unfortunate situation where someone on your team is injured and you do not have a 7th player. You can ask for someone to sub for your team from the same division or lower with approvals from the tournament organizers.

PRIZES:

Top 3 teams in each division will be awarded medals.

Additional awards will be voted on by teams on day one and the morning of day two for Most Valuable Player (MVP) and Most Sportperson-like Player (MSP) for each division.