

Midwest Collegiate Club Volleyball, Inc. Rules

Section 1 - Organization

1.1. Midwest Collegiate Club Volleyball, Inc. is a registered Michigan nonprofit corporation that operates as a collegiate club volleyball league. The organization has several registered assumed names that may be used from time to time to reference the league, divisions, and conferences within the league. The “Midwest Intercollegiate Volleyball Association” and “MIVA” are two of the organization’s registered assumed names and are used to reference the league along with all its divisions and conferences.

1.1.2. Throughout these Rules, the term “League” shall be synonymously used to denote the organization and MIVA; the term “conference” shall be a grouping of teams within the League, as determined by the League; the terms "school," "member school" and "club" shall be synonymous with and shall mean the official college or university volleyball club that is a school registered organization in good standing, located in the Midwestern United States and which has been accepted as a participating club into the League; the term "team" as used in these Rules shall mean a member school's club volleyball team(s); the term “League Commissioner” or “Commissioner” shall mean the individual defined in the organization’s Bylaws who has general authority to operate the League under the direction and control of the organization’s Board of Directors and Officers; the term Director of Competition shall mean the individual identified by the League to provide organizational assistance to the operation of the League, or conferences within the League, as the organization shall determine in its discretion.

1.1.2.1 Provided, that in the absence of a designated Commissioner, the Commissioner activities shall be performed by the organization’s Officers and delegates, including but not limited to League designated directors of competition, a referee coordinator and such other individuals as the organization may determine, all subject to the authority of the organization’s Board of Directors.

1.1.2.2 All persons engaged in activities for the League as identified in the preceding sections shall at all times be subject to the authority of the Board of Directors and Officers, as set forth in the organizations’s Bylaws.

1.1.2.3 The corporation claims copyright and trademark protection for all organization names, marks, logos, writings, systems and designs created by it, its officers, volunteers, staff (if any) service providers and others.

1.1.3. The primary purpose of the League is to promote volleyball opportunities for collegiate club participants enrolled at a participating school consistent with the organization’s Bylaws.

1.1.4 The League may choose to be a National Collegiate Volleyball Federation, Inc. (NCVF) Recognized League, as that term is defined by the NCVF, and may choose to be compliant with the NCVF League Best Practices, consistent with the League’s Bylaws, mission and purpose.

1.1.5. The League has generally been organized as a men's league. However, nothing in these rules shall prohibit or oblige the League to expand its activities to provide opportunity for women's collegiate club volleyball participants.

1.1.6. The League shall at all times follow all applicable laws governing its existence, operations and programming activities, consistent with its Bylaws and organizational documents.

1.2 Any official college or university men's volleyball club that is a school registered organization in good standing and located in the Midwestern United States may participate in the League by completing League registration, release of liability form, paying dues as specified from year to year by the League, and following all applicable eligibility, participation and other rules, as specified by the League.

1.2.1. The League shall designate divisional and conference assignments for all teams accepted for participation in the League, except that all schools belonging to the Big Ten Athletic Conference shall be members of the BTMVA conference and play in League Division 1. The League shall have authority to designate or create divisions (e.g. Division 1, Division 2, etc.), conferences and other organizational structures.

1.2.2 League member schools may enter only one team per school in Division 1. With the consent of the League, member schools may enter more than one team per school in Division 2. However, if a player or club is not eligible to participate in the NCVF National Championship Tournament, the player or club shall not be eligible to participate in League events.

1.2.3 League member schools may elect to play in any division of the NCVF National Championship Tournament without affecting their eligibility or divisional assignment for League purposes.

1.2.4 Clubs wishing to protest League divisional or conference assignments shall submit their protest in writing to the League Commissioner or League designee within 10 days following divisional or conference assignment. The reasons for the protest shall be explained, in writing by e-mail. The League shall have authority to decide any protests under this paragraph. The League shall render a written decision to the protesting club within 10 days following receipt of the written protest, specifying the reason for the decision. An aggrieved club may overturn the decision of the League by obtaining a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all Representatives (defined in Section 1.3 below), as permitted in Section 1.7, below, and if permitted by the organization's Bylaws.

1.2.5 The playing rules for all League competitions shall be the current year USAV Domestic Competition Regulations, as may be modified by the League.

1.3 Each participating club shall select one student from their club as its Representative. This Representative or his/her designee shall have one vote for all League voting matters.

The Representatives shall meet each fall to plan the upcoming season and otherwise perform all duties required in these Rules. A conference, divisional and League quorum for all voting purposes shall consist of two-thirds (2/3) of the applicable Representatives. In the absence of a quorum, the Commissioner, with the advice of any applicable director of competition or others (as determined in the sole discretion of the League), shall have the authority to make any decision that would have otherwise required a vote of the Representatives. Voting on any matter may be taken by e-mail, as permitted by and under the direction of the League. Vote totals shall be published, however individual votes shall remain anonymous.

1.4. The Representatives may meet at any League Sanctioned Event (defined in Section 2.1 below) or at any other time, to consider old and new business. Conference meetings may take place at any League Sanctioned Event. One week written notice shall precede any meeting other than the annual fall meeting unless waived in writing by a majority of those constituting a quorum.

1.5. The League may appoint League or conference representatives or others, who shall have the general duties defined by League, such as officially representing applicable divisions or conferences, attending necessary meetings, calling and presiding at division or conference meetings, appointing and overseeing the activities of League authorized assistants, and engage in other activities, all at the pleasure of and under the authority of the Commissioner League Officers, Board of Directors and their respective designees. In the absence of an appointment to any position, the President or his/her designee shall have the authority to perform all necessary duties. All appointments shall be at the pleasure of the appointing authority and subject to overall authority of the organizations Officers and Board of Directors.

1.6. The following shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Representatives by Division:

1.6.1 Permanent disqualification for "cause," of a club or team from participation in the League;

1.6.2 Permanent disqualification for "cause," of an individual from participating in League Sanctioned Events.

1.6.3 Permitting an exception to League team or player eligibility rules.

1.6.4 The term "cause" as used in this section (1.6) shall mean reckless or intentional disregard of the duties assumed by each League club, team or individual participant (including, coaches, players, volunteers and others) that causes substantial harm to any individual, team, school, conference, division the organization or the NCVF or any other organization or entity that has a business or beneficial relationship with the organization.

1.6.5 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section 1.6, the Commissioner or his designee, shall have the authority to take any action he/she deems necessary to protect individual safety or the well being of the League.

1.6.6 Any League club, team or participant may appeal an action of the Commissioner through the procedure identified in section 1.7, below.

1.7. The Commissioner shall have the general authority necessary to administer and enforce the Rules and otherwise conduct affairs of the League. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of League Representatives is necessary to overturn an appealable decision by the Commissioner but only after a written request by an aggrieved club, team or recognized participant has been received by the League. The League shall conduct necessary voting as the League determines to be appropriate. Individual votes shall remain confidential except if necessary, as determined by the League, to be in the best interest of the League. Individual League Representative votes may also be released if agreed to in writing by the individual Representative casting the vote and if agreed to by the League.

1.8 The Commissioner or League designee shall represent the League to all outside individuals. All persons who perform authorized services for the League shall be reimbursed for all authorized out of pocket expenses. The League may choose to pay a stipend or service if approved and only in accord with the Bylaws and applicable organizational policies.

1.9 Pursuant to the organization's Bylaws, League Treasurer shall accurately and timely account for all revenue and expenses of the organization, maintain the organizations papers and books, maintain a bank account(s), file necessary papers and documents as may be required from time to time, and otherwise be responsible for all financial affairs of the League. The League Treasurer shall ensure that a detailed annual report of revenues and expenditures are made available at the annual fall meeting. The League Treasurer agrees to hold the League, Board of Directors, Officers and participants harmless for all acts of gross negligence or intentional wrongdoing with respect to all fiscal responsibilities assumed when accounting for monies collected and spent on behalf of the League. Nothing in these Rules is intended to create an employment relationship of any kind or oblige the League to pay taxes for or on behalf of a person regarding any sums that may be paid as stipends, honorariums, service fees or otherwise. Any person providing services of any kind to the league agrees as a precondition to payment for such services that they will pay all taxes and otherwise comply with all laws with respect to any obligations that arise by virtue of their payment from the League.

1.10 As a precondition of being part of the League, all teams, clubs, players, coaches and participants agree to hold the League, Commissioner, directors of competition, referees, organization Officers and Directors, service providers, host schools and NCVF harmless for all acts of gross negligence or intentional wrongdoing arising in connection with any of their participation with any event or activity sponsored, operated or supported in any way by the organization. To the extent that greater protection from civil liability is

afforded under applicable law(s), the same shall be applicable. In addition, the civil liability protections identified in these Rules shall not limit those otherwise available to effected parties nor diminish the effectiveness of any insurance or independent sources of indemnity.

1.10.1. All League participants shall sign Release of Liability forms as a precondition to participating. Additionally, by becoming a part of the League, participants acknowledge that: (1) the League is not responsible for defects in any facility, design flaws, inoperable equipment, lack of security or supervision, or any other facility related matters; (2) that the host facility is responsible for providing a functional, safe and properly designed facility, along with necessary and safe equipment whenever a bid is placed to host an League Sanctioned Event; (3) the League is not responsible in anyway for any supervision, travel or accommodation related matters concerning any of its clubs, teams, players, coaches or other participants; (4) to the extent that discount or group rates are negotiated for League members, the League does not guarantee that the discounts will be preserved or that it will guarantee the rates or the obligations of any League individuals, clubs, teams etc, that seek to take advantage of any discount or group rate(s).

1.11 By participating in the League, participants acknowledges that there are inherent risks of injury, including but not limited to muscular, skeletal or nerve damage; that the risk of injury from participation in club volleyball extends beyond on-site volleyball competition, and extends to practice, travel, accommodations, entertainment, food and beverage and other direct and indirect activities that relate to sports participation; that typically, colleges and universities do not provide supports for collegiate club volleyball and that lack of academic, educational, housing, travel, accommodation, training and other institutional supports can result in increased risk for injury, sickness and other undesirable consequences; that the League does not seek to mitigate, replace or substitute for missing or more desirable institutional supports; that instead, the League's primary goal and focus is to provide organized teaching and playing opportunities for eligible participants, at their sole risk, cost and expense and in cooperation with others who subscribe to the purposes of the League.

1.12 The official League season shall begin on January 1 each year and run through the conclusion of the League championship.

Section 2 - League Sanctioned Events and Team Eligibility

2.1 "Sanctioned League Events" shall include the "League Championship Tournament," "League Seeding Competitions" (Play Days or Dates) and other competitive events as announced from time to time by the League. Participation in Sanctioned League Events is limited to League club teams only unless otherwise specifically announced in writing and approved by the League. As described in these Rules, the Commissioner or his/her designee shall have the authority to direct all competitions and protocols, oversee eligibility and otherwise administer all Sanctioned League Events in cooperation with hosting individuals, schools, organizations and others.

2.2. As a prerequisite to participation in League designated championship tournaments, League teams must participate in designated divisional and conference League sanctioned pre-championship competitions (called "Seeding Competitions") during the season and abide by all applicable Rules. Failure of a team or any of its players to participate in required Seeding Competitions shall result in a team's or players' disqualification from participating in Championship Tournaments or other Sanctioned Events as decided by the League. Failure to follow Rules, pay fees (including team fees to other NCVF participating schools who sponsor tournaments) or demonstrate sportsmanship may result in suspension from any League sanctioned event, at the discretion of the League. League participants shall abide by applicable school policies, rules and standards. In addition, participants shall follow the current NCVF Sportsmanship and Governance Rules standards.

2.3 To be eligible to participate in the League and all League Sanctioned Events, each participating team shall pay entry fees to the League Treasurer as announced from year to year. Any Sanctioned League Event host and their League Representative shall work cooperatively with the League in organizing and financing this event, with all event expenses, including but not limited to facility fees and officials fees being paid from the registration fees unless otherwise arranged by the League.

2.4 Fees for all League Sanctioned Events shall be determined by the League. It is the policy of the organization that each League Sanctioned Event shall be financially self-sustaining through the payment of participant fees. Any club or team unable to pay their fees shall be responsible to timely notify the League of any difficulties or concerns and seek resolution.

2.4.1. Failure to pay fees on a timely basis and follow the Rules shall be cause for disqualification from the league and being designated as not being in good standing with the League.

2.5 It shall be the responsibility of the host school of any Sanctioned League Event to keep all records in sufficient detail so as to accurately account for all event-related revenues and expenses. Such accounting shall be provided to the League immediately following the event and whenever requested by the League.

2.6 To be eligible to participate in a Sanctioned League Event, Team Rosters ("Rosters") shall be submitted by each team to the League, or League designee. The same Roster shall be used by each League team seeking entry into each Sanctioned League Event. Rosters shall only consist of players who are eligible under NCVF Governance Rules for the current season and for the applicable League competitive division. Rosters shall be submitted prior to the first Sanctioned League Event of the season, and as otherwise required by the League. The League shall take all reasonable steps, including checking pictured identification, to verify the identity and eligibility of those listed on the Rosters. League players shall be responsible to bring photo identification to each Sanctioned League Event, cooperate in providing any necessary information to verify eligibility of either themselves, their teammates or others in the League. Failure to do so shall be cause

for disqualification or such other sanctions as the League, in its complete discretion, determines.

Section 3 - League Sanctioned Events

3.1 The Seeding Competitions shall consist of match play within a round-robin format which maximizes the number of competitions versus previously un-played or otherwise unscheduled League opponents. The League shall be responsible for implementing this format and for performing other functions necessary to run a quality event. The goal of these tournaments is to facilitate a complete round robin match format whereby all teams will have played all the teams in their conference at least once prior to the conference and League championship tournaments. The format need not include any play-off competition. "Match play" for all League Sanctioned Events shall consist of best of 2 of 3 game competitions, utilizing current USAV rules, as adopted by the NCVF for the current season.

3.2 Each League Seeding Competition shall use certified USA Volleyball officials for each match unless otherwise approved by the League in advance of the scheduled Sanctioned Event. Participating teams shall provide officiating crews, as required by the League. The League shall be responsible to assemble and post all League results in a timely way.

3.3 The League shall be responsible for the format, seeding, competition schedule and selection of officials for all League Sanctioned Events. The directors of competition shall:

3.3.1 compile results from all League Sanctioned Events and promptly report these results, as necessary, to all appropriate teams, officials and organizations;

3.3.2 if needed, assist in submitting competition results versus non-League opponents and/or other non-sanctioned competitions to other appropriate authorities as directed by the League, and if possible, make a timely effort to post all results on appropriate internet web page(s), to NCVF, etc;

3.3.3 use the following progressive formula (in the order outlined) for seeding into the conference and League championship tournaments:

3.3.3.1 Conference League Seeding Competition Match Record;

3.3.3.2 Head to Head results from the League Seeding Competitions;

3.3.3.3 Best game record from the League Seeding Competitions;

3.3.3.4 Highest Point Ratio from the League Seeding Competitions.

3.3.4 Organize the conference championship tournaments in a way that maximizes the number of competitions while providing a fair single elimination format that considers applicable results and other competitive factors that, in the sole discretion of the League, produces an equitable and open format and competition;

3.3.5 Seed the League Championship Tournament in a way that maximizes competitions against previously un-played divisional opponents, and, if possible, provides a pool play, power pool play, single-elimination format;

3.4 Any League club wishing to host a League Sanctioned Event shall submit a bid at or before the annual fall meeting. The bid shall include the proposed date and time of the competition, a facility description, parking information, hotel/motel availability, and any other information which may be necessary or useful to those evaluating the bid. The League shall have complete discretion to select hosts and venues.

Section 4 - Team Rosters and Individual Player Eligibility

4.1 No player may participate in the League or conference championship tournaments unless such player has been listed on the roster for applicable Seeding Competitions, and has been physically present to participate at such event(s). Unless excused by "cause" as defined below, the failure of any player to comply with this rule shall result in that player's ineligibility to compete in the League or conference championship tournaments for the current year.

4.2 "Cause" may only be used to excuse an otherwise eligible League player from one required League Sanctioned Event. The term "cause" as used in these Rules, shall mean verifiable physical injury, family emergency, institutionally scheduled academic conflicts which fall on the same date as one of the Seeding Tournament dates, or other extraordinary circumstances which in the judgment of the League, shall excuse a player from attendance at one League Sanctioned Event.

4.3 An otherwise eligible League player, however, may not participate in a League or conference championship tournament if that player has failed to participate in at least one League pre-championship Sanctioned Event.

4.4 At the discretion of the League, any otherwise eligible League player failing to demonstrate "cause" to the League may appeal the decision by requesting a special vote of the applicable League or divisional Representatives prior to the start of the applicable championship tournament. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the applicable representatives shall be required to overturn the decision of the League.

Section 5 - League Player Recognition

5.1 The League shall determine how best to recognize outstanding play, sportsmanship, coaching, and contributions to men's collegiate club volleyball within the structure of the League. It is desirable that each conference and League championship tournament shall produce a 1st Team (by position), a 2nd Team, Honorable Mention, Defensive Player, Most Valuable Player, and Best Sportsperson. Other awards may be granted, within the discretion of the League.