The UTEP Recreational Sports Department Volleyball Rules are based on the United States Volleyball Association. Some of the more important rules as well as rules unique to the UTEP Rec Sports Department are included herein. All players are responsible for reading this document before participating in our volleyball program.

Eligibility for Intramural Sports:

UTEP Students, Staff or Faculty Only.

THE GAME:

NUMBER OF PLAYERS: A complete team consists of six (6) players, but a minimum of four (4) players is required to start and continue a game. By game time, all teams must have at least the minimum number of its players on the court and ready to play. For Coed play, the number of females on the court must be equal or greater to the number of males on the court. NOTE: A Coed team fielding enough players to start, but not of the appropriate gender, shall receive a forfeit.

ROSTER LIMIT: There are no limits to the number of eligible participants on your roster. Be aware that league champions will receive a maximum of 9 awards.

LENGTH OF GAMES AND MATCH: The team that first scores twenty five (25) points in a game shall win that game. A team must win by two (2) points, and there is no cap. The first team to win two games wins the match. Forty-five minutes are allotted to complete a match. If the match requires a deciding third game, the first team to reach fifteen (15) points with a minimum two-point lead shall win it. There will be a seventeen (17) point cap in the final game.

BALL: The Recreational Sports Department will supply the game ball. Teams must provide their own ball(s) for warm-ups.

COURT AREA: The legal playing area includes all court area on either side of the center (net) line up to the walls and the dividing net between the courts. The centerline is considered to extend infinitely in either direction (i.e. it is illegal to contact the ball past the center line when outside the court boundaries). Any ball that contacts the ceiling may be played as long as it is on your side and you have hits left to play the ball. However, the ball is considered out of bounds if the ball crosses over to the other side of the court.

SERVICE: To legally serve the ball, a player’s last contact with the ground before contacting the ball must be behind the back service line, anywhere along its length. Players must wait for the official’s whistle to initiate the serve. Players must contact the ball on their first attempt at serving or a side out will result. The ball is considered in play if the ball contacts the net before going over. Positioning: The position of the other players during service shall be within their playing area (but may not touch the court boundary lines) in serving order with each of the three forward line players in front of their respective back row players at the instant the ball is served. A player also may not overlap an adjacent player to the left or right of his/her position. The position of players is judged according to the place their feet contact the floor at the time the ball is contacted for service.

AFTER THE BALL IS SERVED: Opponents of the serving team may receive the serve with open hands raised above the head (e.g. players can set a serve). However, serves are not considered hard-driven
balls, so they must be set cleanly. The team that did not initiate service in a game must rotate one position clockwise prior to its first service.

PLAYING THE BALL:

Simultaneous Contacts: Simultaneous contacts are legal when the ball is played: by two teammates are considered as one play. Either player may participate in the next play, by opponents at the net. Such a play is termed a “joust”, and the officials consider the player behind the direction of the ball as having touched it last. If, after the simultaneous touch by two opponents, the ball falls and touches within the limits of the court, the team on the court is at fault; should the ball fall outside the court, the team on the opposite side shall be deemed as having provided the momentum necessary to cause the ball to be out of bounds and shall be at fault. NOTE: If the player “wipes off” or “tools” the block of the opponent, the opponent is considered to have touched the ball last.

Successive Contacts: players, blockers, and/or opponents will only allow successive contacts in situations of simultaneous contacts. A player may make successive contacts by two or more parts of the player’s body provided such contacts constitute a single attempt to play a hard driven ball on the first team play after the ball crosses the net.

Back Row Players: Back row players forward of, or touching, the 10-foot line, returning the ball across the net, must contact the ball from below the level of the top of the net.

Co Rec Rule: In a Co Rec game, if there is more than one contact made with the ball by a side, at least one of those contacts must be made by a woman. A block does not count as a contact.

Area of Contact: Players may contact the ball with any part of the body above the waistline.

BLOCKING: Only front row players are permitted to block. Any player is considered as having the intention of affecting a block if the player places one or both hands above his head while in a position close to the net to block the ball after the opponents’ third hit or after an attack. An attack is defined as any third hit on one side of the net, or any other ball that is played with the intent to send it over the net. A block does not count as a team’s first play. NOTE: A “soft block” is considered to be a hit.

CONTACTING THE NET: A player shall not contact any part of the net or its supports while the ball is in play except with long hair. If a player inadvertently touches the official’s platform or net poles, it is not an infraction.

The ball may be played off the net (other than when served) as long as the ball does not contact the net outside the sideline markers.

When the ball is driven into the net so that it causes the net or its supports to contact an opposing player, this is not an infraction as long as they did not contact the net by their own momentum.

CROSSING THE CENTER LINE: A player may step on the centerline, but may not completely cross the line while the ball is in play. Any part of the player’s body may be in the air below the net and beyond the center line if he does not interfere with the opponent’s play by touching the ball or the opponent; a player may reach under the net to retrieve a ball that is in play by his team. Touching the opponent’s court when crossing the centerline with any part of the body is an infraction. EXCEPTION: Feet or hands may partially cross the centerline, by “shadowing” is not allowed (when part of the foot crosses the
center line, but the heel is in the air over the line, this casting a “shadow”). This rule is strictly enforced due to the high potential for the net-related injuries.

SUBSTITUTIONS: The official must be notified before all substitutions. There are no limits in the amount of team substitutions, or substitutions per position. However, once a player is substituted for a particular position, (s)he must play in that position for the rest of the game or until substituted by the original owner of that position. During substitutions, other players’ positions must remain the same. In a Coed match, men and women may not substitute for one another. These rules are intended to provide all participants with a maximum amount of playing time.