

GOPHER STATE VOLLEYBALL HANDBOOK

2009-2010 PROGRAM YEAR



molten[®]
For the real game

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Organization	2
Membership	2
Insurance	2-3
MYAS Volleyball Committee	3
Finding a Volleyball Team	3
Information/MYAS Website	3
Gopher State Volleyball Entry Fees	3
How to Register for Tournaments	3-4
2009 Age Determining Date	4
Team Composition	5
Team Roster	5
Code of Conduct	5
Schedules	5
Playing Rules	6
Officials	6
Tournament Awards	6
Equipment	6
Admission	6
Uniform Policy	7
Miscellaneous Tournament Guidelines	7
MYAS Refund Policy	7
MYAS Forfeit Policy	8
MYAS Disciplinary Policy	8
MYAS Non-Discriminatory Policy	8
Communication Policy	8-9
Right of Refusal Policy	9
Procedure for Filing Complaints	9
Criminal Background Checks	9
ASEP Coaches Certification	10
2009-2010 Tournament Schedule	10



INTRODUCTION

This handbook was produced for the purpose of providing guidance to teams, coaches, tournament officials, athletes, parents and volunteer participants in the MYAS/USSSA Gopher State Volleyball Program.

ORGANIZATION

The **Minnesota Youth Athletic Services, Inc. (MYAS)** was created in 1991 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the promotion, development and conduct of youth sport programs and services for the residents of Minnesota. The MYAS specializes in the coordination of youth sport leagues, camps, clinics, tournaments, special events and educational services. In addition to statewide programming, the MYAS also serves as the national affiliate for the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) in girls' basketball, boys' basketball, volleyball and baseball. Our focus is to provide the residents of Minnesota with the most comprehensive programs and services possible at an affordable price. Our staff, which consists of 15 full-time professionals, makes our mission and your satisfaction a reality.

MEMBERSHIP

Teams wishing to participate in the Gopher State Volleyball program must have a current USSSA team membership. If you have not yet purchased your team membership, you can do so at www.ussa.org for an annual fee of only \$25. From the USSSA homepage, click on "volleyball" and then "create user ID". The system will walk you through the remaining steps and you will be issued a registration number upon completion of payment.

Your USSSA team membership includes a personal team website that allows you to manage your roster, compile team statistics, upload photos, utilize a message board, and much more.

INSURANCE

If your team/club/association is in need of secondary insurance coverage, you can purchase it through the USSSA for an unbelievably low rate of \$66 per team. This covers your entire roster (players can be added and deleted to your roster online at any time) for \$2,000,000 liability coverage and \$100,000 medical (secondary) coverage, with a \$100 deductible. If you purchase insurance for six or more teams, you can get this same policy for only \$53 per team.

There are three ways to purchase insurance through USSSA:

- Go to www.ussa.com, print off an application, mail with payment or fax it to USSSA National Headquarters and then follow up with payment in the mail.
- Go to www.ussainsurance.com and purchase your policy online.
- Call 1-877-345-4309 and purchase over the phone.

Facility Owner Coverage: If requested, your facility owner will be named as an additional insured at no additional charge. Liability coverage for the facility owner will be in effect during

the play and practice of the insured team. The limit of liability is \$2,000,000 per occurrence. If you are interested, just complete the Facility Owner Section of the application (www.ussa.com) and a certificate of insurance will be sent to verify coverage.

MYAS VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE

Each MYAS sport program has its own Sport Committee for the purpose of assisting in the administration, promotion and welfare of the sport. The volleyball committee consists of appointed persons involved in MYAS volleyball programs that assist with the design and implementation of each of our events. Ideally the committee will represent several different communities and playing levels. We are constantly upgrading our programs and services based on the feedback and advice that we receive from this committee. If you would like to serve on the MYAS Volleyball Committee, please send an email to jessica@myas.org.

FINDING A VOLLEYBALL TEAM

- Contact your local athletic association or community education office to see if they are putting teams together.
- Refer to the MYAS website (www.myas.org) and click on “volleyball”. There you will find a list of teams/clubs that have given us their tryout information.

INFORMATION / MYAS WEBSITE

All information pertaining to the Gopher State Volleyball program can be found on the MYAS website (www.myas.org). Just click on “volleyball” and then the specific tournament(s) that you are interested in. News items, schedules, facility directions, results and other information can be found on the website.

GOPHER STATE VOLLEYBALL ENTRY FEES

The entry fee for each Gopher State Volleyball tournament is \$125 per team. The entry fee includes a three-match guarantee (sometimes more), awards and paid officials. Select events have individual player giveaways and/or tournament apparel for sale on site.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR TOURNAMENTS

There are two ways to register for Gopher State Volleyball tournaments:

1. **Hard Copy Registration:** Teams may register for events by printing a copy of the tournament registration form that is posted on the MYAS website (www.myas.org). Send the completed form with payment, roster and signed code of conduct to the MYAS office:

MYAS
4111 Central Avenue NE, Suite 208
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Checks should be made payable to "MYAS". (The MYAS uses CheckMate verification and recovery services. If your check is returned, the maximum penalty will be assessed according to Minnesota state law.)

2. **Online Registration:** Teams may register for events online on the MYAS website (www.myas.org). Just click on "Coaches Control Center" on the home page, log in and manage your team events. You will need to pay online with a credit card and you will receive an email confirmation once the process is complete.

2009 AGE DETERMINING DATE

September 1 will be the age determining date for the age of competitors in the Gopher State Volleyball program. Athlete eligibility to participate is based first on the age determining date (see below), after which grade may be considered (Grade Exception Rule).

The Grade Exception Rule allows players to play with the grade in which they are currently enrolled even though their date of birth does not meet the age determining date for that age/grade division. There is no limit to the number of grade exception players per team.

12U/6th Grade – born on or after September 1, 1997. *Grade Exception: A player who is in the 6th grade and who was born on or after September 1, 1996 may participate in this division.*

13U/7th Grade – born on or after September 1, 1996. *Grade Exception: A player who is in the 7th grade and who was born on or after September 1, 1995 may participate in this division.*

14U/8th Grade – born on or after September 1, 1995. *Grade Exception: A player who is in the 8th grade and who was born on or after September 1, 1994 may participate in this division.*

15U/9th Grade – born on or after September 1, 1994. *Grade Exception: A player who is in the 9th grade and who was born on or after September 1, 1993 may participate in this division.*

16U/10th Grade – born on or after September 1, 1993. *Grade Exception: A player who is in the 10th grade and who was born on or after September 1, 1992 may participate in this division.*

17U/11th Grade – born on or after September 1, 1992. *Grade Exception: A player who is in the 11th grade and who was born on or after September 1, 1991 may participate in this division.*

18U/12th Grade – born on or after September 1, 1991. *Grade Exception: A player who is in the 12th grade and who was born on or after September 1, 1990 may participate in this division.*

TEAM COMPOSITION

Teams may be comprised of any players who meet the age/grade eligibility requirements for the division in which they are playing. Teams originating from outside the state of Minnesota are eligible to compete in the Gopher State Volleyball program and teams may have players from bordering states on their roster. Teams from outside Minnesota are also eligible.

TEAM ROSTER

Each participating team must complete an official MYAS roster (once per season – you do not need to submit a new roster for each event unless you made changes). We will only accept rosters completed in the following ways:

1. Fill out the hard copy roster form that is available on the MYAS website (www.myas.org). You will need to send your roster to the MYAS office with your tournament registration or fax it to 763-781-1922 **prior** to the first tournament in which you are participating.
2. Complete the online roster by going to the MYAS website (www.myas.org) and clicking on the Coaches Control Center (left side of the page). You will be asked to create a username and password for future login sessions. When you have completed your online roster, send an email to Jessica@myas.org and we will attach your roster to your team information.
3. When you get your team membership through USSSA, there is a roster function on your free team webpage. You may print this completed roster and submit it to the MYAS office prior to participating in your first tournament.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Each participating team member (coaches and players) must sign the official Code of Conduct form. The form is available on the MYAS website (www.myas.org) and only needs to be completed once per season. **Good behavior at MYAS events is expected, not requested.** Please do your best to ensure a positive experience for everyone. Any violation of the Code of Conduct may result in temporary or permanent banishment from any MYAS sponsored event.

SCHEDULES

We do not mail tournament schedules or entry confirmations. Please refer to the MYAS website (www.myas.org) for that information. Registered teams will be posted on the website as their completed entry forms are received and schedules will be available 7-10 days prior to the tournament. **Please check your schedule right up to the day of the tournament as there could be changes.** It is the responsibility of each **coach** to make sure they have the most current schedule.

PLAYING RULES

All Gopher State Volleyball tournaments will utilize National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules for the current year, except where modifications have been made. Specific tournament rules will be posted for each event.

OFFICIALS

All Gopher State Volleyball events will have paid, MSHSL trained officials from Metro Volleyball Officials. The team that is designated to ref (on the schedule) will be responsible for providing line judges, a scorekeeper and a libero tracker.

TOURNAMENT AWARDS

All Gopher State Volleyball events will feature team and individual awards. Awards will be prorated based upon the number of participating teams in each particular division. The Gopher State Volleyball program utilizes a variety of awards including but not limited to trophies, medals, plaques and t-shirts.

EQUIPMENT

Molten is the official ball sponsor of the Gopher State Volleyball program. The MYAS will supply Molten game balls for all matches. Each team is responsible for providing their warm-up balls, first aid supplies, water bottles, tape, etc.

The MYAS has adopted the rules and regulations of the NFHS that pertain to legal and illegal equipment. Please refer to the NFHS Volleyball Rule Book for clarification. If you have any specific equipment issues, please contact our office **PRIOR** to your participation. Some of the more common questions asked relate to earrings, casts, headbands, wrist bands and various medical devices.

ADMISSION

Admission will be charged at the rate of \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students and seniors. Children under five will be admitted free. No outside food or coolers are allowed – our hosts will have concessions available. Please keep in mind that there is a youth volleyball group running each tournament as a fundraiser. Admission and concession profits go to them – please respect the volunteers and facilities!

UNIFORM POLICY

Teams using a libero: Jerseys must be the same color with permanent and contrasting numbers (minimum 4" on the front and 6" on the back). The libero's jersey must be an obviously contrasting color from the team uniform. The same requirement for numbers applies.

It would be ideal for all teams to comply with this rule. However, we have made an alternative rule for teams not using a libero (see below). This option is not mandatory since we prefer the matching uniforms, but it will be accepted.

Teams not using a libero: Shirts do not have to match, but **MUST** have legal numbers (no duplicate numbers). The numbers must be permanent and contrasting (minimum 4" on the front and 6" on the back).

MISCELLANEOUS TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

The Tournament Director will have custody of and authority over the official tournament game schedules and brackets. Coaches may not interfere or attempt to change the official tournament schedules. No person except the Tournament Director or their designated assistant(s) may enter official scores or post advancements.

A no-show, even if notice is given in advance, will be considered a forfeit and the tournament will progress in the normal manner. Likewise, if a team uses an ineligible player(s), the match will be forfeited. There will **never** be any reason to re-play any match.

It is suggested that coaches always have in their possession a medical/liability release for each player on their team, including medical insurance information for each player. If a player is injured during the course of a match, it is the responsibility of the coach, **NOT** the Tournament Director, host organization or other personnel, to see that the player's medical needs are met.

MYAS REFUND POLICY

- If a team drops out of a tournament prior to the entry deadline, a full refund will be issued.
- Teams dropping out of a tournament after the entry deadline will **NOT** receive a refund.
- If a tournament has begun and must be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. weather, other) a prorated portion of your entry fee will be returned based on the number of matches played.
- If a tournament is cancelled prior to any of the matches being played, teams may elect to receive a 75% refund of their entry fee or have 100% of their entry fee applied to a future MYAS event.

MYAS FORFEIT POLICY

Any team forfeiting a match will incur a \$50 fine and will be placed on probation for the duration of the season. Forfeiting a second match will result in an additional \$50 fine and immediate suspension from all MYAS events for all coaches and players associated with the team. Please show up for your events! **Note:** Each situation will be reviewed on a case by case basis and circumstances may or may not affect suspensions. **Fees are not negotiable.**

MYAS DISCIPLINARY POLICY

The severity of an unsportsmanlike act will determine the severity of the resulting disciplinary action. Any MYAS representative has the authority to use their best judgment to administer appropriate disciplinary action to any player, coach, official, host or spectator at an event.

On-Site Disciplinary Actions: Any disciplinary action administered on-site will be subject to immediate review by the MYAS Event Protest Committee (EPC). The EPC is composed of one representative from the host organization, one representative of the officials' organization and one representative from the MYAS. This committee will conduct an on-site meeting to determine if the disciplinary action is appropriate. All decisions of the EPC are in effect for the remainder of that specific event. The committee does not have the authority to issue any disciplinary action that exceeds the length of the specific event.

Off-Site Disciplinary Actions: The MYAS reserves the right to issue additional disciplinary action depending upon the frequency and/or severity of the offense. Additional disciplinary action may be taken after the completion of a formal hearing by the MYAS Review Committee. Possible disciplinary actions may include but are not limited to censure, disqualification, suspension for a definite or indefinite period of time, or expulsion from any or all MYAS sponsored programs. **Please behave or be gone!**

MYAS NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

The MYAS does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or handicapped status for employment or provision of services.

COMMUNICATION POLICY

While we value everyone's opinion, it has become necessary for the MYAS to develop the policy whereby our staff will communicate with team directors, coaches and association representatives **ONLY**. There is not adequate time in the day to discuss rulings, controversial situations, etc. with individual athletes or parents. As an alternative, we encourage

constructive criticisms and suggestions be directed to a designated team representative, who is welcome to contact our office for a response or necessary action.

RIGHT OF REFUSAL POLICY

The MYAS reserves the right to refuse entry to any team that has not exhibited good conduct throughout the entire season. This includes conduct at MYAS events and non-MYAS events.

PROCEDURE FOR FILING COMPLAINTS

Phone calls are not acceptable – complaints **MUST** be made in writing. Telephone complainants will be informed that action can be taken only on written complaints (email is acceptable).

- Calls that are merely “gripes” (regarding officiating, scheduling, etc.) that do not rise to the level of an MYAS code, policy or handbook violation will not be considered as complaints.
- Callers who allege actions that are or could be code, policy or handbook violations will be advised to make the complaint in writing.
- If a caller makes serious allegations that are clearly code, policy or handbook violations or which, if true, could endanger an athlete or harm the MYAS, the caller will be put in contact with the appropriate MYAS staff member so they can determine whether to pursue the matter on its own initiative (example: criminal activity, sexual misconduct, etc.).

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

How do we protect our children? This is a complex issue and many youth sports organizations are unclear about what to do or how to approach a threat, yet they must take proactive steps to prevent their children from becoming innocent victims. The MYAS, with its partner RHR Information Systems, has designed a **criminal background check system** that offers three affordable options to youth sports associations. RHR, a local Twin Cities company, incorporates a “user-friendly” process combined with flexible information delivery to make this system easy and inexpensive for your organization. Contact the MYAS office for more information.

ASEP COACHES' CERTIFICATION

The MYAS has joined with the American Sport Education Program (ASEP) to offer the Volunteer Coaches Education Program to our participants. ASEP's program provides sport organizations with a turnkey solution for coaching education.

The ASEP program is so effective because coaches receive both training and take-home materials. ASEP also has the most comprehensive selection of youth sports books, videos and other coaching aids available.



2009-2010 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

November 8, 2009	Gopher State Fall Championships	@ Burnsville
February 27, 2010	Block Party	@ Apple Valley
March 20, 2010	Future Stars (12-14U)	@ Hutchinson
March 20, 2010	MN Showcase (15-18U)	@ Hutchinson
March 28, 2010	Southern Spike	@ Blue Earth
May 8-9, 2010	USSSA State Tournament	@ Apple Valley
June/July 2010	Summer League	@ TBD