



RULES OF PLAY

FVC follows the USAV guidelines for outdoor play (available at registration table) with the following exceptions and clarifications. All rules generally apply to doubles and are superseded by those that apply to specific formats. Rules specific to USAV sanctioned juniors events supersede all others.

- 1) There is no penalty for serving out of order. It is the opponent's responsibility to catch the wrong server before or as they serve the ball. To be sure that nobody knowingly serves twice, it may be necessary to change the serving order.
- 2) Hand setting – The referee should call a fault when there is a double contact, a held ball or when the set has excessive spin. Hand setting the serve is illegal. No hand setting over the net at any time, except in the Open division.
 - a) USAV Sanctioned Juniors Events – Hand setting the serve is legal if the set is clean.
- 3) It is legal to contact the ball with two hands open-handed as long as both hands are held together and have overlap from the finger tip to the thumb joint. Thumbs hooked alone is not sufficient. Having only the palms connected is allowed as long as the ball does not touch any part of the fingers. The ball must come off the hands with a clean pop.
- 4) Hard driven balls – You may dig a hard driven ball open-handed or with any part of the body. This can be multiple contacts as long as the ball does not come to rest. The serve is never considered to be hard-driven.
- 5) Open hand dinks (otherwise known as a tip or push) are not allowed.
- 6) A ball that is not hard driven (other than the serve) can be played with a hand set as long as the set is clean.
- 7) Touching the net - It is illegal to touch the net at any time during the play. If a player's momentum causes them to touch the net after a play is over, it is still a fault. (There is no such thing as "The ball was down.") Hair and/or light brushes of clothing are not a fault.
- 8) Judgment calls (such as hand calls) by the work team are final. Any dispute over the rules should be brought to the Tournament Director.
- 9) Whenever a ball from another court interferes with play, the game should be stopped immediately and a replay should be called by the work team. Safety is the primary concern.
- 10) Players may not enter an adjacent court to play a ball even if there is no match in progress or scheduled on that court.
- 11) The pursuit rule is NOT in effect. Players shall not attempt to retrieve a ball beyond the plane of the net.
- 12) **Coed** – FVC has no rule regarding serving etiquette for coed or reverse coed events. (The practice of male players serving only to male players is known as "courtesy".) Courtesy is a guideline for levels below Open. It is not a rule. There is no penalty for a male player serving a female player.
- 13) **Reverse Coed** – Male players may only attack the ball when jumping from behind the attack line. If a male player contacts the ball from in front of the attack line and directs it into the opponent's court, part of the ball must be below the top of the net at the initial point of contact. Male players are not allowed to block.
- 14) **Sixes** – Rally scoring to 25 is used for all games. Teams must win by two points. There will be no cap in any game. Let serves are allowed. Indoor ball handling rules apply. Open hand dinks and open hand serve receive are allowed. If there is no 10-foot line, teams may approximate its location for the purpose of back row attacks.

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