

# HUNTER VOLLEYBALL

## Masters Tournament



## RULES & REGULATIONS

<b>1 COMPETITION STRUCTURE</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Age Eligibility	3
1.2 Game Format	3
1.3 Time-Outs	3
1.4 Teams late on court	4
1.5 Mixed Competition Specific Rules	4
1.5 Uniform Requirements	4
1.6 Competition Points	4
1.6 Net Heights	4
1.7 Match Protocol	5
1.9 Duty Team Information	5
1.10 Captain	5
1.11 Coach	6
1.12 Twelve (12) Substitution Rule	7
1.13 The Libero Player	7
<b>2 DISPUTES</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 On The Spot Protest Resolution	8
2.2 Examination of the Protest	8
2.3 To resume the game	9
<b>3 COMPETITION VENUES</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4 INJURIES &amp; INSURANCE</b>	<b>9</b>
Terms and Conditions	11
Glossary of Terms	11
Terms and Conditions of Entry	11
Release and Indemnity	12
Other Related Policies	12

## 1 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

### 1.1 Age Eligibility

Competitors can register to compete in the following Divisions:

- 35-44 years
- 45-54 years
- 55+

Additional divisions may be created in any Tournament delivered, based on demand and growth in the eligible Masters playing community.

The age a player turns before 31 December **in the year of** the Hunter Volleyball Masters Tournament is the minimum age deemed eligible to compete.

Competitors **may** play in a team entered in a division that is below their current age, however, they **may not** play in a division above their current age. For example:

- *a 46 year older may play in the 35-44 division*
- *a 39 year old may not play in the 45-54 division.*

### 1.2 Game Format

The tournament will be played under the official FIVB Rules 2025 - 2028 as amended by these Hunter Volleyball Masters Tournament Rules. All players & coaches are deemed to have read and understood both sets of rules.

All Minor Round, Preliminary and Consolation Final games will be timed, and Grand Finals will be untimed. There will be no drawn games.

All matches are the best of 5 sets. The first 4 sets will be played to a minimum of 25 points (with a 2-point advantage). The 5<sup>th</sup> set, if required, will be played to a minimum of 15 points (with a 2-point advantage). For timed games, if it is a deciding set, the team with at least a 1-point advantage at the end of the time limit will be awarded the match or the match will continue until a team gains a 1-point advantage (Golden Point).

The venues and equipment used in the Competition may not fully comply with FIVB rules and regulations. All players who choose to participate in the competition thereby accept that the venues and equipment may not be fully compliant and therefore choose to play at their own risk.

#### FIVB Rules 2025-2028

The FIVB rule book can be downloaded directly from the website link:

[https://www.fivb.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/FIVB-Volleyball\\_Rules2025\\_2028-EN-v05.pdf](https://www.fivb.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/FIVB-Volleyball_Rules2025_2028-EN-v05.pdf)

### 1.3 Time-Outs

Only one time-out is allowed per team per set. However, NO time-out will be allowed in the last 5 minutes of playing time. There will be no technical time outs during matches.

#### 1.4 Teams late on court

After the referee has called the teams for the start of a game, if all players are not present, the following applies:

1. The first set will be forfeited after 5 minutes if the minimum player requirement is not available to play when the referee has called the start of the game, the team will forfeit the first set by a score of 25-0.
2. If the minimum player requirement is not met after 15 minutes after the match begins, the team will forfeit three sets 25-0.

#### 1.5 Mixed Competition Specific Rules

Where a Mixed Division is offered, there must be two (2) players of each gender on court at all times.

*\*Please find the Referee Delegate/ Tournament Director if any further rule clarification is needed.*

#### 1.5 Uniform Requirements

Playing Tops must be numbered on both front and back. Shorts / tights are not considered part of the uniform.

#### 1.6 Competition Points

Competition points towards the qualification of the finals shall be awarded for each match as follows:

- 3 points for a win
- 1 point for a loss
- 0 point for a forfeit
- -1-point penalty for not supplying required duty personnel

If teams in the same pool finish pool play with equal points, their positions will be determined by games won percentage, then by sets won percentage, then points won percentage. Percentages will be calculated by the formula: wins (games, sets or points) / total played (games, sets, or points).

#### 1.6 Net Heights

DIVISION	NET HEIGHT
Men 35-44	2.43m
Men 45-54, 55+	2.35m**
Women 35-44	2.24m
Women 45-54, 55+	2.15m**
Mixed All ages	2.35m

\*\* Where minor round games combine age grades, the net will be set to the higher of the two heights. If both teams qualify for a lower net height, referees may lower the net to the age specific height upon request from the teams. Age finals will be played at the age specified height unless both teams agree on a higher net height.

## 1.7 Match Protocol

The pre match protocol for these Championships will be as follows below.

### First Referee and Second Referee

<b>T – 15 min</b>	Official Protocol commences Ball warm up
<b>T – 11 min</b>	Captains conduct for coin toss, collect line up sheets Hitting from position #4
T - 7 min	Hitting from position #2
<b>T – 3 min</b>	Serving
<b>T – 1 Min</b>	Teams clear the court
<b>T – 30 Sec</b>	Check positions of players, Authorise Libero replacement(s) if required
<b>T – 00</b>	First whistle to authorise serve

### The Toss

The winning captain of the toss has the following options:

1. To serve,
2. To receive the serve,
3. To choose the side of the court.

## 1.9 Duty Team Information

Duty People Required:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Referee
- 2<sup>nd</sup> referee
- Scorer
- 2 x Lines People

Duty teams must:

- Ensure games start on time
- Arrive at least 10 minutes before the game is scheduled to start
- Supply Own Whistles for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> referee
- Ensure player names & numbers are written clearly by captain on the score sheet
- Collect rotation sheets before each set
- Ensure coach and captain sign score sheet before match and the captain signs after the match.
- The score sheet will not be accepted until all of the above things have been completed.

## 1.10 Captain

- At the end of a rally after the 1st referee has made a decision the captain may request an explanation for the interpretation of the judgment. The 1st referee must honour the request.
- When in the 1st referee's opinion the captain's behaviour in relation to questioning decisions has become inappropriate the referee should warn the game captain with no penalty. If the behaviour continues beyond the limit of reasonable expression of disagreement, the game captain should be sanctioned for rude conduct with a yellow card (point and service to the opponents).

### **1.11 Coach**

- The coach is not to speak to the referees to request explanations. The game captain is the only person who is allowed to do so. Normally the 1st referee will warn the coach about the behaviour, communicating through the game captain. There is no penalty. If the behaviour of the coach continues, the 1st referee will sanction the coach by issuing a penalty (yellow card) for rude conduct, through the game captain, resulting in a point.
- The coach may give instructions while standing or walking within the free zone in front of his/her bench without disturbing the match. The coach may not enter the court to carry out coaching functions. The coach is also not allowed to be behind the court in the service zone or be within the attack line and the centre line.

### **1.12 Twelve (12) Substitution Rule**

- (a) A team shall be allowed a maximum of twelve (12) substitutions in any one set. Players starting a set may be replaced by a substitute and may subsequently re-enter the set twice. Each substitute may enter the set three times. A player shall not enter the set for a fourth time (starting shall count as an entry). Players re-entering the set must assume the original position in the service order in relation to other teammates. No change may be made in a player's position in the service order unless necessitated by an injury requiring an abnormal substitution under the provisions of paragraph b) below. Any number of players may enter the set in each position in the service order.
- (b) If through any injury a player is unable to play and substitution cannot be legally made the team is entitled to make an EXCEPTIONAL substitution beyond the limits of paragraph (a). (This means that ANY player on the bench may replace the injured player). If through injury or accident a player is unable to play and substitution cannot be made under the provisions of paragraph a) or b), the 1st referee may grant a special time-out under the provisions of the rules of the game.
- (c) If a team becomes incomplete through expulsion of a player and substitution cannot be made under the provisions of paragraph a) above, the team loses the set by default, keeping the points acquired. If a team becomes incomplete through disqualification of a player and substitution cannot be made under the provisions of paragraph a) above, the team loses the matches by default, keeping the sets and points acquired.
- (d) The scorer referee reports the 11th and 12th substitutions of the team and the third court entry of a player to the 2nd referee who then indicates to the coach concerned and 1st referee in that order.

### **1.13 The Libero Player**

A team is permitted to have a different libero player in each set during the tournament.

- (a) The FIVB rules state that the Libero cannot be the team captain or game captain. The Libero player must wear a uniform whose jersey at least must contrast in colour with that of the other members of the team. The Libero uniform may have a different design, but it must be numbered like the rest of the team members i.e., in the centre of front and back of jersey.

- (b) The Libero is allowed to replace any player in a back row position.
- (c) The Libero is restricted to perform as a back row player and is not allowed to complete an attack hit from anywhere (including playing court and free zone) if at the moment of the contact, the ball is entirely higher than the top of the net.
- (d) The Libero may not serve, block or attempt to block.
- (e) A fellow team player may not complete an attack hit from higher than the top of the net, if the ball is coming from an overhead finger pass (set) by a Libero whilst they have any part of at least one foot in contact with the front zone. (The front zone is from the 3m line to the centre line below the net and extends beyond the court to the end of the free zone).
- (f) “Replacements” involving the Libero are not counted as regular “Substitutions” – Note: the different rule terminology used to avoid any possible confusion.
- (g) Replacements are unlimited per set, per match, but there must be a rally between two Libero replacements. In International competition the Assistant Scorer records all replacements and the score at the time of replacement which ensures there is at least one rally between replacements.
- (h) The Libero can only be replaced by the player whom the Libero replaced.
- (i) Replacements must only take place while the ball is out of play and before the 1st referee blows the whistle for service.
- (j) A replacement made after the whistle for service but before the service hit should not be rejected but must be the subject of a verbal warning to the game captain after the end of the rally. Rule 20.3.2.3.

### **Re-designation of a new Libero**

- (a) In case of injury of the designated Libero, and with the approval of the 1st referee, the Coach can mid-set re-designate as new Libero, one of the players not on the court at the moment of the re-designation.
- (b) The injured Libero may not re-enter to play for the remainder of the match. The player thus re-designated as Libero must remain Libero for the remainder of the set.
- (c) In the case of a re-designated Libero, this player’s number must be recorded on the score sheet remarks box and on the line up sheet for the following set.

## **2 DISPUTES**

### **2.1 On The Spot Protest Resolution**

A formal protest may only be lodged by the captain who believes that match officials have made an error under the FIVB Official Rules as amended by any Hunter Volleyball Masters Tournament Rules that will affect the outcome of the match.

If a protest is upheld, the match is replayed from the stage immediately before the error occurred.

In the format of the Hunter Volleyball Masters Tournament there is no scope for replaying matches at later times due to a protest made after the match being upheld. **Therefore, a system of "On the Spot" Protest resolution has been adopted.**

If a captain wishes to lodge a formal protest, they should immediately inform the referee (while the ball is out of play). The 1st referee will stop the game, step down from the stand and immediately consult the Referee Delegate / Tournament Director.

The Referee Delegate will resolve the protest. No appeals after the game will be considered.

## **2.2 Examination of the Protest**

In the case of a protest concerning a referee's decision, the Referee Delegate / Tournament Director listens to the 1st referee who makes a report on the well-founded reasons of their decision concerning the application of the regulations.

According to the regulations in force, the Referee Delegate decides to:

- a) Reject the protest; or
- b) Accept the protest and the decision is overruled.

If the case is not stated in the regulations, the Referee Delegate makes the decision.

If the protest has been rejected, the game is resumed after having applied the referee's decision or with the same position and the same score. The appropriate sanction is then applied.

The first protest is rejected with a "Penalty" sanction (Yellow card), personal sanction against the captain.

If a second protest by the same captain is rejected in the same match, then the 1st referee will sanction the captain with disqualification (Red and yellow card held together), personal sanction against the captain for the match.

Coaches may briefly discuss rule interpretations and or applications of the rules with the Referee Delegate on that court after the match.

## **2.3 To resume the game**

The Referee Delegate's decision is communicated to referees, scorers, coaches and game captains.

If the protest has been rejected, the game is resumed after having applied the referee's decision or with the same positions and same score, the appropriate sanction is then applied. If the Referee Delegate accepts the protest, the decision of the match referee or the scorer is overruled.

The game is resumed with the new positions and / or new scores.

## **3 COMPETITION VENUES**

Maitland High School, Pierce Street, East Maitland  
Any other venue suitable for the needs of each Tournament.

#### **4 INJURIES & INSURANCE**

First Aid will be available to players at the venue.

All personal accidents or injuries should be reported to the Tournament Director on duty at the venue. The Tournament Director will complete an Injury Report Form for the injured participant that can be used for any Insurance Claims. Please ensure that the player's name is also on the scoresheet as this will be needed as proof of participation.

Players must provide their own strapping etc.

Participants must be current Registered Members of Hunter Volleyball Inc, which includes Player Accident Insurance via Sportscover Australia Pty Ltd.

A Single Event Membership is available [www.revolutionise.com.au/hunternationalinc/registration](http://www.revolutionise.com.au/hunternationalinc/registration)

**For serious injuries please visit:**

Maitland Hospital Emergency Department  
55 Kyle Street, Metford  
Phone: 02 5103 6111

**HEAL Urgent Care**

30 Metford Road Metford  
[1300 090 009](tel:1300090009)  
8am - 6pm Daily

# **HUNTER VOLLEYBALL MASTERS TOURNAMENT**

## *Terms and Conditions*

### **Glossary of Terms**

"HVMT" means the event in which I am entering into, the location it is being held and the dates the event is offered (unless otherwise determined by the organisers).

"HVMT activities" means performing or participating in any capacity in any authorised or recognised sport, event or activity.

"Claim" means and includes any action, suit, proceeding, claim, demand, damage, cost or expense however arising including but not limited to negligence.

"Organisers" means Hunter Volleyball Inc.

"Rules" means the rules, regulations and policies of the HVMT.

### **Terms and Conditions of Entry**

1. I acknowledge and agree that I have read and understood the following terms and conditions of entry and agree to be bound by these terms of entry.
2. I agree to abide by the rules that govern the delivery of the competition. I agree that I am responsible for any consequences arising from my failure to observe the rules.
3. I agree to the payment of relevant entry fees as required for participation in the HVMT, as outlined and if applicable inclusive of any late fees.
4. I acknowledge if insufficient entries are obtained that age groups/categories may be combined.
5. I acknowledge that in the situation where age groups or events are combined, I will automatically be included to compete in the newly formed age group or event. Should I no longer wish to compete due to the combination of age groups and events, I acknowledge that my request for withdrawal is considered as per the terms outlined in the HVMT Refund Policy.
6. I declare that I am medically and physically fit and able to participate in the HVMT competition. I will immediately notify the Organisers in writing of any change to my medical condition, fitness or ability to participate. I understand and accept that the Organisers will continue to rely upon this declaration as evidence of my fitness and ability to participate.
7. I acknowledge and understand that participants do not, as part of team entry fees, have personal injury insurance or coverage provided by the Organisers. HVMT requires all participants to be Registered Members of Hunter Volleyball Inc.

8. Organisers encourage participants to explore the options of private health insurance coverage that may assist in covering costs incurred for unforeseen accidents and or injury.
9. I agree to receive any medical treatment, including ambulance transportation, that Organisers or contracted medical practitioners reasonably consider necessary or desirable for me during my participation in the event due to injury, accident and/or illness. I also agree that I am responsible for any costs or expenses incurred in providing me with medical treatment.
10. I declare that I have attained the minimum age for the division I have entered, or will enter by 31 December in the year of the competition.
11. I acknowledge and consent to photographs, electronic images and recordings taken of me during my participation in the event. Further, I consent to Organisers using my name, image, likeness, voice and performance/results in the event, at any time, by any form of media and/or publication, to promote the event.
12. If any provision of this declaration is invalid or unenforceable in any jurisdiction, the phrase or clause is to be read down for the purpose of that jurisdiction, if possible, so as to be valid and enforceable. If the phrase or clause cannot be so read down it will be severed to the extent of invalidity or unenforceability. Such severance does not affect the remaining provisions of this declaration or affect the validity or enforceability of it in any other jurisdiction.
13. I have provided the information required in the HVMT event registration system. I warrant that all information provided is true and correct.

### **Release and Indemnity**

In consideration of the Organisers accepting my entry information and fee, I, to the extent permitted by law:

- release and will release the Organisers from all claims that I may have or may have had but for this release arising from or in connection with my participation in any HVMT activities; and
- indemnify and will keep indemnified the Organisers in respect of any claim by any person arising as a result of or in connection with my participation in any HVMT activities.

### **Other Related Policies**

1. AMG Refund Policy
2. AMG Code of Behaviour