

THE STANDARDIZED COMPETITION GUIDELINES FOR AQUOLLEY

I. OVERVIEW

RULES SYSTEM

This document outlines the detailed rules that govern gameplay, ensuring fairness, clarity, and consistency across all competitions.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FRAMEWORK

This section details the criteria that define participant qualifications, including player grouping, affiliations, and tournament types.

TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

This section outlines the procedures for adapting tournament rules to accommodate unforeseen circumstances and for addressing disputes, ensuring fair and efficient competition management.

II. THE RULES SYSTEM

Comprehensive Gameplay and Regulatory Framework

This section details the complete regulatory structure of Aquolley. It explains how the rules are organized hierarchically, from foundational gameplay to specific match categories and detailed procedural guidelines. This comprehensive approach ensures fairness, clarity, and consistency across all competitions.

BASE RULES

Foundational Principles Leading to Detailed Specifications

This subsection introduces the foundational principles of gameplay, which will be fully detailed in the "Detailed Rules" section. It provides a conceptual overview of how play is structured in Aquolley.

DISCIPLINE RULES

Team and Court Specifications Leading to Detailed Specifications

This subsection introduces the rules specific to each discipline, including team sizes, court dimensions, and regulations for timeouts and substitutions, which will be fully specified in the "Detailed Rules" section.

DISCIPLINE RULES TABLE

DISCIPLINE	PLYRS+SUBS	AREA	TO	SO	PS
Singles	1	8x4m	1	n/a	n/a
Doubles	2+1	9x4m	2	2	1
Triples	3+2	10x5m	2	2	1
4-Team	4+2	11x5m	2	2	2
5-Team	5+2	12x5m	2	2	2
6-Team	6+3	12x6m	3	3	3

CATEGORY RULES

Gender and Player Requirements Leading to Detailed Specifications

This subsection introduces the rules for different match categories based on gender composition, including court size adjustments and minimum female player requirements, which will be fully detailed in the "Detailed Rules" section.

CATEGORY RULES TABLE

CATEGORY	PLAYERS	SUBS	TO	SO	PS	AREA	REQUIREMENTS
Woman's Singles	1	0	1	n/a	n/a	6 x 3 m	Women only
Men's Singles	1	0	1	n/a	n/a	8 x 4 m	Open to all genders
Woman's Doubles	2	1	2	2	1	6 x 4 m	Women only
Mixed Doubles	2	1	2	2	1	8 x 4 m	Min. 1 woman on the court
Men's Doubles	2	1	2	2	1	9 x 4 m	Open to all genders
Women's 3-Team	3	2	2	2	1	8 x 4 m	Women only
Mixed 3-Team	3	2	2	2	1	9 x 4 m	Min. 1 woman on the court
Men's 3-Team	3	2	2	2	1	10 x 5 m	Open to all genders
Mixed Team of 4	4	2	2	2	2	11 x 5 m	Min. 1 woman on the court
Mixed Team of 5	5	2	2	2	2	12 x 5 m	Min. 2 women on the court
Mixed Team of 6	6	3	3	3	3	12 x 6 m	Min. 2 women on the court

INCLUSIVITY RULES

Accessibility and Fair Participation Leading to Detailed Specifications

This subsection introduces the rules designed to ensure fair play and maximize participation, including open gender categories and team composition benefits, which will be fully detailed in the "Detailed Rules" section.

OPEN GENDER CATEGORIES

To maximize participation, "men's" categories are open to all genders. This means that while teams comprised solely of men are permitted, teams of any gender composition are also welcome.

TEAM COMPOSITION BENEFIT (TCB)

Teams comprised entirely of women, or players under 16 or over 55, receive one extra player on court. TCB is non-cumulative.

DETAILED RULES

This subsection provides a comprehensive overview of specific gameplay rules, including court dimensions, water depth, serving regulations, ball handling, scoring, substitutions, gender-specific requirements, and inclusivity rules.

1. The rules of Aqualley follow those of volleyball, with the exceptions outlined below.
2. The court size for women's singles is 6 x 3 meters; for women's doubles, 6 x 4 meters; for men's singles, men's or mixed doubles, 8 x 4 meters; for triples, 10 x 5 meters; for four-person teams, 11 x 5 meters; for five-person teams, 12 x 5 meters; and for six-person teams, 12 x 6 meters.
3. The minimum water depth is 0.6 meters, and the maximum is 1.3 meters. Water depth should be measured under the net at the midpoint of the centerline.
4. At the start of the game, the serving player must remain no more than 0.5 meters from the baseline.
5. If the serve hits the net and lands in the valid area, it is considered a let and should be replayed.
6. The receiving team must make at least one additional touch after the serve reception before sending the ball to the opponent's side.
7. Any part of the body can be used for ball touches, except for carrying or clear double touches.
8. Matches are played in a best-of-two sets format, with each set going up to 15 points. If the score reaches 14-14, play continues until a two-point lead is secured.
9. Each set allows each team to take two timeouts, regardless of the discipline.
10. In doubles, 2 players can be on court with 1 substitute; in triples, 3 players with 2 reserves; in four-player teams, 4 players with 2 substitutes; in five-player teams, 5 players with 2 reserves; and in six-player teams, 6 players with 3 substitutes.
11. In singles, substitutions are not permitted. In other formats, each team may make up to two substitutions per set. Additionally, in triples and team disciplines, double substitutions are allowed.
12. Men's competitions are open to all participants, while women's events are exclusively for female players. In mixed categories, at least one woman must be on the court for the entire match. For teams with 4+2 or more members, at least two women must be present.
13. Teams comprised entirely of women, or players under 16 or over 55, receive one extra player on court. TCB is non-cumulative.

III. ELIGIBILITY

Participant Qualifications and Standards.

This section details the system that determines participant eligibility for specific competitions. It explains how player grouping, affiliations, and tournament types are used to ensure that participants are appropriately matched and that competitions adhere to organizational standards. This section aims to maintain fairness and quality in competition.

PLAYER GROUPING

Age and Skill Levels for Balanced Competition. This subsection outlines the age and skill-based groupings that ensure fair competition and appropriate skill matching. It explains how players are categorized to create balanced and engaging matches.

AGE GROUPS

Players are categorized into age groups to ensure that they compete against others of similar physical development and experience.

Youth: Under 16; designed for younger players, focusing on development and fun.

Junior: Under 25; targets young adults, bridging the gap between youth and adult play.

Adult: 25-55; the standard age range for most competitive play.

Senior: Over 55; allows older players to compete in a suitable environment.

Open: All ages; competitions where players of any age can participate together.

SKILL GROUPS

Players are categorized into skill groups based on their demonstrated ability and experience, ensuring that matches are competitive and engaging.

Beginner: Self-assessment, excluding past winners; for those new to Aqualley, promoting learning and participation.

Intermediate: Self-assessment, limited advanced players per team; for players with some experience, ensuring balanced teams.

Advanced: Active or recently active volleyball players; for highly skilled players, maintaining a high level of competition.

Open: All skill levels; competitions where players of any skill level can participate together.

AFFILIATIONS

Affiliations define the organizational connections that determine team and player eligibility, ensuring appropriate representation.

Open: Participation is unrestricted; all individuals and teams are welcome.

Club: Teams must be affiliated with a recognized Aqualley club.

Corporate: Teams consist of employees from a specific company.

Community: Teams are built from family members or those within a close social circle.

TOURNAMENT TYPES

Tournament Types establish the competition structure to suit various competitive and social preferences.

Standard: Tournaments follow official Aqualley rules.

Regional: Tournaments use official rules adjusted to accommodate local preferences or conditions.

Random Team: Teams are formed randomly at the event, typically using modified rules.

IV. ADJUSTMENTS & DISPUTES

Operational Flexibility and Integrity Maintenance

This section outlines the procedures for adapting tournament rules to accommodate unforeseen circumstances and for addressing disputes that may arise during competition. It emphasizes the tournament director's authority in making necessary adjustments and the process for handling protests, ensuring fairness and maintaining a relaxed, inclusive atmosphere.

AD-HOC RULES MODIFICATIONS

In the event of a large number of entries, the competition director may decide to forgo a third set during the group stage. Additionally, the second set may not require a two-point difference, and sets may be played to 11 points instead of 15.

As weather, water temperature, and wind conditions can greatly affect the feasibility of competitions, the competition director has the authority to adjust the originally scheduled start, continuation, and end times.

PROTESTS

Aqualley prioritizes a relaxed and inclusive atmosphere where enjoyment and friendship take precedence over competitive results. Therefore, organizers do not routinely verify the accuracy of player information (gender, age, competitive status, or family relationships). If a protest is lodged regarding category violations, the competition director will request proof from the team. If the provided proof is deemed valid, the protest will be dismissed. If not, the team will be disqualified. Protests must be submitted at least 180 minutes prior to the start of the competition. Teams are responsible for the accuracy of their player data.