uae university games
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Volleyball
Technical Handbook

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the rules and regulations governing men's and women's Volleyball competitions in the UAE University Games.

All participating universities, players, officials, and staff are expected to adhere to these guidelines to ensure fair play, sportsmanship, and the successful execution of the tournament. These rules are based on FIVB regulations, adapted for the university context, and aim to provide a comprehensive framework for the competition.

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1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1.1. The UAE University Games Volleyball Competition is organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Sports (MOS) and UAE Schools & University Sports Federation (UAESUSF) in partnership with Abu Dhabi Entertainment Company (ADEC) and UAE Volleyball Association.

1.1.2. The competition shall be played in accordance with the FIVB Official Volleyball Rules, except where specifically stated otherwise in these regulations.

1.1.3. All participants are expected to uphold the principles of fair play, respect, and sportsmanship throughout the competition.

2. SPORTSMANSHIP AND FAIR PLAY

Core Values

2.1.1 All participants in the UAE University Games Volleyball Competition are expected to embody the core values of respect, integrity, and sportsmanship.

2.1.2 Fair play and ethical behaviour are fundamental to the spirit of university sports and must be always upheld.

Respect for Officials

2.1.3 Players, coaches, and team officials must respect the authority of referees and match officials.

2.1.4 Decisions of the referees must be accepted without protest during the match.

2.1.5 Any disagreements should be expressed through proper channels after the match.

Respect for Opponents

2.1.6 Teams must show respect to their opponents before, during, and after matches

2.1.7 Handshakes between teams are encouraged before and after each match.

2.1.8 Excessive celebration that may be seen as taunting or unsportsmanlike is prohibited.

On-Court Conduct

2.1.9 Players must compete fairly and ethically, avoiding intentional violations or attempts to deceive referees.

Bench Conduct

2.1.10 Team officials and substitutes in the technical area must behave responsibly and refrain from interfering with the match.

2.1.11 Verbal abuse or intimidation of opponents or officials from the bench is not permitted.

Academic Integrity

2.1.12 Universities are responsible for ensuring that all participating students maintain good academic standing.

2.1.13 Any attempt to field ineligible players or falsify academic records will be penalized.

Anti-Discrimination

2.1.14 Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person, or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national, or social origin, gender, language, religion or any other status is prohibited.

2.1.15 Any such behaviour will be subject to disciplinary measures.

Education and Promotion

2.1.16 Universities are encouraged to conduct fair play workshops for their teams prior to the competition.

2.1.17 The University Games will promote fair play through various initiatives and campaigns throughout the tournament.

Reporting Misconduct

2.1.18 Any participant who witnesses serious breaches of fair play or ethical conduct is encouraged to report such incidents to the tournament organizers on **management@uaeuniversitygames.ae**. Confidentiality will be maintained for all reports made in good faith.

3. TEAM COMPOSITION & PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Squad Size

3.1.1 Matches are conducted in a standard 6 v 6 format.

3.1.2 Teams are limited to twenty (20) players for both men's and women's competitions.

3.1.3 A maximum of (24) members per delegation is allowed, consisting of twelve (20) players and four (4) officials.

Player Match Eligibility

3.1.4 Players eligibility as per outlined in the "University Games Guidelines" document.

3.1.5 Each university must submit a squad list with player details and proof of enrolment at least 7 days prior to the commencement of the competition.

3.1.1 Accreditations and ID's must also be presented to the relevant match officials on match days, failure to present these may render the player ineligible, and the player will not be allowed to participate in the match.

3.1.6 Players must present a valid university ID and a government-issued ID before each match.

3.1.7 The team manager and/or coach is responsible for ensuring all players are eligible to participate.

3.1.8 Fielding ineligible players may result in a forfeit of the game or disqualification from the competition.

4. GAME FORMAT

4.1.1 Matches shall be played according to FIVB rules in a 6 v 6, unless otherwise stated.

4.1.2 All matches shall be played best of three (3) sets.

4.1.3 The first two sets are played to 25, but the winning team must be ahead by at least two points. The third set is played to 15 – and again the winner must have a two-point margin.

4.1.3 Each team is entitled to a maximum of two timeouts per set.

4.1.4 There shall be a maximum of 3 minutes between sets.

5. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Regional Conferences

1. The UAE University Games Volleyball Competition shall be played across 3 distinct conferences.
   a. Eastern Conference: Northern Emirates including Ajman, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah, Um Al Quain.
   b. Central Conference: Dubai
   c. Western Conference: Abu Dhabi (including Al Ain and Al Dhafra)

1.1.1. Conferences may be merged in some instances for good cause. This will be at the discretion of The UAE University Games organizers and relevant subcommittees and shall be communicated to all participants prior to the commencement of the competition.

Group Stage

1.1.2. All teams are grouped based on their sport, gender, and conference (Central, Western, Eastern).

1.1.3. Each conference forms a single group for each sport and gender.

1.1.4. Teams are ranked from 1 to 3 at the beginning of the season within each sport and gender category to guide scheduling and avoid early matchups between top-ranked teams.

1.1.5. Matches are scheduled randomly, with efforts to avoid matchups between Rank 1 teams (as declared at the beginning of the season).

a. Rank 1: Universities whose teams qualified for the playoffs in the previous edition of the UAE University Games.
b. Rank 2: Universities whose teams participated in the previous edition but did not qualify for the playoffs, as well as newly participating universities that possess established sports facilities.
c. Rank 3: Newly participating universities that do not have dedicated sports facilities.

1.1.6. Each team plays a minimum of:

a. 8 Games if their group has more than 10 teams.
b. 6 Games if their group has 10 or fewer teams.
c. Playoff games if qualified.

1.1.7. Rankings are determined using the following rules:

Win = 2 points, Loss = 1 point, Forfeit = 0 points.

1.1.8. Ties in points are resolved using:

a. Point Differential.
b. Total Points Scored.
c. Head-to-Head (if applicable).

Pre-Knockout Stage

1.1.9. After the League Phase, the top teams advance to the knockout structure.

1.1.10. Central Conference Qualifier

a. Due to the large number of participating teams, Central Conference is guaranteed 3 spots to the Quarterfinals.
b. The top 2 teams from Central qualify directly to Quarterfinals.

c. Teams ranked 3rd to 6th play as follows:
    c) Game 1: Central 3rd vs Central 6th
    c) Game 2: Central 4th vs Central 5th
    c) Game 3: Winner of Game 1 vs Winner of Game 2 → Qualifies to Quarterfinals as Central Qualifier

1.1.11. Western & Eastern Inter-Conference Qualifier

a. Western and Eastern Conferences contribute 5 teams to the Quarterfinals.
b. The top 2 teams from Western & Eastern qualify directly to Quarterfinals.
c. Teams ranked 3rd to 6th in Western & Eastern play as follows:
    c) Game 1: Western 3rd vs Western 6th
    c) Game 2: Western 4th vs Western 5th
    c) Game 3: Winner of Game 1 vs Winner of Game 2 → Western Qualifier
    c) Game 4: Eastern 3rd vs Eastern 6th
    c) Game 5: Eastern 4th vs Eastern 5th
    c) Game 6: Winner of Game 4 vs Winner of Game 5 → Eastern Qualifier
    c) Game 7: Western Qualifier vs Eastern Qualifier → Winner qualifies to Quarterfinals as Inter-Conference Qualifier

Knockout Phase

1.1.12. The knockout phase includes the top 8 teams.
1.1.13. Includes 3rd Place Playoff.
1.1.14. Quarterfinal Matchups
    d) QF1 Central 1st vs Inter-Conference Qualifier
    d) QF2 Western 2nd vs Eastern 2nd
    d) QF3 Western 1st vs Central Qualifier
    d) QF4 Eastern 1st vs Central 2nd

1.1.15. Semifinals
    b) Semifinal 1 → Winner QF1 vs Winner QF3
    b) Semifinal 2 → Winner QF2 vs Winner QF4
1.1.16. Finals

b) 3rd Place Match → Loser SF1 vs Loser SF2
b) Final → Winner SF1 vs Winner SF2

6. THE COURT

Court Dimensions

6.1.1 The playing court shall be 18m long and 9m wide.

6.1.2 The court shall be surrounded by a free zone of a minimum of 5 m on all sides.

6.1.3 The free playing space shall measure a minimum of 7m in height from the playing surface.

Court Markings

6.1.4 All lines are 5cm wide and must be of a light colour different from the colour of the floor.

6.1.5 The court must be marked according to FIVB regulations including attack lines, center line, and service zones.

Equipment

6.1.6 The net height shall be:

a) Men: 2.43m
b) Women: 2.24m

6.1.7 Official FIVB approved balls will be used for all matches.

7. MATCH SCHEDULE AND TIMINGS

7.1.1 The competition calendar will be released at least 7 days before the start of the tournament.

7.1.2 Teams must arrive at the venue at least 1 hour before scheduled match time.

7.1.3 Warm-up time on the court will be allocated 20 minutes before match time.

7.1.4 A team that delays the start by up to 15 minutes will be subject to disciplinary action. Beyond 15 minutes, the game may be awarded to the opposing team.

8. KIT AND EQUIPMENT

8.1.1 Each team must have two sets of light and dark uniforms.

8.1.2 The uniforms must comply with FIVB regulations.

8.1.3 Jersey numbers must be clearly visible and correspond to the numbers listed on the team sheet.

8.1.4 No jewellery or accessories are allowed during play.

9. MATCH PROCEDURES

Team Sheets

9.1.1 Must be submitted to the scorer's table at least 30 minutes before match time

9.1.2 Must list all players, their jersey numbers, and team officials

9.1.3 Must designate the team captain and starting six players

Technical Area

9.1.4 Only registered team officials and substitute players are allowed in the team bench area

9.1.5 A maximum of 4 team officials can be in the team bench area at any time

Abandoned Games

9.1.6 UAE University Games has the authority to determine the outcome of abandoned games.

9.1.7 If a match is interrupted, it shall be rescheduled to another court and resumed with the same players listed on the scoresheet, as well as the same players who were on court at the time play was stopped. Any sanctions issued prior to the interruption shall remain in effect. The match shall resume with the set starting from 0–0, regardless of whether it was the first, second, or third set.

10. OFFICIATING

Official Appointments

10.1.1 Three certified volleyball referees will be appointed for each game:

a) 2 referees: (Court Referees – Main Referee and Line Referee)

10.1.2 2 table officials: One scorekeeper/registrar, and one scoreboard. Referees will be appointed by the UAE University Games in partnership with the UAE Volleyball Association.

Match Report

10.1.3 The venue manager must submit a match report within 24 hours of the match completion.

10.1.4 The report should include:

a) Final score and set scores

b) Details of any disciplinary actions

c) Any notable incidents or injuries

d) Any protests lodged by either team

11. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

11.1.1 Teams receiving three red cards in a single match will face disciplinary action

11.1.2 Individual sanctions:

a) Yellow card: Warning
b) Red card: Penalty point and service to the opponent
c) Red + Yellow cards together: Expulsion for the set
d) Red + Yellow cards separately: Disqualification from the match

11.1.3 Serious misconduct may result in additional sanctions as determined by the disciplinary committee

12. APPEALS AND DISPUTES

12.1.1 Appeals must be submitted in writing within 24 hours of the match in question.

12.1.2 Appeals can be made on the following grounds:

a) Misapplication of rules

b) Player eligibility issues

c) Serious procedural errors

12.1.3 Judgment calls by officials cannot be appealed.

12.1.4 The Appeals Committee's decision is final and binding.

12.1.5 Appeals may be submitted via **management@uaeuniversitygames.ae** email, with the **Subject: Appeal – Volleyball Match (Date of Match)**

13. MEDICAL AND SAFETY PROVISIONS

13.1.1 Each venue shall have a qualified medical professional present, a fully equipped first-aid kit and suitable provisions to ensure rapid emergency treatment if necessary.

13.1.2 A player who suffers a head injury must be assessed by the medical professional before being allowed to continue.

14. FINAL PROVISIONS

14.1.1 These regulations are approved by the UAE University Games, under the auspices of the Ministry of Sports (MOS) and United Arab Emirates Sports Federation for School and University Education Institutions (UAESUSF) in partnership with Abu Dhabi Entertainment Company (ADEC) and UAE Volleyball Association and come into force immediately.

14.1.2 This remains a live document, and the 'UAE University Games' reserves the right to make amendments to these regulations as necessary.