

## **Fan Behavior**

### **HOA Rule Amendment**

Fans are asked to use common sense and behave responsibly while attending an HOA sanctioned volleyball event. Enjoying the competition, enthusiastically celebrating, yelling and cheering for a team is welcomed and encouraged. Actively cheering against any team is not welcomed.

Inappropriate language or action that is disruptive to a sportsman-like atmosphere, or interferes with a player, coach or official's participation is unacceptable.

Examples of unacceptable fan behavior are; but not limited to:

Obscene words or gestures,

Racial, ethnic or sexually oriented comments,

Celebrating the errors or misfortune of participants.

Attempting to distract or interrupt a participant's concentration.

Harassing participants i.e. booing, jeering or yelling at individuals.

HOA asks all fans, parents and coaches to encourage good sportsmanship and to remind each other when needed; before an official response becomes necessary. It is strongly recommended that teams informally monitor and correct their own fan behavior. Teams, represented by their captain/coach, will be held responsible for any delays brought about in officially responding to disruptive fan behavior.

If an official becomes aware of disruptive fan behavior the following guidelines will be used to resolve the situation. The official will communicate to the captain or coach that there is disruptive fan behavior and direct the captain/coach to inform their fan(s) that the behavior needs to change immediately. This will be considered the team's first official warning and will be recorded as a team delay warning on the scoresheet.

A second incident of disruptive fan behavior in a match will result in a team delay penalty (TYC) and the official will encourage the captain/coach to have their disruptive fan(s) leave the gym to avoid further incident.

A third incident of disruptive fan behavior in a match will result in the suspension of play and default of the match by the team responsible for the delays. Exception: If this occurs in game 2 of a two game match i.e. pool play, the offending team will default only game 2.

If a team's captain/coach discovers that the disruptive fan(s) are not their fan(s), they should report this to the match officials. The Tournament Director will be informed and assist in finding the correct team's captain/coach to deal with the disruptive fan(s). This will be considered their first official warning and be assessed and recorded on the scoresheet for that team's next scheduled match. In circumstances where the offending team is not scheduled to play another match; the captain/coach is still responsible to direct their fan(s) to discontinue disruptive behavior immediately or leave the gym. If the captain/coach can not be located or identified the Tournament Director will communicate this to the fan(s).

Any disruptive fan behavior incidents must be reported to the HOA office, by the Tournament Director, in writing, within 48 hours.