Mariners Volleyball Club Playtime Policy

The philosophy of the club is to provide as many athletes as possible the opportunity to participate in Club Volleyball, at the level appropriate for their developmental level. After careful consideration, the MVC Board of Directors feels that the following playtime policy will ensure all athletes will have an opportunity to participate.

Fair Play Rule – This rule is developed by Volleyball Canada and Volleyball BC. Athletes who do not play the first set, must play the entire second set. No substitutions permitted in either the first or second set. For additional information please visit the Volleyball Canada Fair Play Rule below.

Play Time Philosophy – This Philosophy is developed by Mariners Volleyball Club to ensure all athletes can play at events. This Philosophy outlines a variety of ways coaches can ensure they get athletes playtime:

- Athletes may play an entire match and a second group of athletes play the next entire match with no substitutions
- Athletes who do not start the 1st set must start the 2nd set with no substitutions
- Multiple athletes can share positions (eg. One athlete plays front row and another athlete plays in the backrow) through equal substitution patterns

Within the Play Time Philosophy MVC recognizes that it will not be equal play, however, coaches will strive to ensure all athletes are playing 45-55% of the time on a team of 12.

1st and 2nd Sets

'Club' Programming

13/14U Boys and Girls

- Will follow the Fair Play Rule as per Volleyball BC Rules for ALL events.

15/16U Boys and Girls

- Will follow a Play Time philosophy during all non-provincial ranking events:
  - Club Playdays
  - Exhibition Tournaments
- Will follow a Play Time philosophy during all pool play matches during Provincial ranking and Championships events:
  - Volleyball BC Super Series
  - Island Championships
  - Provincial Championships
- Will be at the coaches' discretion for playoff matches leading to a medal at Provincial ranking and Championship events:
  - Volleyball BC Super Series
  - Island Championships
  - Provincial Championships
- Will be at the coaches' discretion for ALL matches during a Regional Ranking or Provincial Qualifier Events.
- Will follow a Play Time philosophy during all playoff matches that are not leading to a medal at Provincial ranking and Championship events:
  - Volleyball BC Super Series
  - Island Championships
  - Provincial Championships

Mariners Volleyball Club Playtime Policy

17/18U Boys and Girls

- Will follow a Play Time philosophy during all non-provincial ranking events:
  - Club Playdays
  - Exhibition Tournaments
- Will follow a Play Time philosophy during all pool play matches during Provincial ranking and Championships events:
  - Volleyball BC Super Series
  - Island Championships
  - Provincial Championships
- Will be at the coaches' discretion for playoff matches leading to a medal at Provincial ranking and Championship events:
  - Volleyball BC Super Series
  - Island Championships
  - Provincial Championships
- Will be at the coaches' discretion for ALL matches during a Regional Ranking or Provincial Qualifier Events.
- Will follow a Play Time philosophy during all playoff matches that are not leading to a medal at Provincial ranking and Championship events:
  - Volleyball BC Super Series
  - Island Championships
  - Provincial Championships

Performance Programming

15/16U Boys and Girls

- Will follow a Play Time philosophy during all non-provincial ranking events:
  - Club Playdays
  - Exhibition Tournaments
- Will be at the coach's discretion for all pool play matches during Provincial ranking and Championships events:
  - Volleyball BC Super Series
  - Island Championships
  - Provincial Championships
- Will be at the coaches' discretion for playoff matches leading to a medal at Provincial ranking and Championship events:
  - Volleyball BC Super Series
  - Island Championships
  - Provincial Championships
- Will be at the coaches' discretion for ALL matches during a Regional Ranking or Provincial Qualifier Events.
- Will follow a Play Time philosophy during all playoff matches that are not leading to a medal at Provincial ranking and Championship events:
  - Volleyball BC Super Series
  - Island Championships
  - Provincial Championships

17/18U Boys and Girls

- Will follow a Play Time philosophy during all non-provincial ranking events:
  - Club Playdays
  - Exhibition Tournaments
- Will be at the coach's discretion for all pool play matches during Provincial ranking and Championships events:

  - Volleyball BC Super Series
  - Island Championships
  - Provincial Championships
- Will be at the coaches' discretion for playoff matches leading to a medal at Provincial ranking and Championship events:
  - Volleyball BC Super Series
  - Island Championships
  - Provincial Championships
- Will be at the coaches' discretion for ALL matches during a Regional Ranking or Provincial Qualifier Events.
- Will follow a Play Time philosophy during all playoff matches that are not leading to a medal at Provincial ranking and Championship events:
  - Volleyball BC Super Series
  - Island Championships
  - Provincial Championships

3rd Sets

Club and Performance Programming

All third set playtime is at the discretion of the coach; however, coaches are highly encouraged to rotate athletes through 3rd sets when playing in:

- Club playdays
- Exhibition Tournaments
- Playoff matches that are not leading to a medal.

***Injuries, commitment, and behavioral concerns will always be considered when addressing playtime. These discussions will be at the discretion of the coaching staff.**

Rationale: Fair Play Rule
(Volleyball Canada, 2017)

Decision: 12U, 13U and 14U Substitution Rules: All players listed on the score sheet must start the first or second set. Substitutions are not permitted in the first or second set. In the case of injury, an Exceptional Substitution may be made. The injured/ill player may not return to the same set, but may return to play in subsequent sets. If there is a 3rd set, the coach has the choice of starting any player and there is no minimum number of points needed prior to substitutions being made.

Implementation of rule: Referee checks score sheet between sets to confirm players not starting in the 1st set are on the score sheet at the beginning of the 2nd set. Coaches that intentionally leave athletes off the score sheet, or misrepresent an athlete's playing status (injury, illness, etc) to avoid compliance with the Fair Play Rule, will be subject to sanctions.

Rationale:

1. Provincial Games competitions that exist for the 15U age category currently use the Fair Play rule.

2. Provincial Associations cite significant positive feedback from athletes and parents using the Fair Play rule during the Provincial Games competitions.

3. DDC cited the importance of simplifying rules and keeping rules consistent across age groups when possible.

Mariners Volleyball Club Playtime Policy

4. DDC cited the Fair Play rule strikes a balance between mandating playing time and providing the coach the freedom to choose players in the 1st and 3rd set.

5. Compulsory substitutions ensure that every athlete participates in every game.

6. The DDC believes that it is critical that players be given the opportunity to play and develop early in their career, as any one of them, regardless of their ability, could be a future star. Additionally, virtually every study researching why kids leave sport identifies playing time as one of the top three reasons children quit playing.

Approved by the MVC Board of Directors - November 17, 2025