

Enrollment Information and Timeline for Spring 2012 Wisconsin Independent Volleyball League Season

If you are a youth coach, varsity coach or association contact who plans to enter one or more teams into the Spring 2012 Wisconsin Independent Volleyball League ("WIVL"), please read this posting thoroughly. This background, along with the referenced Enrollment Form and draft Rules, will answer virtually every question you will likely have about how to enter a team and how the League functions.

Spring 2012 Enrollment Form

The Enrollment Form to participate in the Spring 2012 season of the WIVL must be submitted by March 16, 2012. The instructions on the form are self-explanatory. However, if you have questions, please call Tracie Tilton at 715-749-9048 or, if you can't reach her, call Jerry Engeleiter at 715-549-6161.

Draft 2012 Spring Rules

Draft WIVL 2012 League Rules can be viewed on our website at *gnbl.org*, by clicking on the "4th-8th Grade Wisconsin Independent Volleyball League" link at the top of the page and then "Spring 2012 Rules for 4th-8th Grade." These rules cover not only match rules, but also how the League is organized, the League's fee structure and meet management. Because these rules are quite detailed and self-explanatory, we don't spend a great deal of time in this post discussing their content. **It is imperative that all coaches looking to enter one or more teams in the Spring League for fourth through eighth grade girls, read and understand these rules.** While we will consider changes in these "draft" rules for the 2012 Spring season, any changes at this point must reflect a majority view of League participants. If you have suggested rule changes, or you have questions about the draft rules, please call Jerry Engeleiter at 715-549-6161 or contact him via email (*jerry@gnbl.org*).

Length of Season

We will again organize meets on seven consecutive Saturdays: April 7, April 14, April 21, April 28, May 5, May 12, and May 19.

"Flexible" Scheduling

On the enrollment form, you can opt to have your team play three, four, five or more matches per day.

- If you choose to play three matches, your matches will likely be scheduled in three consecutive time slots, or usually over no more than four time slots, so that your team is making only a half-day commitment. However, please note Section B-4 of the League Rules: we cannot consistently guarantee a specific team that their matches each week will all be in the morning or all in the afternoon.

- If you choose to play four matches a day, these will likely be scheduled over five to seven time slots, with some back-to-back matches and some one time-slot breaks between matches.
- If you choose to play five matches a day, in most cases you're looking at a full day commitment (e.g., 8:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m.), with five matches over a six, seven or eight time slot day. The length of your day, however, will depend on how many courts are being used by the host team that day, how many other teams are in attendance and how many other grades are being hosted on that day by the host team.
- If your team wants to play more than five matches per day, you aren't likely to have any longer day than those teams playing five matches, but you will play more back-to-back matches.

See Paragraph B-3 of the League Rules for an example of how flexible scheduling works with thirteen teams playing on three surfaces, where five teams play three matches each, three teams play four matches each, four teams play five matches each and one team plays seven matches.

Posting Schedules

A schedule of meet participants will be posted and updated as changes occur. By Sunday, April 1, 2012, a detailed meet schedule will be posted on the website for all teams playing on Saturday, April 7. By Friday, April 6, "skeletal" meet schedules will be posted on the website for the April 14, 21 and 28, May 5, 12 and 19 meets (i.e., by April 6 we'll post who plays where and how many matches on these remaining six dates, but not the exact opponent and time of each match). Starting on Sunday, April 1, and continuing on Sunday, April 8, the detailed meet schedule will be posted every Sunday on the website for the next Saturday's meets, showing each meet match-up, court assignments and start times. This process will be repeated every Sunday by 11:00 p.m. for the next Saturday's meets.

We initiated this approach to scheduling in the 2004 season. We did so because if each team's schedule is completed in detail prior to the season, and a team later drops out of a given meet, we have to find a replacement for that team, or entirely re-do the schedule, which is a major task. By waiting until six days before each meet to do the pairings, if a team drops out prior to that time, we don't have to scramble to find a replacement. We simply shorten the meet by the number of matches the dropping team occupied.

Penalties for Dropping Out of a Meet on Short Notice

Teams dropping a meet less than **nine** days in advance of a given meet, after their attendance was confirmed by phone call or e-mail from the League, will face the penalties spelled out in Rule C-5.

Hosting

When hosting, a community needs a minimum of two playing surfaces for a full day for one grade (first match starting between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m., last match starting sometime between 3:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., depending on attendance at that meet). A community can also host a meet for one grade on three playing surfaces on the same Saturday. If a host has three, four or more playing surfaces, it can host meets for multiple grades on the same date.

Fees/Hosting Credits

For the Spring 2012 season, it will again cost (as it did in 2009, 2010 and 2011) a team \$24 per match to play and the host will receive a hosting credit of \$14 per team per match.

Length of Matches

See Section B-6 of the rules. We will follow the same match length used in the Spring of 2011 season:

- 4th/5th and 6th Grade: 50 minutes apart – anticipated 40-45-minute match with a 5-10-minute warm-up for the next match.
- 7th and 8th Grade: 55 minutes apart – anticipated 45-50-minute match with a 5-10-minute warm-up for the next match.

Separate Divisions

The Spring 2012 League will again have a separate playing division for each of three grades: 6, 7 and 8. There will also be a combined 4th/5th grade division, in which we'll schedule play between 5th grade teams, 4th grade teams and combined 4th/5th grade teams.

League Championship Tournament

On Saturday, May 19, the League will hold a separate League Championship Tournament (LCT) in each division for 8th, 7th, 6th and 5th/4th grade teams, provided that centrally-located communities with adequate playing surfaces agree to host on that date. Each of the LCTs will be hosted by a different community or group of communities. A team must play in at least two meets prior to May 19 to be eligible to participate in the LCT. If more teams at a given grade level sign-up to play in the LCT than court capacity allows, we will: 1) give preferential treatment to teams playing in at least three other meets (rather than just two as noted above) and 2) if after that action, we still have too many teams, preferential treatment will be given to those teams with the best match and game records as of the completion of the May 5 meets. The process to be used for determining the content of the LCT field at each grade level will be posted on the League's website by Friday, April 6, when "skeletal" schedules are posted as described above.

At the LCT, each team will play between five and six matches. Teams will be seeded based on their season's record. Trophies will be awarded to the 1st through 5th place finishers in each grade, as well as to the Consolation Champions (there will be no Consolation Championship's if there are less than 16 teams in a given LCT field). Medallions will be awarded to individuals on those teams that win a trophy. Players on teams that fail to win a trophy will not receive individual awards. The cost to play in the LCT will again be \$150. The slightly higher cost of the LCT relative to regular meets accounts for the increased number of matches each team will be playing (five to six matches per team times \$24 per match), the cost of the awards and added staff time to organize a large event. Hosts of the LCT will be allowed to charge \$5 per adult and \$2 per student (versus \$4 adult/\$2 child during the regular season) to also help cover the added cost of hosting a larger event of this nature.

Consent for Medical Treatment and Voluntary Release Form

All girls playing in the Wisconsin Independent Volleyball League will need to have a Consent for Medical Treatment and Voluntary Release Form executed by one of her parents. A copy of that two page form is available on the website, at gnbl.org. Click on the “Wisconsin Independent Volleyball League” link located on the top of the page, then on “Consent for Medical Treatment and Voluntary Release Form.” Please make as many copies as you’ll need to provide one to all of the girls enrolled in your program.

The *original* executed copies of these Consent for Medical Treatment and Voluntary Release Forms need to be mailed to WIVL, PO Box 506, Hudson, WI 54016. They need to be returned prior to your first meet. We also recommend that you keep a photocopy of page 2 of each girl’s form that your coaches carry with them to each meet in case a player needs emergency medical treatment and one of her parents is not present. Please don’t view the distribution, execution and submission of these waivers as a chore. The waiver and release portion of this document provides the same level of legal protection to you as coaches, as well as your school district, as it does to the League and, therefore, is as much in your interest to complete as it is ours. These forms need to be re-executed once annually. As a result, even if your team’s members submitted this form during the Spring 2011 season, this needs to be re-done for 2012.

Line Judges

We’ve had problems in meets during previous seasons with teams failing to (or refusing to) provide a line judge in each of its matches. Please note Section C-4 of the League Rules. Each team must provide one of the two line judges for each match. Coaches: It’s your responsibility to make sure that a person associated with your team gets into position at least two minutes before a match is scheduled to start so that the official doesn’t need to take the time to remind you of this obligation. Hosts: If a given team fails to provide a line judge, do not proceed with the match until that team meets its obligation. If a team refuses, the match will be forfeited by the team refusing to comply with this rule for purposes of League Standings, but played for “fun” so that the players are not disadvantaged. Such refusal should be reported to the League because it may affect that team’s ability to participate in future meets, including the League Championship Tournament. While parents and older siblings are the logical people who most often are asked to act as line judge, players are acceptable if necessary. For example, if a team has eight players on it, rather than sitting out a game in a specific match, one player can line judge -- coaches can have three different players each line judge one game in a three game match, which allows each player to play in the other two games. If all else fails, the team’s coach needs to line judge rather than shirk its responsibility.

League Standings

An issue about which we receive numerous questions each season relates to League Standings:

- **7th and 8th Grade Meets.** The only time a third game in a match should be played is when the two competing teams each win one of the first two games. Hosts are encouraged to get ahead of schedule, rather than play an “unnecessary” third game. Nevertheless, there are some times when

the next scheduled match on that court can't proceed because the next two teams scheduled to play on that surface haven't arrived yet. In these situations, if both participating teams, the host and the official (who may need a break) are all willing to allow a portion of a third game to be played, they can proceed. However, that game will not be played to a specific score - it will be terminated whenever the teams in the next scheduled match are prepared to take the floor, even if it means that match starts ahead of schedule. Results of complete or partial unneeded third games will not be posted on the website and will not be counted as part of the "game winning percentage" in the League Standings.

- **4th/5th and 6th Grade Meets.** The main difference between 4th/5th and 6th grade matches and those in 7th and 8th grade, is that we actually have a procedure in place to encourage (rather than discourage) the playing of the unneeded third game (see Section D-3 of League Rules). This is done to give younger players more playing experience, even if the outcome of a given match has been decided. The only difference between how we handle 4th/5th and 6th grade versus 7th/8th grade meet results, is that we will post the scores of all unneeded third games in 4th/5th and 6th grade matches. However, we will **not** count the outcome of that third game toward the League Standings, for purposes of calculating the game win/loss percentage, when the match was decided in the first two games. In that way, the "winning" team isn't penalized for playing all of its less experienced players in game #3.

Website

We are currently using The Great Northwest's website (gnbl.org) to post volleyball items. These are some of the items that already appear, or eventually will appear, on the website as the Spring 2012 season approaches:

- **Rules:** League rules are posted for all coaches, parents and players to access. Tentative draft rules for the Spring 2012 season are already posted.
- **Consent for Medical Treatment and Voluntary Release Forms:** These are drafted to help protect the League, the coaches and the municipality/school hosting each game. Copies can be printed directly from the website.
- **Schedules:** Meet and LCT schedules will be posted and updated continuously as changes occur. See the "Timeline" section below for timing of postings.
- **News Updates:** There is a section allowing for the posting of news items, rules interpretation issues, scheduling questions, etc., on a League bulletin board. These will be posted only on an as-needed basis.
- **Scores:** Host teams will be required to submit scores within 48 hours of the completion of each meet. Scores will be posted on the website and standings updated on a weekly basis. First scores for the Spring 2012 season will be posted on or about April 10. Score results for the Spring 2011 season are archived on the website and can be accessed at gnbl.org. Click on "Wisconsin Independent Volleyball League," located on the top of the page, then "Volleyball Archives."

Timeline Going Forward

What follows is a timeline we will follow leading up to the beginning of League play this spring:

- January 16: Enrollment materials are posted and an email sent to all of last spring's coaches.
- Mid-January through mid-March: Communities looking to enter teams in this League should conduct their local enrollment process if they haven't done so already.
- March 16: Registration deadline for all teams wishing to play in, or host in, the WIVL.
- March 26 through March 31: Lock in all hosting dates.
- April 1: Detailed meet schedule will be posted on the website for all teams playing on April 7.
- April 6: "Skeletal" meet schedules will be posted on the website for April 14, 21, and 28 and May 5, 12 and 19 meets (i.e., at this time, we'll post who plays where and how many matches, but not the exact opponent and time of each match). Final details about the League Championship Tournament for grades 8, 7, 6 and 5/4 will be posted: location, field size and qualification standards of the tournament at a particular grade level if over-subscribed.
- April 8: The detailed meet schedules will be posted on the website for April 14. This process will be repeated weekly throughout the season every Sunday by 11:00 p.m. for the next Saturday's meets.

Questions and Comments

If you have questions about how to access the website, need additional enrollment packets or copies of certain documents, please call Tracie Tilton 715-749-9048. All other questions should be directed to Jerry Engeleiter at 715-549-6161.