

Rev 8/14/2026

HEB Water Volleyball Rules of play for exercise and fun.

We are a coed activity for HEB Residents who have registered to play for the calendar year. Players must be able to actively participate playing and preparing the court.

SIGNING UP TO PLAY

Players will receive an email from the Scheduler, usually on Sunday. Players should respond indicating the days they wish to play.

WVB plays on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from Noon until 2:00 PM **and on Monday from 2PM to 4PM.**

If the number of players signing up exceeds 18 for any day the Scheduler will show a **Wait List**. Wait listed players should not come to play unless the Scheduler has notified them that space has become available for that day.

The Scheduler will then email a roster of players for the week to the entire WVB player list. **Members should keep that roster for the week to remind them of the days they are playing. Being a no show means that someone else who wanted to play won't get the opportunity. Always notify the Scheduler if you cannot play.**

Court Size and Number of Players

The minimum number of total players is eight to schedule a WVB game. The maximum number of players is eighteen (18); up to sixteen (16) players will begin play in the Court, with up to two (2) substitute players rotating in one on each side.

Court size is determined by the number of players. The Court is defined by a Leadership Team member before play begins for that day. It can be changed by that Member during play if required.

If there is an odd number of players, the extra player is placed on the deep side team and will rotate into the game as the serve changes and their team rotates. Whichever player is the sub at the end of any game will remain unless a Leadership Team member directs otherwise. If both teams have an extra player then the extra player will rotate into the game and change sides with their team at the end of each game.

After each game, the teams switch sides of the net. Adjustments may be made to balance the teams at the end of a game by the members of the Leadership Group playing that day, or their designee. A member of the Leadership Group, or their designee, will judge any disputes during the games and that ruling is final.

Serving and Scoring

For the first game, the deep-water team serves first. In subsequent games, the losing team serves first.

Team players rotate positions when their team wins the service.

A member of the Leadership Group will make certain that the scoreboard is changed accurately.

The ball may be hit or thrown over the net when served(see below)

On the serve, once the ball is hit or thrown by the server the ball must pass over the net, otherwise it is considered a fault and the ball goes to the opposing team.. Servers are to loft the ball over the net with an arc avoiding a spiked or line drive serve. The receiving side can declare a serve as “low” needing more arc. The serving side is allowed another opportunity to serve. This call must be made by the receiving team before the ball is kept in play by the receiving team.

The serving team is awarded one point if the receiving team fails to return the ball into the servers team Court during play. If the serving team scores 5 points in a row, the serve passes to the opposing team (i.e., ‘mercy’) unless the serving team has a lower score than the receiving team, in which case the serving team continues to serve until they get one point more than the receiving team. A Team can only score a point when their Team is serving.

The receiving team takes over the serve if the serving team fails to return the ball into the receiving team’s Court during play.

When one team reaches 15 points and is ahead by 2 points the game ends and the teams switch sides

The players nearest to the scoreboard on each team will change the scoreboard for their side.

Once the ball is served the scoreboard is the official score.

Play

The ball is served according to “Serving and Scoring” above

There is no limit to the number of times a single player can touch the ball before it is returned to the opposing side but two different team players must touch the ball independently before it is returned to the opposing side. **Sharing the ball among team members helps everyone have fun. We are co-ed so sharing the ball between men and women players makes it more fun.**

If two players touch the ball simultaneously, it is considered one touch and requires another touch by another player before being returned to the opposing team.

A player cannot reach under, over or through the net to touch the ball on a return.

If the ball hits the pool edge or Court lane markers and bounces back into the receiving team’s playing area or can be played as it is bouncing, the ball is still in play; The bounce off the wall or the lane line is not considered a hit so two players must still touch the ball before it is returned to the opposing team. If the full width of the pool is in play, the pool edge rule is applicable on the stair entry section of the pool. **The receiving team will determine if a ball is in or out of play.**

The ball is out of play and goes to the opposing team if any of the following occur with the ball:

- hits the water or is ‘caught’ before being returned or is trapped against the net by a players hand. Players should endeavor to keep their hands above the water to avoid calls for the ball hitting the water.
- hits a chair, net pole, or pool handrail
- hits the pool deck and bounces out of the Court (if the ball bounces along the side of the pool and returns to the Court it is still in play)
- is hit outside the Court or hits the lane marker and continues out of the Court.

New Players

Interested new players will be welcomed to play on one regularly scheduled day of WVB to determine their interest in registering as a WVB player and paying their annual fee. This allows new players the opportunity to:

- meet other players
- experience the procedures of setting up and dismantling the court
- observe other player styles and skills
- practice serving the ball

Team Formation, Court Design, Setup, and Dismantling

It is the intention of HEB WVB Club that all players are proficient and confident in the operational procedures of HEB WVB. To accomplish this goal, Players for each day are expected to show up 15 minutes early to help in preparing the court for play and help in dismantling the Court when finished, leaving the pool in a condition expected by HEBGC and its residents.