PLAYER

HANDBOOK

2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0. INTRODUCTION
1.1. Tournaments Calendar

1.2. Contract Year

2.0. NFA's RESPONSIBILITIES
2.1. Prize Money Disbursement

3.0. ORGANIZATIONAL REGULATIONS
3.1. Tournament Format

3.2. NFA Tournament
3.2.1. Tournament Format
3.2.2. Tournament Divisions

3.3. Official's Authority
3.3.1. Tournament Director
3.3.2. Head Official
3.3.3. Officials

3.4. Player Registration Procedures
3.4.1. Registration Deadline
3.4.2. Entry Fees

3.5. Coaches and Event Organizer
3.5.1. Player or Event Organizer as Coach
3.5.2. Coaches Restriction
3.5.3. Event Organizer

4.0. COMPETITION RULES
4.1. General Competition Rules

4.2. Time When Play is Dead/Player Time-Outs
4.2.1. Player Request
4.2.2. Regular Time-Out
4.2.3. Injury / Medical Time-Out
4.2.4. Technical Time-Out

4.3. Player Sideline Areas

4.4. Food

4.5. Withdrawals/Partner Changes/Defaults
4.5.1. Withdrawal from All Divisions in the Tournament
4.5.2. Partner Changes

4.6. Player Eligibility
4.6.1.NFA Players
4.6.2. Foreign Players
4.6.3. Player Ranking

4.7. Ranking and Seeding
4.7.1. Main Draw Tournament Entry

4.8. Weather

4.9. Discontinued Tournament
4.9.1.Completed Match – Pending and Final
4.9.2.Prize Money Distribution
4.9.3.Tournament Title

4.10. Incomplete Tournament Play
4.10.1.When Play Stops
4.10.2.Accelerated Tournament Policy

4.11. Television

5.0. PLAYER'S CONDUCT, RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITES
5.1. Travel Expenses

5.2. Player Performance
5.2.1. Appearance
5.2.2. Health
5.2.3. Knowledge of the Rules
5.2.4. Players Tent
5.2.5. Player Apparel

5.3. Team Default ("No-Show")

5.4. Team Default Once Competition Commences

5.5. Conduct/Fines
5.5.1. Drug Control and Testing
5.5.2. Gambling and other Unsportsmanlike Conduct
5.5.3. Unlawful Harassment

5.6. Disciplinary Action Continued – Fines, Penalties, Suspension, Expulsion
5.6.1. Right to Discipline
5.6.2. Player's Opportunity to Address Disciplinary Action and/or Air Grievances
5.6.3. Payment of Fines - Payment Deadline

6.0. PERIODIC AND DISCRETIONARY HANDBOOK UPDATES

7.0. NFA CONTACTS

8.0. CONCLUSION

APPENDIX A - Coaching Regulations
APPENDIX B - Player Conduct and Disciplinary Regulations

1.0. INTRODUCTION

The NFA was established in 2017 and is comprised of the best men's and women's Footvolley players in the U.S. and receiving the best players in the world on our events (tournaments, exhibition games, clinics, and etc). The NFA now stands alone as the premiere Footvolley tour in the country and has a cooperative relationship with the Federation International of Footvolley (FIFV), Footvolley World League and (European Footvolley League (EFVL). The NFA's main goal is to promote the sport of Footvolley and deliver its fans an unforgettable experience comprising of the world's best athletes.

1.1. 2026 NFA Tour Calendar

Apr, 25th	Austin, TX
Jun, 6th	Dania Beach, FL
Aug, 29th	San Diego, CA

1.2. Contract Year

The contract year shall be defined as a twelve (12) month period commencing on each first day of January, or any portion thereof in the event a player signs the player agreement after January 1st in the applicable contract year.

2.0. NFA's RESPONSIBILITIES

The NFA coordinates the entire production of the Footvolley season including providing for the following: venues, prize money, fees, licensing, NFA personnel, meals, marketing, equipment, medical staff, security, television, sand, site inspection, scoreboard, entertainment, and many others aspects involved with running the Tour.

2.1. Prize Money Disbursement

a. Each event has separate P&L, thus the NFA tour will have a minimum standard cash award that will be informed in the NFA website (www.footvolleyUSA.com) before the event, but each event organizer has freedom to increase the minimum prize money if they wish. Prize money will be informed once the registration of each event closes, prior to the start of the first game.

b. Prize money will be distributed via direct deposit transactions. Transactions will be made, in full, no later than 5 days after the event.

c. Prize money won by professionals will be paid to the player directly or at the player's written direction, to an authorized agent, company or corporation the player may delegate, unless in conflict with any law or court order.

d. Players are deemed independent contractors, for income tax purposes. All players, and especially first year players who are unfamiliar with independent contractor status, are encouraged to make estimated tax payments throughout the year to avoid having to make a very large tax payment with potential penalties and interest in April of the following year.

e. Paperwork for payments consist of a W9, direct deposit form, and compliance letter (if applicable). All forms necessary should be turned in to the NFA if one of the following situations applies:

f. First time to ever qualify for an NFA main draw

g. If moved in the past year, only submit a new W9. If athlete has changed bank account information in the past year, only submit a new direct deposit form.

h. If payment paperwork is not received within 30 days after the last NFA event of the calendar year, prize money will expire, and the athlete will not be eligible to receive that year's winnings.

All relevant paperwork and questions should be directed to:
info@footvolleyusa.com

3.0. ORGANIZATIONAL REGULATIONS

3.1. Tournament Format

The format for each tournament is subject to change at the NFA's discretion, but the following illustrates the expected format for each tournament.

3.2. Main Draw Tournament

a. Unless specified otherwise, tournament play will be modified double elimination format (i.e. last 4 remaining teams after the double elimination schedule will play a semi-final and final match). Referred to as Olympic Crossover format.

b. In general, all matches will be one set to 18 points, with win by 2 points rally if tied 17x17. The first team to reach 2 points difference wins the match, unless specified by the head of the tournament before the match. Further clarification on details can be referenced in the NFA Rulebook. In

the case of the 3 sets-match (Final matches), the deciding 3rd set is played to 15 points, with win by 2 points rally if tied 14x14. The first team to reach 2 points difference wins the match, unless specified by the head of the tournament before the match.This format may be altered at any time, including after the commencement of the event, for television, inclement weather or other reasons of force majeure.

c. NFA Management reserves the right to change formats and prize money at any time prior to an event, or during an event due to weather of other reasons of force majeure. NFA will use reasonable efforts to inform players of any changes, but it is a player's responsibility to regularly check the bracket board at the tournament site, speak to NFA officers, and read his or her email for notices of any changes, especially during times when play may be affected by weather.

3.2.1 Tournament Format

Unless otherwise specified, group stage or single or double elimination format will be used in the NFA Tournaments. Also, formats above will be used to determine the number of teams who will play the Main Draw or the Qualification Tournament (if applicable). No later than the completion for the registration for the applicable tournament, NFA shall post how many teams from the Qualification Tournament shall receive entry into the Main Draw.

a. If the NFA Tournament receives more registrations than available spaces in the Main Draw, it may occur a Qualification Tournament. Teams that are not placed in the Main Draw will be placed on a Qualification Tournament or Reserve List and contacted if a space becomes available. A team that is contacted on the Reserve List must respond promptly that they will participate in tournament, in order to secure its spot.

b. NFA Management reserves the right to change formats at any time prior to the Qualification Tournament.

c. NFA Management reserves the right to award two (2) Qualifier Wild Cards per gender for an event (if applicable). Unless there are special circumstances, NFA will keep the Wild Card number to two per event. Whenever possible, Wild Cards will be decided as far in advance as possible, but NFA reserves the right to grant a Wild Card less than a week prior to an event (if applicable).

3.2.2. NFA Divisions

a. **PROFESSIONAL / OPEN DIVISION 1** – best players in the USA and the best professional players in the world.

- No set age limit for any athletes, but a minimum of 15 years old.
- Minimum of 5 years of footvolley tournament experience or according to an NFA approval.
- Proof of affiliation to any national association with approved regular season.
- Be internationally recognized as a top athlete
- Be a top ranked player internationally or in the country of origin or within the regional US rankings

b. **OPEN DIVISION 2 (Intermediate level) and 3 (Beginners level)** - The NFA tournaments are OPEN for all amateur athletes and teams from all around the world.

Guideline for "Open" Division 2 (Intermediate) and 3 (Beginners):
Please note that NFA's main goal for the "Open" division 2 and 3 is to help the development of players who have zero or very minimum experience with Footvolley, especially in tournaments.

Please note that players are NOT allowed to play in the "Open" Division 2 or 3 if they have accomplished any of the following:

- Ranked Top 25 of the NFA Ranking of the Pro or OPEN Division 1 in the previous year.
- Ranked Top 25 of the NFA Ranking of the Pro or OPEN Division 1 in the current year.
- Made it to a semi-final game of Pro or OPEN Division 1 in the previous year.
- Made it to a semi-final game of Pro or OPEN Division 1 in the current year.

Athletes who have played as a professional in their country will not be allowed to play in Open Division 2 and 3.

NFA also encourages players 45 years of age (completed until the day of the event and your participation) or over to participate in the "Open" division.

Note: In case such special circumstance occurs, it will be of the sole discretion of the board of directors to approve the athlete's participation in such tournament.

c. **BEGINNERS** - players who have zero or very minimum experience with Footvolley, especially in tournaments.

d. **MASTER** - Players at least 45 years of age completed until the day of the event and your participation.

e. **WOMEN (Doubles)** - Registration per team / doubles.

f. **QUEEN OF THE SAND (Individual)** - Registration per player. The format of "Queen of the Sand" consists in all girls are able to participate. With this format, all girls will play individually with different partners, in other words, the girls who don't have a partner can participate and have fun, with a chance to end up finding a partner for future tournaments of Women's Division.

3.3. Official's Authority

3.3.1. Tournament Director

The Tournament Director has absolute authority over players, the head official, game officials and spectators, on and off the court at a tournament where the maintenance of order is concerned and may impose disciplinary measures as needed. This includes imposing fines on players and officials.

3.3.2. Head Official

The head official is responsible for assigning all game officials at an NFA tournament. In addition, the Head Official will address and resolve disputes that occur during matches related to the NFA rules of play.

3.3.3. Officials

The officials have total authority on the court from the beginning of the warm-up to the completion of the match.

3.4. Player Registration Procedures

The ONLY valid method of entry / registration for NFA events is online at www.footvolleyusa.com. Phone, whatsapp and text messages entries will NOT be accepted.

The players should fill out the registration form on the website before making a payment. Please be on time with your registration payment. Late payments will NOT be accepted. The spots are limited. Hurry up as spots are filled on a first-come basis. After the registration deadline no registration will be allowed.

It's not allowed to pay partial amount. Please pay full amount for your team. Otherwise your team registration is not complete.

You can register yourself just to pick / reserve your spot but you have to inform your partner's name by the registration deadline.

Any changes to your registration is allowed up to Wednesday of the week preceding the tournament at 11:59pm (EST). After that no more changes will be allowed.

No refunds given if a team fails to show-up for the tournament.
There could be a MUST FILL Weather Waiver in case of unplayable conditions.

Sign-up will be confirmed after receiving payment confirmation and waiver accepted (required).

3.4.1 Registration Deadline

a. All teams will need to register by Monday at 11:59PM of the week preceding the event, in other words, approximately five (5) days before the start of the event. All entries and fees are due by these registration deadlines. Any changes to these deadlines will be sent via email, whatsapp or text messages to players and/or posted online. ENTRIES BY PHONE, whatsapp and text messages WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. It is the player's responsibility to regularly check the website and his or her own email to check for changes in registration deadline. NFA's posting of the registration change on the NFA WEBSITE and sending of an email will be deemed valid notice of any change.

   NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT A LATE REGISTRATION. NFA may accept late registration until the FINAL CONFIRMED LIST is released, and NFA will charge team an additional $60 for late registration. This charge is for costs and inconveniences associated with changing the tournament and, mainly, to discourage players from late registration. Lower seeded teams need to know as early as possible if they are in the main draw in order to make the requisite and often costly travel arrangements.

b. If there is any disagreement about receipt of entry forms, a final decision will be made by the NFA based on physical evidence that registration and the accompanying fee were received prior to the registration deadline (e.g.

e-mail confirmations, web log showing a completed or attempted registration).

c. An INITIAL ENTRY LIST of teams registered for the applicable event will be published on the NFA WEBSITE within forty-eight hours after the registration deadline.

d. Teams will only be contacted via email to confirm their registration. It is the player's responsibility to check the NFA WEBSITE to verify that such player's team is listed accurately; if not listed or if listed incorrectly, it is the player's responsibility to contact NFA within twenty-four hours after the release of the INITIAL ENTRY LIST with proof of registration. If a player fails to contact the NFA within twenty-four hours after the release of the INITIAL ENTRY LIST with proof of registration, the NFA reserves the right to exclude that player and his or her team from the tournament.

e. A FINAL CONFIRMED TEAMS LIST for ALL DIVISIONS and all event information will be posted on the NFA WEBSITE by the THURSDAY prior to the event. In addition, any kind of communication (e-mail, whatsapp or text message) with event information and confirmed entries might be sent to all participating teams.

3.4.2. Entry Fees

All teams must submit an entry fee when registering. This year, the maximum entry fee is $160,00 (plus payment processing fees) per team, unless otherwise specified.

Entry fees are due upon registration and can be paid by Visa / MASTERCARD / AMEX / DISCOVER. Entries without payment will NOT be accepted. Late registration fee is $60 per team and must be paid at the time of the late registration.

3.5. Coaches & Event Organizer

3.5.1. Player or Event Organizer as Coach

A tournament player or event organizer may not coach another tournament player during play. Specifically, a tournament player entered into the Main Draw or the Qualifier preceding the main draw shall not be eligible to coach another tournament player during the tournament.

3.5.2. Coaches Restriction

a. All coaches are under the direct authority of the Tournament Director during the tournament.

b. All coaches must register in the score sheet with the Tournament Director approval to be awarded coaching privileges.

c. All coaches shall remain outside the game area unless your team is playing or asked in for any purposes or inside the limits of the game area in the player's box (time-out area) ONLY during the matches your team has been playing.

d. Additional Coaching Responsibilities are outlined in Appendix A

3.5.3 Event organizer

a. If an event organizer chooses to play, he/she will have the same responsibilities as any other player.

b. NFA Head Official or Tournament Director has full rights to interfere in the event/game of the event organizer if any bias activities are observed, preserving a fair and unbiases tournament.

4.0 COMPETITION RULES

4.1. General Competition Rules

Tournaments shall be conducted according to the rules set forth in the most recent version of NFA Rulebook (located in NFA WEBSITE). In the event of a conflict between the NFA Rulebook and the codes set forth in the NFA Player Handbook, the competition rules set forth in the NFA Rulebook shall prevail.

4.2. Time When Play is Dead/Player Time-Outs

4.2.1. Player Request

A player may ask for a time-out only if the ball is "out of play", or there is a "dead ball" (after the whistle stops play, and before the 5 second service whistle.)

4.2.2. Regular Time-Out

Each team is permitted one time-out per game. The referee will indicate a regular time-out by signaling "time-out" and pointing to the team requesting the time-out, at that point you will be given 15 seconds to get to your player box, 30 seconds in the player box, then finally another 15 seconds to exit the player box for the total "60 second time-out". The

team charged with the time-out may end it prior to the expiration of the full 60 seconds. Both teams will resume play immediately

If final matches are agreed to a best of three (3) set format, then one (1) time-out per set will be given to each team.

All of the above time-outs may be modified/reduced/increased to accommodate live television or other time constraints.

4.2.3. Injury / Medical Time-Out

Each team is permitted only one (1) injury / medical time-out per game in the total of 5 minutes. In the case of three (3) sets-match format, only one (1) time-out will be given to each team.

If a player is injured, play continues until there is a stoppage. The referee will then determine the nature of the injury. Time-out for an injury shall not exceed 5 minutes. If a player call for an injury / medical time-out or elects not to continue playing on the court, the clock will immediately begin. A later request for the doctor will not reset the clock. At the conclusion of the five-minute time out, the referee will whistle and request that the player continue. At this time, the player ONLY shall make final judgment whether he/she is fit to play.

If a player is unable to return to the playing area at the conclusion of the timeout, his/her team will forfeit the match. If the team does have a time-out remaining, they can in fact take a time-out immediately after a medical time-out if needed.

The medical professional, called to injury / medical time-out, has authority to end an injury / medical time-out after their full assessment once courtside. If provider does not see that a valid medical timeout is needed, they have authority to conclude the medical timeout immediately.

4.2.4. Technical Time-Out

Technical Time-out may be applied automatically, if necessary, authorized by the referee during the set when the sum of the points scored by teams equals 18 points.

4.3. Player Sideline Areas

Player sideline areas will be available with one player box on each side of the court, totaling 2 boxes per court.

4.4. Food

The NFA may provide food for all TOURNAMENT athletes required to play competition that day. The NFA will have food (LIGHT SNACKS) available for a certain time each day of competition. Players will be provided food only during this time. The NFA will not provide food for family members or friends. Players who are out of the tournament may not consume the food provided on site unless they have competed or are scheduled to compete that day.

The NFA is not responsible for specific nutritional needs. It is the responsibility of each individual to take special care to ensure that his or her unique nutritional needs are met.

Players taking food, water or other items out of the secured area or the courts to give to family members, friends or other third parties will be fined a minimum $50.00 per occurrence.

Players taking food, water or other provided beverages or items off the site will be fined a minimum $50.00 per occurrence.

4.5. Withdrawals / Partner Changes / Defaults

4.5.1. Withdrawal from ALL DIVISIONS in the TOURNAMENT

a. Withdrawals of teams from the Tournament after the registration deadlines will not be allowed.

b. In the case of a withdrawal by a team entered in the Tournament for any reason other than a verified injury or approved extenuating circumstance, the NFA reserves the right to evaluate if there should be a penalty / sanction applied and reserves the right to keep the non-refundable entry fee, which is to be paid before each event DEADLINE. The fine for non-excused Tournament withdrawals shall be a 50% of the registration amount paid (not including the non-refundable entry fee). Such fines may be applicable in addition to any other sanctions that may be applicable hereunder (e.g., a player participating in a conflicting event in lieu of an NFA event).

c. A TOURNAMENT team that withdraws prior to the start of a tournament will not earn a finish or points in that event and will be subject to provisions of Section 4.5.1.a-b.

4.5.2. Partner Changes

a. As a general rule, players may not change partners after the entry deadline. If a team is unable to compete together in the tournament after the

deadline, such team shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the event and the provisions of Section 4.5.1 above shall apply.

b. Notwithstanding (a) above, in the case of injury or an approved extenuating circumstances, participants may request a partner change provided the below guidelines are followed. NFA reserves the right to deny any change.

c. Any changes to the team registration is allowed up to Wednesday of the week preceding the tournament at 11:59pm (EST). After that no more changes will be allowed.

Example: A team signs up and is initially in the Tournament--

- If an injury occurs before the TOURNAMENT Bracket is released, the healthy player can bring in a substitute that is not currently registered up to Wednesday of the week preceding the event at 11:59pm. If replacement player's points are not enough to keep their team's initial Draw position, then they will be moved up or down accordingly.

- If they are unable to make the TOURNAMENT because of late notice then they will effectively be withdrawn from the event and an eligible team will move up to replace if there is a STANDBY LIST.

- However, the NFA reserves the right to grant a Wild Card to a standby team. Wild Card would be granted as justification that the presence of this team enhances the overall event and welfare of the NFA. Wild Card decision will be a 3-person vote: 2 NFA Official members of the board (NFA Officers) will receive a vote & Tournament Director will be tie-breaking vote if needed.

- If an injury occurs during the tournament, and injured players is unable to continue. Then the team will finish as per last result in the tournament.

*Any player/s found to be in violation of the following rules shall be automatically subject to loss of points and/or possible suspensions.

4.6. Player Eligibility

NFA Tournaments are OPEN for all athletes and teams from all around the world.

4.6.1. NFA Player

A NFA player will be deemed eligible to play in the NFA Tournaments and participate in the NFA National Ranking if he or she is a U.S. citizen or has a valid Green Card

(permanent resident status) or US temporary resident status (with temporary work visa) or be in the latter stages of the citizenship / Green Card process and provides documentation to support it. The NFA reserves the right to grant early participation eligibility. Also, the NFA players will participate in the NFA Overall Ranking

Otherwise, the players are considered foreign players and will participate ONLY in the NFA Overall Ranking with all NFA players.

All players and teams who wish to participate in the NFA Tournament must first sign up within the entry deadline and accept the NFA Official Waiver. Any team in the Tournament who refuses to sign up or accept the NFA Official Waiver or fails to provide any required documentation will be disqualified from the Tournament.

4.6.2. Foreign Players

The foreign players will participate ONLY in the NFA Overall Ranking.

A foreign player who is a registered member of any National Federation other than USA or granted approval by NFA management wishes to participate, they must sign up accordingly. Additionally, any foreign player granted permission to play in an NFA event must sign the same NFA Agreement and accept the NFA Official Waiver as every other NFA player, as stated in section 4.6 above.

4.6.3. Player Ranking

The following methodology will be used to determine “Top or MVP Player” or “Top Team”: a specific NFA National Ranking for eligible players such as US citizen, permanent (green card) or temporary (US work visa) resident in the US as stated in section 4.6.1. and NFA Overall Ranking for all NFA players and foreign athletes who participate in the tournament as stated in section 4.6.2.

4.7. Ranking and Seeding

4.7.1 Main Draw Tournament Entry

a. Entry into a Main Draw Tournament will be determined by the combined point total (rank) of the two players on a team.

b. Policy states that all athlete's finishes amongst all NFA tournaments within eligible window will be used for entry and seeding. The eligible window is defined within 365 days of entry/seeding of the current year.

c. The points awarded at NFA Tournaments are as follows (per player) for the NFA National Ranking and NFA Overall Ranking:

d. NFA reserves the right to modify the seedings at its discretion.

NFA Rankings (All Divisions)	
Final Standing	**Points**
1st Place	750
2nd Place	660
3rd Place	540
4th Place	420
5th Place	360
6th Place	300
7th Place	270
8th Place	240
9th Place	210
10th Place	180
11th Place	150
12th Place	120
13th Place	90
14th Place	75
15th Place	60
16th Place	45
17th Place	30
18th Place	29
19th Place	28
20th Place	27
21st Place	26
22nd Place	25
23rd Place	24
24th Place	23
25th Place	22
26th Place	21
27th Place	20
28th Place	19
29th Place	18
30th Place	17
31st Place	16
32nd Place	15

4.8. Weather

In the event that a portion of competition at a scheduled tournament is canceled due to weather conditions, an act of God, fire, flood, war, public disaster, strikes or labor

difficulties, governmental enactment, regulation or order, or any other cause beyond the control of the NFA, NFA reserves the right to cancel or modify the format of the tournament.

The decision to cancel the tournament is solely within the discretion of the NFA. NFA reserves the right to attempt to play the tournament for two consecutive days up to and including the first Tuesday following the scheduled tournament if the site is available.

NFA reserves the right to cancel any event for any reason whatsoever and at any time.

4.9. Discontinued Tournament

4.9.1. Completed Match – Pending and Final

a. Play will be suspended when inclement weather warrants. The Tournament Director will deliver the decision, and he/she will determine if and when play is to continue. When play again commences after play has previously been suspended, all matches will continue at that point at which they were discontinued.

b. The above tentatively completed matches will be deemed final if the Tournament Director cannot reschedule such matches at a later reasonable time.

4.9.2. Prize Money Distribution

Teams will be awarded prize money according to their respective finish after the last game, which they have played.

Prize money awarded in a discontinued tournament and/or shorten tournament will be prorated based on the number of rounds played. If all teams are unable to complete a round, they will equally divide the prize money and points applicable to that round. For example, if the tournament is cancelled before the final four commences, all four teams will equally divide the money and points

4.9.3. Tournament Title

No team may claim title to any tournament that is not completed.

4.10. Incomplete Tournament Play

The Tournament Director, with consultation of management, will determine whether or not it is safe to continue tournament play because of questionable weather conditions.

4.10.1. When Play Stops

When the Tournament Director stops play, both officials shall immediately:

a. Mark down the score
b. Note which team was serving
c. Note the person who was serving
d. Note the side of each team
e. Note time of end of play

Upon discontinuation of play, a break will automatically take place. It is the players' responsibility to be available at any time to resume play. After a break of more than 10 minutes, players will be granted a 5-minute warm up. However, if all 4 players are in agreement, play can resume immediately or with a shortened warm up. After a break of more than one hour, a full warm up of 10 minutes duration is permitted. An exception will be if the Tournament Director properly informs players of the need for accelerated warm up requirement. In this instance, the break cannot be less than 5 minutes.

4.10.2. Accelerated Tournament Policy

The Tournament Director will have the authority to establish an accelerated tournament policy, where the player warm-ups and games may be shortened in an effort to finish the tournament. A PA announcement concerning such changes must be made by the Tournament Director and reiterated by the court referee at the start of warm up.

4.11. Television

a. For those events produced for television, NFA players will comply with all apparel and signage guidelines enforced by either the network or non-network broadcast companies. Notification of guidelines will be made to all players as far in advance as is practical.

a. Should weather delay the tournament play throughout the majority of the event scheduled, and a live television broadcast is scheduled, the top two seeds left in the tournament will be required to play the final match for the television broadcast, weather permitting. Any player that refuses to comply with this stipulation will be subject to severe fines and/or suspension and/or expulsion.

b. If a team in the finals is unable to compete, the next highest seeded team will be required to participate in an exhibition match against the remaining finals team.

5.0. PLAYER'S CONDUCT, RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITES

Participants must behave respectfully towards the referees, other officials, the opponents, teammates, and spectators.

Participants must accept referees' decisions with sportsmanlike conduct, without disputing them. In case of doubt, clarification may be requested by team captain (and / or both players).

5.1. Travel Expenses

a. Players shall be responsible for all their own travel expenses, including hotel, air, and per diem. Players are encouraged to coordinate travel with other players in order to cut down on costs.

b. The NFA shall not be required to make any contributions toward expenses of players competing in an NFA tournament.

5.2. Player Performance

5.2.1. Appearance

All NFA players shall at all times conduct themselves with due regard to social conventions and decency at and away from NFA Events, and will not commit any unlawful act or become involved in any situation or occurrence which degrades them in society, or which brings them into public disrepute, contempt, scandal or ridicule or which shocks, insults or offends the community or reflects unfavorably upon the NFA. Players who violate this clause shall be subjected to suspension, fines and/or expulsion from the NFA.

5.2.2. Health

a. Players agree to report to NFA Events in good health and physical condition, and prepared to play.

5.2.3. Knowledge of the Rules

Each player shall maintain a comprehensive knowledge of the NFA rules (see NFA Rulebook on website). Players shall also maintain knowledge of the player's standards and policies as outlined in this Player Handbook and as discussed at tournament meetings (if applicable).

5.2.4. Players Tent

The player tent is for athletes, NFA approved medical staff, coaches, and NFA staff only. No family members, friends, personal attendants, personal medical staff or anyone else is allowed in the player tent. Food and beverages are for players, NFA approved medical staff, and coaches only. Players removing food or beverages for parties other than players are subject to suspensions or fines.

5.2.5. Player Apparel

Players shall comply with the apparel requirements set forth below.
All playing partners participating in the main draw are required to wear the same uniform provided by the event organizer.In such circumstances that the uniforms are not provided by the event organizer, all players should use the same color shorts and shirts for the men and the same color suits for the women.The apparel can be different in design and can be from any manufacturer but must be the same color such that it is clear the players are a team. In the case of patterned swimwear, all colors in the pattern must match your partner. If you have any questions, please contact NFA Management.

Any team who fails to comply with NFA apparel requirements will be subject to a suspension or fine of 50% of the registration amount per infraction, with increasing each subsequent occurrence increasing by double. Fines will be able to be automatically deducted from the player's prize money. Failed Teams will be forced to forfeit their match for apparel violations. Referees will monitor uniform compliance.

5.3. Team Default (“No-Show”)

A team is considered to have ‘defaulted’ on their commitment to play if they were entered in the Tournament and if one or both players do not arrive in time for any match. Match times displayed on the Tournament bracket are guaranteed earliest start times. If your court is delayed or does not have a start time, your match WILL START 10 minutes after the previous match ends. If one or both players are not present at the start of the match there will be a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY and will result in an immediate forfeit. It is the player’s responsibility to confirm their final seeding and start time. NFA reserves the right to change start times in its discretion. Accordingly, players should arrive at the event at least thirty minutes prior to the scheduled start of competition each day. In the event of a “No Show” or “Forfeit”, the player(s) shall be subject to the following:

a. The defaulting team’s players may be sanctioned with a Default Fine of 50% of the registration amount each. If one of the defaulting team’s players is ready to compete at the scheduled time, then the fine for that player may be waived. The other player who was not ready to compete at the scheduled time will be subject to suspension or may be fined.

Suspension will be reviewed and decided by the Disciplinary Committee when needed.

b. This fine must be paid prior to the registration deadline for the next event that the player(s) wishes to enter. If the fine payment is not received by the registration deadline for that event, the entry will not be accepted.

c. If a player(s) defaults for a second time, the player(s) will be sanctioned with an increased Default Fine or Suspension by double, and, in NFA's discretion, may be suspended from playing for one or more subsequent events.

d. Teams who default will NOT receive prize money, a finish standing, or ranking points for the event. Unless prior approval by the NFA has been granted, failure to show after entering will be treated as a missed event, and as such, the fines, penalties and suspensions will be applied accordingly.

5.4. Team Default Once Competition Commences

a. Once a tournament commences, any player who is scheduled to compete but fails to return to the competition will not receive any finish standing, ranking points or prize money for the tournament, unless excused by the NFA Tournament Director. Players who leave the event due to medical reasons must get approval from the NFA Tournament Director and / or NFA medical personnel at the event (if applicable).

b. If a team defaults a match during competition, such team may be disqualified from the tournament, subject to suspension and shall forfeit all prize money earned at said event. In addition, such team faces possible fine.

c. A team defaults a match during competition or a set in the finals may continue participating in the tournament or match depending on the competition format.

5.5. Conduct/Fines

A player is subject to a penalty or suspension at the NFA's discretion for committing the following violations:

- Players vibrate or screaming towards the opponents or try intimidating or frightening the opponents in the court during the game or any play.

- Players shall not persistently address the officials about decisions during play.
- Players shall not make derogatory remarks about or to an official, either on or off the court.
- Players shall not make personal or derogatory remarks about or to opponents or spectators.
- Players shall not taunt an opponent on or off the court of play during a match.
- Players shall not use profanity.
- Players shall not kick or hit the ball out of playing area during play, during a side change or after the game.
- Players shall not intentionally damage tournament equipment, hang on the net, kick banners or throw any objects.
- Players shall not physically assault or intimidate officials, opponents, NFA staff or spectators.
- Players shall not act in a manner that intentionally slows the game.
- Physical assault of any referee, tournament official or any other tournament participant by any player, shall result in automatic disqualification, a fine and immediate disqualification from participation in any future sanctioned tournaments of the NFA for a period determined by the NFA in its sole discretion. Depending on the nature of the assault, a player may be disqualified for life.
- Any other actions that are deemed by the referee to greatly fall below the level of positive and professional conduct required of players, or actions that offend the traditional norms of the NFA community or the community in which the Event is being held.

In addition to the automatic penalty or suspension, NFA shall have the discretion to impose additional fines and/or expulsion for any and all of the behaviors set forth in this NFA Handbook and/or NFA Rulebook.

5.5.1. Drug Control and Testing

a. The NFA does not support the use of banned or restricted substances or methods for the purposes of performance enhancement. Players shall not use any illegal drugs during competition or while representing the NFA. To see the list of banned and restricted substances, please consult the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) Guide to Prohibited Classes of Substances and Prohibited Methods of Doping available online at the USADA website. Additional USADA materials will be handed out separately to all players. Medically necessary medicines can be petitioned to NFA management if a player finds them to be in conflict with this list.

b. All athletes participating in NFA Events may be subject to drug testing by the USADA at NFA Events on a random basis.

c. Penalties shall be imposed in the discretion of NFA for positive tests for prohibited substances and/or prohibited methods of doping. In addition, for the use, condoning the use, or counseling the use of banned substances and/or banned methods of doping:

(1) First violation – Up to a one (1) year suspension from all NFA activities.

(2) Second violation – Up to a three (3) year suspension from all NFA activities.

(3) Third violation – Lifetime suspension from all NFA activities.

d. NFA restrictions, sanctions and fines will be applied to those players found in violation while competing internationally. The NFA reserves the right to apply its own fines and suspensions for violations at such international events as determined by the above rules.

5.5.2. Gambling and other Unsportsmanlike Conduct

a. All participants (players, coaches, officials, and management) in tournaments and meetings under the authority of NFA have a duty to conduct themselves in a reasonable and acceptable manner. They must avoid all unsportsmanlike conduct, acts or practices that are, in the opinion of NFA, detrimental to the sport.

b. A player found to be in violation with any of the following rules shall be automatically fined $100.00 and shall also be subject to suspension and possible permanent expulsion from the NFA:

(1) A player shall not bet money or anything else of value on a formal Footvolley competition in which the player is a competitor.

(2) A player shall not offer or give a bribe, gift, payment, reward or anything of value to any other player with the intention of influencing the player efforts in a competition; nor shall a player solicit, agree to accept a bribe, gift, payment, reward or anything of value offered or given with the intention of influencing the player's efforts in competition.

(3) A player must report promptly to the NFA any known or suspected violations by anyone of the rules enumerated in subsections (1) and (2) above.

(4) Players shall not gamble in any manner related to NFA Tournaments.

(5) A player may not use any NFA mailing list for personal or business-related matters. The list is for competition exclusively.

5.5.3. Unlawful Harassment

NFA shall take all reasonable steps to prevent discrimination and harassment from occurring. In addition to prohibiting other forms of unlawful discrimination, NFA maintains a strict policy prohibiting sexual harassment and harassment because of gender, genetic characteristics or information, race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, physical or mental disability, cancer-related medical condition, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation and age, or any other basis protected by applicable law. All such harassment is prohibited. NFA's anti-harassment policy applies to all NFA employees, players and independent contractors involved in the operations of NFA and prohibits harassment by any employee of NFA including independent contractors.

5.6. Disciplinary Action Continued – Fines, Penalties, Suspension, Expulsion

Incorrect conduct by a team member towards officials, opponents, teammates or spectators is classified in three categories according to the seriousness of the offence.

a. **Rude conduct:** acting contrary to good manners or moral principles,

b. **Offensive conduct:** defamatory or insulting words or gestures including any action expressing contempt.

c. **Aggression:** actual physical attack or aggressive or threatening behavior.

According to the judgment of the referee and depending on the seriousness of the offence, the sanctions to be applied and recorded on the score sheet are: Verbal Warning, Formal Warning, Penalty, Expulsion or Disqualification.

d. **Warning 1:** Verbal Warning. No sanction, no consequences

e. **Warning 2:** Formal Warning by use of a YELLOW CARD. This is not in itself a sanction but a symbol that the team member (and by extension the team) has reached the sanctioning level for the match. It is recorded in the score sheet but has no immediate consequences.

f. **Warning 3: Penalty by use a RED CARD**. For rude conduct or a single repetition of rude conduct in the same set by the same player. The team is sanctioned with a point and serve to the opponents. For the next rude conduct by a player in the same set is

sanctioned by expulsion. Rude conduct sanctions may, however, be given to the same player in subsequent sets.

g. **Expulsion by use a YELLOW and RED CARD JOINTLY**. The first offensive conduct is sanctioned by expulsion. The player who is sanctioned with expulsion must leave the playing area and his/her team is declared incomplete for the set.

h. **Disqualification by use a YELLOW and RED CARD SEPARATELY**. The first physical offence or implied or threatened aggression is sanctioned by disqualification. The player must leave the playing area and his/her team is declared incomplete for the match.

5.6.1. Right to Discipline

NFA has the right to impose fines, penalties, suspensions, expulsions and any other disciplinary action it deems necessary or appropriate in its sole discretion, and deduct the amount thereof, if any, from any monies due or that will become due to player. NFA agrees to meaningfully discuss in advance any disciplinary action that involves fines or penalties over $100, suspension, and/or expulsion.

5.6.2 Player's Opportunity to Address Disciplinary Action and/or Air Grievances

If a player believes he/she has been unfairly disciplined or has a general grievance, the player must contact the NFA Board to seek clarification of the relevant rule or guidance with regard to the grievance.

The NFA invites the disciplined player to seek clarification, The NFA will in good faith consider the matter, and render its opinion or decision in a timely manner.

5.6.3. Payment of Fines - Payment Deadline

a. All imposed fines must be paid to NFA prior to entering a tournament.

b. Failure to pay fines on time will result in additional fines and suspensions from tournaments as determined by the NFA Management.

c. Fines, including any failure to pay penalties, which are not paid before the end of the Contract Year, may result in subsequent player suspension from NFA membership.

d. If a fine is not paid at the tournament in question, NFA shall have the right to deduct such fine from the player's winnings from the tournament. If the player has no winnings, and the fine is not paid before entering another tournament, the player will be suspended from all NFA events until the fine is paid. (To this end, each player who enters a tournament is subject

to the player's fine being deducted from the player winnings). The player thereby consents to the payment of the player's prize money directly to the NFA to the extent of such a fine or fines, and releases any and all persons from any liability for failure to pay the prize money to the player instead of to the NFA.

e. All automatic fines will be deducted from prize money earned without prior written notice to the player provided verbal communication of such offense has been given to the player at the time the offense occurred.

6.0. PERIODIC AND DISCRETIONERY HANDBOOK UPDATES

NFA will update this handbook periodically and will make every effort to communicate this to all interested parties. It is the responsibility of any interested parties to continually monitor this document and be aware of any changes.

NFA reserves the right to make discretionary changes to this player handbook at any time.

7.0. NFA CONTACTS

E-mail: info@footvolleyUSA.com
Website: www.footvolleyUSA.com (Section "Contact us")

8.0. CONCLUSION

Your cooperation and professionalism on the Tour is appreciated. If you are not clear on any policy or procedure, please feel free to ask the Tournament Director or NFA Officers for clarification. If there are activities or areas of conduct that are not covered above, please ask before you break new ground or conduct yourself in a way that may not meet with approval. Thank you for working with the NFA Tour in a manner that will bring mutual creditability to the coaches, players, organizers and the NFA Tournaments.

APPENDIX A

COACHING REGULATIONS

Coaches shall not conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner and shall give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others.

a. All coaches must represent the NFA in a positive and professional manner or may be removed by the Tour Director.

b. Coaches may not speak to the officials on the court during a match.

c. Coaches may not speak to the opposing team during a match and may not say about "ball in" and "ball out" during the play. A coach must stay in the players' box provided during the entire match, with the only exception being able to go onto the court to attend to his/her players during an extended interruption in play or injury timeout if permitted by the referee. No coaching will be permitted from any other area on the site. Also, all coaches must move during team switches to prevent stealing of signs from the opposition.

d. Any coach who is deemed to be taking signals from the opposition and forwarding them to their team will be given an automatic red card and be removed from the tournament site for the duration of that event. Such offense is subject to a fine and/or suspension.

e. Coaches are responsible for knowing all rules and regulations governing them.

f. If the coaches' behavior is demeaning to the NFA and/or its players, they can be barred from coaching on site.

Any violation shall subject a coach to the same criteria for a suspension or a fine for each violation as the players listed above.

APPENDIX B

PLAYER CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

I. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Players shall not conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner and shall give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others.

A) Ball Abuse

1) A player shall not violently, dangerously, recklessly, with loss of temper or with negligent disregard of the consequences kick or throw a Footvolley ball within the confines of the tournament site.

2) Violation shall subject a player to a suspension or a fine in the total amount of the registration value for each violation.

B) Equipment Abuse

1) A player shall not violently, dangerously, recklessly, with loss of temper or with negligent disregard of the consequences, throw or strike any Tour equipment or other object within the confines of the tournament site.

2) Violation shall subject a player to a suspension or a fine in the total amount of the registration value for each violation.

C) Verbal Abuse

1) A player shall not, at any time, verbally abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the confines of the tournament site. Verbal abuse will constitute a statement directed at an official, opponent, spectator or other person that implies dishonesty, or is derogatory, insulting or otherwise abusive.

2) Violation shall subject a player to a suspension or a fine in the total amount of the registration value for each violation.

D) Additional Unsportsmanlike Conduct

1) A player shall not engage in any behavior which can be considered abusive or detrimental to the sport and which does not fall within the specific categories above.

2) Violation shall subject a player to a suspension or a fine in the total amount of the registration value for each violation.

II. OFFENSIVE CONDUCT

Players shall not conduct themselves in a manner that could be categorized as offensive to reasonable people.

A) Profanity

1) A player shall not use any audible profanity within the confines of the tournament site. Profanity in this instance shall be any words which are commonly understood to be profane and are audible to the Tournament Director, Head Referee, referee, down official, linesmen, ball retrievers or spectators.

2) Violation shall subject a player to a suspension or a fine in the total amount of the registration value for each violation.

B) Visible Obscenity

1) A player shall not make obscene gestures of any kind within the confines of the tournament site. Such an obscenity would constitute a physical signal by a player with his/her hand, body or any equipment that is commonly thought of as obscene by reasonable people.

2) Violation shall subject a player to a suspension or a fine in the total amount of two (2) times the registration value for each violation.

III. AGGRESSIVE CONDUCT

Players shall not conduct themselves in a manner that can be considered intimidating, threatening or physically abusive to officials, opponents, spectators or other persons.

A) Aggressive Confrontation

1) A player shall not aggressively or in an intimidating manner confront an official, spectator, opponent, spectator or other person within the confines of the tournament site.

2) Violation shall subject a player to a suspension or a fine in the total amount of the registration value for each violation.

B) Aggressive Confrontation at the Officials' Tent

1) A player shall not aggressively or in an intimidating manner confront an official at the officials' tent.

2) Violation shall result in the player receiving a suspension or a fine in the total amount of the registration value

C) Player Shaking Referee Stand

1) A player shall not at any time shake the referee stand during "discussion" with the referee.

2) Violation shall result in the player receiving a suspension or a fine in the total amount of the registration value

D) Verbal Threat

1) A player shall not overtly or subtly verbally threaten an official, opponent, spectator or other person within the confines of the tournament site.

2) Violation shall subject a player to a suspension or a fine in the total amount of two (2) times the registration value each

E) Physical Threat

1) A player shall not by his/her actions engage in behavior that can be construed as physically intimidating or threatening to any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the confines of the tournament site.

2) Violation shall subject a player of a suspension or a fine in the total amount of six (6) times the registration value. In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a tournament, or are singularly egregious, a single violation of Physical Threat shall also constitute the player Major Offense of Aggravated Behavior.

F) Physical Abuse

1) A player shall not physically abuse any official, opponent, spectator, or other person within the confines of the tournament site. Physical abuse can constitute the mere unauthorized touching of an official, opponent, spectator, or other person.

2) Violation will subject a player to a suspension or a fine in the total amount of eight (8 times) the registration value. In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a tournament, or are singularly egregious, a single violation of Physical Abuse shall also constitute the player Major Offense of Aggravated Behavior.

G) Leaving the Playing Court

1) A player shall not leave the playing court during warm-ups, during a match or immediately following a match to aggressively confront an official, opponent, spectator or other person.

2) Violation will subject a player to a suspension or a fine in the total amount of three times registration value. In circumstances that are flagrant and particularly injurious to the success of a tournament, or are singularly egregious, a single violation of leaving the Court shall also constitute the player Major Offense of Aggravated Behavior.

IV. MAJOR OFFENSE OF AGGRAVATED BEHAVIOR

No player at any NFA Tour event shall engage in Aggravated Behavior as follows:

A) Singular incident

1) One incident of behavior that is flagrant, singularly egregious, and particularly injurious to the NFA Tour or NFA Tournaments.

2) Violation will subject a player to a suspension or a fine in the total amount of six times registration value and/or suspension from the NFA Tour for a minimum period of six (6) months and a maximum period of one (1) year.

B) Multiple Incidents

1) A series of two or more violations within a twelve-month period which singularly do not constitute aggravated behavior, but when viewed together establish a pattern of conduct that is collectively egregious and is detrimental or injurious to the NFA Tour or NFA tournaments.

2) Violation will subject a player to a new suspension or a fine in the total amount of six registration value and/or suspension from the NFA Tour for a minimum period of six (6) months and a maximum period of one (1) year.

Any recidivist coach or athlete who is an unsportsmanlike manner or commits a fault or any incident again will have their penalty at least doubled and may even be banned for life from NFA activities.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

The Disciplinary Committee will be compound by the Tournament Director and the Head Official each tournament and 3 others invited by the NFA Officers. The Disciplinary Committee will be announced as soon as NFA releases the match schedule.

NFA OFFICERS

President: Ivan Guimaraes
Vice President: Zuca Palladino

Last updated: Feb 27th, 2026