



Mud Volleyball Rules of Play and Guidelines

The Dubuque County Fair Association is responsible for the making of all rules and regulations pertaining to the Mud Volleyball Tournament, taking place during the Dubuque County Fair.

Registration and Eligibility

- The tournament is open to players 16 years of age or older.
- Teams must submit the following information:
 - Registration form and fees (must be submitted by deadline)
 - Team roster/Release/Waiver Form (must be submitted at check-in, the day of the event)

Team Rosters

- The Team Roster/Release/Waiver form must be signed by each team member.
- Rosters may include a maximum of 8 people
- Teams must have at least 6 members to play
- One member shall serve as the official team captain. Each team captain must check in 30 minutes prior to their first game with a complete roster/wavier sheet. Players may not be added after the roster has been submitted. Players may play on only one team.
- 6 players must be on the court during play. No more. No less.
- 2 of the 6 players on the court must be female. A team may not begin play until these requirements are satisfied.
- Individuals may participate on only one team.
- Teams will not be reimbursed for forfeited members.

Game Time

- Teams must be present 30 minutes prior to the game. If a game finishes early the next game will begin play. If the team is not present prior to a game ending early the team without a full team will forfeit their game.
- A game will continue until:
 - A team scores 15 points and is at least two points ahead, using rally scoring rules
 - Definition of rally scoring: if a team fails to properly serve or return the ball, or commits any other fault, the opponent wins the rally and scores a point.
- Best of 3 games wins round. Double elimination tournament.
- Championship game will played to 20 points; best of 3 wins
- If your team must drop out for any reason please notify the registration table.

Termination of the Game

- The officials have the right to temporarily delay or terminate the game if, in their opinion, safety requires such action.
- The tournament supervisor may eject any player who displays flagrant or gross unsporting behavior. Any player arguing with an official will be asked to leave the game and immediate vicinity. Failure to leave will result in forfeiture. Players removed from the match will not be allowed to participate in future matches.

General Rules

- Court boundaries will be flagged in the corners. No other out of bounds lines will be marked. A ball landing on any part of the boundary is considered "in"; the ball must cross over the net to be considered a valid volley.
- The ball is considered dead if:
 - It touches the ground of serving area, teammate of the server, the net, or
 - Passes under the net or crosses the net entirely outside the sides of the net, or
 - Lands out of bounds.
- Each team is allowed one, 1 minute time out per game. Only the team captain may call time out.
- The team listed first in each match-up will serve first; the team receiving first will have choice of side
- Teams will not switch sides once play has begun. Side changes will be made after each game.
- Teams not on-site at the start of their designated game time will forfeit.
- All participants play at their own risk. Every effort to insure safety has been made, but a mud pit carries an obvious natural risk.
- Spectators and substitute players must remain 10' from the court.
- Matches will continue in the rain. In the event of lightning sighted, the tournament director reserves the right to suspend play, alter, and/or cancel matches at their discretion.
- Shoes must be worn at all times for safety reasons.
- No alcohol may be brought onto the premises. ID's are required in order to purchase alcohol. Please leave all ID bracelets on for purchasing alcohol or you will be required to show ID again.



Team Play

- All serves must be taken with a legal hit. Re-serves not permitted

- The ball must cross over the net to be considered a valid serve
- Players of the serving team must rotate clockwise when receiving the ball to serve; players may not shift positions after the ball is served. Substituting is allowed from the serving position only, or in case of injury.
- The ball must be served by the right back player and may be hit in any manner with the hand. Serves may not be blocked or attacked.
- If the ball touches a player or a player touches the ball, the ball is considered to be in play.
- A female does not have to hit the ball before it goes over the net.
- The ball may be played only three times in a volley by one team; a player must not play the ball twice in succession but may play twice if it is played by a teammate in between. A block is not considered a hit.
- It is a violation to spike with two hands.
- Only the front line is permitted to spike.
- Players must not purposely add mud to the ball. Penalty: side-out/point to the other team.
- Intentional delay of game will result in point for the opposing team.
- Teams will officiate their own matches. Play Fair!
- Any situation that occurs that is not covered in the Rules of Play and Guidelines will be left to the discretion of the officials.



Accidents

- If any accident occurs during the game that hinders the normal progress of the game or endangers the safety of the team members, and official will make an announcement and all activities will cease; play will resume at the discretion of the officials.

Disqualifications

- Individuals shall be disqualified from the game if they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Team disqualifications shall also occur for the following:
 - Fighting (verbal or physical)
 - Interference with an official in the performance of their duties
 - Any activity the official finds unsportsmanlike.
- Disqualifications shall be at the discretion of the officials; their decisions will be final and without appeal
- Disqualified persons or teams shall leave the court immediately
- Teams will be disqualified if not present at the time which play is set to begin.

Helpful Hints

- Laced shoes must be worn at all times (no cleats allowed); open-toe sandals will not be allowed.
- Wear denim or tightly woven clothing. Please remember that wet clothing becomes see through in many cases and this is a family event. Anyone wearing inappropriate clothing may be asked to change clothing or leave the event.
- No jewelry allowed including facial piercing. These are extremely dangerous during this event.
- Taping shorts to tucked in shirts prevents shorts from falling.
- Wearing swimsuits under clothes makes showering easier.
- Contact lenses are not recommended.
- Swim goggles may be helpful
- Bring plenty of towels
- Have fun and enjoy the mud bath!

