

KERALA VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE OF NORTH AMERICA (KVLNA) BY-LAWS

Objective:

To promote the sport of volleyball among the Malayalees of North America by conducting an annual North American volleyball tournament during Memorial Day weekend in May at a location determined by the League at least three years in advance. The tournament will be known as “**Jimmy George Memorial Super Trophy Volleyball Tournament**”

Eligibility:

- a. All playing members of the participating teams **MUST** be able to establish their origin or the relationship with the state of Kerala in India. Specifically, a player must have been born of at least one Malayalee parent. All teams must be prepared, particularly at the time and place of the annual tournament to produce the necessary documents to establish the eligibility of a player, should that player’s eligibility be challenged. If a player, who is born of one Malayalee parent, is playing for the first time in the KVLNA tournament the team manager must provide all the necessary documents to the board of directors or coordinators prior to December 31st and complete a document verification process through an external agency suggested by KVLNA. Legal expenses for verification process must be paid in advance by the respective teams. If all the submitted documents are valid after verification, the board of directors must ask the Malayalee parent of the particular player to attend the general body meeting with the player and establish the relationship with that player, providing all the original documents requested by the board of directors (copies of documents are invalid at this point). The General Body will decide if that player has a natural relationship with the state of Kerala. If the player cannot bring his Malayalee parent, then the questioned player will not be allowed to play in the tournament.
- b. All the players must be either citizens or lawful permanent resident of The United States of America or Canada. Job visa holders, student visa holders and Green card processing candidates with valid Employment Authorization Document (EAD) are also eligible to play in the league if they submit their player registration forms and provide the proper documents to the board of directors or coordinators before December 31st and complete the document verification process through an external agency suggested by KVLNA and obtain the final approval from the league. Legal expenses for verification process must be paid in advance by the respective teams. Visiting players are not eligible to play in the league.
- c. New Players who are born of both Malayalee parents and are either citizens or lawful permanent resident of The United States of America or Canada should only submit their player registration forms two months before the tournament date (i.e. by March 31st).

- d. Photo ID verification will be implemented for all new players registered each year before the tournament. If the new player is verified to be a non-Malayalee, then the team will be disqualified from the league until the dispute is resolved.
- e. If a player is challenged by written request to Board of Directors concerning his eligibility, team manager must produce the required documents to board of directors for verification before presenting the case to general body. Based on the recommendation from the board of directors, General Body will decide if the player has satisfied the eligibility requirements as stated in the KVLNA by-law. If the player hasn't met the eligibility requirements, then the team will be disqualified from the league until the dispute is resolved.

League Guidelines:

1 Tournament schedule:

The tournament is scheduled to be conducted in May during the United States' Memorial Day weekend.

2 Members in the General Body:

The League general body will consist of two members from each of the participating teams, preferably the manager of the team and a player representative.

3 League Dues:

League dues will be \$100.00 per team to become a member of the League and \$50.00 per team every year as membership fee to maintain the website and other league expenses. All the registered participant teams' names should be engraved on the trophy.

4 Team Responsibilities:

It is each individual team's responsibility to pay for their travel, room and board and other travel expenses for the annual tournament. The host team should assist in finding reasonably priced standard hotel or motel facilities in close proximity to the location of the games.

5 Airport & Gym Transportation:

The host team shall assist the visiting teams with transportation to and from the airport (one trip per team.) The host team will also provide transportation to and from the hotel to the game location.

6 General body Meeting:

There shall be a league general body meeting on Friday Evening of tournament weekend. Two representatives from each permanent team must attend. Representation and participation in this meeting are mandatory. Failure to abide by this rule will result in written warning after the first missed meeting and expulsion from the league after the second unless reasonable excuses.

7 Vote:

In all matters that involve voting, each team will receive one vote. A simple majority is required to win the vote.

8 Qualification:

There shall be only one team from any particular city/area, exception to popular Malayalee communities such as Chicago, New York, Dallas etc. All teams must be from cities/area that are at least 100 miles apart from each other.

9 Chairman & Board of Directors:

The League has formed a Board of Directors to guide and oversee the League in all matters. Board of Directors members are to be from a team that has been a member of the League for at least ten years and has attended at least three League meetings. (As of May 2005, the Directors are from the following teams: Kairali Lions of Chicago, Dallas Strikers, Kerala Spikers of New

York, Philadelphia Stars, Detroit Eagles, New Jersey Garden state sixers and Toronto Stallions). Each member serves on the Board for three years. Two members were to be replaced by lottery system at the end of the initial term.

As of May 2017, the Directors are from the following teams: Kairali Lions of Chicago, Dallas Strikers, Kerala Spikers of New York, Philadelphia Stars and New Jersey Garden State Sixers. Based on the 2017 general body decision each member serves on the Board for two years and two members from the current board of directors will be replaced by two new members of the eligible teams by the lottery system at the end of the initial term. If there are no eligible members available, then the current board of directors can continue until we have an eligible member available.

Based on 2019 general body decision total number of members in the board of directors is increased to seven and eligibility to become a member is still the same as above.

10 **Lunch & Water during Tournament:**

The host team will provide Lunch and water for all the teams during the games on Saturday and Sunday. Each team should get at least fifteen meal coupons per day. Hosting team shall provide lunch coupons to KVLNA officials (Board of Directors and Coordinators/Treasurer) on both days.

11 **New Teams:**

New teams will be on probation for the first two years and should be able to host the tournament in any year thereafter. Also, the new teams must pay \$2,000.00 to join the league and \$1,900.00 must be return to that team when they are first hosting the tournament.

12 **B Team:**

The host team may have a “B” team. The “B” team should be placed in a different pool using the seeding criteria and ensuring that the “A” and “B” teams are not playing in the same pool. If the hosting team has elected to have a B-Team, they are not allowed to forfeit any of their matches. After the tournament, the team with the better seeding between the “A” and “B” teams will be seeded in the pool for the next year’s tournament and the lower seeded team will be eliminated from the final seeding.

13 **Awards:**

The trophies awarded will be as follows: First place trophy as “Jimmy George Memorial Super Trophy” for the winning team, Second place trophy as “Meegal Varghese Memorial Trophy”, Tournament MVP trophy, Best Offense Player trophy, Best Defensive Player trophy, Best Setter trophy and winners & Runner-up team’s individual participant trophy. No other trophies will be distributed. The Board of Directors will approve all presentations.

14 **18 & under team:**

In order to encourage our youngsters in the sport of volleyball, there will be at least one match between EAST and WEST for youth under the age of 18. The game will be played after both the semi-finals and before the championship match.

15 **40 & over team:**

To bring all the enthusiastic old players to the tournament, matches will be scheduled based on the criteria as stated in item 18 (g).

16 **Tournament coordinators/record keepers/ Treasurer:**

The League has appointed Tournament coordinators/record keepers for the league to assist the tournament organizers of the respective year. As of May 2004, the Tournament coordinators are Mr. Jay Kalayil of Chicago and Mr. James Abraham (Prasad) of Dallas. As of May 2017, the

Tournament coordinators are Mr. Jyothis Jacob of Rockland and Mr. Thomas Sebastian of Washington. The league has appointed Mr. James Abraham (Prasad) as the new treasurer.

17 **Selection of Individual awards:**

Each team manager has one vote and the lead referee also has one vote. Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the tournament should be selected from the winning team only. All the ballot papers should be return to the coordinators immediately after the finals for the individual player award selection. All the trophies, including players individual accomplishments such as MVP, BOP, BDP, BS and individual trophies should be distributed immediately after the finals at the tournament venue. It is the responsibility of the hosting team to purchase trophies for individual accomplishments and trophies/medals for all players of winning and runner-up teams.

18 **Seeding:**

The coordinators should make the overall seeding of all teams available immediately after the championship match. If a new team or an existing team is participating after a year of absence, that team will automatically assign the last seed or second-to-last if the hosting team elected to have a B-Team. If more than one team is partaking after a year of absence, then the seeding for those teams will be determined based on a lottery system.

a) Criteria for deciding the number of pools for the league matches on Saturday.

The League matches on Saturday will be played in 3 pools as **Pool A, Pool B & Pool C** if the total number of teams participating in that tournament is twelve or above.

If there are only eleven teams or less participating in the tournament, the matches will be played in only two pools as **Pool A & Pool B.**

b) Criteria for pool seeding & overall seeding:

- I. Total the number of matches won by each team. The team with the most matches won will be the # 1 seed.
- II. If there is a tie on the matches won between two teams then the winner of the “head to head match” team will be seeded ahead of the lost team.
- III. If more than two teams tie on the matches won, then total the number of matches lost. The team with the least matches lost will advance.
- IV. If there is still a tie, then total the number of games won by each team. The team with the most games won will advance.
- V. If we still have a tie, then total the number of games lost by each team. The team with the least games lost will advance.
- VI. If there is still a tie then total the points gained by each team in the lost games. The team with the most points gained in their lost games will advance.
- VII. If there is still a tie then total points gave away in their winning games. The team with the least points gave away will advance.
- VIII. If there is still a tie then total all points gained by each team. The team with most points gained in their matches will advance.
- IX. If there is still a tie, then the referees or coordinators should toss the coin in the presence of the two team managers, chairman and the Coordinators to find which team will advance.

c) Criteria for overall seeding after league matches on Saturday if teams are uneven in pools 1st scenario:

For example, if we have only 11 teams participating in the tournament. Pool A will have 6 teams and pool B will have 5 teams. Then take out the 6th seeded team's score from all the other five team from Pool A and take out the 5th seeded team's score from the 6th seeded team so that all the 11 teams will have the same number of matches played for a more reasonable overall seeding after the league matches on Saturday. Then use the same criteria of pool seeding for the overall seeding after Saturday's league matches.

2nd scenario:

For example, if we have 13 teams participating in the tournament, Pool A will have 4 teams, Pool B will have 4 teams and Pool C will have 5 teams. As stated in the first scenario, take out the 5th seeded team's score from all the other 4 team in Pool C and 4th seeded team's score from the 5th seeded team so that all the 13 teams will have the same number of matches played for a more reasonable overall seeding after the league matches on Saturday. Then use the same criteria of pool seeding for the overall seeding after Saturday's league matches.

3rd scenario:

For example, if we have 14 teams participating in the tournament, Pool A will have 5 teams, Pool B will have 4 teams and Pool C will have 5 teams. In this case, add the 4th seeded team's score to all the other 3 team in Pool B and 3rd seeded team's score to the 4th seeded team so that all the 14 teams will have the same number of matches played for a more reasonable overall seeding after the league matches on Saturday. Then use the same criteria of pool seeding for the overall seeding after Saturday's league matches.

In all three scenarios, any of the three pools can be uneven and apply the same criteria explained above for that particular pool.

d) Team Advancement for the playoff:

All the teams will be re-seeded after the pool matches on Saturday and the **top eight teams** will advance to the play-off games on Sunday. Both quarter final and semi final matches will play simultaneously in both courts and the finals will be played in **court 1**. *(we are using the same NBA play-off criteria for Sunday matches)*

- I. Fix the uneven pool if any by using the uneven pool criteria to make sure that all the teams that participated in the tournament played the same number of matches.
- II. Re-seed all the participated team including the hosting B team using the pool seeding & overall seeding criteria.

e) Play-off schedule for Sunday

Quarterfinals.

First two quarterfinal matches

1 Vs # 8 in court 1

4 Vs # 5 in court 2

Second two quarterfinal matches

#2 Vs # 7 in court 1

3 Vs # 6 in court 2

Semi-Finals.

(at least 20 minutes after the second quarter final matches and will be played simultaneously)

Winner of # 1 & # 8 Vs Winner of # 4 & # 5 in Court 1

Winner of # 2 & # 7 Vs Winner of # 3 & # 6 in Court 2

**18 & under Finals in Court 1 and 40 & Over Finals in Court 2
Championship Finals in Court 1**

f) Criteria of overall seeding for next year:

First eight team seedings will be decided after the quarter finals, semi-finals and final matches on Sunday.

The 1st seed will be the champions.

The 2nd seed will be the Runner-up.

The remaining play-off teams' seeding will be determined by a combination of which match they played and using the overall seeding criteria The 3rd seed will be the best loser in semi-finals The 4th seed will be the worst loser in semi-finals

The 5th seed will be the best loser in quarter finals.

The 6th seed will be the second best loser in quarter finals.

The 7th seed will be the third best loser in the quarter finals.

The 8th seed will be the worst loser in the quarter finals.

The remaining teams will have the same seeding determined after the league matches on Saturday except for the hosting A & B teams.

For the hosting team, we will keep the best seed of either A or B and eliminate the worst team from next years' overall seeding.

g) Criteria for 18 & Under and 40 & Over Games

(I) There should be a minimum of two teams in each category to schedule a match. Maximum 4 teams are allowed.

(II) Each team must have a minimum of 6 players and a maximum of 12 players to participate in the tournament.

(III) If there are only 2 teams, the matches will be scheduled simultaneously on both courts just before the championship match.

(IV) Each of the 40 & Over participating teams must have a minimum of 4 KVLNA registered players.

(V) All the interested players/teams must complete the registration form and submit to the coordinators on or before April 30th.

(VI) If a registered player does not have a team to play, the teams with the least number of players must accommodate him and make sure to let him play at least one game.

(VII) If there are more than 2 teams, the teams will be seeded by a lottery system and the matches will be scheduled to conduct in between the back to back pool match or at the end of all the league matches according to the coordinator's decision.

(VIII) If there are only 3 teams, #1 and #3 seed will play the first match and the loser play with #2 seed and both winners will advance to finals. If there are 4 teams, #1 & #4 will play the first match and #2 & #3 will play the second match and both winners will advance to the final.

Team members and family will be given priority seating and a maximum of 25 tickets per team will be given. If more seats are required, it will be given based on availability. KVLNA officials (Board of Directors and Coordinators/Treasurer) and family shall be given separate tickets.

20 **Banner:**

The main banner will read “KERALA VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE OF NORTH AMERICA” presents ## ANNUAL JIMMY GEORGE MEMORIAL SUPER TROPHY VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT “year” and hosted by “team name”

21 **Tournament organizing & publicity:**

The host team should have full capacity to host the tournament, and all publicity and funds raised should be for the hosting team. The tournament must be conducted and hosted by the League teams only. No other organizations will be added for promotional publicity.

22 **Basic Tournament rules & regulations:**

- I. There should be at least three USAV approved & certified referees along with two line judges to officiate all games. The line judges are preferred to be non-Malayalees.
- II. Official USAV score sheets and rotation (position) sheets shall be used in all games.
- III. All USAV rules will be followed with the exception of having 12 substitution / game.
- IV. All players are to follow USAV rules and all teams must have uniforms with numbers on front & back of the Jersey. Teams without uniforms will not be permitted to play. All teams must wear their registered team name uniforms.
- V. Scoring will be rally point.
- VI. The pool matches on Saturday will be best of three, starting at 4 points each, winning by 2 points at 25 with a cap of 27 for the first two games & start from “0”, winning by 2 points at 15 with a cap of 17 for the third game.
- VII. The quarter final and semi-final matches on Sunday is also best of three, all games starting at “0”, winning by 2 points at 25 with a cap of 27 for the first two games & winning by 2 points at 15 with a cap of 17 for the third game.
- VIII. The Finals will be best of five, all games starting at “0”, winning by 2 points at 25 with no cap for the first four games & winning by 2 points at 15 with no cap for the fifth game.
- IX. All Team managers should submit the team registration forms to the tournament coordinators on or before April 30th. It is the responsibility of the team managers to get the consent and signature of each player in their team roster. The coordinators must provide the team rosters and the names and general information of new players to all the team managers by May 5th.

23 **Criteria for players switching teams:**

- (a) If a player wants to play for another team, he must request and obtain an official release from his original team’s-manager in writing and submit it to the coordinators or board of directors on or before March 31st so that they have enough time to verify and approve the transfer. If the team manager does not give a release for the player before March 31st, the player must give a written release request to the board of directors and the board of directors should work with the team manager to resolve the issue by April 30th. If the dispute is not resolved by April 30th, that player is not allowed to play for the new team that year. However, he is eligible to play for any team next year.
- (b) If a player leaves their original team to play for another team, and if that player wanted to go back to their original team or play for a new team, he needs to wait at least three years even if the manager approved a release from their team. This can be either by not participating in the

tournament at all or playing with the current team you are officially registered to for the three years.

- (c) New Players should play with the original team for at least 3 years before applying for a release.

24 **Players from a withdrawn or disqualified team:**

If a team is not participating or disqualified from the league for that year's tournament, none of the players from that particular team are not allowed to play for any team in that year's tournament even if some of the players get an official release from the manager. However, all of those players are eligible to play for any team next year as long as their original team is not part of the league. If the original team is going to participate in the next year tournament and one of the players from that team wants to play for another team, he needs to follow the same criteria for player transfers as stated in item # 23.

25 **Out of city/area players:**

A team must not have more than three players from out of their city/area. City/area is required to be defined for certain teams (Washington Kings, New York Spikers, Rockland Soldiers, New Jersey Sixers) as it includes parts of more than one state, and proximity of teams. Washington Kings Team city/area include players from the state of Maryland, Virginia & Washington DC (Tri-state) and New York Spikers, Rockland Soldiers, New Jersey Sixers team's city/area include players from the state of New York, New Jersey & Connecticut.

26 **Official Ball:**

Molten NCAA® FLISTATEC® Volleyball - V5M5000-3N, until the General Body decides to change.

27 **Meeting with the lead referee:**

All of the team managers, captains and the tournament coordinators should meet with referees on Saturday morning at a designated gym location to discuss the rules and regulations of the tournament prior to the start of the tournament.

28 **Gym:**

At least a high school level gym with a minimum of two courts and if possible three courts.

29 **Security:**

Hosting team is to maintain the safety of the players and visitors. They must provide at least two officers in uniform. Failure to provide protection to all the teams and their families by the hosting team and any team that not behave properly will face disciplinary action including expulsion from the league.

30 **Players Conduct:**

All players are to behave in a respectful manner and follow directives from the officials. All league members must behave in appropriate, responsive and polite manner in all forms of communications. Any type of rude or unethical behavior deemed as verbal, physical or written harassments including but not limited to use of profanity or physical threat towards any league member may result in disciplinary action including expulsion from the League.

31 **Team Conduct:**

All the teams are obligated to follow the rules and regulations of the league. If any of the teams try to cheat or manipulate the system, especially the eligibility of a new player, the team will face severe disciplinary actions such as disqualification from the tournament or suspension from the league until the issue is resolved.

32 **Amendment of the Rules and Regulations:**

Any amendments to the rules and regulations can be made with a 2/3 majority of the general body.

33 **Team participation in the tournament:**

Regular participation in every tournament is mandatory for all the teams to be part of the league. If a team has failed to participate in more than one tournament without reasonable excuse, that team may be face suspension or even expulsion from the league.

34 **New Team enrollment:**

If there is a new team who is interested in being a member of the league, they should contact the Chairman or any of the Board of Directors and submit the application at least three months prior to the tournament. The Board of Directors must review the qualifications and eligibility of the requesting team according to the bylaws of the league and if found eligible invite their representatives to the league general body meeting on Friday evening. They will have the opportunity to learn about the league and the team's responsibilities and the expectations of the league from the new team. If the new team meets all the league requirements and the general body approves, they will be able to participate in the next year's tournament. The newly joining team must be willing to host a tournament within two years of their acceptance as a permanent member of the league. The new team must pay \$2,000.00 as deposit and \$1,900.00 will be refunded to the new team when they host their first tournament. If the team fails to meet the criteria of the league, they will be forfeiting the deposit money and expelled from the league.