



GOTHAM VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE, INC. BYLAWS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR LEAGUE MEMBERS

Included in this packet:

- I. **Bylaws of the Gotham Volleyball League**
- II. **Rules of League Play**
- III. **Gotham Volleyball Sportsmanship and Anti-Violence Policy**

Effective June 9, 2010

GOTHAM VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE, INC.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. Name. The name and purpose of the corporation is Gotham Volleyball Corp. Inc. (referred hereafter as Gotham, Corporation, or League).

Section 2. Purpose. The main purpose of Gotham shall be to promote the development and enjoyment of the sport of volleyball among the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community in particular and among the general populace.

Section 3. Scope. Any person or any thing using the name of Gotham Volleyball League or the organization's resources or the corporation's Tax identification number falls under the jurisdiction of the League's Board of Directors, and is subject to compliance with all guidelines provided within the Gotham Volleyball League By-laws.

ARTICLE II MEMBERS

Section 1. Membership. Membership shall be open to all persons over 18 years of age and interested in the purpose of Gotham. A member of Gotham is one who actively participates in League play and/or classes for which dues are charged, and that person remains active and up to date in dues payments.

- 1a. Gotham does not discriminate in its membership on the basis of race, sex, age, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation.

Section 2. Membership Dues. Membership dues shall be determined, per season, by a majority vote of the Board.

- 2a. Dues collected shall not be donated to any outside organization, group, or individual unless there is a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the Board of Directors. This clause is not to restrict the Board or League Members from holding specific fundraising events for the purpose of donation.

Section 3. Meetings. The annual meeting of Members shall be held each year during the month of May. Any other meetings of the Members shall be held whenever called by the Board or the Commissioner of Gotham. Meeting of the Members may be held on successive nights to accommodate regular, League activities, but a member may vote at only one of those meetings. Except as otherwise provided by law or by these By-laws, any corporate action authorized by the Members must receive a majority of the votes cast at a meeting (or meetings as provided above) of Members at which a quorum is present.

Section 4. Notice of Meetings. Written notice of the place, date, and time of any meeting shall be given to each Member entitled to vote at such meeting by posting, not less than 14 nor more than 30 calendar days before the date of the meeting. Notice of special meetings shall indicate the purpose for which they are called and have a signed petition of no less than 10% of the Membership by the person(s) calling the meeting.

Section 5. Quorum. At all meetings of the members, a majority of the members, present in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 6. Organization. The Commissioner of Gotham shall preside at the meeting(s) of the Members or, in the absence of the Commissioner, an acting Chairperson shall be chosen by the Executive Board

members present. The Secretary of Gotham shall act as Secretary at all meetings of the members, but in the absence of the Secretary, the presiding officer may appoint any person to act as secretary of the meeting.

Section 7. Voting. At any meeting of the Members, each Member present in person or by proxy in good standing shall be entitled to one vote.

- 7a. A member may vote by proxy by designating his or her vote in writing to another member who will be present at the meeting. In no event shall any Member present be allowed to cast more than one proxy vote in addition to his or her own vote.
- 7b. Any vote presented at the meeting can be voted on by ballot if requested by a Member.
- 7c. The Members in each division will vote for and elect team captains, who are to be voted upon by written ballot.

Section 8. Action by the Members Outside of Meetings. Except as otherwise provided by law or by these By-laws, action may be taken without a meeting upon written consent, signed by a majority of the Membership.

Section 9. Resignation and Removal of Members. Each Member shall be a member for the season in which dues are paid or until his or her death, incapacity, resignation, or removal during that season.

- 9a. Resignation. Any Member may resign from the membership by delivering a resignation orally or in writing to their Team Captain, Division Representative, or any Member of the Board.
- 9b. Removal. Any Member may be removed from the membership for good cause by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board.

ARTICLE III BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Responsibilities and Numbers. Gotham shall be managed by its Board of Directors (referred hereafter as Board). The Board is Gotham's highest body of authority between Membership meetings. The number of members of the Board shall reflect the needs of Gotham.

Section 2. Members of the Board of Directors. The members of the Board are the Commissioner, the Vice Commissioner, the Secretary, the Treasurer, one Division Representative from each division, and a number of representatives from Gotham's Power Programs, determined by taking the average size of Gotham's Divisions of League Play from the previous season (calculated by taking the total membership of League Play and dividing by the number of divisions), and dividing it into the total number of members enrolled in one or more Power programs from the most recent Spring season, rounding down to the nearest whole number, and additional voting members designated in accordance with these By-laws.

- 2a. Limit on Additional Voting Members of the Board. In no event may the number of additional voting members exceed one-third (1/3) of the total voting membership of the Board of Directors.
- 2b. Non-Voting, Ex-Officio Members. All Power Class Assistants from each Power class who do not hold any other position on the Board may sit on the Board as non-voting, ex officio members. The Chairman of the Grievance Committee also may sit on the Board as a non-voting, ex-officio member. These members do not count as members of the Board for quorum purposes.

Section 3. Election and Term of Office of the Executive Board. The Commissioner, the Vice Commissioner, the Secretary, and the Treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Membership by majority of the votes cast. These elected officials shall be elected to hold office for a term of one year, starting June 1 and ending the following May 31.

- 3a. To be eligible to be a candidate for the Executive Board, the candidate must have been a member of the Board of Directors within the previous three (3) years.

Section 4. Election and Term of Office of the Division Representatives. Division Representatives shall be elected for each division by the Members of that division at the beginning of the Fall season by the third week of competition in their respective division. They shall hold office for a term beginning the fourth week of competition of the Fall season and ending the third week of competition of the following Fall season. Division Representatives must play in the division for which they have been elected. Should a division representative transfer to another division during the term, the vacancy shall be filled as directed by Section 8. Each member of the Board shall hold office until the expiration of the term for which he or she is elected or until his or her death, resignation, or removal.

Section 5. Election and Term of Office for Power Representatives. Power Representatives shall be elected by the members of Gotham who participate in its Power programs. The Power Representatives may be elected at large, or by constituencies among the Power program as the Board of Directors may so designate, so long as no individual participant in Power has the ability to vote more than one time and all participants' votes are proportional. They shall hold office for a term beginning the fourth week of class of the Fall season and ending the third week of class the following Fall season. Power Class Assistants are eligible to serve as Power Representatives. Should a Power Representative stop his or her participation in the Power program during the term, the vacancy shall be filled as directed by Section 8. Each member of the Board shall hold office until expiration of the term for which he or she is elected or until his or her death, resignation, or removal.

Section 6. Selection and Term of Office of Additional Board Members. Additional Board members (hereinafter referred to as Members-at-Large) shall be nominated by the Commissioner of Gotham with the advice of the Executive Board. Nominees must then be confirmed by a majority vote of the Board.

- 6a. Members-at-Large shall take office as soon as they have been confirmed by the Board and shall hold office until the following May 31.

Section 7. Resignation and Removal of Members of the Board. Each member of the Board shall hold office until the expiration of the term for the position to which he or she serves or until his or her death, incapacity, resignation, or removal.

- 7a. Resignation. Any member of the Board, except the Commissioner, may resign from office at any time by delivering a resignation in writing to the Commissioner. If the Commissioner resigns from office, he or she shall deliver a resignation in writing to the Vice Commissioner.
- 7b. Removal. Any member of the Board may be removed for cause by a two-third (2/3) vote of members of the Board present at a special meeting of the Board called for that purpose at which there is a quorum, or without cause, by a majority vote of the Members of the Corporation.

Section 8. Vacancies. Upon the death, incapacity, resignation, or removal of any member of the Board, except the Commissioner, the remaining members of the Board shall fill the vacancy by a majority vote. In the event the Commissioner's office becomes vacant, a special meeting of the Members shall be held in which a new Commissioner shall be elected. The meeting shall be held as soon as practical, but in no event may the meeting be held later than one month after the Commissioner's office becomes vacant.

Section 9. Meetings. Meetings of the Board may be held at any place within or outside the State of New York as the Board may from time to time fix. The annual meeting of the Board in each year shall be held immediately following the annual meeting of the Membership. Other meetings of the Board shall be held whenever called by the Commissioner or a majority of the members of the Board.

Section 10. Quorum and Voting. Unless a greater proportion is required by law, a majority of the entire Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Except as otherwise provided by law or by these By-laws, the vote of a majority of the officers present at the time of the vote, if a quorum is present, shall be the action of the Board. There shall be no proxy voting at Board meetings.

Section 10. Action by the Board. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board or any committee thereof may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Board or the committee consent in writing or electronically to the adoption of a resolution authorizing the action. The resolution and the written consents thereto by the members of the Board or committee shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board or committee. Any one or more members of the Board or any committee thereof may participate in a meeting of the Board or committee by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment allowing all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

Section 11. Notice of Meetings. Notice of the time and place of each regular or special meeting of the Board, together with a written agenda stating all matters upon which action is proposed to be taken and, to the extent possible, copies of all documents on which action is proposed to be taken, shall be delivered to each member of the Board, at least three (3) days before the day on which the meeting is to be held.

Section 12. Commissioner: Powers and Duties. The Commissioner shall preside at all meetings of the Members, the Board, and the Executive Board. He or she shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Corporation and shall keep the Board fully informed about the activities of the Corporation. He or she has the power to sign alone in the name of the Corporation, all contracts authorized by the Board, unless the Board shall specifically require an additional signature. He or she shall perform other duties as assigned by the Board. The Commissioner shall not act in contradiction to any action of the Members or the Board unless specifically authorized by these By-laws.

Section 13. Vice-Commissioner: Powers and Duties. The Vice Commissioner shall have such powers and duties as may be assigned to by the Board or by the Commissioner as authorized by these By-laws. In the absence of the Commissioner, Vice-Commissioner shall perform the duties of the Commissioner but shall not take any binding action unless specifically authorized by the Board. In the event the office of Commissioner becomes vacant, the Vice Commissioner shall serve as Commissioner until a new Commissioner is elected.

Section 14. Secretary: Powers and Duties. The Secretary shall act as secretary of all meetings of the Members, the Board, and the Executive Board. He or she shall be responsible for the giving and serving of all notices of the Corporation and shall perform all the duties customarily incident to the office of the Secretary, subject to the control of the Board, and shall perform such duties as assigned by the Board. The Secretary shall have available the seal of the Corporation.

- 14a. All minutes, agendas, and other records (paper and electronic) shall be turned over to the new Secretary within fifteen (15) calendar days upon leaving office.
- 14b. Any Member may inspect the minutes, agendas, and other public records by making a reasonable request in writing to the Secretary. The Secretary must allow inspection at the site of his or her choosing for a reasonable period of time within ten (10) business days of the request.
- 14c. The Secretary shall maintain physical and/or electronic records for the past seven (7) fiscal years.

Section 15. Treasurer: Powers and Duties. The Treasurer shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements of the Corporation, and shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, all monies and other valuable effects of the Corporation in the name and to the credit of the Corporation in such banks or depositories as the Board may designate. At the annual meeting of the Board, and whenever else required by the Board, the Treasurer shall render a statement of the League's accounts. The Treasurer, at all reasonable times, shall exhibit the League's books and accounts to any member of the Board and shall perform all duties incident to the position of Treasurer, subject to the control of the Board, shall perform additional duties as assigned by the Board, and shall, when required, give such security for the faithful performance of his or her duties as the Board may determine.

- 15a. The Treasurer shall produce and publish to the Membership an annual-operating budget for the League within sixty-days (60 days) of the beginning each Fiscal Year.
- 15b. The Treasurer shall produce and publish a financial statement within thirty days (30 days) of the close of each quarter, as defined in Section 14c below, to the Membership.
- 15c. The publishing of quarterly statements should be consistent with the League's Fiscal Year; Q1 ends on August 31st, Q2 ends on November 30th, Q3 ends on February 28th, and Q4 ends on May 31st.
- 15d. All financial records (paper and electronic), including invoices, bank statements, canceled checks, paperwork, budgets, etc., shall be turned over to the new Treasurer within fifteen (15) calendar days upon leaving office.
- 15e. Any Member may inspect the books by making a reasonable request in writing to the Treasurer. The Treasurer must allow inspection at the site of his or her choosing for a reasonable period of time within ten (10) business days of the request.
- 15f. The Treasurer shall maintain physical and/or electronic records for the past seven (7) fiscal years.

Section 16. Division Representatives: Powers and Duties. Division Representatives represent their division at Board meetings. Each Division Representative coordinates with the Treasurer for the collection of membership dues from the Members in his or her division. The Division Representative is responsible for keeping his or her division informed of the Board's activities. Division Representatives shall perform additional duties as assigned by the Board.

Section 17. Members-at-Large: Powers and Duties. Members-at-Large shall have such powers and duties as may be assigned to by the Board or by the Commissioner as authorized in these By-laws.

Section 18. Employees and Other Agents. The Board may appoint from time to time such employees and other agents as it shall deem necessary, each of whom shall hold office during the pleasure of the Board, and shall have such authority and perform such duties and shall receive such reasonable compensation, as the Board may from time to time deem necessary.

Section 19. Removal of Employees and Other Agents. Any employee or agent of Gotham may be removed with or without cause, except as otherwise prohibited by law, by a vote of the majority of the Board.

ARTICLE IV EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. Responsibility and Numbers. The Executive Board of Gotham Volleyball shall consist of the Commissioner, Vice Commissioner, Secretary, and Treasurer of Gotham. It shall serve as a committee of the Board of Directors and shall make recommendations to the Board on issues facing the League and the administration of the League. The Executive Board shall also fulfill all other duties and obligations assigned it by the Board of Directors.

- 1a. In an event that a timely vote by the entire Board of Directors is not practical, the Executive Board shall have the power to take action on urgent League matters between meetings of the Board of Directors in place of an action by the Board of Directors, subject to later review by the Board of Directors. In no event may the Executive Board take an action in contradiction to an action of the Board of Directors or the Members, nor may it make a decision that could otherwise have been made by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have the power to reverse any decision of the Executive Board made under this clause if it deems it necessary.

Section 2. Definition of Terms. As used in these By-laws, the term “Executive Board” shall refer to the Executive Board but the term “Board” shall refer only to the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Meetings. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at a time and place scheduled by the Commissioner or requested the Board of Directors. Meetings shall be held on a regular basis as the need of the League requires.

Section 4. Voting and Quorum. Unless a greater proportion is required by law, three of the four Executive Board members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Except as otherwise provided by law or by these By-laws, the vote of a majority of the officers present at the time of the vote, if a quorum is present, will constitute an act of the Executive Board. There shall be no proxy voting at Board meetings.

Section 5. Actions Taken by the Executive Board. Any actions taken or recommendations made by the Executive Board must be submitted to the Board of Directors for its review and consent at the next meeting of the Board of Directors after the action was taken. No action taken by the Executive Board shall bind Gotham Volleyball unless adopted by the Board of Directors, except as allowed by Section 1a of this Article.

Section 6. Mandatory Duties. The Executive Board must comply with all state and federal laws, including corporate and tax filings.

ARTICLE V TEAM CAPTAINS

Section 1. Responsibility and Numbers. Each team will be headed by a Team Captain. Team Captains will be responsible for selecting a team during the team selection process. There shall be as many Team Captains as there are teams per division.

Section 2. Voting. The Members in each division will vote for and elect Team Captains by means of a written ballot during the preceding Fall or Spring season. The nominees receiving the most votes will become Team Captains.

- 2a. Nominees who are not voted in as Team Captains, but who received one-eighth (1/8) or more votes, will be considered Alternate Team Captains. Alternate Team Captains will become Team Captains, in the order most to least votes, should a position of Team Captain become available prior to and up to the selection of teams.
- 2b. Should there be fewer nominees than positions available, the Board will appoint a player who played in that division the previous season.
- 2c. In the event a new division is created, the Board shall have authority to install the first set of Team Captains however it deems appropriate.

Section 3. Resignation. A Team Captain may resign from his or her position at any time by delivering a letter of resignation to their Division Representative.

Section 4. Removal. Any Team Captain may be removed for cause by a majority vote of the Board.

Section 5. Vacancies. A Team Captain is said to vacate his or her position by resignation, removal, death, or being absent from the team selection process.

- 5a. In the event of a vacancy during the season, the remaining members of the team must vote and elect a new Team Captain.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

Section 1. Needs. Based on the League's needs, the Board shall create the necessary additional Committees.

Section 2. Jurisdiction. All Committees fall under the jurisdiction of the Board.

ARTICLE VII CONTRACTS, CHECKS, BANK ACCOUNTS, AND INVESTMENTS

Section 1. Checks, Notes, and Contracts. The Board is authorized to select such depositories as it shall deem proper for the funds of the Corporation. The Commissioner, the Vice Commissioner, the Secretary, and the Treasurer shall have signing power for bills, notes, receipts, acceptances, endorsements, checks (two signatures required, where appropriate), releases, contracts, and documents.

- 1a. In no instance may a person receiving a reimbursement be a sole signature on any check or other method used to issue a reimbursement.

Section 2. Investments. The funds of the Corporation may be retained in whole or in part in cash or be invested from time to time in any investment that is 100% secure, (CD for example) with no risk.

ARTICLE VIII OFFICE AND BOOKS

Section 1. Office. The office shall be located at such place as the Executive Board may from time to time determine.

Section 2. Books. There shall be kept at a place or places determined by the Executive Board, correct books of account of activities and transactions including a minute book, which shall contain a copy of the certification of incorporation, a copy of these By-laws, and all minutes of meetings of the members and of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IX FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be June 1 and May 31, determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X BUDGET

The Board shall be responsible for creating the budget for the next fiscal year by May 1 of the current fiscal year.

ARTICLE XI
GRIEVANCES

Section 1. Grievances Regarding League Play. Any grievance or protest filed regarding an issue that arises during League or tournament play or pursuant to the League's Rules of Play shall be heard by the process outlined in those Rules. Final jurisdiction on these issues rests with the Gotham Board of Directors and their decision shall be final. These grievances should be raised pursuant to the procedure outlined in the Gotham Rules of Play.

Section 2. Grievances Regarding Other Issues. For all issues not relating to an issue of League play or play during a League tournament, including, but not limited to, those involving elections and League procedure, a member must follow the grievance procedure as outlined in these By-laws.

Section 3. Procedure for Member Grievances. If any member believes that he or she has a legitimate grievance against any issue that does not fall within the jurisdiction of Section 1 of this article, that League member should file a grievance, within ten (10) business days of the action taken that is the subject of their grievance, in writing or electronically, with the Commissioner of Gotham Volleyball.

- 3a. Non-members or former members may file grievances only in the following limited circumstances: a perspective member may file a grievance relating to the process of becoming a member of the League and a former member may file a grievance relating to action taken while he or she was a member of the League or regarding his or her dismissal from the league. In no event shall any non-members be entitled to file a grievance more than ten (10) business days after the action that is the subject of their grievance.
- 3b. The Grievance Committee shall hold a hearing on any grievance regarding all issues that do not fall within the jurisdiction of Section 1 of this Article within ten (10) business days of the Committee receiving such a grievance from the Commissioner of Gotham Volleyball. The hearing shall be held in a public setting at a time and place advertised to the League Membership with all interested parties specifically invited. All interested parties must be given time to address the Grievance Committee at the hearing. If the Committee believes the grievance to be legitimate, the Committee shall fashion an appropriate remedy that is otherwise allowable under the League's By-laws and other rules. At the hearing, all interested parties must be invited to the meeting and allowed to speak. The Committee may choose to debate and rule on the grievance in a closed session but the Committee's written decisions must reflect the nature of the debate and the Committee's rationale behind its decision. The Grievance Committee shall render a written decision regarding the grievance and shall note in the decision the members who support the decision and those who dissent. Any dissenting members of the Committee may write their own dissenting opinion, however, only the majority opinion shall constitute the decision of the Committee. If the Committee believes the member's grievance is without merit, it shall dismiss the grievance. Grievance Committee decisions shall be maintained for at least seven (7) years by the Gotham Secretary and provided to the Grievance Committee Chair prior to the Committee's deliberations. Unless appealed, the decision of the majority of the Grievance Committee is final and binding on the League.
- 3c. Any interested party may appeal the Committee's decision, within ten (10) business days of the Committee releasing its decision, to the Board of Directors. An appeal is initiated when an interested party delivers a letter stating the nature of the appeal to the Commissioner. If a group of interested individuals is pursuing an appeal, they shall appoint one individual to represent them at the Board. The Grievance Committee shall appoint an individual to argue the Committee's position to the Board.

- 3d. The appeal shall be heard at the next scheduled meeting of the Gotham Board of Directors, or at a special meeting called for that purpose prior to the next scheduled meeting, but in no event more than twenty (20) business days after the Commissioner received the request to appeal the decision. The Board may not table the appeal. The only three members who may present the appeal to the Board are the individual who represents those who sought to appeal the decision, a representative from the Committee to present the Committee's position, and the Executive Board liaison to the Grievance Committee. The Board, by two-thirds (2/3) vote, may modify the Committee's decision in any way it deems appropriate, as long as the changes are otherwise allowable by these By-laws and other Rules of the League. The Board may discuss the appeal in closed session, but the minutes must reflect the nature of the debate. Any decision by the Board is final and binding on the League. Absent a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board, the Committee's decision shall stand.

Section 4. Composition of the Grievance Committee. The Grievance Committee shall be comprised of one member from each Division of Gotham Play and one member to represent the League's tournaments, classes, and other programs. If that composition creates an even number of Committee members, there shall be an additional member-at-large to make the number of committee members odd.

- 4a. Members of the Grievance Committee shall be nominated by the Commissioner of Gotham Volleyball and approved by the Board of Directors at its first meeting after the new Executive Board takes office. If the member represents a particular division, he or she must have played in that division in the Spring season before his or her appointment, but is not required to remain in that division to remain on the Committee.
- 4b. Members of the Grievance Committee shall serve two year terms, starting immediately after the Board confirms the member and concluding on the second May 31 the member serves. So that the committee will have new members every year, the first time members are appointed to the committee, five members shall be appointed to two year terms and four members shall be appointed to one year terms. If, by league expansion, the Committee expands, the initial new member(s) must be given a year-long term if a two-year term would make more than a one-vote majority of the Board be appointed in any given year.
- 4c. In the event of a vacancy on the Committee, the Commissioner shall nominate, with the approval of the Board of Directors, a replacement from the appropriate Gotham division to complete the remainder of the term.
- 4d. Any member of the Grievance Committee may be removed for cause by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors.
- 4e. The Executive Board shall appoint one of its members to attend each hearing of the Committee and serve as a non-voting, advisory member to the Committee. This Executive Board liaison shall attend and participate in all Committee proceedings, even if they are being held in closed session. If the subject of the grievance is against the Board, then the Commissioner shall not serve as the Executive Board liaison.

Section 5. Procedure of the Grievance Committee. The Grievance Committee shall only meet when it needs to address a grievance. A quorum of the committee shall be a majority of its members. However, the Committee must have an absolute majority of its actual membership voting for a particular decision for that decision to bind the League.

- 5a. Each year, the Commissioner shall appoint one of the Committee members to act as Committee Chairman. The Committee Chairperson shall receive any grievance from the

Commissioner and shall call a meeting of the Committee within ten (10) business days of receipt of the appeal. The Committee Chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the Committee. In the event the Chairperson is unable to attend, the Chairperson shall nominate a member of the Committee to oversee the meeting, subject to the approval of the Commissioner.

ARTICLE XII INDEMNIFICATION

The Corporation may, to the fullest extent now or hereafter permitted by law, indemnify any person made, or threatened to be made, a party to any action or proceeding by reason of the fact that he, his testator or intestate was officer, employee, or agent of the Corporation, against judgments, fines, amounts paid in settlement and reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees.

ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS

These By-laws may be amended by the affirmative vote of a majority of the entire membership of Gotham at a meeting duly called for the purpose of amending these By-laws. Any proposal for amendment to the By-laws must be presented in written form to the Board at a meeting of the Board. The process of presenting the proposal to the general membership for voting shall be managed by the Board.

Revised May 2009 and effective June 1, 2009.

Amended by the Gotham Board of Directors in April 2009 – Lew Smith, Commissioner; Seth Eichenholtz, Vice Commissioner; Josh Christensen, Treasurer; Donald Orloski, Secretary; Rich Reid, Division 1 Representative; Henry Vera, Division 2 Representative; Greg Hughes, Division 3 Representative; Kleber Suarez, Division 4 Representative; Omar Portillo, Division 5 Representative; Sarah Cullen, Division 6 Representative; Travis Pouliot, Division 7 Representative; Wladimir Thomas, Division 8 Representative; David Jordan, Division 9 Representative; Scott Schmidt, Dominic Borgia, Voting Power Representatives; Alan Amechazurra, Bob Arcari, Billy Bowden, Rene Deida, Joe Hom, John Rappaport, Craig Skelton, Members-At-Large.

Amendments approved by the Membership May 2009 by a votes of 410-49 and 317-140.

Amended by the Gotham Board of Directors in April 2008 – Lew Smith, Commissioner; Rene Deida, Vice Commissioner; Joe Hom, Treasurer; Seth Eichenholtz, Secretary; Nick D'Andrea, Division 1 Representative; Alan Amechazurra, Division 2 Representative; Greg Hughes, Division 3 Representative; Billy Bowden, Division 4 Representative; Rob Frazier, Division 5 Representative; Sarah Cullen, Division 6 Representative; Juan Olmedo, Division 7 Representative; Wladimir Thomas, Division 8 Representative; Tomny Lor, Division 9 Representative; Bob Arcari, Waseem Akhtar, Josh Christensen, Archie Messersmith, Donald Orloski, Members-At-Large.

Amendments approved by the Membership May 2008 by a vote of 408-51

Bylaws Approved by the Gotham Board of Directors on February 20, 2007 – Waseem Akhtar, Commissioner; Rene Deida, Vice Commissioner; Lew Smith, Treasurer; Alan Amechazurra, Secretary; Nick D'Andrea, Division 1 Representative; Joe Hom, Division 3 Representative; Wayne Gurerri, Division 4 Representative; Archie Messersmith, Division 5 Representative; Patrick Boucher, Division 6 Representative; John Rappaport, Division 7 Representative; Bob Arcari, Seth Eichenholtz, Ted Gelpi, Don Murray, Members-At-Large.

Bylaws Approved by the Membership May 2007 by a vote of 393-25

GOTHAM VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE, INC.

POLICIES, RULES & PROCEDURES MANUAL

RULES OF LEAGUE PLAY

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

A. PURPOSE

The enjoyment of the sport of volleyball in a safe environment for all participants should be the goal and intent for all league play regulations.

B. JURISDICTION

Although Gotham Volleyball League play generally follows USA Volleyball rules, amendments or exemptions contained in these guidelines are applicable to all league sanctioned competition.

C. DISTRIBUTION AND COMPLIANCE

1. The Gotham Volleyball League Board of Directors shall coordinate the distribution of the complete RULES OF LEAGUE PLAY Policies and Procedure Manual to all participants. This requirement may be satisfied by posting these policies on the Gotham Volleyball website and informing Team Captains of how to find them.
2. All participants must sign a Member Liability Waiver Form accepting the terms and conditions contained in, and adherence to all guidelines stated in this RULES OF LEAGUE PLAY Policies and Procedure Manual before engaging in any sanctioned league play. This requirement may be satisfied by a member completing an online Member Liability Waiver Form via the Gotham Volleyball online registration system.
3. The Gotham Grievance Committee may conduct a special meeting to address league policy violations and issue determinations, including the disqualification of a member for actions that violate the policies established in these guidelines.

II. PARTICIPANTS

A. TEAM MEMBERS

1. All Participants must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and sign a Member Liability Waiver Form accepting complete responsibility for their own physical conditioning and preparedness to participate in sport competition and waive any liability whatever, resulting from, or in any manner arising out of participation in league sanctioned play.
2. Members may play on only one Gotham League team per season.
3. The Board will have final approval of all Team Members chosen to participate.
4. Team Members may resign from the League by giving notice to either the Team Captain or a member of the Board of Directors. The Grievance Committee will review any request for refund of season fees and determine appropriate reimbursement, based on guidelines set by the Board of Directors. Generally, as noted below, partial season refunds are not granted absent exceptional circumstances. All recommendations by the Grievance Committee regarding refund requests are subject to review and may be amended by the Board of Directors. Unlike the procedure outlined for a formal grievance, the Grievance Committee does not need to hold a hearing regarding a refund request and can conduct their discussion and votes over e-mail.
5. Team Members who do not play for two consecutive scheduled matches without notifying the team Captain or a Board member will be deemed inactive. Inactive Players are not entitled to season fee refund. When a member becomes inactive, the Team Captain may choose to keep them on his/her roster or declare the spot vacant. If a Team Captain keeps an inactive member on the roster, the captain must get approval from the Division Representative before the inactive player may be returned to active status. The Division Representative must approve unless the Inactive Player is in bad standing, is suspended from play for any reason, has a matter pending before the Grievance Committee or Board of Directors, or the Board has authorized the Division Representative to disapprove the member returning to active status.
6. Any team member that resigns, is injured, is disqualified by the Board, or is declared inactive will not be eligible to play for another team in any division during the current season.

7. If a team member is drafted and resigns from the team for reasons other than injury or an unforeseeable conflict, that member may be required to pay his/her non-refundable dues in advance the next seasons in order to ensure that the member will play if selected for a team.
8. Any participant that has not paid the previous season fee in full is not a member in good standing and will not be eligible to try out for any division and will not be allowed to attend League sanctioned events, including, but not limited to, Power classes and Gotham-sponsored tournaments.
9. All Team members must be paid in full for the current season by the beginning of the member's first match or the Team Member will be considered a member in bad standing.
10. If a member's check is returned by the bank where issued, he/she will be responsible for all bank fees in addition to the outstanding fees. Within 24 hours after being notified that a check has been returned, if a member with a returned check does not pay the outstanding dues and all bank fees, the member will no longer be in good standing until payment is made.

B. TEAM CAPTAINS

1. CHOOSING TEAM MEMBERS

- a. Each Captain is required to select seven (7) or eight (8) Team Members in addition to him/herself in an open tryout at the beginning of each season. The most basic division of League play shall be exempt from this rule in that they may have more than 8 additional players selected for each team. Further, if the Commissioner deems it appropriate in order to accommodate as many members as possible, captains in the most basic division of League play, or any captain during summer league play, may be required to select eight (8) team members in addition to him/herself. Additionally, while the most basic division of League play may have a tryout, if appropriate, the requirement that tryouts be held is waived for that division.
- b. Once a player has been drafted, that member is not eligible to play on any other team or any other division during that season.
- c. Players who expressed interest in joining league play prior to try-outs, were eligible for the draft, and were not selected will be placed in a Pool of available players for each Division. The Board of Directors will have final approval of all players included in the Division Pools. The Division Representative to the Board will maintain the Pool in each Division.
- d. A team that plays league-sanctioned games with a player not chosen as stipulated in these guidelines will forfeit any and all games played during the violation. Violations are subject to review and further sanction by the Board of Directors or Grievance Committee.

2. FILLING A VACANCY

- a. A Vacancy is created when a Team Member becomes inactive, resigns, becomes injured, or is in default/bad standing for more than 2 consecutive matches and the Captain deems the position vacant.
- b. The Division Representative will monitor the filling of Vacancies within the Division.
- c. A captain may choose to fill a Vacancy whenever his/her team has fewer than the total number of members selected by the Captain during the draft plus the Captain.
- d. A captain must fill Vacancies if the team has fewer than six (6) Team Members including him/herself.
- e. The Team Captain filling a Vacancy may choose any of the players currently listed in the Division Pool by following these procedures:
 1. Players should be chosen from a pool for that division.
 2. Players need to contact Division Rep and asked to be place in the pool.
 3. Captain should contact the Division Rep with request.
 4. Due structure will be one twelfth of the total seasonal dues, without applying any discount for paying electronically, plus \$25 for the end-of-the-season tournament and party. This amount should never exceed the

- cost of the seasonal dues, without applying any discount for paying electronically, and if it does, the regular seasonal dues amount will apply.
5. Dues are to be paid in full prior to the first match in which the member plays, or no play. However, a member may make a partial payment as part of a payment plan, as long as the payment plan has been affirmatively authorized by the Gotham Treasurer at least 24 hours in advance of the player's first match. In the event of a payment plan, all payments must be made in full in the week(s) when the payment(s) are due or the member will not be able to play in the match.
 6. No team can pick a player after the 10th week of play unless they have fewer than five (5) players left due to injury or an inactive player whose spot on the team has been declared a vacancy.
 7. Under no circumstances can any team can fill a vacancy just for the End of Season Tournament.
 8. Only the team captain can make a request to fill a vacancy.
- f. If the Team Captain fills a Vacancy with a player not already in the Division Pool, the Captain must follow these procedures:
1. The Player should inform the Division Rep of his desire to play in the Division.
 2. The Captain should inform the Division Rep of his desire to select the player.
 3. Division Rep will do an anonymous balloting of captains for approval. If the division rep is a captain, a board member will conduct the balloting. Voting must be completed twenty-four (24) hours before the next scheduled match. Any Captain who does not cast their vote by the given deadline will have their votes recorded as an abstention. The majority of captains voting will determine the outcome. In the case of a tie, the Division Representative will cast the deciding vote. In the case that the Division Representative is a Captain, the Commissioner will cast the deciding vote.
 4. If four of the seven Captains agree (the eighth captain being the captain making the request), the player may join the team.
 5. Dues structure will be one twelfth of the total seasonal dues, without applying any discount for paying electronically, plus \$25 for the end-of-the-season tournament and party. This amount should never exceed the cost of the seasonal dues, without applying any discount for paying electronically, and if it does, the regular seasonal dues amount will apply.
 6. Dues are to be paid in full prior to the first match in which the member plays, or no play. However, a member may make a partial payment as part of a payment plan, as long as the payment plan has been affirmatively authorized by the Gotham Treasurer at least 24 hours in advance of the player's first match. In the event of a payment plan, all payments must be made in full in the week(s) when the payment(s) are due or the member will not be able to play in the match.
 7. No team can pick a player after the 10th week of play unless they have fewer than five (5) players left due to injury or an inactive player whose spot on the team has been declared a vacancy.
 8. Under no circumstances can any team can fill a vacancy just for the End of Season Tournament.
 9. Only the team captain can make a request to fill a vacancy.
- g. If the vacancy created is the captain position, the remaining team members must vote and elect a new team captain, and the new captain may select a player to fill the vacancy pursuant to these Rules.

3. COLLECTION & DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

- a. Each Captain will be responsible for the distribution of league materials, a copy of the Gotham By-Laws, a copy of the RULES OF LEAGUE PLAY Policies and

Procedures Manual, a copy of the Sportsmanship and Anti-Violence Policy, and a copy of the season schedule to each of the members of his/her team. A Captain can fulfill this responsibility by informing his/her teammates of these documents' location on the Gotham Volleyball website.

- b. No one will be allowed to play without a completed and signed Member Liability Waiver Form or acknowledging the online equivalent thereof.
 - c. The Team Captain is charged with the collection of team members' dues.
 - d. The Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Division Representative are charged with providing the captain sufficient information to allow him/her to timely collect the team members' dues, including, but not limited to, the payment status of all team members and information pertaining to the due dates for payments of any member on a payment plan..
 - e. Any player declaring Financial Hardship should e-mail the Gotham Treasurer sufficiently in advance of the member's first match so that the Gotham Treasurer can approve any payment plan at least 24 hours prior to the first match.
 - f. The Captain is responsible for forwarding materials and checks to the Division Representative by the first week of play. The Division Representative shall then forward all checks and other financial receipts to the Treasurer or his/her representative.
4. TEAM ADMINISTRATION
- a. Captain shall encourage team members to review postings for information related to league and division issues and sign up for the Gotham Announcements e-mail distribution list.
 - b. Team captains must communicate to their teams Gotham announcements and directives as instructed by the Division Representative.
 - c. Captains are responsible for the observance of all rules and regulations by his/her team and its members during league sanctioned team competition and officiating team assignments and will accept any penalties or sanctions imposed on the team as a result of any misconduct or violation by his team's member(s) including forfeiture of game(s) and match(es).
 - d. Captain should appoint another Team Member as Alternate Captain should the Captain not be able to attend a regularly scheduled event.
 - e. Team Captains may also perform related tasks to enhance the Division's operation and administration and report all team member issues, concerns, and/or feedback to the Division Representative so that the Representative may report the issues, concerns, and/or feedback, if appropriate, to the Board of Directors.

III. RULES OF THE SPORT

A. GOTHAM VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE FOLLOWS USAV RULES, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

1. **SERVICE:** The service zone is extended to include the full width of the 9-meter area behind the end lines. Only one toss or release of the ball for service allowing eight (8) seconds to complete the service. The serving player is exempt from the positional order and may be at the left of the players on position 5 or 6. All other players must be in correct order inside the court.
2. **DEFENSIVE LEGAL CONTACT:** The ball may touch any part of the body including the feet, regardless if the touch is done in an "active" or in a "passive" way but service must be done as in the past: with one hand or with any other part of. The ball must be hit, not caught or thrown. Balls judged up to now as "hold balls" are still to be considered as a fault, with the exception of balls played in all kinds of defense action. At the first hit of a team the ball may touch various parts of the body consecutively, provided that it occurs during one action and all multiple contacts are allowed on first team hit. Any third team hit by the opponents may be blocked at any time after the contact.
3. **CONTACT WITH NET:** Gotham Volleyball follows the net contact rules adopted by the Board of the North American Gay Volleyball Association.

B. RULES OF LEAGUE PLAY

1. COMPETING TEAMS REQUIREMENTS

- a. At least four (4) players from each team scheduled to play must be present at the sound of the opening whistle.
- b. Failure by the teams scheduled to play to comply with the four-player requirement for scheduled match will result in forfeit of the first game.
- c. Failure by the team to provide at least four (4) players at the beginning of subsequent games in that match will result in forfeit of each game the violation applies.

2. FORFEITS

- a. Team Captains must provide a minimum of four (4) players for scheduled competition or it will result in forfeiture at beginning of each game. If additional team members arrive before the beginning of the next game and the team can provide a minimum of four (4) players, the remaining games will be played as scheduled and the score will be counted in the standings.
- b. All games will be played in order to maintain the schedule. Under no circumstances may a referee start a subsequent match early without the consent of the Team Captains and the Board member on duty.

3. INJURY

- a. Any injury after play has started cannot force forfeiture unless a team would then have fewer than four (4) players..
- b. Under no circumstances will a team be allowed to play with fewer than four (4) players.

4. ROTATION

- a. There are no substitution rules observed. All teams must rotate members. All team members present must play unless a teammate arrives later than five minutes before the start of the first match. That team member may be excluded from the first set after he/she arrives. No team member may join a set that is already in progress.
- b. Players may rotate in at position one (1) or four (4) or both.
- c. In the event of an injury, a player off the court must rotate in to fill the vacancy while maintaining the integrity of the established rotation for that game. If there is no player off the court, the two players to each side of the injured player shall “collapse in” to maintain the integrity of the established rotation.

5. BALL CONTACT WITH GYM CEILING AND WALLS

- a. A team may play the ball off the ceiling within its own court only. If ball breaks the plane of the net after hitting ceiling, it's considered “out” off last contact.
- b. Ball contact with hanging backboards can be considered interference within Referee discretion and may be played over.
- c. Ball contact with hanging sideboards and walls are considered “out” off last contact.
- d. For Gotham sanctioned matches held in the O. Henry School, contact off the wooden divider across the top of the net may be played by a team within its own court only. If the ball breaks the plane of the net after hitting the divider, it is considered out off last contact. If the ball hits only the wire hanging off the wooden divider, or the divider itself *after* touching the wire, it is considered interference and the point shall be played over .

6. TIMED GAMES

a. GAME CLOCK

- i. The Referee will set, control and observe game clock during timed games.
- ii. Clock stops for any injury, when game ball exits the gym or, at the discretion of the Referee, any serious distraction.
- iii. In the event of an injury where a player needs emergency medical attention, if an injured player feels that he/she will exacerbate the injury by moving off the court, the player should not be moved until medical attention arrives. An injured player may be moved off the court at any time when he/she consents to be moved or if the injury does not affect the player's mobility (i.e. a finger injury).

- iv. After twelve (12) minutes of play in each game, the Referee shall blow the whistle three (3) times to indicate that there are three (3) minutes left in the clock.
 - v. Any errors in time warnings do not extend the fifteen (15) minutes allocated for the game.
- b. **TIMEOUTS**
- i. Only the team Captain or Coach may signal the Referee for a timeout.
 - ii. Each team is allowed one 30-second timeout during the first twelve (12) minutes per game of season play.
 - iii. No timeouts are allowed during the warning period.
 - iv. No timeouts are allowed during an overtime period.

C. OFFICIATING

1. REFEREE RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Referee should be at the assigned gym ten (10) minutes before the first scheduled match to secure game ball and necessary materials (whistles, stopwatch, red/yellow cards) and oversee proper equipment installation. The referee is expected to bring his/her own red/yellow cards. The referee shall report any missing or damaged equipment to the Board member on duty.
- b. Referees are expected to be familiar with these Rules of League Play and the Gotham Sportsmanship and Anti-Violence Policy.
- c. Referee should call Team Captains five (5) minutes before play to determine competing teams and officiating team requirements.
- d. Referee should notify the Gotham Board member on duty in instances and circumstances forcing a game forfeiture and insure appropriate scoring of forfeited games. Referee should also promptly notify a Gotham Board member on duty in the event of a violation of Gotham's sportsmanship policy or an act of violence.
- e. Jewelry, hats, and other equipment prohibited subject to Referee's judgment.
- f. The Referee will record points on the scoreboard and should check the score before each play.
- g. The Referee will fill out a League-approved score sheet that indicates the final score and winner of each game, obtain the initials of both Team Captains, record any incidents of misconduct as described under III.G.1. and/or the League Sportsmanship and Anti-Violence Policy, the nature and circumstances behind any protest of a set or match by any team, and any other pertinent information.
- h. At the conclusion of the last scheduled match, the Referee is responsible for returning the game ball and secured materials in the designated storage bags to the Board member performing gym-closing duties.

2. SEQUENCE OF REFEREE SIGNALS

- a. After a referee blows the whistle to end a rally, the referee will indicate the following with hand signals:
 - i. If the first referee whistles the fault, he/she will indicate:
 - 1. the team that will serve next; then
 - 2. the nature of the fault that ended the rally
 - 3. the player at fault, if necessary.
 - ii. If the second referee whistles the fault, he/she will indicate:
 - 1. the nature of the fault, then
 - 2. the player at fault, if necessary
- b. Following the first referee's hand signal, the team that will serve next.

3. OFFICIATING TEAM DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS

- a. Each team will provide at least three of his/her Team Members to act as officials - (2) line judges and (1) second referee - during all scheduled officiating assignments.
- b. Team members performing officiating team duties during league sanctioned games are under the supervision of the Referee and must follow the Referee's directions.
- c. Officiating Team members are expected to be considerate and to stay focused on officiating the game and can be replaced at the request of the Referee. The Referee may issue the Team members a forfeit of the first game of their next scheduled

match in instances of extreme inappropriate or non-attentive conduct during officiating duties. If such a forfeit is issued, the referee must promptly inform the Board member on duty. In the event of such a forfeit, the team must still continue to perform its other assigned officiating duties. Failure to do so shall be considered a Sportsmanship Violation and subject to the review of the Commissioner and the Grievance Committee, if appropriate.

- d. Team scheduled to officiate the first scheduled match must also perform opening duties and must have all equipment in place five (5) minutes before the scheduled match. If the team fails to do so, and the failure to set up equipment results in a delay of the first match, the team assigned to perform officiating duties for the first match shall be issued a forfeit of the first game of their next scheduled match. In the event of such a forfeit, the team must still continue to perform its other assigned officiating duties. Failure to do so shall be considered bad sportsmanship and subject to the review of the Commissioner and the Grievance Committee, if appropriate.
- e. Teams scheduled to officiate the last scheduled match must also perform closing duties which include the take down and appropriate storage of all equipment (including all balls, scoreboard, and official stand).
- f. Officiating teams must complete other duties as assigned by the Board. However, Board members must provide notice to an officiating team regarding other duties so that they will have sufficient players present to cover those duties.
- g. Failure by the officiating team to comply with regulations will result in a sanction of the forfeiture of the first game of their next scheduled match. If a team repeatedly fails to comply with these regulations, it shall be considered bad sportsmanship and subject to the review of the Commissioner and the Grievance Committee, if appropriate.

D. CONDUCT OF THE GAME

1. MISCONDUCT

- a. Categories
 - i. Offensive conduct: defamatory or insulting words or gestures.
 - ii. Aggression: physical attack or intended aggression.
- b. Penalties
 - i. When a team member's behavior reaches the level of "offensive conduct" sanctions will be applied by the Referee. Oral and/or hand signal warnings by the Referee may be used to advise the team member that his behavior is approaching this level.
 - ii. If a penalty is assessed, the signal will be a Yellow card.
 - iii. In the case of repetitive instances of offensive conduct, regardless of whether or not a Red card is issued, the team member(s) shall be reported to the Commissioner for referral to the Grievance Committee, if appropriate.
 - iv. A Red card signal penalty is assessed for repeated offensive conduct or the first instance of aggression. Incidents of this nature should be documented and will always be subject to review and sanction by the Gotham Grievance Committee.
 - v. In addition to the sanctions mentioned here, the member may be referred to the Grievance Committee pursuant to the procedure set forth in the Gotham Sportsmanship and Anti-Violence Policy.

2. DISPUTES

- a. Only the team Captain should address the Referee if there is a disputed play. Captain should approach the Official after the play is blown dead, not before. Captain should address the Official with respect and with appropriate behavior. Official should address the concern with respect and with appropriate behavior.
- b. Captains may file a protest at the point that he/she feels the explanation from the Referee is not satisfactory. Captain shall declare the official protest to the Referee, who will record any pertinent notes regarding the incident. Any protest must promptly be referred to the Board member on duty by a member of the officiating

team. Referee will offer hand signals and verify correct game score before continuation of play.

- c. Protest filed by a Captain should be documented by all involved participants and submitted for review to the Board which will issue a determination of appeal by the beginning of the following week's scheduled match.

IV. RULES OF COMPETITION

A. DIVISIONS

1. The sanctioning of all teams comprising each Division and the number of teams assigned to each Division will be determined and published by the Board.
2. The Board will determine and publish the name and ranking of all Divisions within the league.
3. League competition will be conducted between teams within a Division.
4. Captains within the Division will determine the members of the team. When selecting team members, a Captain should pick players with the skill level associated with the Division and are encouraged to favor past Division members.

B. TRYOUTS

1. The Board will administer Tryouts at the beginning of each season.
2. Each Division will conduct an open tryout. As noted above, the most basic division is exempt from this rule and the Board may use an alternate method to determine that division's Captains and team member selection or assignment as the situation dictates.
3. The Division Tryouts will be scheduled in order of Division ranking so that the highest ranked Division will hold the first tryouts and remaining Divisions follow in order of ranking.
4. In order to be eligible for the player draft, an individual must participate in tryouts unless the individual has played in that division or a more advanced level division within the past 3 seasons. If a player attends tryouts but is forced to leave before his/her tryout, he/she is obligated to report that to a Board member so that the player may be accommodated or removed from the list of eligible players. If a Team Captain questions whether or not a person he/she intends to pick participated in tryouts, they should bring that concern to the attention of the Board member(s) presiding over the draft prior to selection process.

C. PLAYER DRAFT

1. Team Captains will pick a number from a hat to establish the order of the draft.
2. Team Captains and their teams will be identified by a number starting with 1 as established by the order of draft
3. Draft will be conducted with the Team Captain with number 1 having the first player pick, then 2 and so on until all captains have picked a player
4. Second round will start in the reverse order of round 1, round 3 in the same order of round 1, round 4 in the same order as round 2 and so on until all captains have picked at least seven players.
5. Except as specified in Section II, B, 1 of these Rules, during the eighth round captains may pass or pick an eighth player in addition to him/herself. The ninth and final round will allow captains who passed to pick an eighth player.
6. Each team captain shall have one minute and 30 seconds to make his/her draft pick in each round. Each captain will also be allowed a one minute and 30 second extension for one round of the draft of his/her choice. If a captain takes more than the allotted time to make a selection, the captain will lose priority in that round and pick at the end of the round. If the captain already has the final pick, he/she will pick for that round at the end of the subsequent round.
7. Except as specified in Section II, B, 1 of these Rules, if a captain has selected at least 7 players, and has declared him/herself "closed," he/she can no longer choose a player through the draft process.

D. SEASONS

1. The Board will determine and publish the number and name of each sanctioned competitive season.
2. The Gotham Volleyball League season will provide all Divisions with scheduled matches that, to the best of the League's ability, respect the observance of major calendar holidays.
3. Divisions that play at the same time will switch gyms at the halfway point of the season schedule.

4. The number of matches, the schedule of team competition and officiating team assignments for the season will be determined and published by the Board by the date of the Division Tryouts.

E. MATCHES

1. Matches shall consist of three games, with a five minute warm-up period and two-minute breaks between games.
2. The scheduled start time for each match is the time when the referee should begin the above-mentioned five minute warm up period.
3. The team that wins two of the three games will be awarded the match.

F. GAMES

1. Each game shall consist of a fifteen (15) minute or zero-to-twenty-five (0 to 25) rally point scoring period.
2. The first team to reach twenty-five (25) points or more with a two (2) point lead within fifteen (15) minutes is the winner of the game. If neither team reaches 25 points before the 15 minutes expire, the team with at least a 2 point lead is the winner of the game.
3. If neither team has a two point advantage at the end of regulation, a two (2) minute, sudden-death overtime is played without interruption. The first team to gain a two point advantage wins the game.
4. At the end of the two minute overtime period, a one (1) point advantage will determine the winner of the game.

G. SCORING

1. SCORING SYSTEM

- a. Scoring system will be rally scoring.

2. SCORING SANCTIONED GAMES

- a. Points will be awarded by the Referee.
- b. Scoreboard will reflect status of score during the games.
- c. Final score of games will be recorded in score sheet by the Referee.
- d. Team Captains (from both teams) and the Referee for the match must initial score sheet at end of match to verify recorded scores.
- e. Failure to initial score sheet may prevent addressing disputes or correction of scores and scores as recorded on score sheet will be recorded in the Division standings as written.

3. SCORING FORFEIT GAMES

- a. Single team forfeit games will be recorded as 6-1. However,
- b. If the forfeit game is due to officiating regulation, and both teams have at least four (4) team members, the game will be played as scheduled and the Officiating Team will keep score of the "forfeited game." If the point differential of the played "forfeited game" favors the non-forfeiting team the game score will be recorded in the standings.
- c. Double forfeit games due to officiating violation or insufficient number of players present (minimum of four) will be scored as 1-1.
- d. Each team will be given a Game Loss for each double forfeited game. Each team will be given a Match loss if the entire match is a double forfeit.
- e. If a single game is double forfeited, and the teams split the remaining two (2) games of the match, the Match will be awarded based on the point differential of the two non-forfeited games. If the teams have no point differential, the issue shall be referred to the Board for determination by the beginning of the next scheduled match.

H. SEASON STANDINGS AND STATISTICS

1. All Teams will be identified within a Division by a series of numbers starting with 1.
2. The team standings for each division will be determined by order of (1) matches won-lost record, (2) games won-lost record, (3) points differential earned (4) coin toss called by the captain of the team number or letter closest to 1.
3. Current season standings should be posted during season play sessions.

I. CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

1. MONITORING

- a. Charts determining the teams for all matches, outlining the order of matches and team officiating assignments should be posted on day of tournament for each Division.
- b. Charts should reflect current status of competition for each Division until the Championship Matches are played.
- c. A Protest and Appeal Committee as designated by the Board should be present during the Division Tournaments to offer quick resolution to filed protest(s) and expedite the appeal process. Final determination will be issued by the Referee, who will indicate the following with hand signals: the team that will serve next, then the nature of the fault that ended the rally, (if necessary) the player at fault and (if applicable) the team awarded the game and match.

2. DIVISIONS WITH SIX OR MORE TEAMS

- a. In Divisions with six teams or more, Division Tournaments will observe a double elimination format. A team must lose two matches before the team is eliminated from further competition. This rule may be waived, if necessary, for Championship Tournaments held during the summer season.
- b. Division teams will be ranked for the season tournament in the order of the final season standing.
- c. Seedings will determine first matches teams assignments or draws for the first round of the tournament.
- d. Winners bracket matches will consist of three games. First two games will be twenty-one (21) rally-point games, win by two points, with a cap of twenty-three (23), at which time a team wins by one point. The third game, if necessary, will be a fifteen (15) rally-point game with no cap, win by two points.
- e. Matches will be determined by the first team to win two of the three games. If a team wins the first two games of a match, the third game will not be necessary and will not be played.
- f. Losers bracket matches will consist of one game. The game will be a thirty (30) rally-point game with no cap, win by two points.
- g. Games will not be timed and will be played to conclusion.
- h. Team to finish without losing a match wins the Tournament Championship. If two teams finish with one match loss after the winner's bracket final is played, an additional, twenty-five (25) rally-points, win-by-two with no cap game between the two teams will decide the Tournament Championship.
- i. Each team is allowed two 30-seconds timeouts at any time, per game.

3. DIVISIONS WITH FEWER THAN SIX TEAMS

- a. Divisions with fewer than six teams, Division Tournaments will observe a "pool-play" or "round-robin" format.
- b. Teams will play three (3) timed-games matches against all other teams in the Division during round-robin format.
- c. Each game shall consist of a fifteen (15) minute or zero-to-twenty-five (0 to 25) rally point scoring period.
- d. One timeout per game will be allowed before the referee whistles, warning the time remaining.
- e. At the conclusion of round-robin play, standings will be determined games won-lost percentage and then on points differential between points score by and against the team. The two teams compiling the best records after conclusion of round-robin pool play will play in the Championship Match.
- f. The Championship Match will consist of two games and, if necessary, a third. The first two games will be twenty-one (21) rally-point games, win by two points, with a cap of twenty-three (23), at which time a team wins by one point. The third game, if necessary because the teams split the first two games, will be a fifteen (15) rally-

point game with no cap, win by two points to decide the Tournament Championship.
All games will be un-timed and played to conclusion.

Revised June 9, 2010: Seth Eichenholtz, Commissioner; Josh Christensen, Vice-Commissioner; Craig Skelton, Secretary; Lew Smith, Treasurer; Rich Reid, Fabio Ostroviesky, Dale Shoemaker, Kleber Suarez, Dan Chen, Manny Collado, Daryl Cochrane, Division Representatives; Dominic Borgia, Leah Hughey, Jason Shaw, Power Representatives; Bob Arcari, Billy Bowden, Glen Fernandez, Omar Portillo, Wladimir Thomas, Pam Tong, Members-at-Large, and effective June 9, 2010.

Revised March 9, 2010: Seth Eichenholtz, Commissioner; Josh Christensen, Vice-Commissioner; Travis Pouliot, Secretary; Vinnie Mirrione, Treasurer; Rich Reid, Fabio Ostroviesky, Dale Shoemaker, Kleber Suarez, Omar Portillo, Dan Chen, Manny Collado, Wladimir Thomas, Daryl Cochrane, Division Representatives; Dominic Borgia, Leah Hughey, Jason Shaw, Power Representatives; Bob Arcari, Billy Bowden, Glen Fernandez, Joe Hom, John Rappaport, Craig Skelton, Lew Smith, Pam Tong, Members-at-Large, and effective March 9, 2010.

Revised January 24, 2009: Lew Smith, Commissioner; Seth Eichenholtz, Vice-Commissioner; Donald Orloski, Secretary; Josh Christensen, Treasurer; Rich Reid, Henry Vera, Greg Hughes, Kleber Suarez, John Rappaport, Sarah Cullen, Travis Pouliot, Wladimir Thomas, David Jordan, Division Representatives; Rex Chou, Scott Schmidt, Pam Tong, Voting Power Representatives; Alan Amechazurra, Bob Arcari, Billy Bowden, Rene Deida, Joe Hom, John Rappaport, Craig Skelton, Members-at-Large, and effective January 24, 2009.

Revised August 19, 2008: Lew Smith, Commissioner; Seth Eichenholtz, Vice-Commissioner; Donald Orloski, Secretary; Josh Christensen, Treasurer; Nick D'Andrea, Greg Hughes, Billy Bowden, Rob Frazier, Sarah Cullen, Juan Olmedo, Wladimir Thomas, Craig Skelton, Division Representatives; Alan Amechazurra, Bob Arcari, Rene Deida, Joe Hom, Members-at-Large, and effective August 19, 2008

Revised April 18, 2005: Don Murray, Commissioner; Waseem Akhtar, Vice-Commissioner; Ron Luce, Secretary; David Freedman, Treasurer; Nick D'Andrea, Daniel Agosto, Freddy Hernandez, Rob Frazier, Henry Mui, Harry Dickerson, Lenny Shields, Roy Harcourt, Division Representatives; Ted Gelpi, Webmaster; Bob Arcari, Tournaments Director, and effective May 1, 2005

Revised April 2, 2002: Alan Amechazurra, Commissioner; Rich Lopez, Vice-Commissioner; John Hatton, Secretary; Vincent Mogavero, Treasurer; Angel Hance, Dan Sullivan, Lenny Randazzo, Rob Frazier, Jeannie Herlihy, Jim Finch, Doug Reynolds, Division Representatives

Adopted on August 14, 2000: Angel Martin, Commissioner; Bob Arcari, Secretary; Rich Lopez, Treasurer; and Division Representatives Steven Alan Black, Steven Hahn, Mark Kline, Mark O'Byrne and Irwin Seltzer, and effective September 1, 2000.

GOTHAM VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE, INC.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND ANTI-VIOLENCE POLICY

I. Policy Statement: Gotham Volleyball is a community organization, founded and organized to promote the development and enjoyment of the sport of volleyball among the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community, in particular, as well as among the general populace. In doing so, Gotham Volleyball sponsors both sports competitions and social events to meet the athletic and social needs of the community it serves. Gotham seeks to use volleyball competition to help bring people together, foster friendships, reinforce healthy lifestyles, and build community pride and participation. In order to ensure these goals, Gotham Volleyball officials and participants are entitled to a non-judgmental, competitive, safe, positive, encouraging, and fun environment. Unsportsmanlike conduct, violence, and harassment can ruin this environment necessary for the League to achieve its objectives. The Board of Directors of Gotham Volleyball, therefore, establishes this policy to reduce or eliminate violence and unsportsmanlike behavior from all League activities, to give League officials the ability to deal with incidents of unsportsmanlike or violent behavior should they arise, and to ensure the healthy and safe environment that the members and officials of Gotham Volleyball are entitled to.

II. Sportsmanship Policy:

1. League Policy

- a. Gotham Volleyball expects its participants and officials to conduct league-sponsored competition in a competitive, respectful, and sportsmanlike way.
- b. Gotham Volleyball prides itself on being an open and safe environment for all of its members. The conduct of league members and participants should create a positive image regarding the community the League represents and serves. Use of inappropriate language or comments that focus someone's age, race, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or other personal characteristics that have nothing to do with their play in volleyball is prohibited.
- c. Unsportsmanlike conduct, including rude comments and verbal gestures, is prohibited by this policy and the Gotham Volleyball Rules of League Play.
- d. Cheering for a team should be done in a positive way, without belittling or making inappropriate comments regarding the opposing team or its members.
- e. There is no place in Gotham Volleyball for taunting, embarrassing, or humiliating an opponent or game official.
- f. Players are expected to be respectful when dealing with contentious issues during competitive play. Players are not to speak in a rude or condescending manner to any other participant or league official. As discussed further below, no individual should, in any manner, threaten another individual. A Team Captain or Game Referee should allow time for an individual who has gotten angry to calm down before play resumes.
- g. As provided in the Gotham Rules of Play, only Team Captains should address a referee during a match. Whenever anyone addresses a referee, they should do so in a calm, polite, and professional manner. In no event may anyone make rude, obscene, or threatening remarks or gestures to a referee.
- h. Referees and other league officials must treat all league members and participants with respect, even if the individual is acting inappropriately or if the official disagrees with the participant.

2. While all members of Gotham Volleyball are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner, the following individuals are leaders of Gotham Volleyball and expected to be role models of sportsmanship:

- a. Members of the Gotham Board of Directors
- b. Team Captains
- c. Team Coaches

- d. Game Referees
 - e. Tournament Directors
 - f. Longtime participants in League Activity
3. Handling Instances of Poor Sportsmanship
- a. The most typical violations of this policy, arguments between members of a team, between members of different teams, or participants and officials, during competitive league play, should be handled in an informal manner designed to defuse the situation and continue play.
 - b. Disputes between a participant in game play and an official shall be handled under the Gotham Rules of League Play, unless the violation is unusually serious or repetitive.
 - c. If a participant in league activity (including league officials) acts inappropriately, a game referee, league official, or that participant's Team Captain, if appropriate, should remove the participant from the situation, if possible, and discuss the situation with the participant, and assess the participant's ability to continue with the play in an appropriate way.
 - d. If the participant cannot continue to play in an appropriate manner at that time, the participant may be removed from competitive play for an appropriate period of time, not to exceed the remaining length of that match, by the team captain or match referee.
 - e. Any league official should warn a participant when he/she has violated this policy and explain how their conduct is inappropriate. No follow-up action need be taken unless the violation was unusually serious or part of a repetitive violation of the League's policy.
 - f. In a situation where there are repetitive violations of this policy by a participant or the violation is unusually serious, the incident should be documented by a Gotham Board member and brought to the attention of the Commissioner. The Executive Board will then decide whether to refer the participant(s) to the Gotham Grievance Committee to address the situation.
 - g. If there are multiple violations of this policy by an employee of Gotham Volleyball in the course of his duties, then the incident should be documented and referred to the Gotham Board of Directors to review that individual's employment status with the league.

III. Anti-Violence Policy:

- 1. League Policy – Any form of violent behavior outside the rules of volleyball is strictly prohibited by the League.
 - a. Definition -- Violence is defined as any verbal threats or abuse, physical contact with another with the intent to threaten or injure, initiation of a fight or scuffle, or encouraging others to engage in physical violence. All matters pertaining to incidents of violence, (even if they) that take place during league sanctioned volleyball activity, are *never* considered “matters of League Play” as discussed in Article XI of the Gotham Volleyball Bylaws. Therefore, all review of these matters is heard, in the first instance, by the Gotham Volleyball Grievance Committee.
- 2. Incidents of Violence During League Events – Any member or official of Gotham Volleyball who engages in violence during any league event is immediately suspended from league play and activities. Any incident of violence during league activities should be immediately documented by a member of the Gotham Volleyball Board of Directors. However, the League may, *at any time*, still pursue sanctions against an individual engaging in violence even if the incident is not immediately documented. Any Board Member **must** document **any** complaints of behavior that violates this policy during league events, even if the incident is brought to the Board Member's attention after the fact and/or the Board Member did not personally witness the incident.

- a. Responsibilities of the Board Member Documenting the Incident – The Board Member who documents an incident of violence must deliver a report that is as detailed as possible to the Commissioner. The Board Member should also collect the names and contact information of any willing witnesses to the incident. If anyone is injured as a result of the act of violence, the Board Member should contact 911 to request an ambulance and, if appropriate, the police.
 - b. Responsibilities of the Suspended Member or Official -- The individual who has been suspended from the league under this provision must contact the Commissioner of Gotham Volleyball by 11 AM the following morning to arrange to discuss the incident. The Member or Official must attend all scheduled League proceedings regarding the incident. The League must make reasonable attempts to accommodate the schedule of the suspended member or official when scheduling such meetings.
 - c. Responsibilities of the Commissioner – Once informed of a documented incident of violence by a member of the League, the Commissioner must make himself be available to be contacted by the individual(s) who engaged in the violent activity. Once the Commissioner discusses the incident with the individual(s), the Commissioner may either uphold the interim suspension or lift the interim suspension, subject to the review of the incident by the Gotham Grievance Committee. In either event, the Commissioner must inform the Gotham Grievance Committee about the incident and work with the Committee to schedule a meeting to review the incident and determine the appropriate sanction.
 - d. Violence by a Player during League Sanctioned Competition – In addition to this policy, acts of violence by a player during league sanctioned volleyball activity shall be dealt with as described in the Rules of Play for Gotham Volleyball, including the guidelines of the assessment of a yellow or red card by the referee. If a referee assesses a red card during league play, the Division Representative must document the incident and the player is automatically suspended from further play, subject to the procedures in this policy. Additionally, the League may assess further sanctions against the player pursuant to this policy even if no penalty or sanctions were assessed to the player during competition.
3. Other Incidents of Violence -- If any member of Gotham Volleyball engages in acts of violence during volleyball competition sponsored by other leagues or organizations, and that incident is brought to the attention of the Commissioner of Gotham Volleyball, the Commissioner of Gotham Volleyball may pursue sanctions against that member, if appropriate, by bringing the incident to the attention of the Grievance Committee.
 4. Sanctions – A final sanction for a member or official of Gotham engaging in violence shall be determined by the Gotham Grievance Committee pursuant to the procedure outlined in the Gotham Bylaws, Gotham Rules of Play, and this policy.
 - a. Sanctions must reflect the severity of the conduct at issue but shall be assessed at the discretion of the Grievance Committee.
 - b. Sanctions may include a warning and/or a fine(s) against the member. When determining the amount of any fine, the member’s ability to pay the fine(s) must be considered.
 - c. Sanctions may include suspension of the individual from any or all Gotham sanctioned competition and/or Gotham events for any length of time, up to, and including, a lifetime (or “indefinite”) suspension. If a member is suspended, no additional sanctions may be assessed.
 - d. When a sanction includes suspension from any portion of league or tournament play for which the individual has already paid dues or a fee, whether or not to refund a *pro rata* share of the dues or fee to the individual shall be determined as part of the sanction.
 - e. Sanctions may also be directed at a team where appropriate, including the forfeiture of one or more games. In the event that a team sanction is being considered, the team captain must be involved in the process.

- f. Absent exceptional circumstances, any intentional act of violence that results in physical injury to another individual will result in that member being suspended indefinitely from all Gotham events and activities, including non-competitive events.
- g. Any individual who is assessed a lifetime suspension must be provided with the ability to petition the League to lift the suspension no more than two years from the date of the suspension. The length of time shall be determined at the discretion of the Grievance Committee. If such a request is made and rejected, the individual must be allowed to renew the request at least once every subsequent year of competition.
- h. Any decision on sanctions may be appealed to the Gotham Board of Directors pursuant to the Gotham Volleyball Bylaws. In the event of an appeal, the Gotham Board of Directors shall have the power to modify or overturn any sanction and their decision shall be final.

Adopted by the Board of Directors October 2007 and effective immediately.

Lew Smith, Commissioner; Rene Deida, Vice Commissioner; Joe Hom, Treasurer; Seth Eichenholtz, Secretary; Nick D'Andrea, Division 1; Alan Amechazurra, Division 2; Greg Hughes, Division 3; Billy Bowden, Division 4; Rob Frazier, Division 5; Sarah Cullen, Division 6; Juan Olmedo, Division 7; Wladimir Thomas, Division 8; Waseem Akhtar, Bob Arcari, Josh Christensen, Archie Messersmith, Donald Orloski, Members at Large.