

DC Pride Volleyball League Season 7 Survey Summary and Responses from The Board of Directors

Comment Category	Comment	Official Response
Accessibility & Inclusion	Every captain should be competent in working with an interpreter and competent in basic ASL to ensure effective communication with deaf players.	The Board will arrange an in-person ASL competency session and videotape the session to post on our website so that all players can review this session and ultimately improve communication between all players.
Accessibility & Inclusion	Offer fee waivers to those who cannot afford registration fees.	The Board will include language in the registration email and on our website along the lines of "If you are facing economic challenges that might prevent you from participating, please notify the Board and we will work with you to make sure you can play. DCPVL is committed to making volleyball accessible to everyone."
Accessibility & Inclusion	Have "sibling" teams in each division who you cheer on when you're not playing. (2)	The Board will do its best to design schedules that maximize sibling teams being able to support each other.
Accessibility & Inclusion	There needs to be less separation of novice players from the advanced and intermediate players.	Ideally, DCPVL would have all competitive league matches in one facility on one night to break down division barriers on competitive match nights and to allow for maximum participation on a night dedicated to skill development and open play. However, facility limitations will make such an arrangement difficult, but the Board is committed to designing a season schedule that avoids unnecessarily creating barriers between divisions. We are also committed to encouraging more league-wide sponsor events to reduce social divisions.
Accessibility & Inclusion	Board members could work harder to circulate at events to get to know new folks.	The Board agrees and will try to undertake the following to make the Board more accessible: (1) Release a weekly blurb (to be posted on website as well) on one of the Board members that gives a more holistic look at the Board - this way common interests outside of volleyball can serve as a platform for breaking the ice and thereby encourage more interaction with Board Members; (2) The Board will identify new players and assign Board members to make contact with them at the Team Announcement Party; (3) The Board will also assign each Board member certain teams to make contact with so each player knows at least one Board member they can talk to with any issues, or just to make a new friend!
Communications	Send out the standings each week.	The Communications Director will include the standings in weekly blast email, and circulate via Facebook and Instagram each week.
Communications	Attach Google Calendar Invites to events	The Communications Director will start including Google Calendar invites with e-mails. The League calendar can also be found on our website, which can then be transferred into Google Calendar.
Communications	Provide a longer heads-up before the season starts.	The Board is doing its best to give as much notice as possible in advance of registration. Logistical issues with facilities are delaying the Board's ability to finalize the season schedule.
Communications	More updates during the off-season would be helpful.	The Board sends weekly email blasts as appropriate, and is active on Facebook and Instagram. The Commissioner will be sending a state of the league update via e-mail soon to discuss the issues we are having with facilities.

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Communications	Communications between Facebook and e-mail should be harmonized to ensure everyone is getting the same information.	The Communications Director will schedule social media and weekly blast emails for same time. Consistently deliver these updates no later than noon Tuesday in the weeks following Board meetings.
Communications	More consistently publicize all of our events in advance to reduce relying on word of mouth (3)	The Communications Director will coordinate with the Social Director and Division Reps to plan and publicize events more than 2 weeks in advance.
Communications	The League events calendar could be more prominent on the League's website.	The calendar tab is clearly marked on the website and we will keep it this way. The Communications Director will also introduce a new "Social" tab on main page. This new tab will firstly list all upcoming social events, dates, times, locations. Social tab will also include slideshow of DCPVL social events.
Competitive League	Equal playing time for players should be guaranteed. Everyone pays the same and should, as a result, see the same court time.	The Board will conduct a brief mid-season survey to make sure teams are operating well. However, the Board will not force captains to provide equal playing time. This is a competitive league and the varying number of players on a team week to week, along with their specialties, may lead to captains giving different amounts of playing time to ensure the overall success of the team. Concerns may always be brought to the attention of the captain or the Board.
Competitive League	The location of the facility relative to where players live and to sponsor bars for socializing after a match is not ideal.	DCPVL has established a strong relationship with CUA that provides metro accessibility and enough competitive gym space to realize our league's mission. It is difficult to visit sponsors on league nights, and thus the Board is working to hold more social events outside of league nights. The Board is continuously working to identify new facilities that might make league nights more convenient to players, but at present, CUA is the only option that allows for the league to host three competitive divisions, skills clinics, and open play each week.
Competitive League	I want to play more than once a week. Maybe have a Tuesday League and Thursday League? Or hold more open gyms?	We struggle to acquire enough space to provide league programming as is, so finding an additional day of play is unlikely to occur. Furthermore, Board members will be dedicating a significant amount of time just to maintain current program offerings. Adding another program is simply not administratively feasible at this time. We encourage players to look for other sports leagues through Team DC or volleyball leagues like DC Fray. The Board is preparing a resource to provide links to other options. This resource will eventually be placed on our website.
Double Headers	Having large gaps between playing times is not ideal. (8)	The Facilities and Equipment Director will use his programming skills to design a schedule that minimizes gaps between playing times as much as possible, but facility limitations and the need for refereeing do complicate things.
Double Headers	Every evening should be a double header given how difficult it is to get to Catholic and due to the value of playing while warm. (2)	We simply do not have the facilities for this during Season 8 and this would also completely prevent teams and the league from holding sponsor events on the same night as league. Each season is unique based on participation and availability of physical space, so double headers may be offered more/less as a result, but it is unlikely for the foreseeable future that DCPVL would offer double-headers on every single league night within a season.

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Double Headers	Novice players should have double headers on the same night as advanced and intermediate.	We agree it's ideal to have everyone play the same amount on the same night. We will see what the facilities available make possible. We also must ensure that novice players have access to mentors from the intermediate and advanced divisions, meaning that their playing times cannot operate concurrently, placing constraints on the Board in terms of scheduling. For season 8, the current plan is that each division will get one double header night and that for several of the weeks, all three divisions will have play on the same night.
Draft	Advanced captains may not be drafting those currently rated intermediate simply because they are not familiar with them. Suggestion to have cross-reffing between divisions as a possible solution.	Cross-reffing would be too disruptive because less skilled players would end up reffing more skilled players and vice versa, setting the stage for conflict. Advanced captains or their proxies attend the skills assessment and thus have an opportunity to see intermediate players who wish to make it into the advanced division. All players qualified for advanced are included in the advanced draft and photos of all intermediate players who attended the skills assessment and were uprated have a photo taken of them for the captains' reference during the draft. The best way for players of one division to become known to players of another division is to regularly attend league-wide social events, take advantage of open play opportunities, and volunteer for league leadership roles (Board, captain, mentor, etc.). Reach out to the board if you have particular play level concerns or skills you want to work on. We are happy to help you network, or even try and provide a mentor to help increase your level of play.
Draft	How does the draft process meet the Mission Statement of the League?	Our mission statement says that we are committing to promoting both a social AND competitive environment. Allowing captains to draft upholds the motive to draft the best player possible (taking into account both athletic and social factors) in each round to make the overall best team (athletically skilled and socially cohesive). Doing the draft in rounds helps to make sure that no one captain has an advantage, ensuring that teams are balanced so that the division is competitive. As has been regularly demonstrated by our season results, any team could defeat or lose to any one of their opponents on any given night. The draft is the best way to allow a given division's captains the ability to pick those best suited to play in their division. And by now having three divisions in addition to open play and skills clinic, DCPVL clearly demonstrates that it wants to maximize the number of people with an opportunity to play in the league.
Draft	Advanced notice of how the drafting process works would be helpful.	Our drafting process is listed in the rules and regulations of the league, which is posted on the website. We will include the process description in a blast email and on social media prior to the draft occurring. The Board will also disseminate the rating form so folks have an idea of how they are being evaluated in the skills assessment. We will also put a link to these documents in the registration tab of the website for easy review.
Draft	Draft was not well organized. Captains were not equipped with enough resources to make decisions. Having	We are adjusting the time frame of the draft to allow intermediate captains to come to the draft later than the advanced captains, and the same for novice captains after

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	intermediate captains show up and then wait for advanced draft to conclude was not respectful of intermediate captains' time. Time management and clear leadership were lacking.	intermediate. Materials will be distributed to captains in a timely manner, as they were this past season.
Open Play	Players were unaware of who the Board Member(s) were. (4)	The Board will purchase pennys to wear during open play to help identify them.
Refereeing Clinic	In email indicating that a player was selected for the draft, make it clear that they should mark their calendars for the referee clinic because they may need to attend to meet the 2-person per team minimum.	Plan to add this to our league communications after the draft is completed and the first round of emails is sent out.
Refereeing Clinic	Videos should be used to help better portray infractions.	The Board will work to identify resources on YouTube and share them with the League.
Refereeing Clinic	A live session with examples and different scenarios would be helpful.	The Board will film the ref clinic and supplement with YouTube videos to help provide more visual resources.
Refereeing Clinic	If you attend a referee clinic in a past season, you should not have to attend in future seasons. (2)	Starting with Season 7, the Board is keeping a list of who has attended the ref clinic; however, each team is still required to send two people to the clinic because the League is trying to make sure all players become familiar and ultimately comfortable with reffing. Even if you've received this training, refreshing this knowledge is key. The Board will allow 1 of the team's 2 required people to be excused if someone on the team is NAGVA, NCAA, or USAV certified, but we still encourage teams to send 2 or more folks to attend.
Skills Assessment	Players need to be paired with the division they are trying out for.	The Board will split the courts by division for as much of the assessment as possible.
Skills Assessment	You should not have to pay before skills assessment and you should be able to indicate interest in multiple divisions at the same time.	Unfortunately, we do not have the ability to create two different registrations at this time, therefore everyone must pay when they register. This also ensures that all players have filled out the necessary liability paperwork to play. You are able to indicate interest in multiple divisions by selecting an option like "advanced but willing to play intermediate." Should a player not be drafted, refunds are processed in a timely manner after the draft.
Skills Clinic	Use the replay game wherein you repeat a play to rectify an error and learn from your mistake.	The Skill Development Director was informed of this comment and will take it into consideration as he designs the skills clinics.
Skills Clinic	More rotational practice is needed. (3)	The Skill Development Director was informed of this comment and will take it into consideration as he designs the skills clinics.
Skills Clinic	Teaching in smaller groups would be ideal.	The more volunteers we have, the smaller the groups we are able to facilitate. Everything is contingent on how many volunteers we have on a given night.
Skills Clinic	It would be better to have top-notch setters setting balls for hitters to practices with, as opposed to non-setters tossing balls.	If available, will incorporate setters into hitting clinics, but as pointed out above, everything depends on who volunteers to assist these sessions.
Social	Events could be more inclusive / Sponsor mixers should be open to all players	The Social Director will work to maximize the number of league-wide events this season. However, sometimes sponsor outings are intended for individual team bonding.

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		But for those sponsor visits that are not dedicated to that purpose, captains will be encouraged by the DivReps to host league-wide events. Please message the Board after planning an event and it will help to publicize the event league-wide.
Social	Host events on different days of the week, and not always Mondays	Our league sponsor is Nellie's and Mondays is generally the day they have available for us, which affects the major league-wide events (Team Announcement Party, Mid-Season Party, End of Season Party). This season we have been able to schedule the Team Announcement Party for a Sunday. The Social Director will be more deliberate about identifying bars for special league-wide events following competitive league play once or twice a season and the Communications Director will make sure the league is notified in advance of these events to encourage participation. Additionally, the Social Director will focus on organizing and coordinating events to cover many different time slots across the week so that there are more options for players to attend social events.
Social	Make a more concerted effort to encourage folks to play in non-NAGVA tournaments like grass doubles.	The Board encourages all league members to use the DCPVL Community Facebook page to share volleyball events outside of DCPVL and NAGVA. The Board will also work together to put a fixed resource on the website to highlight organizations that offer playing opportunities (e.g. King of Grass, DC Fray, annual tournaments).
Social	Build in some structure to the all-league events to encourage players to meet new faces.	The Board will identify newcomers and assign a member to make contact with them at the Team Announcement Party.
Social	End of Season Party should have an MVP from each team to be more inclusive.	The Board thinks there are already an adequate number of awards given out at the End of Season Party and virtually all categories have a winner from each division in order to address inclusion concerns.
Social	End of season superlatives end up in the hands of folks from the same team. Is there a way to reduce this from occurring?	This did occur this past season in the Novice Division. The main driver of this was that novice players did not participate in awards voting to the extent that intermediate and advanced players did, meaning that for the novices who did vote, they had an outsized role on the outcome. Since the Board is aiming to expand the Novice Division to ideally 8 teams this season, the likelihood of this occurring will decrease. But the best way to reduce this from happening is to vote and to encourage all your teammates and leaguemates to vote. Many of the awards are won by just a vote, so every single vote matters.