

D.S.B.N. ELEMENTARY INTERSCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

K: THE CONCEPT OF EQUAL PLAY - JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL

1. What is it?

Equal Play is the concept wherein each child on a school team will have an opportunity to play approximately the same time period as any other player on the team.

2. Why Play it?

Equal play concepts were introduced with the idea that playing equal time, it would:

- a) allow more people to be on a team at one time;
- b) allow everyone on the team to participate rather than sitting;
- c) develop a higher level of skill ability in a greater number of students;
- d) encourage and develop more players for the future.

3. How are teams formatted?

- a) Teams are divided into two lines, (A) and (B).
- b) In Volleyball the (A) line is to consist of the better players while the (B) line is made up of those with fewer refined skills.
- c) If a team in Volleyball carry an equal number of players, then each line must consist of the same number of players (6 and 6, 7 and 7 etc.). If a team carries an odd number of players, then the difference between the two lines can not be more than one player (6 and 7 , 7 & 8 etc.).
- d) Extras are usually chosen to account for absenteeism during the season.

4. How is it played?

- a) For volleyball, four games are played in each match: two by the (A) lines and two by the (B) lines. Each line is to consist of at least 6 players, different from the other line. If a line consists of more than 6 players, then all players on that line participate by using a rotating basis of substitution.

5. Can players switch lines?

Coaches are free to change players from on line to another from **match-to-match**. Once a line has been established for a particular match, it must remain constant unless an injury or other circumstances forces a change. This change must be agreeable to both coaches.

6. Possible problems and solutions at the Local level:

- a) ***People dress players but don't play them:*** If a player is dressed for a match, then they are to play according to the rules. See paragraph 7 for penalties.
- b) ***Teams have extra players but don't dress them:*** In Volleyball some teams may choose to keep a practice squad and rotate them on line (B) from match to match. There is nothing improper with this so long as players and parents on the team understand the coach's personal rules.
- c) ***Players are placed on improper lines in ability:*** To do this intentionally defeats the reason why the

concept of 'Equal Play' in Volleyball was created. Where the difficulty arises is between the 5th, 6th, and 7th best players and where they should be placed..

- d) ***Schools come to games with fewer players than required to fill two lines:*** Every participating school would be expected to keep enough players on the team to fill two lines. Illness or conflicts may lead to this problem. This issue must be discussed at the coaches' meeting prior to the season. At this time it must be agreed what the minimum number will be and which players play on both lines

7. Penalties for teams not following the rules of 'Equal Play':

- a) All rules violations must be discussed at the coaches' meeting prior to the season. These rules that are to be used in that leagues play need to be included in the final package that the convenor sends out to all those participating. The enforcement of these decisions may be carried out by the convener at the coach's request immediately following a match. The consequences may include forfeiture. Hopefully, most conflicts can be resolved through discussions and agreement between the two coaches.
- b) If coaches understand the concept; attend and follow the decisions made at the coaches' meeting; and remember that the game is for the students' enjoyment, then 'Equal Play' can be successful and fulfilling for all involved in it.

8. Use of "Equal Play":

The "Equal Play" format will be used only for E.I.A.A. Junior Level (grades 4-6) team sports.

9. Variations of Equal Play

At time to time variations of the original Equal Play concept may be used in Volleyball. If these are used only on a one year trial basis they will not be included in the Resource Manual but rather will be included in the Convenors manual. Only when a change becomes permanent will it be included in the manual.

10. Equal Play at the D.S.B.N. Tournaments in Volleyball:

The rules governing the concept and use of equal play at the Board Wide Level Tournaments in Junior Volleyball will be laid out in detail for those directly involved in the tournament well in advance.

11. **Tier 1**... this is the league designed for the larger schools within the board .Of the approximately 90 schools that contain Junior students , roughly one third will be designated Tier 1 based on population.

Rules for Tier 1 both at the local and District level : Tier 1 schools will follow the true concept of equal play. Teams must carry at least 12 players for each match. More than 12 are encouraged. In tier 1 there will be no propping down of players from A to B within a match. Schools this size will be expected to have sufficient players that each line will contain at least 6 players. Remember one line cannot be more than one player greater than the other line.

12. **Tier 2 , Tier 3**.....this is for the schools who because of numbers would possibly have difficulty always having 12 players or more present. Some schools in Tier 2,3 may not have a problem fielding 12 players which is what we are aiming for. If a school can not field 12 players they will still hopefully be able to participate. We are going to allow schools to participate with a minimum of 10 players. If a team can not have 10 players we suggest you create a co ed team and enter the boys league. If a team has either 10 or 11

players on their roster then it is expected the best 6 will form the A line and will play both games as an A line. When a player or players from the A line play on the B line to allow for 6 players 2 rules come into effect. **1. A line players will only be allowed to play one of the games at the B line level and the A player will forfeit their serve when playing B and a double rotation will occur.**

By inserting these two simple rules that the concept of equal play is being followed as close as possible.