

# Playing Level Guidelines and policies



**The Pottstown Rumble** strives to ensure fair and fun competition by maintaining equity and consistency in all playing divisions.

**Please choose your playing division carefully.** If you aren't sure which division you should play, ask an experienced player you know, or contact us for help.

**Sandbagging will not be tolerated!** Sandbagging is playing a level lower than your skills require. The goal is usually for ego or an attempt to win undeserved prizes. Every year we find sandbagging players/teams and remove them. The Pottstown Rumble reserves the right to assess a player/team's skill level and remove them, without a refund, if we determine they are sandbagging. If you have any questions about the Divisions or your placement in them, please contact us.

## **Guidelines:**

We offer a variety of playing levels to ensure fair and fun competition for all. It's very important to review and understand the divisions before signing up. We offer both male and female divisions in the following levels:

**B:** Lowest competition level we offer, not much tournament experience, more of a casual player or newer to the sport. Should not have very good skills in most aspects of the game. For example, if you can handset or jump serve well, you shouldn't be in this division.

**BB:** Intermediate, some advanced skills. Common level for people who play pretty often but who maybe didn't play on an organized team or have advanced coaching. Familiar with tournament play. May or may not have skills such as jump serves, hand setting, and good ball placement. Hands will be called at this level and above.

**A:** Advanced and active tournament player. May have played college or club teams, with coaching/training in the past or present. Jump serves, outdoor hand setting, fast-paced attack, and good ball placement are likely from both players. Is not as consistent as a AA or Open level player.

**AA:** Advanced, experienced, and active tournament player, Played college or club teams, with lots of coaching/ training in the past or present. Jump serves, outdoor hand setting, fast-paced attack, and great ball placement are likely from both players.

**Open:** Highest level, very experienced, active tournament player. Competes for money. Players in this division have advanced skills and consistency in all areas (swings hard, good defense, blocking, jump serves, hand setting, running plays, etc.)



## Notes:

**Play to the level of the best player on your team:** If you are an A player and your partner is a AA player, you should register to play in division AA.

**If you play in the Pro/Open division,** you must play in at least AA on all other days, regardless of your partners' level.

**If you make it to a Semi-final in any Rumble division, you must play at least the next highest level available in all future Rumble events:** Example: If you get to Semi-finals in Men's B, you must play at least BB in all future Rumble events.

**Age guidelines for Masters and Juniors:** Players should register for the division that corresponds to their age on the day of play. *18U means 18 years and under. 50+ means 50 years or older. Players may register for any division their age and gender qualify for.*

**Playing "Down":** If you wish to play in a division lower than your skills require (*Playing with lower-level family or friends for example*) you must first get permission from registration to assure fair competition.

**We reserve the right to combine teams/divisions,** due to low registrations for example.

## Gendered Divisions Policy: Transgender athlete policy

The Pottstown Rumble supports fair and safe competition opportunities for all athletes. We ensure there are separate and equal opportunities for female athletes. As a result, we offer separate categories of competition. Athletes may participate in The Pottstown Rumble volleyball competition in accordance with the following conditions.

- A. Participation by athletes in divisions designated as "Male/Men's/Boys":
  - a. All eligible athletes may participate in the male divisions.
- B. Participation by athletes in divisions designated as "Female/Women's/Girls":
  - a. Only athletes whose biological sex\* is female may participate in the female divisions. An athlete who has not begun any masculinizing hormone therapy may participate without limitation.

\*For the sake of this policy, biological sex is defined by distinguishing characteristics and can be supported by birth certificate or signed affidavit. While rare, there have been cases where the sex assigned at birth does not match the biological sex, which led to the use of biological sex in this document.

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