

**Diocese of North America of the Mar Thoma Church
South West Regional Youth Fellowship Annual Sports Tournament
Rules & Regulations**

**(Approved by the South West Regional Youth Fellowship General Body
on Tuesday, April 23, 2024)**



**Created: Saturday, July 7, 2001
1st Revision: Wednesday, May 30, 2012
2nd Revision: Tuesday, April 23, 2024**

Introduction

The *South West Regional Youth Fellowship* (will hereafter be referred to as 'SWRYF') General Body (through the proposal of the SWRYF Committee) must approve any edits/updates to this document and the local youth fellowships of the region must be duly notified. *Youth Fellowship* will hereafter be referred to as 'YF.'

The tournament is usually conducted annually by the SWRYF, through the host parish YF or congregation YF, based on a schedule that is approved by the SWRYF committee. The words 'dues' / 'fees' will be used interchangeably in this document.

I. ELIGIBILITY / REGISTRATION

1. Following must be adhered to by each participating church to be eligible:

- At least three months prior to the tournament, submit to the SWRYF secretary a form registering the leagues it intends to participate in.
- At least two months prior to the tournament, submit to the YF regional secretary preliminary rosters (template will be provided). The specific date will be communicated through the Regional YF / Host church. The preliminary roster must be submitted without signatures on or before the due date and should indicate the number of potential players and teams.
- At least two months prior to the tournament, submit to the YF regional secretary Final YF membership (with registration dues), list signed with church seal, by the Vicar (template will be provided). The specific date will be communicated through the Regional YF / Host church.
- YF Membership form must include all players listed on the roster.
- At least four weeks prior to tournament, submit to the SWRYF secretary final rosters (with fees). Each final roster must include names, jersey numbers and date of birth. The Vicar of the participating church should review, sign, and include parish seal on the final rosters, attesting to the accuracy of the form and verifying that all participants are official members of their parish and youth fellowship.
- The SWRYF Committee and host church / congregation will be reviewing all documents. Reviewing all preliminary documents will help identify discrepancies, which must be corrected by the respective church by the time of the final roster submission deadline. The respective church's Vicar, YF committee, and team are fully responsible for the accuracy of the details provided.
- SWRYF Committee reserves the right to update roster lists based on any discrepancies, errors, disciplinary violations, or other reasons.
- The purpose of the regional sports tournament is to foster fellowship, encourage Christian sportsmanship, and also encourage participants to be connected to, and active in the ministry of the local parish / congregation YF. Local parish/congregation YF's are highly encouraged to ensure the same. The SWRYF reserves the right to create provisions that would enforce this note, and would be considered as applicable to this document.
- Registration:
 - a. It is the responsibility of the YF secretary to submit an Excel / PDF Copy that includes Vicar's Initials and Seal on each page.
 - b. It is also their responsibility to ensure all members including those not playing in the tournament are included in the membership list.

- c. PDF copy necessary for signatures
- d. An age column will be added to the Excel roster.
- e. It is the responsibility of each YF to maintain the published deadlines.
- Rosters:
 - a. Forms:
 - i. An excel and PDF copy from each individual team with parish seal and signed by the YF President/Vice President/Secretary/Team Captain and or Coach.
 - b. Waivers:
 - i. electronic waivers can be used, but SWRYF committee and Host church will collaborate for the arrangements.
 - ii. If not feasible, there can be a provision for hard copies to be submitted in advance and available the day of tournament. SWRYF committee and Host church will collaborate for the arrangements, and they will be communicated to the respective teams.
- Anyone not listed on the final rosters and registration form submitted to the SWRYF Committee cannot play in tournament.

c. Checking of ID's:

- i. All players must produce:
 - 1. any form of photo ID card, with name and DOB.
OR
 - 2. photocopy of birth certificate with photo ID with name and their YF VP / Church Vicar must be present to validate DOB.
 - 3. If there is any discrepancy, the Achen or YF VP should verify if age is accurate.
- ii. Birthday cutoff is the first day of tournament.
- iii. If there is any discrepancy, the Vicar of the respective parish / congregation should verify.
- iv. A Valid ID card with date of birth includes passports, driver's license, learner's permit. Original is required. If not able to produce the same, an original school ID and a printed legible color photocopy of the document is to be submitted for review.

**No exceptions will be considered for any of the above unless a letter signed by the Vicar explaining the extenuating circumstance is submitted to the SWRYF and approved by the SWRYF committee.*

2. All participants must be members of the Mar Thoma Church (Parish or Congregation) they are participating with and an official member (registered) of the YF they are participating with. The age restrictions for the various leagues are as follows:

<u>BASKETBALL</u>	Up to 2024	From 2025
A League:	12 – 35	13 – 35
B League:	12 – 27	13 – 27

C League:	12 – 18	13 – 18
Women's League:	12 – 35	13 – 35

VOLLEYBALL

Men's League:	12 – 35	13 – 35
Women's League:	12 – 35	13 – 35

Each church may register up to one team for each league.

Due to the recent revision in the bylaws of the Youth Fellowship published by the Diocese, the minimum participant age requirement of 12 will be revised to 13, and this will go into effect from the 2025 SWRYF Sports Tournament.

For the year 2024 Sports tournament, a separate section on the registration list should indicate those who are participating who are 12 years of age.

**Age means the age the individual is on the day of the start of the tournament. (For example, if the tournament is starting on August 9, 2024, and the lower age limit is age 12, the individual must have been born on or before August 9, 2012. For the upper limit for the same, if the age is 35, the person must have been born on or after August 9, 1989).*

3. Considering the limitations that smaller parishes or congregations may have in forming sports teams for this tournament, the following provision is hereby approved for Mar Thoma parishes or congregations in the South west region, that have less than 100 families in their membership (according to the most recent Diocesan Annual Report):

- **Option 1**

- Youth(s) from a parish or congregation in the South West Region must have a recommendation letter prepared by the respective parish/congregation (less than 100 families) Vicar (issued to the Vicar of the respective parish team that they desire to play [church with above 100 families], and CC'ing the SWRYF President), stating that: (1) a team cannot be formed due to insufficient number of youth in the age limits outlined (2) the youth(s) are registered YF members of the respective parish/congregation (3) the youth(s) are active in the local parish/congregation and respective YF, (4) playing by their own desire and risk, (5) seeking permission of the Vicar (of the church with more than 100 families, which has the sports team they desire to join) to admit them to the team.
- After this recommendation letter is submitted, the Vicar of the church of the respective sports team, who is receiving this letter, should review, and if approved, send an approval letter to the SWRYF President, highlighting the details from the recommendation, and also stating the decision of approval. SWRYF committee will make the final decision on this matter, and will subsequently make necessary arrangements for the same. This option is a privilege, and not a right. The option, if used, must be fulfilled in

good faith and intent to promote Christian sportsmanship and witness. SWRYF Committee reserves the right to have and enforce internal controls (including limits, or modification/clarification of terms/conditions) in case of misuse of this privilege, that could lead to an unfair advantage.

- In the case that the youth (from parishes smaller than 100 families) gets the necessary approvals as outlined above and plays on another church team that wins (or even awards/trophies given individually), the award/trophy/equivalent will given to/ascribed/credited to only the registered church team.
- If this option is being used, the above-mentioned process must be followed, and the request must be received by the SWRYF President at least three months prior to the start date of the tournament (from 2025). In 2024, the above-mentioned process must be followed, and request received by the SWRYF President on or before May 23, 2024.

- **Option 2**

- If there are more than one parish / congregation in the region (below 100 families) that desire to form their own team, but are not able to do so, they have the option to join with another parish / congregation in the region (below 100 families) to form one 'combined' sports team. They would have to follow the requirements in this document, and they would be designated / registered as a 'combined' team, in the name of both churches.
- Youth(s) from a parish or congregation in the South West Region must have an recommendation letter prepared by the respective parish/congregation Vicar (issued to the Vicar of the second parish/congregation team that they desire to play, (a parish/congregation below 100 families) and CC'ing the SWRYF President), stating that: (1) a team cannot be formed due to insufficient number of youth with the outlined age limits (2) the youth(s) are registered YF members of the respective parish/congregation (3) the youth(s) are active in the local parish/congregation and respective YF, (4) playing by their own desire and risk, (5) seeking permission of the Vicar (of the sports team they desire to combine with, a church less than 100 families) to have a combined team. The vice-versa must be done for the other team too.
- After this recommendation letter is submitted, the Vicar of the church of each respective sports team, who is receiving this letter, should send an approval letter to the SWRYF President, highlighting the details from the recommendation, and also stating the decision of approval of having a combined team.
- This option is a privilege, and not a right. SWRYF committee will make the final decision on this matter, along with making necessary arrangements for the same.
- In the case that the youth (from parishes smaller than 100 families) gets the necessary approvals as outlined above and plays on a "combined" team, the award/trophy/equivalent will given to/ascribed/credited to only the registered "combined" church team. The same case if the youth received an award as an individual: the award/trophy/equivalent will given

to/ascribed/credited to only the registered “combined” church team.

- If this option is being used, the above-mentioned process must be followed, and the request must be received by the SWRYF President at least three months prior to the start date of the tournament (from 2025). In 2024, the above-mentioned process must be followed, and request received by the SWRYF President on or before May 23, 2024.

*Either option taken must be approved by the SWRYF Committee, after submission of the requested letters/endorsements. They must still adhere to the general eligibility requirements as stated in this document (YF registration, age, ...etc)

*If youth member(s) play on another team as per this provision, their home respective YF's must be registered with the regional YF.

*Please note that the Mar Thoma Church, Diocese of North America, parent church, Diocesan Youth Fellowship, SWRYF, Center YF's, Host church, or any Parishes, any Congregations, or their committees, subsidiaries, subunits, etc. will be released of any liability in the event of any injury, etc. Those who decide to use the above options are doing so completely at their own risk.

II. DUES

The following is the amount for regional dues as passed by the SWRYF General Body on Monday, February 7, 2011:

REGIONAL REGISTRATION DUES:	\$150 / youth fellowship
For youth fellowships below 30 members,	\$5 / for each youth member

The following is the amount for team dues as passed by the SWRYF General Body on Thursday, May 11, 2023:

TOURNAMENT DUES:	\$300 / team (2023 Regional Sports Tournament)
	\$350 / team (from 2024 Regional Sports Tournament onwards)
	*Addl. \$15 per player for rosters over 15 players (2023 and beyond)

*The SWRYF Committee (with the approval of the SWRYF General Body) can revise the regional registration dues or tournament dues, and the said amounts for dues will be applicable to this document.

III. BRACKET STRUCTURE

Double elimination is the standard for all leagues. Based on the facility and timings, if this is impossible, SWRYF Committee will review and if deemed needed, will approve any alternatives.

In the case of double elimination, the double elimination brackets will be natural double elimination brackets. The following will explain the modified single elimination brackets:

- When there are **5 teams in a bracket**, there will be 1 team that has a bye in the first round and the rest of the 4 teams will play each other (drawing numbers will determine the first round match ups). The teams are then reseeded for the second round. The team that won by the highest point differential in the first round will be the 1st seed. The team with the second highest point differential in the first round will be the 2nd seed. The team that had the first round bye will be the 3rd seed. The loser that has the lowest point differential will advance and will be the 4th seed in the second round. In the second round, the 1st and 4th seed will play each other and the 2nd and 3rd seed will play each other. The winners of the 2nd round games will play each other in the championship game.
- When there are **6 teams in a bracket**, all 6 teams will play in the first round (drawing numbers will determine the first round match ups). The teams are then reseeded for the second round. The team that won by the highest point differential in the first round will be the 1st seed. The team with the second highest point differential in the first round will be the 2nd seed and the team with the third highest point differential in the first round will be the 3rd seed. The loser that has the lowest point differential will advance and will be the 4th seed in the second round. In the second round, the 1st and 4th seed will play each other and the 2nd and 3rd seed will play each other. The winners of the 2nd round games will play each other in the championship game.
- When there are **7 teams in a bracket**, there will be 1 team that has a bye in the first round and the rest of the 6 teams will play each other (drawing numbers will determine the first round match ups). The teams are reseeded for the second round. The team that won by the highest point differential in the first round will be the 1st seed. The team with the second highest point differential in the first round will be the 2nd seed and the team with the third highest point differential in the first round will be the 3rd seed. The team with the bye will be the 4th seed in the second round. The winners of the 2nd round games will play each other in the championship game.
- When there are **8 teams in a bracket**, the 1st round will be a standard 8 team brackets (drawing numbers will determine the first round match ups). The 1st seed will play the 8th seed, the 2nd will play the 7th, the 3rd will play the 6th, and the 4th will play the 5th. The teams are reseeded for the second round. The team that won by the highest point differential in the first round will be the 1st seed. The winning team with the second highest point differential in the first round will be the 2nd seed and the team with the third highest point differential in the first round will be the 3rd seed. The winning team with the lowest point differential will be the 4th seed in the second round. The winners

of the 2nd round games will play each other in the championship game.

IV. GENERAL RULES

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12: 1-2, NRSV)

It is our divine responsibility to be Christian witnesses on and off the court, through our words, deeds, and thoughts. The aim of this tournament is to nurture and encourage Christian sportsmanship, and create an environment that enables all who gather to glorify and worship our Triune God. There is a Zero-tolerance policy for any type of behavior or activity that is not suitable to our Christian faith and witness or to the church.

1. All participants must adhere to practices of the Mar Thoma Church and acknowledge that the Mar Thoma Church (and all subsidiaries, subunits, along with the parent church, Diocese, etc) are not liable for any injuries or damages or incidents occurred during the Sports Tournament, during sport tournament practices (or related activities), and during transportation to and from the tournament or accommodations, or any places connected with the tournament.
2. All participants are required to wear uniforms with numbers on the back. All numbers should be large and legible from a distance. No two players (on the same team) can have the same number.
3. Fighting will be grounds for automatic ejection from all Sports Tournament activities as well as grounds to restrict participation in future tournaments.
4. All players must be registered to play. Teams will forfeit any game in which they play an unregistered player.
5. Each team must either have a designated coach (non-player) or one player to act as a captain.
6. Any type of noisemaker will be prohibited.

V. FORFEITURE/TIEBREAKER RULES

1. Following guidelines will apply to forfeits:
 - Teams must be present on the court when they are scheduled to play. In the event a team is not present, the team has five minutes to present themselves on the court. The commencement of the five minutes is at the collective discretion of the hosting parish and the regional committee.
 - When the team has failed to present themselves upon completion of the five minutes, the team has forfeited. In this event or when the team has decided to

forfeit a basketball game/volleyball match prior to the completion of the five minutes, the record/point differential will be handled as follows:

- For basketball, a loss will be added to the forfeiting team's overall record and "-5" points will be added to their point differential. The opposing team will have a win added to their overall record and "+5" points added to their point differential.
- For volleyball, a loss will be added to the forfeiting team's overall record and, the opposing team will have a win added to their overall record.

2. Following guidelines will apply to tiebreakers for seeding purposes:

- A forfeiting team will be considered the worst loser for reseeding purposes.
- **Basketball:** First tiebreaker will be point differential. The point differential will be calculated at the end of regulation. If a game goes to overtime, the point differential would be 0. The next tiebreaker after lowest point differential would be most points scored. The final tiebreaker after most points scored would be a coin flip.
- **Volleyball:** First tiebreaker will be the number of sets lost, next tiebreaker would be point differential and the final tiebreaker would be a coin flip.

VI. BASKETBALL

SWRYF is using the National Federation of State High School Associations 'NFHS Basketball Rules Book 2023-2024' except for the following exceptions/clarifications:

- A league and B league will consist of two 20-minute halves with a running clock. C league and Girls league will consist of two 15-minute halves with a running clock. Each overtime period will be 5 minutes long.
- Halftime will be 5 minutes long.
- Timing will be a running clock except for when timeouts are called, on court injuries, the last two minutes of the 2nd half and during the last two minutes of overtime.
- Each team is allotted two (30 second) timeouts per half. In the event of an overtime period, each team is allotted one (30 second) timeout.
- Substitutes may enter the game upon notification of their coach/captain and the referees.
- Each player is allowed 5 individual fouls before he/she is disqualified from the game.
- Technical fouls will also count as personal fouls. Two technical fouls for a player will be an automatic ejection from the game.

General definition of a technical foul: Any infraction of the rules penalized as a foul which does not involve physical contact during the course of play between players on the court. The most common technical foul is for unsportsmanlike conduct. Technical fouls can be assessed against players, bench personnel, or even the entire team.

- Any Flagrant foul will result in an automatic ejection from the game.

General definition of a flagrant foul: A flagrant foul is a serious contact foul involving unnecessary and/or excessive and/or intentional contact.

- Discretion of technical foul and flagrant foul calls will be left up to the on-court

referee, but the SWRYF President or SWRYF President's Appointed Vicar or Clergy Youth Chaplain reserve the right to overrule the referee's call where deemed appropriate.

- Backcourt violation will be enforced for both men's and women's basketball.
- Free throws:
 - If a player is shooting while being fouled, then he/she gets two free throws (three free throws for a three pointer) if his/her shot doesn't go in. If his/her shot does go in, then only one free throw will be given.
 - Six or fewer team fouls: If fouled while not shooting and the team committing the foul has six or fewer fouls in the half, the ball is given to the team the foul was committed upon. They get the ball at the nearest side or baseline, out of bounds.
 - Seven to Nine team fouls: If the team committing the foul has seven, eight or nine fouls in the half, then the player who was fouled is awarded one free throw. If he/she makes his/her first shot, then he/she is awarded another free throw.
 - Ten or more team fouls: If the team committing the foul has ten or more fouls in the half, then the fouled player receives two free throws.
- **Rule Exception:** 10-second rule to advance to frontcourt will NOT be enforced for the women's league.
- The clock will stop two minutes before the end of the second half of each game, across all Men's and Women's leagues.
- The clock will stop two minutes before the end of overtime of each game, across all Men's and Women's leagues.
- Wilson Evolution Basketball should be used for (A, B, C – Men's Basketball) and Women's Basketball for Women's League. Air pump should be readily available and used at the discretion of the referee and conveners.

VII. VOLLEYBALL

SWRYF is using the 'USA Volleyball 2021-2023 Indoor Rules Book' except for the following exceptions/clarifications:

- Each team may have a maximum of 6 players on the court and a minimum of 4.
- Each match will consist of 3 sets. The first team to win 2 sets will win the match.
- During each set, the winner is determined by the first team to acquire 21 points by a minimum margin of 2 points. If a team reaches 21 points but has failed to win by a margin of 2 points, then both teams must continue play until a team wins by a margin of 2 points. If neither team can win by a margin of 2 points by the time they reach 30 points, the team to reach 30 points first will be declared the winner.
- Each team is allotted two 3-minute timeouts per match.
- Players must rotate positions in clockwise order when service switches team.
- A serve that touches the net and goes over to the opponent's side is playable. If the serve hits the net and lands on the server's side, it will result in a fault. A ball can be touched by any part of the body.
- A ball is considered "in" when it touches the floor of the playing court including the boundary lines.
- A ball is considered "out" when:

- Ball contacts the floor outside the boundary lines
- Ball touches any object outside of the court ex. a person out of play
- Ball touches the antennae, ropes, posts, or the net itself outside the side bands
- Ball crosses the vertical plane of the net either partially or totally outside of the crossings space except in the following case: Ball crosses the net plane to the opponent's free zone totally or partially through the external space is played back again through the external space on the same side of the court, within the team hits provided.
- The team is entitled to a maximum of three hits (in addition to blocking), to return the ball.
- A player may not hit the ball two times consecutively (except at blocking).
- Hits of the team include both intentional and unintentional contact with the ball by the team players.
- Two or three players touching the ball simultaneously will count as two or three hits based on the number of players in contact with the ball. If two players attempt to hit the ball and only one player makes contact with the ball, one hit will be counted. A collision of players does not constitute a fault.
- Within the playing area, a player may not take support from a teammate or any structure/object in order to reach the ball. However, a player who is about to commit a fault may be stopped by a teammate.
- Volleyball serving- begin with both feet behind the line, as the player progresses through the serve, one foot can cross over.
- A standard indoor volleyball with brand names of Tachiyakara, Molten, or Mikasa should be used. The same brand should be used across all the men's leagues, across games. Also, same brand should be used in the women's league, across games.
- Air pump should be readily available, and used at the discretion of the referee and conveners.

VIII. Host Church Responsibilities

- Setting the standard on emphasizing God and Christian sportsmanship (above competition) during the tournament.
- Providing a venue that is adequate for the sports played including provisions for serving food and climate factors (including fans and supplies of liquids).
- Providing health care professionals (in case of an emergency).
- Coordinating a Praise and Worship team to lead the service Friday night and Saturday (preferably with instruments and projection screens).
- Coordinating English Holy Qurbana on Sunday morning, and in consultation with the Vicar of the sports tournament's host parish. Awards ceremony would take place after the Holy Qurbana. It is recommended to have an early start time (for example, 8:30AM, and no later than 9:30AM). Also, other programs not related to the tournament should be avoided, as many will have to travel back to their homes after church.
- Coordinating that all rolling trophies are returned by Saturday morning and the following trophies that are needed on a yearly basis are purchased:
 - MVP Trophy for each league

- Sportsmanship award for Men's and Women's leagues (1 each)
- Rolling trophies will be retired only with the approval of the SWRYF committee. In the event of the trophies being retired, the old trophies will be returned to the parish who donated them. Replacement of the rolling trophies when needed will also be the responsibility of the hosting parish.
- Trophy distribution will be presented Sunday morning immediately following the Holy Communion. Trophies ceremony will be hosted in combination with the SWRYF committee and the host YF secretary. The local YF secretary holds the responsibility of compiling a thank you list and properly giving thanks to those who helped with the tournament preparations. The Vicars / Youth Chaplains will officiate the closing ceremony and trophy distribution (unless otherwise appropriate), under the guidance of the SWRYF Committee and host parish Vicar and Sports Tournament Conveners.
- SWRYF Committee reserves the right to award additional awards/trophies, which will be informed to the conveners and host parish, and arrangements for this would be made through the SWRYF committee. If the host parish wants to arrange other awards, they must consult with the SWRYF committee and if approved, would have to make arrangements for such awards.
- There are 6 main awards and MVP, Sportsmanship.
- The host church must appoint individuals to monitor the games and recommend the individuals for the previously mentioned honors. The host youth fellowship secretary or sports coordinator must inform the SWRYF committee at the latest by Saturday 10:00PM. The SWRYF committee must review, and approve all final decisions.
- Informing SWRYF committee regarding details of tournament including coordination with SWRYF secretary regarding communication to the Youth Chaplains, local church YF's, and local YF secretaries.
- Selecting referees (professionals who are not members of participating churches). At no time should a referee who is a member of a participating church act as a referee when his/her church is playing. Two referees are needed at minimum for all games; three referees are needed at minimum for all final games.
- Purchasing balls used for Men's and Women's Basketball which must be of official regulation sizes for each league, as well as indoor Volleyballs which must be of regulation size. The expected brand/type are mentioned in the respective sports sections.
- The host church has the responsibility to make the best schedule as possible (Double Elimination for every league) to allow for the maximum possible games
- Host parish is required to secure all insurances, release of liability, etc., The Mar Thoma Church, Diocese of North America, parent church, Diocesan Youth Fellowship, SWRYF, Center YF's, Host church, or any Parishes, any Congregations, or their committees, subsidiaries, or sub units, will be released of any liability in the event of any injury, damage, etc.
- T-shirt should be provided for every player. This is not required for observers.
- Bands recommended (over coupons) for each player to play, and for food.
- Spectators can have an option to purchase bands, that would enable them to obtain food (up to the discretion of the host church).

- **Bracket:**
 - Bracket drawing: maintain current style, latest it can be done should be at by the week of the tournament.
 - Host Parish Achen should also be present at this event.
- **Medical Emergencies:**
 - a. There should be a medical management team at ALL times, throughout the tournament. They will serve as the first point of contact if/when injuries occur.
 - i. Host Parish Medical Team should maintain an injury log.
 - ii. Should have recommendation if a visit to ER should occur or not, ultimately the discretion of the player.
 - b. Follow up of injured players should be done by host parish conveners.
 - c. Require necessary medical equipment (crutches, braces, ice pack, bandages)
- **Disputes:**
 - a. The parties involved in dispute must be limited to:
 - i. Regional President / Regional President's Designated Clergy
 - ii. Host Parish / Congregation Vicar
 - iii. Host Parish / Congregation Sports Tournament Conveners
 - iv. SWRYF Committee
 - v. Team Coaches
 - vi. Team Captains
- **Facility Requirements (for reference of Host church):**
 - a. 6 courts
 - b. Food should still be provided for registered players, Achens/families, and other official guests, (which are communicated through the SWRYF Committee)
 - c. Observers should be able to purchase food at the concession stand (if the option is available)
 - d. Official referees are required. Line judges and scorekeeping can be based on the discretion of the host church, except if the host church is playing.
 - e. Sunday: provide food/light snack for players only, no obligation for non-players

Tournament Golden Rules for Quick Reference
(Approved by the SWRYF on April 23, 2024)

But before we go through this weekend of competitions there are 3 Golden Rules that must be addressed to ensure that all are safe and everyone has a good time.

Rule #1. Please refrain from the **use of alcohol** inside and outside the gym and throughout this weekend. This goes for both players and guests and spectators and audiences that are joining us. The use of alcohol has a zero tolerance policy and is subject to automatic dismissal from the tournament and the facility.

Rule #2. Please refrain from the use of **any tobacco, drugs, illegal substances including performance enhancement drugs/supplements** products in and outside the gym throughout this weekend. This goes for both players and guests and spectators and audiences that are joining us. The use of tobacco has a zero tolerance policy and is subject to automatic dismissal from the tournament and the facility.

Rule #3. Please refrain from the use of harsh language and physical altercations throughout the weekend. This goes for both players and audiences that are joining us. **The use of harsh and vulgar words, in any languages, verbal or non-verbal**, has a zero tolerance policy and is subject to dismissal from the tournament and the facility.

* Please also note that law enforcement is present, and is capable of issuing citations if needed, and at their discretion.

We are anticipating a fun and enjoyable weekend. Please continue to pray for the safety of all its participants as they travel to and away, and their duration at tournament. May God bless us keep us close to his victorious cross.