

**BY-LAWS OF THE
SOUTH PLAINS VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS (SPVO)
CHAPTER OF THE TASO
(Texas Association of Sports Officials)**

ARTICLE I: NAME

This organization shall be known as the South Plains Volleyball Official's (SPVO).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Association shall be the promotion of the welfare of volleyball by:

- 1 Recruiting, assisting, and encouraging an adequate membership of outstanding men and women to serve as well-qualified volleyball officials for the benefit of the school systems and the youth of the area, fostering national and/or international amateur sports competition in the area of volleyball.
- 2 Improving the quality, efficiency, consistency, and uniformity of officiating by providing planned clinics, study meetings, practice sessions, educational literature, situation bulletins, and rules interpretations by means of which new and prospective officials shall be instructed and experienced officials can increase their knowledge and officiating skills.

ARTICLE III: GEOGRAPHICAL REGION

The SPVO chapter of TASO shall encompass that area of Texas known as the South Plains, which include the following counties: Andrews, Bailey, Borden, Cochran, Crosby, Dawson, Floyd, Gaines, Garza, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Scurry, Terry, and Yoakum.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: A member of the SPVO shall meet the following requirements to be a member in good standing:

- a. Current registration with the state association – TASO.
- b. Paid SPVO Chapter dues for the current year. This rate is established by the SPVO Executive Board.
- c. Attendance at mandatory rules clinic for the current year.
- d. Attendance at mandatory meetings and training sessions.
- e. Participate in at least 3 hours annually of scrimmages.
- f. Obtaining a passing score on the rule's examination for the year.
- g. Be properly attired and equipped for all matches per State Association rules.
- h. Paid all fines and/or late fees as directed by either TASO and/or the SPVO Chapter.
- i. Agree to follow the policies and guidelines in the SPVO Chapter By-laws and Stated Policies.
- j. Adherence to the SPVO Chapter's Code of Ethics.
- k. Verified attendance to the minimum number of current years SPVO Chapter meeting for assignment to District matches and Post-Season Matches.

Section 2: Any member whose check does not clear, and the chapter is charged a service charge for that member will have to pay the incurred service charge amount charged by the bank to the chapter as well as their dues in cash or a money order.

Section 3: Officials will be classified as determined by the State Association requirements.

Section 4: Any official who fails to meet the requirements of Section 1 will be placed on probationary status. Two consecutive seasons failing to meet the requirements in Section 1 may result in the loss of membership from the SPVO Chapter.

Section 5: Members on probationary status are not in good standing with the SPVO Chapter. Probationary members will be assigned matches after members in good standing have been assigned. Probationary members are ineligible for playoff assignments. Probationary members who comply with the requirements in Section 1 must request reinstatement from the Executive Board of the SPVO Chapter to become a member in good standing.

ARTICLE V: DISTRIBUTION OF ASSOCIATION MATERIALS

Section 1: Each new member shall have access to a copy of the By-Laws and Stated Policies of the SPVO Chapter through the SPVO website., www.spvo.org

Section 2: Each member will have access to all important information about SPVO and TASO procedures posted on the SPVO website (www.spvo.org). The member is expected to keep up with and read all this material. Updates as they become available will be updated on the SPVO website.

ARTICLE VI: ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Section 1: The SPVO will hold meetings as necessary to carry out business and provide training and information. A chapter meeting schedule will be posted on the SPVO website at least three (3) weeks in advance of the first meeting of each volleyball season.

Section 2: The place, date, time, and agenda for all other SPVO meetings shall be determined by the Executive Board.

Section 3: The Executive Board shall hold at least four (4) meetings per year; an organizational meeting with new officers shall be held sometime between December and January and at least quarterly during the year at which time planning for the next school year, training sessions, clinic preparations, and chapter meetings will be determined. The last board meeting will be near the end of the season for closing seasonal business. The President may call a meeting at any time.

ARTICLE VII: EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1: The Executive Board shall be the governing body of the SPVO and shall be responsible for fulfilling the purposes and administering the operations of this organization. Participation in Executive Board meetings shall be limited to Board members unless an invitation to participate is extended to a non- Board member.

Section 2: The Board shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Chapter Secretary, Treasurer, Assigner (if not already an Executive Board member), and Representatives of the three rankings as described by TASO; Certified, Approved and Registered.

ARTICLE VIII: OFFICERS & ELECTIONS

Section 1: The officers of President, Vice President, Chapter Secretary, and three At-large Representatives will be elected at the end-of-season chapter meeting following the Fall Volleyball season for 2-year terms.

Section 2: The election of Executive Board members shall be by secret ballot if there is more than one candidate for any of the Board positions.

Section 3: All nominations for Executive Board members will be made through email or floor nominations to an election committee selected by the President of SPVO. Nominations can also be made from the floor at the end-of-season meeting. Nominations can only be made by current members in good standing. All nominations will be made on the floor through the appointed Chairman of the nominating committee, at the last regularly called chapter meeting (which is before the end-of-season meeting) or via email.

Section 4: Members of the Executive Board shall be elected in the following order:

- a. President, Chapter Secretary and Certified Representative on each even year.
- b. Vice President, and Approved Representative each odd year.
- c. The Registered Representative will be elected each year.

ARTICLE IX: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1: The President shall:

- a. Call, prepare the agenda for, and preside over all meetings of the association, and Executive Board;
- b. Appoint committees and serve as ex-officio member of committees;
- c. Communicate cooperate, and negotiate with the TASO, National Federation, University Interscholastic League, the Texas Volleyball Coaches Association, and others for the benefit of volleyball, TASO, and SPVO members;
- d. Correspond with the membership as needed.
- e. Receive, investigate, and report on criticisms and complaints from coaches regarding officiating and officials, and then convening the Executive Board to hold hearings regarding complaints as needed;
- f. Attend or arrange for someone to attend the annual TASO State meeting. Expenses will be paid for the attendance at the annual State meeting for transportation at the current State of Texas mileage reimbursement rate round trip or roundtrip airfare, lodging, registrations, per diem at the current State of Texas rate and participation in the golf or volleyball tournaments if held at this meeting.
- g. Shall appoint a member in good standing from within SPVO to any vacancy that occurs within the Executive Board between election cycles with the Executive Board's approval of such appointee.
- h. Shall appoint or serve as (in years the President is not on the ballot for election), the Chair of the Nominating committee for Chapter elections.
- i. Shall appoint a Sergeant at Arms at any meeting if deemed necessary to maintain order at the chapter meetings.

- j. Appoint, with the Executive Board's approval, the Assigner for all High School and Junior High School matches.
- k. Appoint, with the Executive Board's approval, the position of Treasurer on an annual basis.

Section 2: The Vice President shall:

- a. Substitute in absence of the President;
- b. Prepare the programs for ongoing training and recruiting of new, past, and current volleyball officials;
- c. Attend or arrange for someone to attend the annual TASO State meeting. Expenses will be paid for the attendance at the annual State meeting for transportation at the current State of Texas mileage reimbursement rate round trip or roundtrip airfare, lodging, registrations, per diem at the current State of Texas rate and participation in the golf or volleyball tournaments if held at this meeting.
- d. Complete any duties as assigned by the Chapter President.

Section 3: The Chapter Secretary shall:

- a. Answer any correspondence addressed to SPVO or refer it to the proper SPVO officer;
- b. Shall record minutes from each chapter meeting and any Executive Board hearings for distribution in a timely manner to the Executive Board or membership.
- c. Collect and tabulate all votes; and report the results to the President or presiding officer.
- d. Responsible for implementation of the Top Crew List procedure outlined in the Stated Policies of SPVO.
- e. Compile an alphabetized list of those attending clinics and forward to the office of TASO.
- f. Attend or arrange for someone to attend the annual TASO State meeting. Expenses will be paid for the attendance at the State meeting for transportation at the current State of Texas mileage reimbursement rate round trip or roundtrip airfare, lodging, registrations, per diem at the current State of Texas rate and participation in the golf or volleyball tournaments if held at this meeting.
- g. Responsible for verifying the minutes from meeting held by Board approved Senior Certified held meetings from the southern reaches of the SPVO Chapter coverage area.
- h. Check, manage and maintain current chapter records for members and their eligibility per TASO/SPVO/UIL each season. These records must be current to reflect officials are in good standing prior to District/Post-Season play.
- i. Correspond with the membership as needed.
- j. To be the main contact person between SPVO, TASO, UIL and TAPPS in all manners regarding the SPVO membership.
- k. Complete any duties as assigned by the Chapter President.

Section 4: The Treasurer:

Is an APPOINTED position selected by the SPVO President and approved by the Executive Board annually and Shall:

- a. Receive, record and deposit into a bank account in the name of SPVO all dues and fees belonging to the association.
- b. Verify the status of member's dues to the Chapter Secretary.
- c. Record the payment of expenses and disburse approved SPVO funds by means of checks.
- d. Prepare chapter financial reports for presentation to the SPVO Executive board and association membership when required during chapter meetings during the season.
- e. Complete any duties as assigned by the Chapter President.

Section 5: The Representatives (see Membership Divisions in Article XII) shall:

- a. Bring concerns from their peers to the Executive Board;
- b. Help the Vice President with training and other duties that will improve SPVO.
- c. Complete any duties as assigned by the Chapter President.

Section 6: Assigner :

Is an APPOINTED position selected by the SPVO President and approved by the Executive Board annually. The Assigner will be paid by the chapter out of the chapter funds at a rate agreed to by the Executive Board and approved by the members at a local chapter meeting. The Assigner shall be allowed to select an Assistant Assigner to help him/her with their duties. If an Assistant Assigner is selected by the Assigner the fee split between them will be negotiated between the Assigner and the Assistant Assigner before the end of the season and will be approved by the Executive Board. If a split cannot be negotiated the Executive Board will determine the split.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS TO THE SPVO BY-LAWS AND STATED POLICIES

Section 1: An amendment to the SPVO By-laws and Stated Policies must be brought in writing at a regularly scheduled chapter meeting or mailed/mailed to the SPVO Chapter Secretary for dissemination to the members at least 10 days prior to the next regularly schedule chapter meeting or end-of-season meeting of

SPVO to be voted on after discussion. If hand delivered to a regularly scheduled meeting, this amendment will be given to the SPVO Chapter Secretary for dissemination to the members for discussion and vote at the NEXT regularly scheduled meeting. If mailed/emailed out to the membership for review it must be at least 10 days before a meeting, then the discussion and vote can be handled at that upcoming meeting.

Section 2: A proposed amendment to either the SPVO By-laws or stated policies will be adopted if it receives the approval of a majority vote of the members' present and any legitimate absentee ballots given to an Executive Board member before whatever chapter meeting the items are brought up for discussion and vote.

ARTICLE XI: COMPLIANCE WITH THE TASO BY-LAWS OR OPERATING PROCEDURES

Section 1: No part of the SPVO By-Laws or Stated Policies shall not be in opposition to, or compromise in any way, or any part of the TASO By-Laws and Operating Procedures.

ARTICLE XII: MEMBERSHIP DIVISIONS

Section 1: Membership CLASSIFICATIONS for chapter members are determined by meeting the requirements as set down in TASO Volleyball Operating Procedures, "Membership CLASSIFICATIONS", Section 8

ARTICLE XIII: DISCIPLINE

Section 1: The Executive Board shall have the power to make a full investigation of any alleged violations of the TASO or SPVO By-laws, Stated Policies, and the Code of Ethics by any member. The President may recommend the entire Executive Board or a committee of his/her choosing to review such allegations.

Section 2: The Executive Board shall recommend probation, suspension, and/or termination of any member from the SPVO Chapter to include, but not limited to the following instances:

- a. Failure of a member to give full cooperation to the Executive Board in the investigation of any volleyball related matter.
- b. Any action of a member which is not compatible with the Stated Policies of the SPVO Chapter or the Code of Ethics.
- c. Failure to fulfill a contract except in an emergency.
- d. Any other behavior of a member of the SPVO Chapter that the Executive Board deems inappropriate.

Section 3: In the case of recommended probation of any member of the SPVO Chapter by the Executive Board, the vote will be taken at a regular or called meeting of the Executive Board. Any member charged with a violation for which probation, suspension or termination is recommended, must be notified by certified mail of the charges at least ten (10) days prior to the Executive Board meeting. The said letter will request his/her presence at the subsequent meeting of the Executive Board, where the member may address the Executive Board. A majority of votes cast at the Executive Board meeting is required for the probation, suspension, or termination to take effect. Probations may include but is not limited to the following: verbal reprimand, written reprimand, a probationary period not to exceed one (1) year, fines, and/or a combination of the above.

Section 4: In the case that a member has been placed on probation, suspended, or terminated, said member will have up to thirty (30) calendar days from the date of notice to appeal the decision. Any appeal must be in writing and submitted to the President or his/her designee. The Executive Board will set up a meeting within fifteen (15) days from the date of the appeal and said member and allow that member to present any further information to the Executive Board. This notice of meeting must be by certified mail. The Executive Board will then have fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of the meeting to take action and inform said member of the final decision. Notice of the final decision must be made by certified mail. Failure to follow any portion of the appeals process, by either party, will result in the probation, suspension, and/or termination being upheld or dismissed.

Section 5: The course of action decided by the Executive Board shall be final unless the official in question wishes to appeal to the entire membership. In this case, the matter will be included on the agenda of the next Association meeting, at which time the majority of members present and voting shall confirm the decision or determine the action to be taken.

Section 6: A member who has appealed probation, suspension, or termination to the membership of the chapter that has confirmed the Executive Board decision or modified decision may then appeal this decision to the State Association (TASO) according to the regulation if the State Association (TASO).

Section 7: A member who has been placed on probation or been suspended must notify the Executive Board in writing to request reinstatement.

Section 8: Any member of the Executive Board that misses two or more called Executive Board meetings may be immediately replaced by a majority vote of the Executive Board. The President then will be responsible to fill any vacancy have the member appointed approved by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XIV: CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OFFICIALS

Section 1: All SPVO members must comply with all sections of the TASO Code of Conduct Policy

Section 2: Code of Ethics

- a. All members of the SPVO Chapter shall understand, wholeheartedly support, and comply with the principals of good officiating as developed and promoted by the Texas Association of Sports Officials, National Federation of State High School Associations and the University Interscholastic League.
- b. A member shall not seek to influence a coach for the purpose of promoting his/her own officiating opportunities.
- c. A member shall not criticize any other official in the presence of a coach, player, spectator, or by any other forms of media either during or following a match. In addition, no member shall criticize any member of the Executive Board or other members of the SPVO Chapter during or after any regular or called meeting.
- d. A member shall not accept a request for assignment to a match from anyone other than the current Assigner or his/her designee.
- e. A member shall not accept any other officiating duty conflicting with a date already accepted on his/her SPVO schedule. This includes but is not limited to college volleyball, recreation league matches, and/or any other sport without prior approval of the Assigner .
- f. Every member's conduct, speech, and actions during or in route to and from the match shall be above reproach.
- g. Every member shall be correctly, completely, and neatly uniformed and equipped as required by the State Association.
- h. Every member shall possess a comprehensive knowledge of the rules and intent of the rules and officiating mechanics.
- i. A member shall not partake of any substance prior to working a match which would impair his/her physical or mental performance.
- j. A member shall not compromise the integrity of the SPVO Chapter.
- k. Should an official become unable to fulfill an assignment, the official shall notify the SPVO Chapter Assigner or his/her designee as soon as possible in order that a replacement may be obtained.
- l. A member shall not falsify records or reports for personal gain.
- m. A member shall not engage in scouting activities or discuss officiating assignments with coaches.
- n. A member shall not violate any State Association rules, regulations or guidelines.
- o. Any complaint concerning the violation of this Code of Ethics shall be presented to any member of the Executive or to any standing committee appointed by the chapter President and approved by the Executive Board.

ADOPTED: December 1999

AMENDED: October 2001

AMENDED: December 2003

AMENDED: December 2006

AMENDED & UPDATED: December 2009

RETOOLED & UPDATED: December 2011

AMENDED: November 2015

AMENDED & UPDATED: August 2018

REVIEWED & UPDATED: August 2020

AMENDED & UPDATED August 2021