



Seventh-day
Adventist Church

South New Zealand
YOUTH MINISTRIES

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY 16 AUGUST

9am - Pioneer Recreation &
Sports Centre

75 Lyttelton Street, Somerfield

YOUTH RALLY

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST

11am | Youth Worship

4pm | Youth Rally

Pascoe Park - Youth Hall
20 Farrells Road, Ouruhia

WWW.ADVENTIST.ORG.NZ

 SNZYOUTH

 SNZADVENTISTYOUTH

Seventh-day Adventist Church *South New Zealand*

LOVED AND LOVING PEOPLE
COURAGEOUSLY FOLLOWING JESUS

TRUSTING - GROWING - SHARING

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

*Whatever you do, do it all for the
Glory of God.*

BE PART OF THE SPORTING LEGACY OF THE SDA CHURCH

The South New Zealand Conference Sports Tournaments are about much more than competition. They are a chance for young people to connect, grow, and experience what it means to be Loved and Loving People,

Courageously Following Jesus.

Through sport, friendships are strengthened, character is shaped, and opportunities are created to encourage one another and reflect Christ's love. Whether during training, travel, games, worship, or simply spending time together, every moment can help deepen our relationship with God and with each other.

Our desire is to provide a safe, welcoming, and enjoyable environment where everyone can participate, belong, and grow. We hope these tournaments are not only memorable sporting experiences, but also opportunities for faith, friendship, and community to flourish.

Our prayer is that every participant leaves feeling valued, encouraged, and inspired—knowing they are loved by God, called to love others, and empowered to follow Jesus with courage.

Trusting • Growing • Sharing

Pr James Mello

Discipleship and Youth Events Leader

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Christchurch 8542

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VOLLEYBALL REGULATIONS

Volleyball New Zealand rules apply:
www.volleyballnz.org.nz

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- 1. Rules:** All games are played under the official Volleyball NZ rules (see FIVB Rules & Regulations www.volleyballnz.org.nz/ resources/referees) with any conditions/amendments specific for the SDA Tournament as stated in this document. The ball can touch any part of the body.
- 2. Match Ball:** The match balls are provided for each game by the officiating referee.
- 3. Game Time:** Games are 20 minutes and comprised of 1 set only. The winner is the team on the highest points at the end of the 20 minutes.
- 4. Duty Teams:** A penalty of ONE competition point will be deducted from a team's total if they fail to perform their duty. When your team is nominated to do duty as per the Draw, you must provide 4 line judges and a score person.
- 5. Defaults:** A team defaults a game if 6 players are not present on the court within 5 minutes of the referee's signal for the first serve. If a team then turns up within 10 minutes of the referee's signal for the first serve, it is the referee's discretion whether they will allow the game to continue with a 10 point advantage against the late team. If a team is present with 5 players and wishes to play with one person down, it is at the discretion of the opposing team to allow this or default the game.
- 6. Referees:** In ALL cases a referee's decision is final. No one except the captain is to speak to the referee. If needed, the following penalties will apply:
 - One verbal warning (no points deducted)
 - 2nd warning (loss of point)
 - 3rd warning (player leaves court for duration of game, or team defaults the game).
- 7. Rally Point Scoring:** This will apply to all games including finals.
- 8. Substitutes:** A team can play either "rotating sub" or as per Volleyball NZ rules (see Rules & Regulations at www.volleyballnz.org.nz).
- 9. Mixed Grades:** 2 women must be on the court at all time. For Social Mixed games, men cannot spike in front of the 3m line and jump serves are also not allowed – the referee will judge whether a spike or jump serve has been played or not.

10. Ball Touching Net: If the ball touches the net after being served and still goes over then the ball is still in play. If the ball touches the aerials then the ball is called out and the receiving team receives the point and the next serve.

Tournament Staff:

James Mello - 021 192 8127

Faaolaina Brown - 021 412 471

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SDA SPORTS TOURNAMENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

Rules

All SDA Sports Tournament games are played under official code rules (FIBA, Volleyball NZ) with the following conditions/amendments stated in this document (designed for providing the safest, clearest and fairest regulations for the Seventh-day Adventist Sports Tournaments).

Players

A player can only be registered with ONE team throughout the whole tournament. Playing an unregistered player (or a registered player from another team from any other grade) will result in the disqualification of that player from the game and the default of that game.

Each team is to be made up of regular attenders of a SDA Church and/or SDA members on the church roll. A church pastor must sign off your application to ensure your team is made up of regular attenders who are actively involved in such things as Pathfinders, Worship services, Small groups, AYs, Sabbath school, Community service, Bible Studies, or Youth Week of Prayer, etc.

Each team is allowed to include 2 non-regular attenders. This concession is not designed to help you stack your team to win but to ensure you can use this sporting event as an opportunity to reach out to non-Adventist friends. **Each team must be affiliated to a local Church Youth Group.** The local Church Pastor will be asked to check and endorse their team(s).

A player must be 16 years or older. All of the SDA Sports Tournaments have an age limit of 16+ for players. This is due to concerns of safety, fairness and legal requirements for duty of care for children playing at this level of competition. Thank you for taking note of this age limit and protecting the standard of our Tournaments. If a team does use an under-16 player, the player will be asked to leave the court and the team may forfeit that game. The tournament committee reserves the right to check the names submitted for each team and to remove names/teams from the final draw if necessary. For the purpose of accountability and transparency, a list of every team and their registered players will be displayed at the venue. This will aid any Teams who question whether another Team has played an unregistered player or a player from another grade.

Team Changes

A request for any player changes must be approved by the local Church Pastor OR Youth Leader. All changes must be emailed/phoned to the Conference office, to James Mello at JamesMello@adventist.org.nz or **021 192 8127**, before 5:00pm on the Wednesday before the Tournament.

Uniforms

Because each player has chosen to represent their Church, family and God to the best of their ability, we believe that this is reflected in both the spirit in which they play and the uniform they wear (attitude and action). Teams must wear their registered uniform colours. Numbers must be clearly visible on the front and back of all tops. Adequate footwear must be worn. No jandals, slip-ons or bare feet allowed. No track pants. Players who wear a T-shirt underneath their singlet must ensure it is the same colour. Players who wear skins under their playing shorts must ensure they are the same colour as their shorts.

Team Management

Each team must have a captain and/or coach with them for every game. This person is to be aware of any medical problems of players in the team, organise first aid requirements for their team, implement the rules of the competition (and ensure all players know and understand the Tournament Regulations), and supervise their players.

Conduct

Any player, coach, spectator who fails to abide by the tournament rules and venue regulations will be asked to leave, and the team may forfeit their game and/or their place in the competition. Teams are responsible for their team's personal effects. Tournament staff will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to personal effects. We encourage teams to ensure security measures for these items.

- A Player or Spectator will be suspended from the tournament or disciplined if they:
- Use offensive or inciting language
- Insult or manhandle a referee, Tournament official or Tournament helper
- Are sent off the field/court by a referee for any reason
- Damage the fields/venue
- Are found to be drunk or have drugs
- Act in an unsportsmanlike or violent manner with any member of the public or opposing team

If the incident involves fighting, the individuals involved will be asked to leave and face the possibility of a tournament ban for a year. Team involvement in a fight will default the game and incur suspension from the rest of the tournament.

First Aid

All teams are responsible for the first aid requirements of their players. Adequate first aid coverage includes a first aid kit, band aids, strapping and ice packs, and a designated person who can drive any lightly injured player to the local Emergency Room. Any major emergencies should be directed to an ambulance by calling 111. PLEASE NOTE – in addition to your first aid responsibilities, a trained First Aid person will also be on hand in an advisory capacity to help you assess any injuries (they will NOT provide strapping for players). Details of the local emergency room will be supplied before the Tournament.

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POINTS/RESULTS

Championship Men's and Mixed Grades:

Points per game:

Win = 4

Draw = 2

Loss = 1

Default = 0

Not Performing Duties = -1

Ranking will be determined by Win, Loss & Draw points at the end of the round robin. If teams are on same total points, points for and against will be used to determine ranking. Each of the above points will be taken until all teams are clearly ranked.

The Men's Championship Grade will play separately. All other teams will be entered into the Mixed grade upon registration.

The top four ranked teams in the Mixed grade will enter the Championship Mixed semi-finals. The next four ranked teams will enter the Social Mixed semi-finals.

All Grade semi-finals (where used/needed) will be as follows:

1 vs 4

2 vs 3

The results of any semi-finals will determine the 2 teams for finals for each graded category

NOTE – The rules and regulations which make up the Tournament Regulations have been nominated as best ensuring the safest and fairest Tournament for all players.

Please note that small additions or amendments are often made to keep building our Tournaments into the best possible avenue for playing for His glory. Please ensure all players, coaches and supporters are aware of these regulations.

The following are some first aid items to be mindful of:

- Fingernails - Fingernails must be well trimmed to avoid personal and opposition injury.
- Blood - Should an injury occur which results in bleeding, that individual will leave the field/court immediately, or as instructed by a referee, and must not return to play until the flow has been stopped and/or covered with a dressing.
- Jewellery and Headwear - Watches, chains, necklaces, bracelets (excluding medic-alert bracelets), anklets, bandannas and hats must be removed prior to commencement of a game. We also advise that all those with piercings be responsible in their choice of adornments in order to save themselves personal injury. If they risk injuring others then we reserve the right to have you either remove or cover them, failure to do so will result in the player being excluded from participation in the competition game.

Playing Fields/Venues

- All venues and their immediate vicinity are considered smoke-free areas i.e. no smoking or vaping. •
- Teams will be held responsible for any damage that they may incur during the tournament. Food, chewing gum and soft drinks are NOT permitted inside the playing area except drink bottles.

Disputes/Queries

Referees' interpretation of the rules and decisions are final. In the case of an incident during a game, both team captains must report to the game referee. Any complaints or disputes from a game must be in writing and handed in by the team captain (or youth leader) to the Tournament organiser (James Mello) straight after a game. These will then be handled by the Tournament organiser for adjudication. **PLEASE NOTE:** *Disputes will not be entered into after the conclusion of the next official round on that field/court.*

Communication

The Sports Tournament committee reserves the right to only dialogue with the nominated Team captain and/or local church Youth Leader. Other Rules and Regulations The Tournament Staff maintains the right to introduce or update rules and regulations as deemed appropriate to better achieve the objectives of the SDA Sports Tournaments.

Any queries please contact **Pr James Mello: 021 192 8127** or email **JamesMello@adventist.org.nz**

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DEVOTIONALS



Because our mission is to be Loved and Loving People, Courageously Following Jesus, we encourage you to make the most of your time with your youth throughout the tournament. Training, travel, meals, games, and worship all provide opportunities to build relationships, encourage one another, and grow together.

Included in this booklet are devotions written by young people from the South New Zealand Conference to support your team workshops. Remember, some of the most meaningful lessons are taught through example.

Connected for a Purpose

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another." Hebrews 10:24-25

Volleyball tournaments are exciting. We come for the competition, the rallies, the laughs, and maybe even the bragging rights, "Oikos Champs are in the building!" But if we leave with only a scoreline and a few photos, have we really made the most of the day? In a world where we are hyper-connected yet at the same time feel isolated, disconnected, or unseen, simply taking an interest in another person can make a lasting difference.

So I challenge you at this year's volleyball tournament to:

- Ask someone about their story.
- Find common ground.
- Discover shared interests, experiences, or passions.

You may be surprised at how quickly strangers become teammates, and teammates become friends. Sometimes all it takes is stepping outside your comfort zone: introducing yourself, inviting someone for a post-game coffee at Coffee Culture (their chicken tacos are the bomb!), or simply asking, "How are you really doing?" Meaningful relationships are built on trust, and trust grows when we are intentional. Jesus modeled this perfectly. He didn't keep people at a distance—He shared meals around tables with a lot of tension, listened to His disciples argue about who was the greatest, patiently answered their doubts and questions, knelt to wash their feet, and even made mud to restore a blind man's sight. He walked with people through the mess of real life, building relationships that transformed them. As you step onto the court this tournament, look beyond the scoreboard. Be intentional. Encourage someone. Learn someone's name. Listen to their story. Build bridges that extend far beyond the final whistle. Because at the end of the day, trophies gather dust, but relationships can impact eternity.

Challenge: Before the tournament ends come and find me, guess my favorite meal and sport for this year 2026. If you get both correct - I'll shout you a KFC bucket of original recipe or wicked wings! Game on!

Mervin Brown-Oikos Youth

Trust the Coach

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding..." Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)

A volleyball player doesn't always understand every drill or strategy, but they grow and learn to trust their coach's experience and guidance. Sometimes, God leads us through situations we don't fully understand. We may not see the bigger picture, but He does.

Trusting God means believing that He knows what is best even when the path ahead seems unclear. Our Conference mission begins with Trusting. Trust isn't just believing God exists, it's choosing to follow Him when life gets difficult. God sees the whole court. He knows exactly where He is leading you.

Trust often grows through experience. The more time athletes spend with a coach, the more confidence they have in the coach's guidance. The same is true in our relationship with God. As we spend time with Him in prayer, Bible studies/small groups, and worship, we learn to recognise His voice and trust His direction. Even when the future feels uncertain, we can move forward knowing that God is faithful and His plans are always rooted in love.

Reflection Questions:

- What am I finding difficult to trust God with?
- How has God guided me in the past?
- What step of faith can I take this week?

Whether we're playing volleyball, studying at school, going to work, serving in our communities, or spending time with friends, we have opportunities every day to live out our Conference mission. As Loved and Loving people, may we continue Trusting God, Growing in our faith, and Sharing His love with everyone we meet. Through every game, conversation, and challenge, may we courageously follow Jesus and point others towards Him.

Ailine Kei - Rolleston Youth

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Using Our Gifts for God's Glory

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

As young people, we often compare ourselves to others and think, "I'm not as good as them," or "I don't really have any special talents." In volleyball, it's easy to think that only the players who score the most points matter but the truth is, every player has a role to play. Some are strong hitters, others are skilled setters, defenders, servers, or encouragers on the sideline. A team cannot function with six spikers; it needs players with different strengths working together. In the same way, God has given each of us unique gifts and talents, and every one of them matters.

We see this in the Bible through Moses and Aaron. Moses was called to lead God's people, but he did not believe he was a good speaker. God gave Aaron the gift of speaking to support Moses. Although they had different strengths, God used both of them to fulfil his mission.

In the same way, God can use each of us right now. He can use our kindness to make someone feel included, our leadership to inspire others, our words to encourage a teammate, and our attitude to reflect Jesus. The way we play, compete, and treat others can become a powerful witness of God's love. Years from now, most of us probably won't remember the final score of this tournament, but people will remember whether we encouraged them, included them, and showed them the love of Jesus.

Sport can sometimes become all about personal achievement and recognition, however, God calls us to use our gifts not for our own glory, but for his. When we choose to honour God through our attitude, effort, and sportsmanship, we point others to him and reflect his character.

Whether we're on the court, on the bench, or in the crowd, we all have something valuable to bring. God doesn't call us to be the most talented person in the room; he simply asks us to faithfully use what he has given us for his glory.

Nofoa Talimatasi - Addington-Samoan Youth

Always Ready

13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. 14 Do everything in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Ready!" If you've played volleyball for any length of time, you've heard that word more time than you can count.

"Ready before the serve. Ready before the rally. Ready for the next point."

The best players don't wait until the ball crosses the net before they react. They're already moving. Knees bent. Eyes up. Talking. Watching. Expecting the ball to come their way. Volleyball teaches you to stay ready. Somewhere along the way, I realised God was teaching us the same lesson. Not to always be ready for the next ball, but to be ready for the next person He places in our path.

When I think about our Haven Youth Volleyball team, I don't remember the scores first. I remember the huddle to pray before the first serve. I remember hearing, "I've got you", after someone missed a ball. I remember players stopping to encourage someone who was new, nervous or unsure if they belonged. Those moments mattered more than any result. God wasn't just building a volleyball team. He was shaping disciples. Our Conference mission is to be Loved and Loving People, Courageously Following Jesus - Trusting, Growing and Sharing. I've come to realise that mission doesn't begin when we walk through the church doors. It begins wherever Jesus places us - even on the volleyball court.

Being loved and loving people means choosing encouragement over criticism, making room for someone standing alone and celebrating another person's success as much as your own. Courageously following Jesus isn't always doing something extraordinary. Sometimes it's apologising first, respecting the referee when you disagree or choosing integrity when no one is watching. Every training session is an opportunity to keep trusting God, growing in character and sharing His love with the people around us.

In the end, I don't think God will ask how many games we won. I think He'll care far more about who we were becoming and how faithfully we loved the people He placed on our side of the court. That's what being Always Ready really means. Ready to encourage. Ready to forgive. Ready to include. Ready to pray. Ready to serve. Ready to love.

Challenge

Before your next game, don't just prepare your body. Prepare your heart. Ask God to help you notice one person who needs hope today. One conversation. One invitation. One act of kindness. One moment of courage. The next time someone calls out, "Ready!", remember: The next ball isn't the only thing worth being ready for. Sometimes the next person you meet is the very reason God put you on the court.

Ruby Sione - Haven Youth

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