

## MCVG Speed Tournaments for 2014

The MCVG Speed Tournament is in its third year and we have come a long way. In an effort to continue running successful tournaments MCVG is pleased to announce a schedule of sorts. On a monthly basis...

**The First Saturday** of the month will be as we have been doing things for about the last year with divisions based on skill level. This will be a blind draw but players will be assigned a net by Thomas and/or Peter. (We invite your input). At your net you will perform a blind draw and play the round robin as shown on your schedule. This will be co-ed but as it is a blind draw there may be teams of the same gender. Nets will be at men's height.

**The Second Saturday** will be a Reverse Co-ed tournament with skill divisions. Initially players will choose their own opposite-gender partner, but once female participation increases we will switch to a draw format. Ideally we will have even numbers of men and women so that each set of partners is a mixed doubles team. A higher ratio of women to men will also work well in this format, so this is a great opportunity for women to be the dominant net players while men work on their defense and setting. According to USAV rules, in reverse co-ed men cannot block and they can hit from the front zone (that is, within ten feet from the net) only if the ball has an upward trajectory. All nets that have mixed doubles will be at women's height and play reverse co-ed rules. The remaining players, who will undoubtedly be men until our female participation level grows, will play men's height net.

**The Third Saturday** will be Gender Specific. Every effort will be made to keep men and women in separate divisions with as few co-ed teams as possible. Like the reverse co-ed tournaments, this is an opportunity for women to play on a woman's height net. Gender divisions work best when there are increments of 10 women. When there are more than 10 women there will be two nets, the first will be women only as selected by Peter and Thomas with consultation from Erica Lee. The remaining will be paired off and men will fill the voids as needed. If men are required on the second net they will play reverse co-ed rules; men cannot spike with downward trajectory from in front of the 10-foot line and men cannot block [see the 2013-15 USAV beach and indoor volleyball rulebooks pages B-95 and 111, respectively]. If there are 20 women then there will be two nets of 10 women each with skill divisions. On the men's side, players will be selected by Peter and Thomas and assigned to a net based on skill level where they will perform a blind draw.

**The Fourth Saturday** will be Pick-Your-Partner. That's right, you get to pick. No restrictions, male-male, male-female, female-male, female-female. Your team will be assigned a net based on skill level by Peter and/or Thomas. At your net you will play the round robin as shown on your schedule.

**Lagniappe Saturdays**, or the Fifth Saturday that occurs four times a year, will be a Pay-It-Forward tournament. We will be tweaking the Pay-It-Forward tourney of Memorial Day weekend to help ensure that teams are evenly matched. Prior to the draw on 5/31/14 we'll divide participants into two skill divisions and then select one player from each division to form a pair. This will hopefully eliminate the occasional strong-strong or weak-weak pairings that can occur with a wide-open blind draw. As always we hope stronger players come with the attitude of wanting to teach and weaker players come with the attitude of wanting to learn. Remember, experienced players got their start once upon a time by playing with more knowledgeable players, so this is a chance to pass on both techniques and tactics to another generation. For the Pay-It-Forward tournaments all nets are the same pool, so for playoffs we will take the top eight teams based strictly on point differential and we'll have two semi-final matches followed by a championship match (teams will NOT be re-seeded for the championship).

This schedule is by no means cast in stone. In other words, we will give this schedule a try, see what works well and what doesn't work so well, and adjust accordingly with time.