

# aQuolley — Games & Rules

SIX WATER SPORTS · TWO COURTS · ONE PLATFORM

## The Games

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aQuolley courts host **six** water games across **two court types**.

### Classic Courts — net court (4 games)

**aQuolley** — water volleyball; the flagship game, taking full advantage of the court's adjustable team sizes, dimensions and water depth.

**Water Badminton** — badminton in the water with standard equipment and a medium net.

**Water Tennis** — beach-tennis rackets and balls, with a medium-height net.

**Water Futnet** — futnet (football tennis) with a special ball; played as singles, doubles or triplets. In very shallow water the net can be lowered.

### DualGoal Courts — goal court (2 games)

**Water Handball** — handball with a water-specific ball and optional divider lines.

**Water Headball** — a headers-only game with a special ball and an optional half-court line.

The rules below focus on **aQuolley** (water volleyball) — by far the most-played game — defining its competition formats, rules, categories and classes.

## Competition Formats

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Four disciplines — Singles, Doubles, Triples and Team — across eleven formats by team size and gender.

Format	Players (+subs)	Court
Women's Singles	1	6 × 3 m
Men's Singles	1	8 × 4 m
Women's Doubles	2 +1	6 × 4 m
Mixed Doubles	2 +1	8 × 4 m
Men's Doubles	2 +1	9 × 4 m
Women's Triples	3 +2	8 × 4 m
Mixed Triples	3 +2	9 × 4 m
Men's Triples	3 +2	10 × 5 m
Team of 4	4 +2	11 × 5 m
Team of 5	5 +2	12 × 5 m
Team of 6	6 +3	12 × 6 m

## Detailed Rules

aQuolley follows **beach volleyball**, with these water-specific exceptions:

- **Court size** — per the format table above.
- **Water depth** — minimum 0.6 m, maximum 1.3 m, measured under the net at the midpoint of the centre line.
- **Serve** — the server starts no more than 0.5 m from the baseline; a serve that clips the net and lands in is a *let*, and is replayed.
- **Serve reception** — the receiving team must play at least one more touch after the reception before returning the ball.
- **Contact** — any part of the body may touch the ball; no carrying and no clear double touches.
- **Scoring** — best of two sets, each to 15 points; at 14–14, play continues until a two-point lead.
- **Timeouts** — two per set, per team.
- **Substitutions** — none in singles; otherwise up to two per set, with double substitutions allowed in triples and team formats (rosters: doubles 2+1, triples 3+2, Team of 4 4+2, Team of 5 5+2, Team of 6 6+3).
- **Gender requirement** — men's events are open to all; women's are female-only; mixed needs at least one woman on court throughout; teams of 4+2 or more need at least two women.

### Rules additions

- **Open Gender Categories** — the "men's" categories are open to all genders, to maximize participation.

- **Team Composition Benefit** — a team made up entirely of women, of boys under 16, or of members over 55 may field one additional player on court. This benefit is not cumulative.

### Ad-hoc modifications

- For large fields the competition director may forgo a third set in the group stage, drop the two-point requirement in the second set, and play sets to 11 instead of 15.
- The director may adjust start, continuation and finish times for weather, water temperature and wind.

## Categories & Classes

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Categories group players by skill or age; classes define who may enter.

### Skill-based categories

- **Professional** — registered in a National Federation adult Premier or Second League team in any of the previous three years. Professional events allow any team composition, with no skill limits.
- **Semi-Professional** — at most one professional on court per team at a time.
- **Amateur** — anyone who is not a professional; no professionals may take the court.

### Age-based categories

- **Absolute** — no age restriction.
- **Youth** — up to 18 (must not have turned 18 on the first day of the competition year).
- **Junior** — up to 25.
- **Senior** — 50 and over (reaching 50 by the last day of the competition year).

Where there is any doubt, the date of birth on the player's ID decides.

### Competition classes

- **Federal** — open to anyone, club member or not, who meets the category requirements.
- **Club** — only members of the organizing club.
- **Family** — for doubles, triples or teams entered as family, the line-up must include a sibling, parent-child, grandparent-grandchild, or marriage / life partner.

## Protests & Fair Play

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aQuolley is designed as a fun, laid-back sport where friendship and enjoyment come before the result. Organizers do not pre-check players' data (gender, age, competitive status or family relationship) — it runs on trust. If a protest about a category violation is raised, the competition director asks the team for proof: valid proof clears it; otherwise the team is disqualified. Protests must be made at least 180 minutes before the competition starts.