

Leave of Absence

c) Leave of absence guidelines are recommended to manage situations where Competitive Players on Levels 4, 5 & 6 are absent from play. These guidelines are as follows:

- 1) When a player is not available to play for a month or more:
 - Notify the Competitive Play Coordinator (CPC), designee, and/or the Steering Committee Chairperson via email at sclhwatervolleyball@gmail.com.
 - Indicate when the absence will start and end.
- 2) When a player is absent for 1 – 3 months and **doesn't** make prior notification:
 - The CPC or designee will try to contact the player up to 3 times.
 - Based on the results of the contact, the CPC will decide if any action needs to be taken.
 - If a player **cannot** be contacted after 3 months but returns before 5 months, s/he will be moved from their current level to the next lower level.
 - If a player **cannot** be contacted after 5 or more months, s/he will lose their ranking position.
 - When the player returns, the CPC will decide if s/he starts over from Level 4 or Level 3.
- 3) When a player is absent for 3 months or more, whether s/he had contact or no contact with the CPC:
 - A substitute, chosen from the top 4 ranked players of the next lower level, will be invited to move.
 - A substitute will be chosen beginning with the highest ranked player from that lower level.
 - If s/he declines, the next highest ranked player will be asked until one is found.
 - If all 4 players decline, then this will be considered a **special circumstance** and the CPC will determine what action need to be taken, if any.
 - For absences less than 3 months, a player will **not** be temporarily replaced.
- 4) When a player is absent 3 months or more, and **does** contact the CPC:
 - Upon the return of the absent player, s/he will retain his or her prior level, moving the substitute back to his or her original level.

Note 1: *If there are 3 or more players absent at the same time, no matter what the reason, then the CPC will decide if action needs to be taken.*

Note 2: *The returning player has the option to move down a level if he or she isn't ready to play at the prior level. In that case the substitute will remain until the next ranking.*

Note 3: *If a ranking occurs while a player is absent, that player will be ranked at his or her current level. If the absent player is ranked to the next level down, he or she will move to that level upon his or her return.*

5) If a player decides s/he wants to move **down** a level:

- S/he will be replaced by a player coming from the top 4 of the next lower level.
- Based on the most recent ranking, the highest ranked player will be invited to move up.
- If s/he declines, the next highest ranked player will be invited to move up until one is found.
- The person moving up will be ranked at the higher level at the next ranking period.
- If none of the 4 players wants to move up, it will be considered as a ***special circumstance*** and the CPC will decide what action needs to be taken.

6) Players who have moved **down** a level:

- That player will be ranked on the lower level.
- S/he will **not** be included on the list of players wanting to move up a level.
- If a player who has moved **down** decides s/he wants to move back **up** a level, then s/he will be put on the list of players wanting to move up at ranking time.

7) When a circumstance happens that is not written in these Competitive Play Guidelines, it will be considered as a ***special circumstance***, and the CPC will decide what actions need to be taken.

8) Level 4 players come under these guidelines. Absence will be considered a ***special circumstance*** and the CPC will decide what actions need to be taken.

9) All Recreational Level 3 players need to be evaluated before moving up to Level 4.