Volleyball AUSTRALIA

INDOOR HANDBOOK

VOLLEYBALL AUSTRALIA

2026



AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

AUSTRALIAN CLUB VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

AUSTRALIAN VOLLEYBALL SCHOOLS CUP
GOLD COAST, QUEENSLAND

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HANDBOOK

PART I INTRODUCTION

1. PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook has been developed to establish the standards and guidelines set forth by Volleyball Australia (VA) and serves as the primary source of information with relation to the events.

The intended purpose of the handbook is to provide participants with a resource that will enable them to better understand the event/s, and includes event information, entry requirements, nomination processes, event rules and regulations, and other relevant information.

All information contained within this document has been approved by and is an official corporate document of VA; all rights reserved.

This handbook covers the following indoor tournaments:

- Australian Junior Volleyball Championships
- Australian Youth Volleyball Championships
- Australian Club Volleyball Championships
- Australian Volleyball Schools Cup

The contents of the document include information relevant to all tournament, supplemented with information pertaining to each specific event which is in this document's attachments. All information should be read in conjunction with the relevant event section.

2. REVISING THE HANDBOOK

VA has the sole authority to approve any additions, amendments, changes, and deletions to this handbook and the events.

VA will annually review this handbook and may update its contents as required. This may be done in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Any revisions of the current handbook will be posted on the events website and electronically distributed to all relevant stakeholders.

3. VA EVENT OFFICE

If you have any questions, please forward to VA Events Department:

Email: events@volleyball.org.au
VA Office: +61 (02) 6108 4556
VA Address: PO Box 176, Belconnen, ACT 2616 AUS

4. TOURNAMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

The Tournament Control Committee (TCC) is responsible for maintaining the smooth operation of all activities during each event and is authorised to oversee any matters relating to the competition, including participant disciplinary actions.

All rulings made by the TCC are final and are not subject to appeal.

The TCC will consist of the following officials:

- Tournament Director (TD)
- VA Executive (VAE)
- Referee Coach/Referee Delegate (RC/RD)
- Competition Manager (CM)

In some instances a member of the TCC may not be present in person for a meeting and will attend by telephone or video call. In the event any nominated official is unavailable during the event, a suitable replacement will be given authority to act on behalf of and make decisions for the unavailable official.

Refer to the specific event appendix for contact details of TCC members for each event.

5. EVENT POLICIES

The policies of VA apply to all Participants (athletes, coaches, referees, volunteers and staff) of the event. Events policies, including but not limited to the following and can be found at the following link under event policies

- Concussion policy
- Extreme Heat Mitigation Policy
- Member Protection Policy
- Photography & Filming Policy
- Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy
- Competition Manipulation and Sport Gambling Policy

https://volleyball.org.au/integrity/policies/

Additionally, the events operate under the suite of National Integrity Framework Policies and are sanctioned by the Complaints Disputes and Disciplinary Policy. Refer to https://volleyball.org.au/integrity/ for more information.

6. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

Unless the context requires otherwise, the following acronyms and terms shall have the following meanings:

ARC: Assistant Referee Coach - is appointed by VARC and is responsible for assisting the RC with appointed referees, implementing the rules of the game and will serve as the RC/RD in their absence.

AVC: Asian Volleyball Confederation is the governing body responsible for all forms of Volleyball within the Asian region and responsible to the FIVB.

Child(ren): a person who is under the age of eighteen (18) years.

Club Championships: Australian Club Volleyball Championships.

CM: Competition Manager.

COE: Confirmation of Entry. This document is produced by VA with complete entry information from teams. This is the official entry and must be signed off by the MA and/or the authorised signatory from the relevant Club/Association/School.

Competition Points: Points awarded to teams dependent upon and following the outcome of a match.

Delegation: A collective group of teams, and their members, connected with a MA, or an affiliated club, school, association or training academy.

Duty Team: Referring to the team refereeing and officiating commitments assigned during the tournament also known as the “Work Team” within draw applications.

FIVB: The Fédération Internationale de Volleyball is the governing body responsible for all forms of Volleyball on a global level.

FIVB Rules: FIVB Official Volleyball Rules 2025 - 2028.

FOO: Federation of Origin.

FOP: Field of Play is the area including the court, team benches, scorer’s table, warm up and penalty areas, substitution zones, free zones and service zones.

GEST: Guaranteed earliest start time.

HOD: Head of Delegation - is designated as the official spokesperson or first point of contact, for all teams within their School/Club/Association/MA delegation during the event.

Junior Championships: Australian Junior Volleyball Championships.

MA: Member Associations e.g. State/Territory Volleyball Associations affiliated with Volleyball Australia.

National Program Athlete: any athlete who is a member of a full time VA national program training environment, including but not limited to athletes based at, or formally connected with, a VA national program hub.

Player: an athlete participating in the event.

RC/RD: Referee Coach/Referee Delegate: is appointed by VARC and is responsible for managing all appointed referees and overseeing the implementation of the rules of the game.

Referee(s): The group of official referees during the event; includes duty team members.

RS: Referee Supervisor: is appointed by VARC and is responsible for providing support and feedback to referees under the leadership of the RC and ARC.

Schools Cup: Australian Volleyball Schools Cup Tournament.

SIA: Sport Integrity Australia.

TCC: Tournament Control Committee.

TD: Tournament Director - responsible for managing all aspects of the event.

Team Official/s: Refers to any of the following roles: head coach, assistant coach, medical staff (incl. physio, medical doctor or therapist), manager, statistician, HOD.

VA: Volleyball Australia.

VA Events Framework: A national events framework created by VA to promote and provide structure across all VA events.

VARC: Volleyball Australia Referee Committee.

Youth Championships: Australian Youth Volleyball Championships.

HANDBOOK

PART II GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION

7. GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION

This handbook will cover the operational requirement for the following Volleyball Australia indoor tournaments.

- Australian Junior Volleyball Championship
- Australian Youth Volleyball Championship
- Australian Club Volleyball Championship
- Australian Volleyball Schools Cup

8. ENTRY PROCESS

8.1 NOMINATION

8.1.1 For official entry into the competition, teams must be submitted via the online registration portal found on the event website by the due date.

8.1.2 Only online nominations will be accepted. Faxed, posted and emailed nominations will not be accepted.

8.1.3 Nominations received after the closing date will incur a $100 late fee per team and will only be accepted if the draw allows.

8.1.4 Nominations of teams for the event is deemed acceptance upon signed declaration of adherence to Volleyball Australia Policy, including but not limited to the suite of National Integrity Framework Policies and Code of Conduct Policy, and governed by the Complaints Disputes and Disciplinary Policy Policies and Code of Conduct are available on the VA Integrity website.

8.1.5 The acceptance of any team that nominates late will be subject to terms and conditions set by the event organisers at that time.

8.1.6 Placement of teams into divisions is at the discretion of the event organisers and subject to the entry and team eligibility criteria as set out in this handbook.

8.2 COSTS AND PAYMENT OF FEES

8.2.1 Team Registration fee.

Refer to event specific website for the team registration fee amount.

8.2.2 Team Bond

An additional $100 ($200 for Australian Volleyball Schools Cup) per team will be charged as a “team bond” to cover any fines incurred during the event as listed in Appendix 2.

Team bond payments will be capped at $400 ($800 for Australian Volleyball Schools Cup) per delegation. I.e. If a delegation enters more than 4 teams they will only be charged a $400 ($800 for Australian Volleyball Schools Cup) bond.

The bond will be refunded at the end of the event, less any fines (if applicable) per the date noted in the key days for the event. In the instance violations exceed the value of the team bond, invoices will be issued following the event.

8.2.3 Invoicing

All fees, as per the invoice issued as details in the key event dates, must be paid by the due date.

Teams will be invoiced for their entries, team bond, and training court bookings (if applicable) as per the key dates for each event in the event specific attachment of this manual.

In the instance any violations, or the culmination of violations, amounts exceed the amount held for the team bond, the respective participating team will be invoiced for the additional amount and will not be eligible to participate in further Volleyball Australia events until the invoice has been paid.

International nominations and payment dates are the same as Australian teams as listed in the key dates. If the nomination/wildcard application is not accepted than a full refund will be given.

8.3 CONFIRMATION OF ENTRIES

8.3.1 After the nomination closure date, VA will email each HOD a confirmation of entry document for all teams/divisions accepted.

8.3.2 This documentation must be signed by the HOD and returned to VA by the due date, confirming all listed information is true and correct. Upon receipt by VA, the COE confirms acceptance in the event.

8.3.3 Upon signing the COE, the signatory is confirming acceptance to on behalf of all participants to comply will all relevant event policies, as detailed in Section 5 of this Handbook.

8.3.4 Any changes to the team lists after acceptance from VA must be further approved by VA prior to the commencement of the event, confirming that they are a registered member of VA and satisfy all other eligibility requirements to compete in the event.

8.3.5 Team lists will be finalised no later than the date specified in the Events key dates. Failure to finalise the teams may result in exclusion from the tournament.

8.4 WITHDRAWAL OF TEAMS

8.4.1 Any team withdrawing after the nomination closing date, will forfeit half of their entry fee.

8.4.2 Any team withdrawing after a further 3 weeks following the closing date for nominations, will forfeit their entire entry fee.

8.4.3 Teams who withdraw during the tournament and fail to complete their scheduled matches will incur a fee of up to $200 per forfeiture. Where teams can prove they have been prevented from playing due to circumstances beyond their control no fine will be applied.

8.5 CANCELLATION

In the event that the event is cancelled by the event organisers, any fees which have been paid to VA for the event will be refunded in full.

8.6 OFFICIAL EVENT BALL

Mikasa is an official corporate partner of VA and will provide all event match balls for the event. All divisions will use the Mikasa V200W ball.

9. DIVISIONS OF PLAY

9.1 DIVISIONS

Each event will be separated into male and female age divisions.

(Refer to Event Specific information for Tournament Age/Gender classifications).

9.2 DIVISION CAPS

Entries may be capped to ensure that the competition schedule meets event delivery expectations.

Venue capacity may also result in divisions having a hard cap. VA may accept additional teams or reduce the number of teams based on court availability and operational delivery outcomes.

9.3 DIVISION MINIMUM REQUIREMENT

A division will consist of no fewer than five (5) teams.

If a division has too few entries or falls below the required number of teams due to team withdrawals, then the division may be incorporated into the division above it, or it will be dissolved.

10. ELIGIBILITY

10.1 TEAM ELIGIBILITY

All teams must be affiliated/endorsed by their relevant MA.

At the discretion of VA, invitations may also be extended to national and international invitational teams to compete at the event.

(refer to Event Specific information for further team eligibility requirements).

10.2 INTERNATIONAL/INVITATIONAL TEAMS

International and invitational teams will be held to the same division eligibility and player age definition standards as all other teams. This includes Australian national teams which, may participate in an event to prepare for upcoming international tournaments.

International teams who are representing their country of origin do not require an ITC but do require a letter of authorisation from their National Federation to compete in the event.

10.3 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

10.3.1 General Player Eligibility

All Players are subject to all the policies and procedures of VA.

All players must meet the following minimum criteria to be eligible for participation:

- Be a current registered active member of a VA and/or an MA.
- Be an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident or hold a current ITC for the event if Australia is not their FOO.
- Meet the age/year level criteria of their division; and
- Meet the minimum online SIA education modules as detailed in the VA Integrity Education Plan

10.3.2 National Program Athletes

National Program Athletes seeking to participate in VA events must obtain written endorsement from their MA of origin prior to trialling for any team.

This requirement is to operate in alignment with the athlete's individual player agreement and the athlete's obligations as part of their ongoing involvement in the VA National High Performance Program, including expectations relating to MA of origin engagement, state pathway alignment and participation in national events.

The MA of origin has first right of access to the athlete for the relevant event(s). The written endorsement must confirm whether the athlete is:

- Approved to participate for their MA of origin; or
- Released by their MA of origin to participate with another MA for the relevant event.

A release from the MA of origin permits the athlete to trial with another MA but does not guarantee selection by that MA.

10.3.3 Eligibility Non-Compliance

Players who fail to comply with the player eligibility criteria as set out within this document will be deemed an ineligible player.

The TCC may impose sanctions for each match in which the player participated, including fines, forfeiture of match results, loss of competition points, removal from medal contention, suspension from further participation in the event, and/or any other sanction available under section 13.

Where a National Program Athlete fails to comply with Section 10.3.2, further sanctions or penalties may also be applied by the VA National High Performance Program in accordance with the terms of the athlete's individual player agreement.

10.4 INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS

In addition to meeting the above player eligibility criteria, international player(s) competing with an Australian team in the event must hold a current active ITC through the FIVB VIS platform. *(See FIVB International Transfer Procedure Manual and FIVB Sport Regulations).*

10.5 AGE/YEAR LEVEL CRITERIA

The age classification is defined as follows for age restricted tournaments:

- Under 23's: Cannot turn 23 years of age or older in the year of the event
- Under 21's: Cannot turn 21 years of age or older in the year of the event
- Under 19's: Cannot turn 19 years of age or older in the year of the event
- Under 18's: Cannot turn 18 years of age or older in the year of the event
- Under 17's: Cannot turn 17 years of age or older in the year of the event
- Under 16's: Cannot turn 16 years of age or older in the year of the event
- Under 15's: Cannot turn 15 years of age or older in the year of the event
- Under 14's: Cannot turn 14 years of age or older in the year of the event

The year level classification is defined as follows for school based tournaments:

- Open: Enrolled in their final year of schooling or lower in the year of the event. Cannot turn 20 years of age or older in the year of the event

- Year 11: Enrolled in school year 11 or lower in the year of the event
- Year 10: Enrolled in school year 10 or lower in the year of the event
- Year 9: Enrolled in school year 9 or lower in the year of the event
- Year 8: Enrolled in school year 8 or lower in the year of the event
- Year 7: Enrolled in school year 7 or lower in the year of the event

10.6 COACH AND TEAM OFFICIAL ELIGIBILITY

Team officials are defined as anyone who performs a non-playing role and will sit on the bench for a team including but not limited to the following roles:

- Coach
- Assistant Coach
- Team Manager
- Statistician
- Therapist/Trainer

All Team Officials must be current registered active members of their local MA and are subject to all the policies and procedures of VA.

All nominated team officials must meet the minimum online SIA education modules as detailed in the VA Integrity Education Plan

Failure to comply with the above will result in ineligible participation by the team officials and coaches and may result in a fine being issued for each match in which they are involved and deemed ineligible.

All nominated coaches must meet the minimum following coaching accreditation requirements:

Event	***Level 1 Coach Accreditation***	***Level 2 Coach Accreditation/ or International equivalent***
Junior Championships		√
Youth Championships		√
Club Championships	√	
Schools Cup	√	

For more information on how attain the required coaching accreditation please go to https://volleyball.org.au/get-involved/coaching-refereeing/

10.7 REFEREE ELIGIBILITY

All First referees must meet the minimum following accreditation requirements, as issued by VA:

Event	***VA Level 1 Referee Accreditation***	***VA Level 2 Referee Accreditation or International equivalent***
Junior Championships		√
Youth Championships		√
Club Championships		√
Schools Cup - Honours		√
Schools Cup – Divisional	√	

All Second referees must meet the minimum following accreditation requirements, as issued by VA:

Event	VA Level 1 Referee Accreditation	VA Level 2 Accreditation/ or International equivalent
Junior Championships	√	
Youth Championships – all players	√	
Club Championships – all players	√	
Schools Cup – Honours/Divisional	√	

Non-playing referees, as part of the duty team, may officiate for multiple teams; provided alternative qualified referees are nominated and are available should the duties of those teams' clash.

Referees who are not playing in a team can be added to the team in the "Coach" section of the nomination process.

Teams who do not provide appropriately accredited referees at the time of the event will be subject to fines at the discretion of the TCC. All accreditations must be obtained prior to the start of the event.

All nominated Referees must stay and officiate for the duration of the tournament they have been appointed and attend all required meetings and training.

Any referee under the age of 18 years attending a VA national event, does so under the supervision and responsibility of their nominating delegation or parent/guardian. VA does not accept duty of care responsibilities for underage referees outside of its direct appointed workforce arrangements.

11. TEAM COMMITMENTS

11.1 PLAYING COMMITMENTS

It is each Team's responsibility to be at the venue prepared to take the court to play their match at the GEST.

11.2 COACHING COMMITMENTS

Each team must nominate at minimum one (1) coach per team during the online team nomination process. This should be the coach who will be attending the tournament, and not the delegation administrator. Multiple nominations are permitted.

Coaches will be responsible for the following:

- Reading and understanding this event handbook
- Assisting with maintaining venue cleanliness and making sure that their teams leave their playing area in a clean and tidy state ready for the next match
- Ensuring food and beverages (with the exception of liquid in sealed sports drink bottles) are not consumed in the sports halls.
- Any team with one or more players under the age of 18 must have an adult supervisor present at all times during their game or work/duty time.

11.3 TEAM EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

All teams will be required to provide their own:

- Warm-up balls.
- Adequate First Aid kit.

- Uniforms
- Water bottles
- General team equipment

VA is not able to provide teams with a dedicated changeroom. The venue will have common change room facilities available; however it is strongly suggested that teams be prepared to dress prior to arrival at the venue and bring their own equipment.

For Junior and Youth Championships, refer to event specific information for further information.

11.4 MEETING ATTENDANCE COMMITMENTS

Prior to the start of the event, the TCC will hold an in person and/or online general technical meeting for HODs, Team Officials, Referees and Event Staff.

Each team/delegation must have at least one (1) representative attend the technical Meeting.

A $50 fine per team may be imposed on the delegation (MA/Club/School) for non-attendance.

12. OFFICIATING

12.1 TEAM DUTIES/WORK COMMITMENTS

All participating teams will be rostered for match duties at scheduled times close to their scheduled playing times.

Any member of the delegation can serve as a member of the duty team roster, as long as they have a valid accreditation that meets the criteria in the referee eligibility section of this document.

All duty team members are considered a part of the team's delegation and any actions by a duty team member that violates any of the rules of this event or VA policies will be subject to sanctions by the TCC and/or VA.

Teams may be allocated duty in divisions other than their own.

Whilst acting as an official during their duty, teams will be under the supervision of the RC/ARC and/or RS's and will conduct themselves professionally and appropriately.

Duty personnel will present themselves in keeping with the standard of the competition and the image of the game and must wear appropriate closed-toe footwear and be neatly dressed in their uniform and/or track suit.

The following items will be prohibited for use by duty personnel:

- Hats, bandanas or similar headwear, unless otherwise exempt
- Mobile phones, music devices or headphones
- Line judges must remain standing throughout the match

Duty teams will be responsible for ensuring the following:

- Both Coaches have verified their team list prior to the commencement of the match
- The score recorded has been fully completed on the scoresheet
- The duty team must verify with both team coaches to confirm the score on the scoresheet before submission to the competition office (court supervisor for Australian Volleyball Schools Cup) as an accurate record of the game result

- Both team captains verify the result of the match on the scoresheet before the teams leave the competition court

12.2 REPORTING FOR DUTY

Duty teams must be present at the start of the official warm-up of their scheduled duty match assignment and provide the following minimum personnel:

Event	*First Referee*	*Second Referee*	*Line Judge*	*Scorer*	*Adult Supervisor*
Junior Championships	1	1	2	*1 Asst scorer optional*	0
Youth Championships	0	1	2	1	0
Club Championships	1	1	2	1	0
Schools Cup	1	1	2	1	1

Duty teams may change line judges and assistant scorers during the interval between sets.

12.3 FAILURE TO REPORT FOR DUTY

A duty team that fails to perform a duty, for any reason other than competing in a match, will be subject to various fines and/or sanctions.

The minimum fine teams will receive is $20 per late or missing duty team member.

Further sanctions may also be applied by the TCC at their discretion.

12.4 DUTY TEAM EQUIPMENT

All referees/duty teams must provide their own whistle.

NOTE: Hand-whistles **may** be available for loan, however teams should not rely on them being available; any item not returned from loan may incur a fine.

All other equipment will be provided, including:

- Flags
- Scoresheets & scoreboard
- Rotation slips
- Sanction cards

12.5 REFEREE RESPONSIBILITIES

REFEREE COACH (RC)

The RC is responsible for managing all appointed referees and holds official VARC and TCC authority. They will solve problems and make determinations on formal protests occurring during the match to re-establish the situation, in accordance with the FIVB Official Rules, amended by this document.

The RC will also serve as a member of the TCC and will be required to attend all formal protests and discussions relating to rules infractions and enforcements.

ASSISTANT REFEREE COACH (ARC) AS REQUIRED

The ARC's are responsible for assisting the RC with managing all appointed referees and will have the full support of the RC and VARC to implement the rules of the game.

In the absence of the event RC, the ARC's will also serve as an Acting RC and will be responsible for carrying out the responsibilities of that role.

REFEREE SUPERVISOR (RS)

The RS's are responsible for providing support and feedback to referees under the leadership of the RC and ARC.

13. SANCTIONS

13.1 SANCTIONS

13.1.1 If an incident occurs which may also be a breach of an integrity policy (for example, match-fixing or abuse/bullying etc), how and who it must be reported to will depend on the nature of the incident. Further information on complaint types and reporting procedures is available here.

13.1.2 During the course of the event, VA is able to sanction or discipline players, officials, teams, or affiliated members if required.

13.1.3 The TCC will consider all reports and statements and any aggravating and mitigating circumstances to ensure it is assessed correctly and to ensure procedural fairness.

13.1.4 Any substantiated violation or infraction of VA's Constitution, by-laws, policies, procedures, competition rules and/or regulations; will be administered with a penalty and/or sanction in accordance with the severity of the violation or infraction as determined by the TCC.

13.1.5 The sanctions available to the TCC for within the event include, but not limited to:

- Official Warning (verbal and/or written)
- Forfeiture of competition points
- Mandatory Education
- Apology (verbal and/or written)
- Monetary fines, including the payment for cost of repairs to property if required
- Suspension from VA programs, events and/or activities
- Expulsion from the event
- Service or other voluntary contribution to VA
- Referral to VA Int Tribunal for further action
- Suspension from VA funding

13.1.6 Sanctions for non-compliance of Team Eligibility and Player Eligibility will be considered by the TCC throughout the event. Sanctions may also be issued after the conclusion of an event.

13.1.7 HOD can appeal the decision to the TCC in writing within three (3) hours of the receipt of the decision. If the right to appeal is not exercised, the TCC decision shall be final.

13.2 MATCH MISCONDUCT

Match officials are empowered to sanction players and team officials during a match in line with the FIVB rules of the game. The following outlines disciplinary actions to be applied according to accumulated or excessive misconduct.

Misconduct sanctions will be cumulative during the event:

Warning	Yellow Card	1 point
Penalty	Red Card	2 points
Expulsion	Yellow and Red cards together	4 points
Disqualification	Yellow and Red cards separately	4 points

Any event participant who accumulates four (4) points, or more, will automatically be referred to a disciplinary hearing with the TCC, where further sanctions may be applied including possible suspension from matches.

13.3 FAILURE TO TAKE THE COURT

Any team (minimum of 6 players), which fails to take the court at the start of the match, as signalled by the 1st Referee, will be sanctioned as follows.

- Failure to take the court at the signalled start of the match by the 1st Referee - Forfeit 1st Set
- Failure to take the court after 10 minutes from the signalled start time - Forfeit 2nd Set
- Failure to take the court after 20 minutes from the signalled start time - Forfeit match

If both teams fail to take the court after 20 minutes from the signalled start time of a pool match, the match will be recorded as a bye and no competition points will be awarded to either team for that match.

If both teams fail to take the court after 20 minutes from the signalled start time of an elimination/bracket match, the TCC will convene to make a determination.

Any team who forfeits a match will be fined $330 (inclusive GST) per match.

14. ALCOHOL/DRUG CONSUMPTION

Smoking, vaping, drinking alcohol and the taking other social drugs is strictly forbidden during the tournament. Any breach of this rule may result in the offender being ejected from the tournament and may be subject to sanctions under VA code of Conduct policy. Team officials will be notified, and further disciplinary action is the responsibility of the delegation.

15. ANTI-DOPING

VA's Anti-Doping Policy is available on the VA website: https://volleyball.org.au/integrity/

As an official National Championship, all participating athletes agree to be bound by and are subject to this Policy, including random drug testing by the Sport Integrity Australia under its legislation.

16. STEALING

All coaches, managers and individual team members must be aware of the ramifications of the theft and/or malicious damage of tournament equipment, team equipment, and personal property at the Tournament. The theft of balls, personal property or equipment, may result in the expulsion of the player(s) and/or team from the competition and a review will determine their involvement in future Tournaments. Please be aware that police intervention may also be sought.

17. VENUE RULES

All participants are expected to respect playing venues and the associated Conditions of Entry. Those who fail to respect these conditions of entry will be subject to discipline within the context of the Tournament and may be liable to sanctions such as suspension for a match or a number of matches.

Conditions of Entry can be found for Volleyball Australia events can be found here and on the event website.

18. CLEANLINESS

Each team must ensure participants do not consume food and drinks (with the exception of liquid in sealed sports drink bottles) in the sports halls.

Every team coach/manager is to ensure that at the completion of each match the court area is left clean and tidy in readiness for the next match.

Failure to comply with this regulation may result in fines or sanctions imposed by the TCC.

19. EVENT SERVICES

19.1 MEDICAL SERVICES

VA will provide qualified First Aid persons for all Tournaments.

During all competition days, these services will be provided from 30-minutes before the first scheduled match until the end of the last match daily. They will not be provided for team training day(s).

In addition, all local hospital(s) will be informed of the dates and times of the event.

An adult (teacher, manager, coach, or adult guardian) must accompany all participants under the age of 18 requiring first aid. The officers providing the first aid service will require the accompanying adult to sign a document indicating they were present during the relevant treatment, and that consent to treatment was given.

First Aid Officers WILL NOT provide strapping tape to strap injuries but may be willing to strap injuries for participants if it is provided by the patient. However, this is not the

priority for the first aid personnel, and should an incident occur which requires first aid attention, priority will be given to the person in most immediate need.

NOTE: It is not the responsibility of VA to provide a qualified sports trainers/physiotherapists. The delegation is responsible for providing their own qualified sports trainer/s or physiotherapists during the tournament if desired.

19.2 OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER

VA will appoint an official photographer for each event, who will have exclusive access to all playing areas for the duration of the tournament.

Participants may remove their consent for imagery at any time during or after the event by emailing VA at events@volleyball.org.au and providing the team name and age division, player name and player number.

19.3 UNOFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

VA has established Photography and Filming Guidelines for spectators/team officials and players wishing to take photos.

Any person wishing to capture footage/photographs must complete the Volleyball Australia Photography and Filming Course prior to capturing any footage at (https://education.volleyball.org.au/available-courses/)

At any VA event, VA staff reserve the right to approach people capturing footage and request to see a copy of the email confirming completion of the course.

If any athlete is wearing a fluorescent arm band this means they do not have media consent and photography and/or filming is not permitted.

19.4 MERCHANDISE

VA may appoint an exclusive merchandise vendor that sell event merchandise throughout the tournament.

HANDBOOK

PART III COMPETITION REGULATIONS

The event shall be played in accordance with the current FIVB Rules of the Game unless otherwise amended in this handbook.

20. PLAYING AREA

The playing area includes the playing court and the free zone. It shall be rectangular and symmetrical.

The playing court is a rectangle measuring 18 x 9m, surrounded by a free zone.

Free zone measurements are as follows:

	From sideline	From base line
Junior Championships	3 metres minimum	4.5 metres minimum
Youth Championships	3 metres minimum	3 metres minimum.
Club Championships	3 metres minimum	3 metres minimum.
Schools Cup	2.5 metres minimum	3 metres minimum.

The free playing space is the space above the playing area which is free from any obstructions. The free playing space shall measure a minimum of 8.5m in height from the playing surface.

21. LIGHTING

For VA sanctioned competitions, the minimum lighting on the playing area should be 500 lux measured at 1m above the playing surface.

22. NET HEIGHT

Age Group	Women	Men
Under 19 and above	2.24	2.43
Under 18	2.24	2.43
Under 17	2.24	2.43
Under 16	2.24	2.35
Under 15	2.15	2.24
Under 14	2.15	2.24

Australian Volleyball Schools Cup only

Honours	Girls	Boys
Open	2.24m	2.43m
Year 11	2.24m	2.43m
Year 10	2.15m	2.35m
Year 9	2.15m	2.35m
Year 8	2.10m	2.24m

Divisional	Girls	Boys
Year 12	2.24m	2.43m
Year 11	2.24m	2.43m
Year 10	2.15m	2.35m
Year 9	2.15m	2.35m
Year 8	2.10m	2.24m
Year 7	2.10m	2.24m

23. DRAW STRUCTURE

The draw may consist of multiple competition format styles, including but not limited to:

Round Robin/Pool Play

Round Robin/Pool Play format is a competition format in which each team plays against every other team in their division or pool. Instead of being eliminated after a loss, competitors accumulate wins, losses, sets and points across multiple matches. At the end of the phase, the teams will be ranked against each other. That ranking will be used to seed the teams in the next phase of competition which is generally a repechage, crossover or bracket match to progress to the finals. In some instances, the final pool play placing will determine the final placing in the tournament.

Modified Pool Play

A competition format that is based on round-robin (pool play) principles but has been adjusted so that participants do not play every other participant in their pool. The modifications are typically made to accommodate time constraints, venue availability, unequal numbers of teams, or other logistical considerations.

In a modified pool play format, teams may:

- Play only a selected number of opponents within their pool.
- Be divided into subgroups and play only within those subgroups.
- Have some matches omitted or replaced with seeding-based pairings.
- Use standings, points, or other ranking methods to determine advancement despite not all competitors facing one another.

For example, Pool A Team Seed 1 will play against Team Seed 4, Team Seed 2 will play against Team Seed 3. The winners of each of those matches will play each other to determine who is to finish 1st and 2nd in the pool, the losers of the initial matches will play each other to determine which teams will finish 3rd and 4th in the pool.

Repechage Rounds

A competition format that gives teams who have lost earlier in a tournament an additional opportunity to continue competing for a placing, medal, or advancement. Rather than being eliminated immediately after a loss, eligible teams enter a separate bracket or pool known as the repechage.

Crossover Matches

A match played between participants or teams from different pools, groups, brackets, or divisions within a competition. Crossover matches are typically used to determine advancement, final rankings, or qualification for later rounds after an initial pool-play stage.

Common uses of crossover matches include:

- The top teams from one pool play the top teams from another pool to determine semifinalists or finalists.
- Teams from different pools competing for final placings (e.g., 5th–8th place).
- Creating a pathway from pool play into a knockout bracket.

For example: After pool play, the first-place team from Pool A plays the second-place team from Pool B, while the first-place team from Pool B plays the second-place team from Pool A. These are crossover matches that determine which teams advance to the finals/championship round.

Bracket Matches/Phase

The stage of a competition that uses a bracket structure to determine advancement and final placings. The bracket phase often follows pool play or qualification rounds and may

be single-elimination, double-elimination, consolation, repechage, or another bracket-based format.

Bracket matches form part of the bracket phase competition, where teams advance through a predetermined series of rounds based on wins and losses. Bracket matches are typically used in elimination phases of a tournament such as quarter finals, semi-finals, medal matches and final placings.

24. DRAW RELEASE

The preliminary draw will be released via the event website on the date as set out in the event "Key Dates" section of each event's specific attachment of these regulations.

The finalised draw will be updated on the event website on the first day prior to the start of competition and will be available through the VA phone app.

25. TEAM COMPOSITION

Only the match officials listed on the official score sheet for any of the tournaments may enter the FOP and take part in the official warm-up and during the match.

Junior Championships, Youth Championships and Club Championships

For each match, a team may consist of a minimum of six (6) players and a maximum of fourteen (14) players.

Non-playing team staff may consist of up to five (5) of any of the following personnel:

- Coaching Staff: one (1) head coach, up to two (2) assistant coaches, one (1) statistician
- Medical Staff: one (1) team therapist, one (1) medical doctor, one (1) physio
- Other Staff: one (1) team manager, one (1) head of delegation

Australian Volleyball Schools Cup

- For the match, a team may consist of a minimum of six (6) players and a maximum of twelve (12) players
- Non-playing team staff may consist of up to three (3) of any of the following personnel:
- Coaching Staff: one (1) head coach, up to two (2) assistant coaches, one (1) statistician
- Medical Staff: one (1) team therapist, one (1) medical doctor, one (1) physio
- Other Staff: one (1) team manager, one (1) HOD

25.1 DESIGNATION OF LIBERO

Junior Championships, Youth Championships and Club Championships

Each team has the right to designate from the list of players on the score sheet up to two (2) Liberos. If the team chooses to designate Liberos at the start of the match, they are designated as Liberos for the entire match.

The Coach can choose to change the Libero(s) between each match only, NOT during the match.

Australian Volleyball Schools Cup

Only two Liberos are to be nominated per set. The coach must nominate the player's playing numbers at the start of each set on the rotation slip. Different players can be nominated as the libero for any set. Teams may choose to play without a libero in any set.

26. TEAM CAPTAIN

A team may elect to have multiple captains, a determination before the beginning of each match will have to be made as to who will serve as the team captain for that specific match. The player must be identified as the team's captain and wear the uniform with the captain's bar at the coin toss.

CAPTAIN'S BAR

If teams wish to change match captains each match the 'Captain's Bar' can be temporary. This can be done via a temporary Velcro strip or a strip of tape.

The colour of the captain's bar must match the colour of the number on the team uniform.

A Captains Bar is not required for Schools Cup.

27. SUBSTITUTIONS

Each team may request the maximum number of substitutions per set:

	Max 6 sub per set	12 Substitution rule
Junior Championships	√ *For all medal contention games*	√ *For non-medal contention games*
Youth Championships		√
Club Championships		√
Schools Cup		√

(See Appendix 5 for a summary of the twelve (12) Substitution Rule).

28. EXPULSION

If there is no designated penalty area, or space for a penalty area, a team member who is sanctioned by expulsion shall not play for the rest of the set and must remain seated on his/her bench for the remainder of the set.

29. FORBIDDEN OBJECTS

No player may wear jewellery during a match, including watches, unless it is taped over to prevent risk of injury to the player or others.

Headwear, such as hats, are also not permitted to be worn during a match, unless for religious/medical purposes.

30. BLOOD

Matches cannot proceed if there is a bleeding player, or blood on balls, equipment, the court or clothing. Should bleeding occur, the player must be removed from the game and cannot take their place on the court until there is no more evidence of blood or bleeding. Matches shall be halted until such time as all blood has been removed from playing equipment and players' uniforms. Play will only be resumed on confirmation by an RS.

31. MATCH DELAYS & INTERRUPTIONS

31.1 PROLONGED INTERRUPTIONS

If unforeseen circumstances interrupt a match, the TCC will assess the delay and proceed accordingly.

If a match cannot be continued, the match will be called final as of the last official point and a winner determined based on the score at the time the match is halted.

If a match can be resumed, regardless of the duration of the delay or the playing court, the interrupted set shall continue normally with the same score, players (except expelled, disqualified or injured ones) and positions. The sets already played will keep their scores.

The above information does not pertain to Australian Volleyball Schools Cup. See event specific section information detailed to this event.

31.2MATCH DELAYS/RESCHEDULE

In the event a match is delayed for any reason, the TD, in consultation with the TCC, may authorise to reschedule or relocate matches.

This can include matches being scheduled beyond the mentioned start times outlined in the above Match Schedule section.

All such instances of match rescheduling and/or relocation will be communicated with all affected teams.

This decision shall be final and will become part of the official event schedule.

For Schools Cup, please refer to Event Specific information.

31.3SHORTENED MATCH PROTOCOL

31.3.1 Untimed Matches

In the event where the allocated time for a match is shortened due to unforeseen circumstance, the following process will determine the match outcome.

In the first instance, matches will be resumed at the earliest possible time.

If a match is not able to be resumed or rescheduled due to limitations imposed by event operations and or remaining event duration, then a result of the match will be determined according to the stage of the event the match was contested in.

The team leading in the last played set will be determined the winner of that set if they are leading by 2 points. In sets played to 25 the leading team must reach a minimum of 13 points. In sets played to 15, the leading team must reach a minimum of 8 points.

In the event that teams are tied in the last set played, that set will be deemed a draw with the points won in the set remaining the same for both teams.

The winner of the match will be determined by the team who has won more sets, including the set when play was suspended, and awarded any competition points given for winning a match.

If teams have won an equal number of sets, then the winner will be determined by the total number of points won in all sets.

If the two teams are still tied after the total number of points won calculation, the match will be determined a tie.

31.3.2 Timed Matches

In the event of a timed match unable to be completed, the following shortened match protocol will be enforced:

- If 30 minutes of play has been completed a result will be declared for the game at the time of suspension based on the rules for timed matches.
- If less than 30 minutes of play has been completed, if one team has achieved 2 sets, the result will be declared accordingly. If not, then:
  - For pool matches the result will be declared a draw, but actual sets and points won will be credited to each team.
  - For repechage matches, the match will be determined by total points won. Should this be equal, then if one team holds a lead on sets, they are the winner, otherwise the winner shall be the team that was leading (on total points) prior to the last rally that was conducted.

32. HEAT MITIGATION POLICY

In the instance the VA Heat Mitigation Policy is employed, the following changes will be implemented:

- Two (2) Technical Timeouts will be implemented when the first team reaches 8 and 16 points in a regular set and at the end change in the deciding set.
- Reduced scoring may be implemented to 21 | 21 | 12 or 18 | 18 | 12.
- Matches may be paused/delayed until the heat risk threshold is reduced to safe levels.

The level of reduction and the point at which this alteration to the scoring is implemented will be subject to the discretion of the TCC to ensure safety of participants as well as fairness and compliance with competition structures and match manipulation processes. An alteration to match scoring will not be implemented during an active match and will only ever be implemented when all teams have been communicated with prior to the first point being played.

33. MATCH PROTEST PROTOCOL

A formal protest may only be lodged by the Head Coach of a team and must be made to the 2nd referee, whilst the ball is out of play.
For Schools Cup, the formal protest must be logged to the Adult Supervisor of the duty team and a Referee Supervisor is to be called over.

The protest will be resolved using the 'On the Spot Protest Resolution Procedure' (Appendix 4).

The resolved outcome of the protest is final; there will be no formal appeals process and matches will not be replayed.

34. RESULTS

34.1 COMPETITION POINTS/LADDER

During pool play, teams will be awarded competition points in accordance with the following to determine their ranking:

Win – 3 points

Tie – 2 points

Loss – 1 point

Forfeit – 0 points

34.2 TIEBREAK RULES

If teams are tied on competition points within a pool, the tie will be resolved as follows:

First Tiebreak: Set Ratio.

A team that has a higher set ratio than all the other teams with which it is tied on competition points will finish ahead of the other teams in the pool.

A team that has a lower set ratio than all other teams with which it is tied on competition points is placed behind the other teams in pool.

The Set Ratio is calculated by dividing the total number of sets won by the total number of sets lost.

Second Tiebreak: Points Ratio

A team that has a higher points ratio than all the other teams with which it is tied in competition points and Set Ratio will finish ahead of the other teams in the pool.

A team that has a lower points ratio than the other teams with which it is tied in competition points and Set Ratio is placed behind the other teams in the pool.

The Point Ratio is calculated by dividing the total number of points won by the total number of points lost.

Third Tiebreak: Head-to-Head Results.

A team that beats all the other teams with which it is tied in competition points, set ratio and point ratio will finish ahead of the other teams in the pool.

A team that has lost to all other teams with which it is tied in competition points, sets ratio and points ratio is placed behind the other teams in pool.

34.3 MATCH FORFEITURE

The minimum number of players a team must have to compete in a match is six (6).

If through injury/illness, disqualification, expulsion or any other reason a team has less than six (6) players available to take the court then that team will be deemed incomplete and will forfeit any points and sets remaining that will result in an official match.

35. UNIFORMS/COURT DRESS REGULATIONS

All teams are expected to play in team uniform. This uniform must include numbered tops (front and back with numbers 1-99 permitted). Where alternative playing shirts are used, players will retain the same playing number.

Teams can wear a combination of any approved playing uniform e.g. one athlete can wear a singlet and the other wears a t-shirt.

Uniform shorts must be the exact same colour, however the type/style can vary.

Team members who are not in uniform shall not be allowed to take part in the match.

Any uniform exemptions must be submitted in writing to the TD prior to the commencement of competition.

No jewelry may be worn during a match (including watches). The wearing of hats is not permitted both during a match or whilst performing duty for a match.

Clothing required for religious purposes is acceptable, but written notification must be given to the TD prior to the commencement of competition.

Display of sponsorship logos on uniforms (shirts, shorts or socks) is encouraged, subject to the following regulations:

- Any logo or message must not conflict with any VA event sponsor, as identified in any documentation distributed to participating teams up to three months prior to the registration day of the event.
- Should a potential conflict arise with a pre-existing team sponsor, and any event sponsor identified up to three months prior to the event, it shall be the responsibility of the team to advise the TD of such potential conflict and VA, shall then determine further action.
- Any team who fails to advise VA of a potential sponsorship conflict prior to the event may be required by the TCC to remove or blank out the conflicting sponsor's logo or message before being permitted to compete in the event.
- Any logo or message on playing uniforms must be consistent across all members of a team.
- The maximum size of any logo or message on the front or back of a playing shirt shall not exceed 25cm in width and 10 cm in height and shall be at least 5cm clear of the playing number.
- The maximum size of any logo or text on playing shorts shall be 10cm in width and height and may only appear on the front of the shorts.
- Should any logo, graphic or text, attached to or printed on a playing uniform in any form, be judged to be offensive by the TCC, the team shall not be permitted to compete until such time as the offensive item is removed or blanked out.
- The TCC is authorised to rule on the acceptability of a uniform logo, graphic or text should a sample uniform or full-scale artwork be submitted prior to the event.

HANDBOOK

PART IV APPENDICIES

APPENDIX 1: WARM UP PROTOCOL

Warm up Protocol – 20 Minutes
Junior and Youth Championships

	ACTIVITY	DUTY TEAM ACTION
T – 20 min	Warm up (not at the net)	• Check court equipment is in place and match ready to commence. If not, notify event staff.
T – 15min	Coin Toss	• Summon Captains for coin toss
T – 12min	Official warm up at the net commences	• Monitors warm up at the net • Brief line judges • Collect line up sheets from Coaches • Record result of toss • Check all players with the scoresheet • Record team line ups
T – 2min	• Official warm up at the net finishes. • Teams clear the court	
T – 1min	Starting six (6) players take the court	• Check positions of players • Authorises Libero replacement (s) if required.
T – 00	Match commences	

This protocol may be altered at the discretion of the TCC.

Warm Up Protocol – 15 Minutes
Club Championships and Schools Cup Honours Matches

	ACTIVITY	DUTY TEAM ACTION
T – 15 min	Unofficial Warm up (not at the net)	
T – 10min	Coin Toss	Summon Captains for coin toss
T – 9min	Official warm up at the net commences	• Monitors warm up at the net • Brief line judges • Collect line up sheets from Coaches • Record result of toss • Check all players with the score sheet • Record team line ups
T – 2min	• Official warm up at the net finishes. • Teams clear the court	
T – 1min	Starting six (6) players take the court	• Check positions of players • Authorise Libero replacement(s) if required.
T – 00	Match commences	

This protocol may be altered at the discretion of the TCC.

Warm Up Protocol – 10 Minutes
Schools Cup Division Matches

	ACTIVITY	DUTY TEAM ACTION
T – 10 min	Unofficial Warm up (not at the net)	
T – 7.5min	Coin Toss	• Summon Captains for coin toss
T – 6.5min	Official warm up at the net commences	• Monitors warm up at the net • Brief line judges • Collect line up sheets from Coaches • Record result of toss • Check all players with the score sheet • Record team line ups
T – 2min	• Official warm up at the net finishes. • Teams clear the court	
T – 1min	Starting six (6) players take the court	• Check positions of players • Authorise Libero replacement(s) if required.
T – 00	Match commences	

This protocol may be altered at the discretion of the TCC.

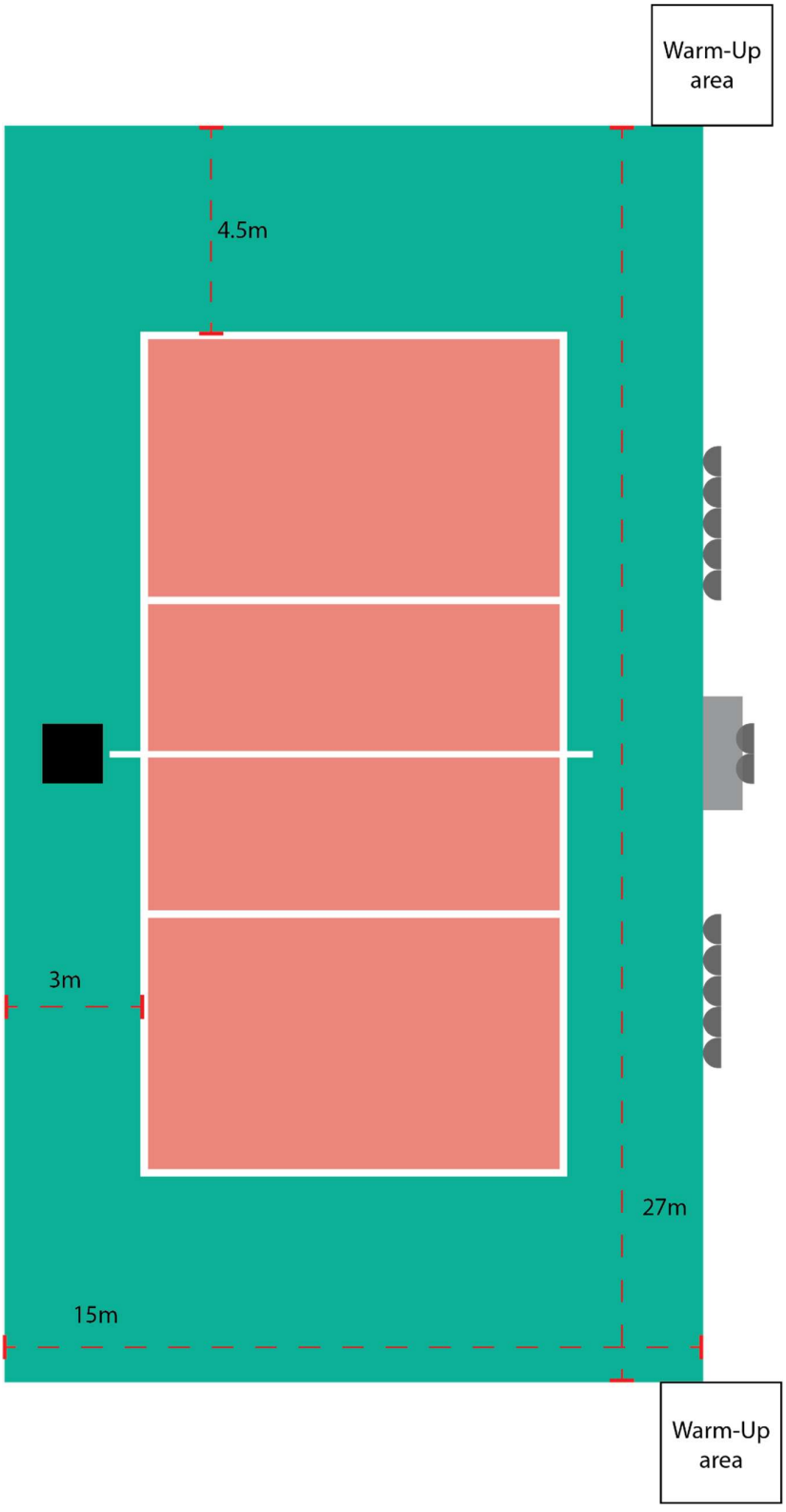
APPENDIX 2: EVENT FINES

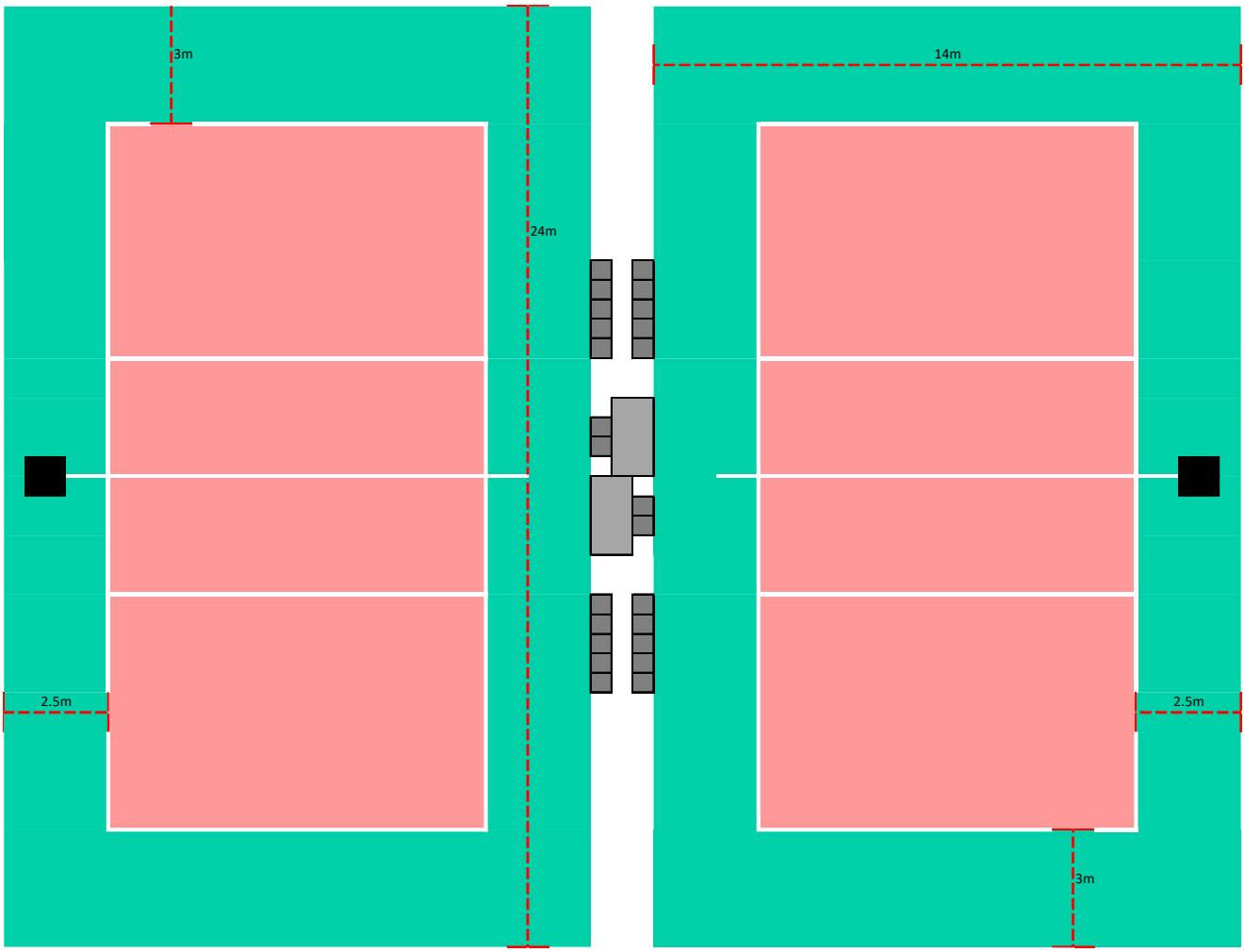
Fines during the event will be charged out of the team bond payment. Fines can be incurred by the following but are not limited to this list. Fines are subject to the discretion of the TCC.

Eating in competition halls	$20
Disrespectful behaviour	$20
Using electronics during duty	$20
Incorrect footwear during duty/match	$20
Littering	$20
Property damage	Various (dependant on cost to repair)
Theft	Various (dependant cost to replace)
Withdrawal/forfeit	$330
Late for duty	$20 per missing duty member
Failure to return whistle after completing duty	$20
Failure to attend meeting	$50
Ineligible participation	$20 per person per game
Failure to meet administrative deadlines	$20 per occasion

APPENDIX 3: PLAYING AREA

Junior Championships, Youth Championships and Club Championships




3m
24m
14m
2.5m
2.5m
3m

APPENDIX 4: ON THE SPOT PROTEST RESOLUTION PROTOCOL

A formal protest may only be lodged by the Coach who believes that match officials have made an error under the FIVB Rules as amended by this handbook, where such error will affect the outcome of the match.
Such cases include:

i. An improper decision by the Referee who did not apply the regulations or did not assume the consequences of his/her decisions; and/or
ii. An improper decision of the scorer who made a mistake on the rotational order or on the score.
Such cases that **cannot** be protested include:

a) Judgement calls.

b) A Referee's decision to sanction a player's action or a player or official's misconduct.

The following is the procedure that is to be followed to lodge and resolve a protest. To lodge a formal protest:

i. Coach must immediately inform the second Referee, or in Schools Cup inform the Adult Supervisor of the Duty team (while the ball is out of play) that he/she wishes to lodge a protest at which point, the second Referee must immediately inform the 1st Referee.
ii. Once a protest is lodged, the game is interrupted. The first referee authorises the teams to leave the playing court and go to their bench, but they are not allowed to leave the playing area. Players are allowed to use balls in the free zone.
iii. The 1st Referee will step down from the stand and immediately consult a Referee Supervisor to resolve the protest. The Referee Supervisor will resolve the protest and if they are unable to do so the protest will be resolved by the Referee Coach. The RC/RD's decision is final.
iv. A protest about a Referee's decision to sanction a player's action or a player or official's misconduct will be considered an improper case and will be rejected by the RS/RC.

v. The RC or RS can decide to
   a. Reject the protest (if it is an improper case) or
   b. Accept the protest as legal and decide on a ruling which can be:
      II. To Uphold the Referee's decision.
      III. To Overturn the Referee's decision.

vi. If the protest is Accepted and the Referee's decision is Upheld, the game is resumed after having applied the referee's decision.
vii. If the protest is Accepted and the Referee's decision is Overturned, the game is resumed from the point prior to the Referee's decision.
viii. If the protest is Rejected, the game is resumed after having applied the Referee's decision. The following sanction, as applicable will be imposed:
   a. The first protest that is Rejected will incur a "Penalty" sanction (Red card), which is a personal sanction against the Head Coach.
   b. If there is a second protest in the same match by the same Coach and it is rejected, then the 1st Referee will sanction the Coach with disqualification (Red and Yellow cards separately.)
ix. To resume the game, the RS decision is communicated to Referees, scorer and captains.

APPENDIX 5: TWELVE (12) SUBSTITUTION RULE

A team shall be allowed a maximum of twelve (12) substitutions in a set.

a) A player may enter the court a maximum of three (3) times in a set. The starting line-up counts as an entry onto the court. Players in the starting line-up, subsequently have two (2) entries left in the set.
b) Players re-entering the set must assume the original position in the service order in relation to other teammates.
c) Any number of players may enter the set in each position in the service order.

Example

The following diagram illustrates how substitutions are recorded on the scoresheet.

I		II		III		IV		V		VI	
10		4		11		2		1		7	
6	3					5					
10						2					
9						5					
8						(2)					
(10)						(5)					
8											

In the example shown above, the starting line-up is 10, 4, 11, 2, 1 and 7.

This means that these players made their first entry for the set. During the match, the coach then substitutes into position one (I) players numbered 6, 9, 8 and 3. Number 10 has made three (3) entries and is not permitted any more entries for the set. The same can be said for player number 2 in position four (IV).

The players numbered 10, 6, 9, 8 and 3, must remain in position one (I) on the scoresheet and none of them can be used to substitute into another position in this set. For example, player 8 has only appeared twice so far and can therefore make another appearance on court but only in position one (I) and only if no more than twelve substitutions are used per set.

In the example shown above, all twelve substitutions have been used.

The scorer recording the substitutions will use the left side column first for each position and when the left is full use the right-side column.

There is no requirement to record the score at the time of each substitution.

The scorer reports the 11th and 12th substitutions of the team and the third court entry of a player to the second referee who then indicates to the coach concerned and First Referee in that order.

APPENDIX 6: FIXED TIME MATCHES (WIN & DRAW SCENARIOS)

Examples of a win

Scenario 1:

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
Team A	25	25	25
Team B	22	21	7

Team A wins 3-0
Why: All sets were played out to 25 points

Scenario 2:

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
Team A	25	8	25
Team B	11	25	7

Team A wins 2-1
Why: All sets were played out to 25 points.

Scenario 3:

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
Team A	25	10	13
Team B	12	25	11

Team A wins 2-1
Why: For all sets to be included a team must reach 13 points, with a 2-point difference.

Scenario 4:

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
Team A	25	22	20
Team B	18	25	21

Team A wins 1-1, 67 points to 64
Why: One set all, no 2-point difference in the 3rd set therefore add up total points.

Scenario 5:

	Set 1	Set 2
Team A	20	12
Team B	25	2

Team B wins 1-0
Why: Only one set was completed and the 2nd set did not reach 13 points

Scenario 6:

	Set 1	Set 2
Team A	20	13
Team B	25	2

Team A wins 1-1, 33 points to 27.
Why: One set all (2nd set reached 13 and counts as a complete set) – add up total points

Example of a draw

Scenario 1:

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
Team A	25	22	15
Team B	22	25	15

Draw 1-1 and equal in 3rd set (62-62)
Why: Both teams won one set each and there was not a 2-point difference in the third set – add up total points. Total points are equal, so it is a draw

Scenario 2:

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4
Team A	25	22	20	25
Team B	19	25	25	23

Draw 2-2 and all points are equal (92-92)
Why: Both teams won two sets each -add up total points. Total points are equal, so it is a draw

AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

2026

36. GENERAL INFORMATION

36.1 PURPOSE OF THE EVENT

With entry open to Australian State/Territory representative teams, and invitational national/international teams (including Australia), the Australian Junior Volleyball Championships is an elite development event within the VA development pathway.

The purpose of the event is

- to identify, through competition, the best junior teams in Australia;
- to provide high quality playing opportunities for athletes within the U19 to U23 Age categories;
- to retain athletes and continue participation beyond the youth age categories; and
- to prepare athletes for higher competition levels including representation on the international stage.

36.2 DATES

The event will have four (4) days of competition from 9 – 12 July 2026. All HOD are required to attend the Technical Meeting (either in person on online) prior to the start of competition.

Key dates

25 March 2026	Team Expressions of Interest open
1 April 2026	Team Expressions of Interest close
25 May 2026	Team nominations open
1 June 2026	Team nominations close
9 June 2026	Preliminary Team lists must be entered in the nomination system. Team nominations received after this date will incur a $100 late fee per team and will only be accepted if they improve scheduling of the event. Withdrawal of teams after this date will incur a 50% charge of the nomination fee. Withdrawal of teams after 29 June 2026 will forfeit the entire fee. Official team uniforms submitted to VA for approval
23 June 2026	Confirmation of Entry sent to Delegations for approval Tax invoices sent to Delegation. includes team registrations, team bonds and training court booking costs
25 June 2026	Confirmation of Entry due All players must be finalised in the registration system by midnight (AEST), including the entry of player numbers. Any players previously entered onto a team who are not participating must be removed. No changes to the team lists are permitted after this date.

1 July 2026	Draft draw released
8 July 2026	Optional team training Online Technical meeting
9 – 12 July 2026	Competition days
12 July 2026	Playoff matches, rolling ceremony for medal presentation (approx. 12:15pm) closing ceremony (approx. 4pm start)
27 July 2026	Team bond payments refunded

36.3 COST

36.3.1 Entry Fees

Teams will be invoiced their entries per the date set out in the official event Key Dates above and on the event website.

Registration fee: $1,500.00 (AUD) inclusive of GST per team which includes:

- Minimum of 4 matches, and a maximum of 8 matches per team for the event.
- Medals for competition winners (14 per team total), and one MVP plaque per division.

36.3.2 Deposit

A deposit is required and applied as a team bond. Refer to section 8.2.2 of this handbook.

36.3.3 Training Courts

$50 per hour for a full court. Limited training courts will be available for use on the day prior to competition on a first come first serve basis. Teams can book the courts by contacting the TD at the time of nominating.

36.4 VENUE

The Lights Community and Sports Centre
244 – 270 East Parkway, Lightsview, SA 5085

A shared space will be available for physio treatment for the team delegations.

36.5 TCC MEMBERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Position	Phone	Email
Aaron Pope	Tournament Director	0410 048 205	Aaron.pope@volleyball.org.au
Carrie McKay	Assistant Tournament Director	0478 564 833	carrie.mckay@volleyball.org.au
Verity Hanka	VA Executive	0408 891 685	Verity.hanka@volleyball.org.au
TBA	Referee Coach	TBA	TBA
Emilie Hall	Competition Manager	0450 301 617	Emilie.hall@volleyball.org.au

36.6 NOMINATION WEBSITE

Teams that have submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) will receive a registration link from the TD. All event registrations will be completed through RevSport.

36.7 MEDAL PRESENTATION CEREMONIES

A preliminary medal presentation ceremony will be held at approx. 12:15pm on 12 July 2026 for divisions completed at this time. A secondary medal presentation will form part of the closing ceremony and will be held immediately at the conclusion the final day of the tournament. The ceremony and presentations will be held at the competition venue.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to participants of the three (3) top Australian State/Territory representative teams in each division. Australian national teams will not be eligible to win medals or accumulate points towards tournament specific trophies. Their participation is intended to provide valuable experience in preparation for upcoming international competitions.

37. COMPETITION REGULATIONS

37.1 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

There will be one (1) division per age group/gender.

37.2 AGE/GENDER CLASSIFICATION AND DIVISION OF PLAY

The event will have six (6) divisions made up of the following age/gender classifications:

Under 19 Women	Under 19 Men
Under 21 Women	Under 21 Men
Under 23 Women	Under 23 Men

38. COMPETITION FORMAT

38.1 MATCH FORMAT

All matches will be formatted as untimed, best of 5 sets until such time as matches are no longer in medal contention.

Once teams are no longer in medal contention, matches will become untimed best of 3 set matches, with 12 substitutions permitted.

38.2 MATCH SCHEDULE

Event matches will begin no earlier than 7:30am and no match will be scheduled to start after 9:00pm each night. For the finals match day, no match will be scheduled to start after 4:00 PM. Specific timing for the event will be available following the release of the event draw. Matches may also run over time throughout the tournament so the above times are indicative of scheduling allowances only.

The first match of the day will commence per the published match time and each subsequent match start no earlier than the scheduled GEST.

Match times are scheduled for the time of the first whistle commencing the match, with warm up to take place prior.

Where matches are delayed, teams will always be provided with their allocated warm up time per the warm up protocol in Appendix 1 and the match start time will be delayed allowing the warm up to occur.

Unless otherwise advised, teams should always be prepared to play at their scheduled time.

38.3 MATCH WARM UP

There will be a 20-minute protocol between matches. *(See Appendix 1: Warm up Protocol).* This protocol may be altered at the discretion of the TCC.

39. DRAW AND SEEDING

39.1 The aim of the draw will be to provide all teams with a minimum of four (4) matches across the tournament, inclusive of the final day of competition.

39.2 Teams will play in no more than three (3) matches in a single day and will be allocated a minimum one (1) timeslot break (free from match and/or duty commitments) between matches.

39.3 Seeding for the preliminary draw is determined by the drawing of lots.

Team names will be placed into a draw generator, or into a pot, and drawn at random. The first team drawn will be Team A, the second team drawn is Team B and so on.

To avoid conflicts, where applicable, teams from the same MA will NOT be placed in the same pool in multiple pool divisions where possible.

ATTACHMENT 2: AUSTRALIAN YOUTH VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

AUSTRALIAN
YOUTH
VOLLEYBALL
CHAMPIONSHIPS

2026

40. GENERAL INFORMATION

40.1 PURPOSE OF THE EVENT

The Youth Championships is a closed tournament that is reserved for MA representative teams. At the discretion of VA, invitations may also be extended to international and other invitational teams.

This tournament will feature some of the best young volleyballers from around Australia competing in every age group from U14 to U18 in the male and female divisions.

This classification structure aligns VA's events with the FIVB and the AVC event structures and its purpose is:

- to provide athletes, coaches, officials, and parents greater clarity on the pathways from grassroots through to the international levels of competition.
- to identify, through competition, the best youth teams and athletes in Australia;
- to provide high quality playing opportunities for athletes within the U14 to U18 Age categories;
- to prepare athletes for higher competition levels including representation on the international stage.

40.2 DATES

The 2026 Australian Youth Volleyball Championships will be held in Perth, Western Australia from Sunday 20 September to Friday 25 September. The event will have six (6) days of competition. All HOD are required to attend the Technical Meeting prior to the start of the competition:

Key Dates

16 April 2026	State Referee Supervisor EOI's open
3 June 2026	Team Expressions of Interest open
26 June 2026	Referee Management EOI's Close (including RC, ARC & RS roles)
20 July 2026	Team Expressions of Interest close
	State Referee Supervisor EOI's close
21 July 2026	Team nominations open
4 August 2026	Team nominations close (11.59pm AEST)
	Preliminary team lists must be entered in the nomination system.
	Team nominations received after this date will incur a $100 late fee per team and will only be accepted if they improve scheduling of the event. Withdrawal of teams after this date will incur a 50% charge of the nomination

	fee. Withdrawal of teams after 29 June 2026 will forfeit the entire fee. Official team uniforms submitted to VA for approval.
7 August 2026	Confirmation of Entry sent to Delegations for Approval. Tax invoices sent to Delegation. includes team registrations, team bonds and training court booking costs
21 August 2026	Confirmation of Entry due *All players/coaches must be finalised in the registration system by midnight (AEST), including the entry of player numbers. Any players/coaches previously entered onto a team who are not participating must be removed.*
4 S September 2026	Team entry payment due by 5pm AEST (COB) *Entry fee payments received after this date will incur a $100 late fee*
11 September 2026	Draft draw released
19 September 2026	Online Technical Meeting
20 September 2026	State team training (courts and times as per TD confirmation) Team photos Opening Ceremony (3.30pm – 4.15pm) Matches commence (if required)
25 September 2026	Playoff matches medal presentations and closing ceremony (approx.. 4pm start)
14 October 2026	Team bond payments refunded

40.3 COST

MA's will be invoiced their entries per the date set out in the official event Key Dates above and on the event website.

Registration fee: $3,650.00 (AUD) inclusive of GST per team which includes:

- Minimum 9 matches per team for the event.
- Medals for competition winners (14 per team total), and one MVP plaque per division.
- Team photos for all participants.
- Training court usage of one (1) hour per team on Sunday 20 September.

Deposit: A deposit is required and applied as a team bond. Refer to section 8.2.2 of this handbook.

40.4 VENUE

The 2026 Youth Champs will be held in Perth at the following two (2) venues:

Bendat Basketball Centre - 201 Underwood Ave, Floreat WA 6014
Google Maps: https://maps.app.goo.gl/WFGcEUmJe7ZhThSj8

Gold Netball Centre - 200 Selby St, Jolimont WA 6014
Google Maps: https://maps.app.goo.gl/WQW2BaYuy9LzzzU2A

A shared space will be available for physio treatment.

40.5 TCC MEMBERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Position	Phone	Email
Christine Gates	Tournament Director	0424 648 286	christine.gates@volleyball.org.au
Verity Hanka	VA Executive	0408 891 685	verity.hanka@volleyball.org.au
TBA	Referee Coach	TBA	TBA
Teresa Lloyd	Competition Manager		teresa.lloyd@volleyball.org,au

40.6 NOMINATION WEBSITE

Event registration will be through RevSport. Once team nominations open, the Tournament Director will send a registration link to all MA that have submitted an Expression of Interest.

40.7 OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony will be held on the afternoon of Sunday 20 September at Bendat Basketball Centre. Each MA must nominate two flag bearers to be involved in the ceremony.

40.8 CLOSING CEREMONY/MEDAL PRESENTATION

The closing ceremony and medal presentation will be immediately following the conclusion of the last match on the final day. The ceremony and presentations will be held at Bendat Basketball Centre.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to participants of the three (3) top Australian teams in each division.

Any international teams finishing in the top 3 positions will receive the corresponding medal.

40.9 THE PRESIDENT'S CUP

The President's Cup is a perpetual trophy awarded to the MA with the highest accrued points across all Championship Divisions.

Points are awarded in each division as follows:

- Gold medal: 3 Points
- Silver medal: 2 Points
- Bronze medal: 1 Point

In the event of a tie, the following tie break rules will apply:

1. The State/Territory which won the most Gold Medals.
2. The State/Territory which won the most Silver Medals.

3. The State/Territory which won the most Bronze Medals.
4. The State/Territory which won the most total matches in the Tournament in the Championship Divisions.

These processes are to be applied in the order listed and once the tied MA are separated by one of the processes, no subsequent processes are to be applied.

International and Invitational teams will not accumulate points towards the President's Cup and their athletes, coaches and officials will not be eligible for any tournament merit awards.

40.10 INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Individual recognition will be awarded within the following categories:

- Finals Match MVP Awards (selected and awarded by the winning team coach), one per division/gender
- 2 x Referee Awards (selected and awarded by Referee Coaches and Referee Supervisors)
- 7 x MA Coach of the Year Award (determined by each State/Territory)
- 1 x MA Sportsmanship Award (voted with a single vote from MA HOD)

40.11 TRAINING

Training courts will be available on the first day of competition prior to competition games starting. Court bookings will be arranged between the TD and the HOD upon confirmation of nominations. Court usage will be allocated in one (1) hour blocks.

40.12 TEAM PHOTOS

Team photos will be taken on Sunday 20 September, at a time to be confirmed in line with team training schedules.

41. COMPETITION REGULATIONS

41.1 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

There will be one (1) main division of competition per age group/gender.

41.2 DIVISION CAPS

For the 2026 Youth Championships, entries will be capped at ten (10) teams per division.

All divisions will have a soft cap and VA may accept additional teams or reduce the number of teams based on court availability.

If a sufficient number of extra teams enter prior to the close of nominations, the age groups may split into two (2) divisions: Championship and Division 1.

41.3 GENDER CLASSIFICATION

The 2026 Youth Champs will have ten (10) age/gender classifications per division:

Under 14 Girls	Under 14 Boys
Under 15 Girls	Under 15 Boys
Under 16 Girls	Under 16 Boys
Under 17 Girls	Under 17 Boys
Under 18 Girls	Under 18 Boys

42. ELIGIBILITY

42.1 TEAM ELIGIBILITY

The Youth Championships is a closed tournament that is reserved for MA teams. At the discretion of VA, invitations may also be extended to international and invitational teams to compete in the event.

42.2 INTERNATIONAL/INVITATIONAL TEAMS

International and Invitational teams will not exceed 25% of any division. These teams will compete on an equal basis with all other teams in the competition and in all phases of the tournament.

43. OFFICIATING

43.1REFEREE MANAGEMENT

Referee management roles will be appointed for the event to support the effective implementation of the rules of the game and variations as listed in this handbook. These referee management roles will oversee and support the nominated referees from the MA's.

These people appointed to these roles must hold a minimum of a level 3 national referee accreditation and will be appointed by VARC in alignment with the national referee development framework.

43.2 REFEREES

Each participating delegation must nominate a given quota of referees, based on the number of teams they have registered in the Tournament. Team nominations will not be considered complete, and will not be accepted, without referee nominations.

MA's must have their referee's express interest via Volleyball Australia's EOI by the date as set out in the Key Dates.

VARC may recommend that MA's include specific referees as part of their quota.

Any referee who withdraws prior to the competition after airfares have been purchased on their behalf will be liable for the cost of those airfares, as well as any other tournament-related costs already incurred. An invoice recouping the costs will be sent to the referee and a copy to the MA immediately.

The referee quota formula is as follows:

Team Nomination	No. Referees	Team Nomination	No. Referees
1	1	10 - 11	7
2	2	12 - 13	8
3	3	14 - 15	9
4 - 5	4	16 - 17	10
6 - 7	5	18 - 19	11
8 - 9	6	20 - 21	12

Any MA or International teams failing to supply the calculated number of nominated referees will be liable to a fine as determined by the VA Board, of no less than $1,000 per referee, payable to VA.

Proxy Referees will be appointed by VA where possible/necessary and the fine will be used to cover the costs of the replacement referee (flights, accommodation, etc.).

43.3 REFEREE EXPENSES

VA will meet the following costs associated with the MA/VA appointed Referee contingent:

- Flights and accommodation for the required number of nights (unless local referees are appointed)
- Meals/per diem for required number of days

Any additional expenses are to be paid by the referee.

The cost of travel for referees accompanying international teams will be at that team's expense.

43.4 UNDERAGE REFEREES

Any underage referees (persons under the age of 18 years) attending the event as part of an MA, international or invitational delegation remain the responsibility of that delegation for the entirety of the event, including but not limited to supervision, accommodation, travel, welfare, safeguarding and duty of care arrangements. VA will not assume duty of care responsibilities for underage referees at the event. Any costs associated with underage referees, including travel, accommodation and supervision requirements, are to be met by the relevant delegation.

44. COMPETITION FORMAT

44.1 MATCH FORMAT

Pool matches will be untimed, compulsory 3 sets. Sets 1 and 2 played to 25, and set 3 played to 15, with no draws possible.

Bracket matches with be an untimed best-of-3-sets format.

Medal matches will be an untimed best-of-5-sets format.

44.2 MATCH SCHEDULE

Event matches will begin no earlier than 7:30am and no match will be scheduled to start after 9:00pm each night. For the finals match day, no match will be scheduled to start after 4:00 PM. Specific timing for the event will be available following the release of the event draw. Matches may also run over time throughout the tournament so the above times are indicative of scheduling allowances only.

The first match of the day will commence per the published match time and each subsequent match start no earlier than the scheduled GEST.

Match times are scheduled for the time of the first whistle commencing the match, with warm up to take place prior.

Where matches are delayed, teams will always be provided with their allocated warm up time per the warm up protocol in Appendix 1 and the match start time will be delayed to allow for the warm up to occur.

Unless otherwise advised, teams should always be prepared to play at their scheduled time.

45. PLAYING THE BALL

The ball may be retrieved from beyond the playing area only when the non-playing area surface is level to the playing area surface.

The player retrieving a ball from beyond the playing area must be in contact with the non-playing area surface when contact with the ball is made.

46. DRAW AND SEEDING

46.1 Daily/event match minimum

Teams will be guaranteed a minimum of one match per competition day (with the exception of Sunday, when a select number of games will be played following the opening ceremony).

The aim of the draw will be to provide all teams with a minimum of nine (9) matches during the competition, inclusive of the final day of competition.

46.2 Daily match maximum

Teams will play in no more than three (3) matches in a single day, with a minimum one (1) timeslot break between matches.

46.3 Preliminary seeding

Seeding for the preliminary draw at the Youth Championship is determined by the drawing of lots. In any divisions where a MA may have multiple teams, the MA must indicate the ranking of their teams based on skill level.

Team names will be drawn at random. The first team drawn will be Team A, the second team drawn is Team B and so on.

To avoid conflicts, teams from the same MA will NOT be placed in the same pool in multiple pool divisions where possible.

AUSTRALIAN CLUB VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

2026

47. GENERAL INFORMATION

47.1 PURPOSE OF THE EVENT

The Club Championships aim to provide clubs from across Australia with a national level competitive, fun, and exciting tournament experience.

The event welcomes entries from club, association, and territory teams, including international teams, with no age restrictions on players.

47.2 DATES

The event will be played over three (3) days of competition from Saturday 26 September to Monday 28 September 2026. All Clubs are required to attend a pre-event online Technical Meeting prior to the start of the competition:

Key dates

1 June 2026	Team nominations open
12 August 2026	Team nominations close *Team nominations received after this date will incur a $100 late fee per team and will only be accepted if they improve scheduling of the event. Withdrawal of teams after this date will incur a 50% charge of the nomination fee.*
14 August 2026	Confirmation of Entry sent to Delegations for approval
28 August 2026	Confirmation of Entry due *All players and coaches must be finalised in the registration system by midnight (AEST), including the entry of player numbers. Any players or coaches previously entered onto a team who are not participating must be removed.* *Teams withdrawing from the competition from this date forfeit their entire entry fee*
31 August 2026	Tax invoice sent to Delegation, includes team registrations, team bonds, and training court booking costs if applicable
14 September 2026	Team entry fee payments due *Entry fee payments received after this date will incur a $100 late entry fee* Draft tournament draw published on event website
25 September 2026	Event online Technical Meeting Optional team training
26 -28 September 2026	Competition days
28 September 2026	Playoff matches, medal presentations and closing ceremony
13 October 2026	Team bond payments refunded

47.3 COST

Teams will be invoiced their entries per the date set out in the official event Key Dates above and on the event website.

Registration fees are as follows:

	Cost	Definition
Local	$1375	Club is located less than 40km from the competition venue
Intermediate	$1100	Club is located 100 - 1000km from the competition venue
Distant	$825	Club is located over 1000km from the competition venue
International	$1375	Club is located outside of Australia

All above prices are in AUD and inclusive of GST.

This includes:

- Minimum five (5) matches (All divisions) for the event
- Medals for competition winners (14 per team total).

Deposit: A deposit is required and applied as a team bond. Refer to section 8.2.2 of this handbook.

Training Courts: $50 per hour for a full court. Limited training courts will be available for use on the day prior to competition on a first come first serve basis. Teams can book the courts via the online booking system. The training court booking link will be available on the event website once Team Nominations close.

47.4 VENUE

The 2026 Club Championships will be held in Perth at the following location:

Bendat Basketball Centre
201 Underwood Ave,
Floreat WA 6014

47.5 TCC Committee Members and Contact details

Name	Position	Phone	Email
Emilie Hall	Tournament Director	0450 301 617	emilie.hall@volleyball.org.au
Verity Hanka	VA Executive	0408 891 685	verity.hanka@volleyball.org.au
TBA	Referee Coach	TBA	TBA
Aaron Pope	Competition Manager	0410 048 205	Aaron.pope@volleyball.org.au

47.6 NOMINATION WEBSITE

For official entry into the competition, clubs must submit their teams via the online registration portal found on the event website.
https://club-champs.volleyball.org.au/nominate/

47.7 CLOSING CEREMONY/MEDAL PRESENTATION

The closing ceremony and medal presentation will be held immediately following the conclusion of the last match on the final day at Bendat Basketball Centre.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to participants of the three (3) top teams in each division.

47.8 CHAMPION CLUB

Club Champion is calculated as follows:

The top four club teams in each division are allocated tournament points according to the table below; 'Champion Club Ranking Points'.

The Champion Club for the year of the tournament will be decided by cumulative tournament points gained by the leading four teams for each division.

While International Teams will be allocated points based on their ranking, they are not eligible to win the Champion Club. International teams' results will not impact the Australian club teams point calculations.

In the instance there is a tie, teams will be crowned the joint Champion Club.

CHAMPION CLUB RANKING POINTS			
	Premier	Division 1	Division 2
Position	Points	Points	Points
1	120	100	80
2	110	95	75
3	105	92	72
4	100	90	70

48. ELIGIBILITY

The Club Championships is an open event offering MA representative teams, Association Teams, Australian Club teams and international Club teams an opportunity to compete in a national competition.

All teams must be affiliated/endorsed by their relevant MA or National Federation for International teams.

49. COMPETITION REGULATIONS

49.1 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

There will be three (3) divisions per gender.

49.2 AGE/GENDER CLASSIFICATION AND DIVISION OF PLAY

There will be three (3) divisions of competition per gender.

Premier Women	Premier Men
Division 1 Women	Division 1 Men
Division 2 Women	Division 2 Men

50. COMPETITION FORMAT

50.1 MATCH FORMAT

Format of matches will be as follows:

- Premier Division – Untimed, best of 5 sets until a team is no longer in medal contention, at which time games will be a best of 3 sets.

- Divisional – Untimed compulsory 3 sets - Pool matches will be untimed, compulsory 3 sets. Sets 1 and 2 played to 25, and set 3 played to 15, with no draws possible.
  Bracket matches with be untimed best-of-3-sets format.
  Medal matches will be an untimed best-of-5-sets format.

50.2 MATCH SCHEDULE

Matches will begin no earlier than 7:30AM and no match will be scheduled to start after 9:00PM each night; for the finals match day, no match will be scheduled to start beyond 4:00PM.

The first match of the day will commence per the published match time and each subsequent match start no earlier than the scheduled GEST.

Match times are scheduled for the time of the first whistle commencing the match, with warm up to take place prior.

Where matches are delayed, teams will always be provided with their allocated warm up time per the warm up protocol in Appendix 1 and the match start time will be delayed to allow for the warm up to occur.

Unless otherwise advised, teams should always be prepared to play at their scheduled time.

50.3 MATCH WARM UP

There will be a 15-minute protocol between matches. *(See Appendix 1: Warm up Protocol).* This protocol may be altered at the discretion of the TCC.

51. DRAW AND SEEDING

51.1 EVENT MATCH MINIMUM

Teams will be guaranteed a minimum of one match per competition day.

The draw will provide all teams with a minimum of five (5) matches during the competition, inclusive of the final day of competition.

51.2 DAILY MATCH MAXIMUM

Teams will play in no more than three (3) matches in a single day and will be allowed a minimum one (1) timeslot break between matches.

51.3 PRELIMINARY SEEDING

Seeding for the preliminary draw is determined by the drawing of lots.

Team names will be placed into a draw generator, or into a pot, and drawn at random. The first team drawn will be Team A, the second team drawn is Team B and so on.

Where possible, to avoid conflicts, teams from the same Club will not be placed in the same pool in multiple pool divisions.

AUSTRALIAN VOLLEYBALL SCHOOLS CUP

GOLD COAST, QUEENSLAND

2026

52. GENERAL INFORMATION

52.1 PURPOSE OF THE EVENT

The Australian Volleyball Schools' Cup is the largest school-based sporting event in the country, drawing thousands of enthusiastic players from across Australia and around the world. Open to students aged Under 14 to Under 18, the event is a celebration of youth volleyball at every skill level.

52.2 DATES

The 2026 Australian Volleyball Schools Cip will be held from Sunday 6 December to Saturday 12 December 2026. The event will commence with an opening ceremony on 6 December, with six and a half (6.5) days of competition.

Key Dates

30 June 2026	Online Team Nominations Open
28 October 2026	Nominations Close
	Schools must nominate their players and their referees by 5pm AEDT but may amend divisions following state schools cup results. Nominated referees must have current membership and accreditation for the duration of the event. International Teams –Nominations to be accompanied by their national federation ranking where multiple teams are seeking entry into the same division.
	Eligibility exemption requests close
	Wildcard nominations close
	Long service nominations close
	MA's are provided nomination lists to verify membership within each state/territory Teams withdrawing from the competition from this date forfeit half their entry fee
	VA will review all exemption and wild card applications
30 October 2065	Exemption requests confirmed and announced
	Wildcard nominations confirmed and announced
	Confirmation of entry sent to schools
	Ensure all players, staff and referees names are correct. Ensure the nominated division/s, players DOB and membership numbers are all correct. Ensure principal has signed off on school entries.
6 November 2026	Confirmation of entry documentation due
	Tax invoice sent to schools
	Teams withdrawing from the competition after this date forfeit their entire entry fee

16 November 2026	Venues by division will be released This includes information about which venue each division will be playing at on any particular day so schools can arrange their transport accordingly. Team Entry Payments Due Entry fees received after this date will incur a $100 late entry fee
23 November 2026	Draft tournament draw published on event website Draft tournament draw published on tournament website and emailed to confirmed coaches. Changes may be made to the draw by the TD up until the end of the Technical Meeting
5 December 2026	Team Trainings Technical Meeting Opening Ceremony Matches Commence (Evening)
12 December 2026	Schools Cup Concludes
29 February 2027	Team bond payments refunded

52.3 COST

Teams will be invoiced their entries per the date set out in the official event Key Dates above, and on the event website.

Entry fees differ for different division levels and the location of the school in relation to the competition venue(s) for the event.

Entry fees are as follows:

	Divisional	Honours	Definition
Local	$2205	$2690	School is located less than 40km from the competition venue
Mid	$1990	$2310	School is located more than 40km but less than 1000km from the competition venue
Distant	$1400	$1615	the school is located more than 1000km from the competition venue
International	$2260	$2690	School is located outside of Australia

All above prices are in AUD and inclusive of GST.

Entry fees include:

- Minimum 6 matches for the event (minimum one (1) match per day, maximum of three (3) matches per day).

- Twelve (12) medals for competition winners, (gold, silver and bronze, and plaques for divisional and MVP winners.

53.3.1 Team Bond: A deposit is required and applied as a team bond. Refer to section 8.2.2 of this handbook.

53.3.2 Training Courts: $50 per hour for a full court. Limited training courts will be available for use on 6 December prior to the start of competition on a first come first serve basis, pending event scheduling. Teams can book the courts via the online booking system. The training court booking link will be available on the event website once Team Nominations close.

52.4 VENUE

The Event will be held on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia at the following venues:

Gold Coast Sports & Leisure Centre
"Carrara - Hall 1 & Hall 2"
296 Nerang Broadbeach Rd, Carrara QLD 4211

Carrara Indoor Sports Centre
"Carrara - Gerflor Arena"
296 Nerang Broadbeach Rd, Carrara QLD 4211

Coomera Indoor Sports Centre
"Coomera"
35 Beattie Rd, Coomera QLD 4209

Runaway Bay Indoor Sports Centre (Subject to nominations)
"Runaway Bay"
Sports Dr, Runaway Bay QLD 4216

No team will be required to participate in matches at more than one (1) venue on any single day, however teams will play across a range of venues during the course of the tournament.

52.5 TCC Committee Members and Contact details

Name	Position	Phone	Email
Emilie Hall	Tournament Director	0450 301 617	emilie.hall@volleyball.org.au
Verity Hanka	VA Executive	0408891685	verity.hanka@volleyball.org.au
TBA	Referee Coach	TBA	TBA
Teresa Lloyd	Competition Manager	0413 200 656	teresa.lloyd@volleyball.org.au

52.6 NOMINATION WEBSITE

For official entry into the competition, schools must submit their teams via the online registration portal found on the event website.
avsc.volleyball.org.au/nominate

52.7 CLOSING CEREMONY/MEDAL PRESENTATION

The Closing Ceremony and Medal Presentations will be held at the conclusion of the last match on the last day of competition.

Rolling medal ceremonies will be held for the divisional competition at Carrara throughout the final day of competition per schedule provided by VA.

52.8 CHAMPION SCHOOL

All teams are allocated tournament points according to the table below; 'Champion School Ranking Points'.

Only Australian teams are considered when determining the position that a school finished within a division.

The Champion School for the year of the tournament will be decided by cumulative tournament points gained by the leading six teams for each school.

The champion boys' school and the champion girls' school will be decided by the cumulative tournament points by the leading three teams of the relevant gender.

CHAMPION SCHOOL RANKING POINTS

Position	Open Honours Points	Other Honours Points	Division 1 Points	Division 2 Points	Division 3 & 4 Points
1	120	100	80	60	50
2	110	95	75	55	45
3	105	92	72	52	42
4	100	90	70	50	40
5	95	88	68	48	38
6	90	86	66	46	36
7	85	84	64	44	34
8	82	82	62	42	32
9	80	80	60	40	30
10	79	79	59	39	29
11	78	78	58	38	28
12	77	77	57	37	27
13	76	76	56	36	26
14	75	75	55	35	25
15	74	74	54	34	24
16	73	73	53	33	23
17	72	72	52	32	22
18	71	71	51	31	21
19	70	70	50	30	20
20	69	69	49	29	19
21	68	68	48	28	18
22	67	67	47	27	17
23	66	66	46	26	16
24	65	65	45	25	15

52.9 AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, INTERNATIONAL MEDALS & MVP's

The Australian Champion is the highest placed Australian team in each Honours Division.

International teams in all divisions who finish in the top 3 placings will receive a corresponding International medal. The gold, silver and bronze medallions for each division will be awarded to the three highest placed Australian teams.

MVPs will only be awarded in the Honours Divisions and Year 7 Division 1. MVPs are nominated by the winning coach after the gold medal match.

52.10 LONG SERVICE AWARDS

VA will acknowledge long service to the event by recognising those who have accumulated 10, 15, 20 and every subsequent 5 years of involvement.

Any school or individual who has participated in the event in any capacity (player, team manager, coach, referee, volunteer, etc.) for a total of 10, 15, 20 and every subsequent 5 years of involvement is eligible to be nominated for a Long Service Award.

Nomination for Long Service must be completed via the Event website at https://avsc.volleyball.org.au/forms/

52.11 MEDICAL

All Team Managers must be familiar with the State and School's injury/incident reporting procedures and aware of the school's ambulance insurance allowance (if applicable).

53. COMPETITION REGULATIONS

53.1 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

The number of team entries will determine the number of pools in each division, the number of teams in each pool, and the sequence of play, from pool play through finals.

53.2 AGE/GENDER CLASSICIATION AND DIVISIONS OF PLAY

There will be four (4) divisions of competition per gender.

- Honours (excluding year 7 age group)
- Division 1
- Division 2
- Division 3 (excluding year 7 age group)

Only females may play in the female divisions.

Male or female players may play in the male divisions. Any school with a female wishing to play in the male divisions must indicate this on the COE. Upon signing the form, the school is acknowledging that they are aware and support the female player/s participating in a male division. During matches, a maximum of two (2) female players are permitted on court at any one time. Females cannot comprise 50% or more of an entire team composition (i.e. maximum of 3 females in a team of 8).

Players' dates of birth (DOB) and year level must be entered correctly on the nomination form to ensure teams are entered in the correct division and players are current members who are eligible to participate.

53.3 HONOURS COMPETITION

A minimum of 8 players must be nominated for entry into an honours division.

Refer to the table below for age to school year level equivalence:

Age	Australia Equivalence	New Zealand Equivalence
17-18	Year 12	Year 13
16-17	Year 11	Year 12
15-16	Year 10	Year 11
14-15	Year 9	Year 10
13-14	Year 8	Year 9
12-13	Year 7	Year 8
11-12	Year 6	Year 7

53.4 DIVISIONAL COMPETITION

A minimum of 7 players must be nominated for entry into divisional team.

53.5 QUALIFICATION

54.1.1 The following qualification criteria, based on State Schools' Cup events, shall apply for admission to the various divisions:

Division	Qualification
Honours	Top three (3) placegetters from each state event automatically qualify. Only 1 team per school is eligible to compete in each Honours Division
Divisional	No qualifications required.

In the event there is no State Cup Qualification events in a state, then a coordinator shall be appointed for that MA who shall nominate the teams that they deem appropriate for a particular division. No more than 3 teams will be nominated as part of this process.

53.6 WILDCARD ENTRIES

Teams who do not automatically qualify for Honours may nominate and apply for the wildcard entry at on the Event website (https://avsc.volleyball.org.au/forms/).

Wildcards are granted at the sole discretion of VA. The primary reason VA will accept wildcard entries is competition balance.

Preference will be given to teams that have participated in honours within their State schools' cup over other applications who have not.

Teams submitting wildcard applications for honours divisions will be notified of their acceptance/non-acceptance by the date detailed in the key dates. No negotiations/discussions will be entered into.

54. ELIGIBILITY

54.1 TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Team nominations will only be accepted from schools listed on the relevant MA list of registered schools.

Teams may initially nominate up to sixteen (16) players on a team roster but the roster must be reduced to twelve (12) or less before player roster cut-off. Team

composition may consist of fifteen (15) persons comprising of twelve (12) players and three (3) officials. The three (3) officials are: the coach and two (2) accredited school officials.

Each school must nominate at a minimum one (1) coach per team during the online team nomination process.

All teams participating in the event must have an adult, approved by the school's Principal, present for the for the duration of the tournament. Teams may be withdrawn by the TCC from the competition if this condition is not met.

54.2 INTERNATIONAL INVITATIONAL TEAMS

School teams from countries other than Australia may be accepted into the event subject to the following criteria:

a) must be ratified by their National Volleyball Federation;

b) must provide a letter of endorsement from their National Volleyball Federation to compete in the event; and

c) are ineligible to win the Champion School Trophy(ies) or the Australian Championship.

A maximum of 4 International teams will be accepted into each Honours Division, and appointment will be at the discretion of VA. Multiple honours teams from any one country will be ranked by their National Federation and accepted on this basis only. There is no limit on the number of International teams accepted into other divisions.

If this nomination is not accepted into the preferred division, then a full refund will be given.

54.3 TEAM FINALISATION

Schools are required to finalise all teams and player/team official lists online by the dates set out in the key dates.

All individuals listed on a team/delegation list must meet the eligibility criteria as set out within this handbook at the time of team finalisation.

Failure to do so will result in fines, exclusion from the tournament, or forfeiture of matches where ineligible participants are involved.

54.4 CONFIRMATION OF ENTRIES

After the nomination closure date, VA will send to each school a confirmation of entry document for all teams/divisions accepted.
This documentation must be verified by the school and returned to VA by the due date, to ensure acceptance into the event and as verification that:

- All listed players are full-time, bona fide students at the school
- All listed dates of birth and school year levels are correct
- All participants media clearance information has been communicated to the event organisers
- Delegates representing the school agree to comply with the event policies
- Any applications for exemption to any of the event regulations by the School have been assessed, adjudicated and confirmed by the event organisers.

Any players added to the team list after the COE has been returned, will result in a fine being issued to the school for "failure to meet set administrative deadlines". Additionally, the player(s) will need to be ratified by the School Principal, or their appointed delegate, prior to the commencement of the event, confirming that they are a registered member of VA and satisfy all other eligibility requirements to compete in this event.

54.5 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

All players must meet the following criteria to be eligible for participation:

a) Each player must conform to the age and gender requirements of the team for which they are nominated. In the instance a player is outside the age/year level (participating at a higher level) and/or gender indicated in the nominated division, the school principal will confirm their support and approval of this exemption by signing the COE form.

b) A player's DOB found to be in error in honours division will result in the team forfeiting all matches in which that player participated.

54.6 EXEMPTION APPLICATION

Any exemption requests must be submitted by via the Event website at https://avsc.volleyball.org.au/forms/ before the eligibility exemption due date as per the key dates. Exemption requests for students who transfer schools after 9 October 2026 will not be considered.

The following exemption categories exist:

- Age exemption – player competing in a school year category above their eligible school year.
- Gender exemption – female player playing in a male division.

54.7 APPEALS

Any notice of appeals in relation to exemption requests must be emailed to the TD (avsc@volleyball.org.au) within seven (7) days of notification of the decision. The appeal will be reviewed by the TCC and a final decision will be communicated to the School no later that seven (7) days from the appeal submission date.

54.8 ENROLMENT

A player will be eligible to participate in the event if they are a bona fide student (a student who is enrolled and in attendance at a school where they comply with the State/Territory Education requirements for certification); and

- Have been enrolled, and in attendance, at the school which is registering them for the duration of the current school year; or
- If the student is enrolled in subjects and in attendance at more than one school in the current school year, they are to be registered at the school which they spent the majority of their time compared to the other school; or
- If a student transfers schools and is enrolled in more than two schools in a school year then that student is tied to the school where they are in current attendance, provided they have transferred no later than 9 October 2026.

Any school with VA's national full time training program athletes registered with the Australian Institute of Sport, are permitted to participate for the school they are currently enrolled in without restriction. These players are also permitted to play for

their school of origin on the basis that Principals from both schools provide written formal agreement, along with a formal signed exemption.

54.9 PLAYING FOR TWO (2) TEAMS FROM THE SAME SCHOOL

A player may only play for one team during the tournament. Under special circumstances (injuries/sickness) a team may, on written application to the TD, request that a player or players move to a different division or age group. Once a player has moved, they can no longer play for their original team. Normal eligibility rules apply.

55. OFFICIATING

55.1 NOMINATED REFEREES

Each school must nominate the teams' referee(s) during the online team nomination process. Multiple nominations are permitted.

Non-playing referees (adults or students) are encouraged and may officiate for multiple teams; provided alternative qualified referees are nominated and are available should the duties of those teams' clash.

An adult team official must be part of the duty team in all division to supervise the duty/work and assist when needed. The adult team official is identified by a bright coloured sash (provided by VA) worn during their teams duty/work commitment. Unless the adult team official is a First or Second referee, they must be seated at the scorer's table.

All referees are invited to attend a referee meeting on the first day of competition. Different meeting times may be scheduled throughout the day and communicated to schools prior to the tournament. At the meeting, regulations such as playing boundaries will be established for all the courts as well as the scoring application, protest resolution and match protocol.

In addition to the standard duty roster, a stand-by duty team may be nominated from the teams participating in the final match of each day, on each court. In the event that matches must be switched from one court to another (to avoid late finishes) the stand-by duty team will be required to perform duty for that match.

In a progressional tournament, it is impossible to predict the participants in later round matches. The TD and CM are authorised to reassign duties in later matches to achieve a fairer distribution of assignments. Teams will be given reasonable notice of any such changes.

56. PLAYING THE BALL

The playing area is limited by the nearest obstruction, or adjacent court boundary (court line) and its vertical projection.

If part of the ball crosses the vertical projection of the playing area, it shall immediately become dead and called out by the first or second referee. Any ball retrieved from outside the playing area is no longer in play or playable. Should one of the referees, or line judges declare the ball out, the rally shall be immediately halted and awarded to the team not at fault. If there is any doubt regarding player safety all match officials are urged to halt a rally and replay the rally once safe again. For the duration of the rally, all players must remain completely within the playing area.

57. COMPETITION FORMAT

Matches commence each day no earlier than 8am. Some matches will commence following the Opening Ceremony.

See Appendix 1 for Warm Up protocol for Honours and Divisional games.

The TD has the authority to approve the delay of a start time due to exceptional circumstances and this decision shall be final.

57.1 MATCH FORMAT

HONOURS – POOL MATCHES

A game will consist of 5 sets, with sets 1-4 played to 25 points, and set 5 (the deciding set) is to 15.

To win a match, a team must win 3 out of 5 sets in the best of 5 sets format.

Matches are to start the first rally at the scheduled time or 15 minutes after the preceding match for Honours divisions.

HONOURS – FINALS MATCHES

Where the participating teams could still finish in the top four (4) placings for that division, best of five (5) sets shall be used (as detailed in the pool matches above). All other matches are best of three (3) sets. Sets one (1) and two (2) are played to 25 points and set three (3) (the deciding set), is played to 15. In all sets a lead of two (2) points is required to win the set.

DIVISIONAL - POOL MATCHES

Pool matches have a fixed playing time of 60 minutes, in addition to the warm up time. The start and finish of a match will be signalled by an audible siren, or similar. If the referee has whistled for service prior to the final siren, then that rally must be played, and shall count toward the scores. The referee alone shall determine whether the whistle preceded the siren.

Sets are played to 25 points. A team wins a set when they have a score of at least 25, with a lead of two (2) points. Any number of sets may be completed within the specified playing time. The match does not end when a team wins two (2) sets.

A set that has not reached a normal conclusion when the final siren sounds, shall be counted as a completed set if the leading team has reached a score of at least 13 points, with a lead of at least two (2) points.

The winner of a match shall be determined by the number of sets won. If teams are equal on sets, then the winner shall be determined by the total number of points won in all sets, completed or not. If the teams are still equal then the result is a draw. See Appendix 6 – Fixed Time Matches (Win and Draw Scenarios) for examples of a win, loss, and draw.

If the final siren sounds to signify the end of the match during a rally, the rally must be completed.

Time-outs are not permitted during the final five (5) minutes of a match. A time-out which commences prior to the last five (5) minutes shall be completed normally. It is the referee's responsibility to check the running clock before authorising a time out.

Substitutions are permitted during the final five (5) minutes of a match, but teams delaying the substitution process during this time should expect the strict application of the rules in relation to game delay sanctions.

DIVISIONAL - FINALS MATCHES

To win a match, a team must win 2 out of 3 sets.

A set is won by the team which first reaches 25 points with a 2-point advantage, except in the 3rd and deciding set where it is 15 points with a 2-point advantage. There is no point limit in any set. In the deciding set (3rd) the teams change ends at eight (8) points.