



YOUTH COMPETITIONS MANUAL 25/26

OVA Weekend	Event	Fees (+HST)	Deadline
November 1 - 2	17U Girls Fall Classic (Sat - Sun) – 2 Day 17U Girls Provincial Cup (Sat OR Sun) *	\$850 \$425	September 21, 2025
November 7 – 9	16U Girls Fall Classic (Sat – Sun) – 2 Day ** 16U Girls Provincial Cup (Fri OR Sat OR Sun) ** 18U Girls Fall Classic (Sat – Sun) – 2 Day ** 18U Girls Provincial Cup (Fri OR Sat OR Sun) ** 16U Boys Fall Classic (Sat – Sun) – 2 Day ** 16U Boys Provincial Cup (Fri OR Sat OR Sun) ** 18U Boys Fall Classic (Sat – Sun) – 2 Day ** 18U Boys Provincial Cup (Fri OR Sat OR Sun) **	\$850 \$425 \$850 \$425 \$850 \$425 \$850 \$425	September 28, 2025
November 15 - 16	TLS Girls Provincial Cup (Sat OR Sun) * 17U Boys Fall Classic (Sat – Sun) – 2 Day 17U Boys Provincial Cup (Sat OR Sun) *	\$400 \$850 \$425	October 5, 2025
November 22 - 23	4v4 Girls Provincial Cup (Sat) 15U Girls Provincial Cup (Sat OR Sun) * TLS Boys Provincial Cup (Sun)	\$180 \$400 \$400	October 12, 2025
November 29 - 30	6v6 Girls Provincial Cup (Sat OR Sun) * 17U Girls Challenge Cup (Sat OR Sun) * 15U Boys Provincial Cup (Sun)	\$400 \$425 \$400	October 19, 2025
December 6 - 7	16U Girls Challenge Cup (Sat OR Sun) * 4v4 Boys/Co-Ed Provincial Cup (Sun) 6v6 Boys Provincial Cup (Sat) 16U Boys Challenge Cup (Sat)	\$425 \$180 \$400 \$425	October 26, 2025
December 13 - 14	4v4 Girls Challenge Cup (Sun) TLS Girls Challenge Cup (Sat OR Sun) * 18U Girls Challenge Cup (Sun) 18U Boys Challenge Cup (Sat)	\$180 \$400 \$425 \$425	November 2, 2025
January 10 - 11	6v6 Girls Challenge Cup (Sat) 15U Girls Challenge Cup (Sun) TLS Boys Challenge Cup (Sat) 17U Boys Challenge Cup (Sat OR Sun) *	\$400 \$400 \$400 \$425	November 30, 2025
January 16 – 18	18U Girls & Boys New Year's Open - 2 Day ** Division 1 (Fri – Sat) Division 2 (Sat – Sun) 4v4 Girls McGregor Cup (Sun) 16U Girls McGregor Cup (Sat OR Sun) * 4v4 Boys/Co-Ed Challenge Cup (Sat) 6v6 Boys Challenge Cup (Sun) 15U Boys Challenge Cup (Sat OR Sun) *	\$850 \$180 \$425 \$180 \$400 \$400	December 7, 2025
January 24 - 25	TLS Girls McGregor Cup (Sat OR Sun) * 16U Boys McGregor Cup (Sat OR Sun) *	\$400 \$425	December 14, 2025
January 31 - February 1	6v6 Girls McGregor Cup (Sat OR Sun) * 17U Girls McGregor Cup (Sat OR Sun) *	\$400 \$425	December 21, 2025

OVA Weekend	Event	Fees (+HST)	Deadline
February 7 - 8	15U Girls McGregor Cup (Sat OR Sun) *	\$400	December 28, 2025
	4v4 Boys/Co-Ed McGregor Cup (Sun)	\$180	
	TLS Boys McGregor Cup (Sun)	\$400	
	17U Boys McGregor Cup (Sat OR Sun) *	\$425	
February 14 - 15	4v4 Girls Bugarski Cup (Sat)	\$180	January 4, 2026
	6v6 Boys McGregor Cup (Sat OR Sun) *	\$400	
	15U Boys McGregor Cup (Sat OR Sun) *	\$400	
February 21 - 22	TLS Girls Bugarski Cup (Sat OR Sun) *	\$400	January 11, 2026
	18U Girls Grand Prix Qualifier (Sat – Sun) – 2 Day	\$850	
	18U Girls Furlani Cup (Sun)	\$425	
	18U Boys Grand Prix Qualifier (Sat – Sun) – 2 Day	\$850	
	18U Boys Furlani Cup (Sat)	\$425	
February 28 - March 1	6v6 Girls Bugarski Cup (Sat OR Sun) *	\$400	January 18, 2026
	17U Girls Grand Prix (Sat - Sun) – 2 Day	\$850	
	17U Girls Bugarski Cup (Sat OR Sun) *	\$425	
	4v4 Boys Bugarski Cup (Sat)	\$180	
	16U Boys Grand Prix (Sat – Sun) – 2 Day	\$850	
	16U Boys Bugarski Cup (Sat)	\$425	
March 7 - 8	15U Girls Bugarski Cup (Sat OR Sun) *	\$400	January 25, 2026
	16U Girls Grand Prix (Sat – Sun) – 2 Day	\$850	
	16U Girls Bugarski Cup (Sat)	\$425	
	17U Boys Grand Prix (Sat – Sun) – 2 Day	\$850	
	17U Boys Bugarski Cup (Sun)	\$425	
March 27 - 29	18U Girls Grand Prix (Fri – Sat) – 2 Day **	\$850	February 15, 2026
	18U Girls Bugarski Cup (Fri – Sat OR Sat – Sun) 2 Day **		
	6v6 Boys Bugarski Cup (Sat)	\$400	
	TLS Boys Bugarski Cup (Sat)	\$400	
	15U Boys Bugarski Cup (Sun)	\$400	
	18U Boys Grand Prix (Fri – Sat) – 2 Day **	\$850	
18U Boys Bugarski Cup (Fri – Sat OR Sat – Sun) 2 Day **			

*Teams will register for the weekend and will be assigned to a specific day on the weekend once the team splits have been posted. Team Splits are posted on the OVA website once the event registration deadline closes AND the results from the most recent event have been received to complete the realignment.

** Please reference the 2025/2026 Regular Season Convention Centre Events page on the OVA website located [HERE](#) as to how the EY Centre (Nov 7-9), International Centre (Jan 16-18), and Niagara Falls Convention Centre (Mar 27-28) will be integrated into these regular season weekends.

2026 ONTARIO CHAMPIONSHIPS

DATE	VENUE	Age Group	DEADLINE
March 29-30, 2026	Niagara Falls Convention Centre, Niagara Falls, ON	4v4 Boys/Co-ed & 4v4 Girls	December 7, 2025
April 16-18, 2026	Enercare, Toronto, ON	15UG/17UG & TLSB/17UB	December 7, 2025
April 19-21, 2026	Enercare, Toronto, ON	6v6G/TLSG & 15UB	December 7, 2025
April 23-25, 2026	Enercare, Toronto, ON	16UG/18UG & 6v6B/16UB/18UB	December 7, 2025

Please Note: These Ontario Championship splits are being released in Summer 2025 to support club planning efforts. While the exact number of participating teams and anticipated growth are not yet confirmed, we hope this information provides a helpful starting point. Please be aware that adjustments between age groups may be necessary in December if overall or age-specific registration exceeds expectations and impacts venue capacity. The competition dates for each age group will be confirmed by December 11, 2025.

2026 VOLLEYBALL CANADA INDOOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	VENUE
14UG	April 30 – May 3, 2026	Ottawa, ON	Carleton University
14UB & 14UG	April 30 – May 3, 2026	Moncton, NB	CEPS Louis-Robichaud-Universite de Moncton
14UB & 14UG	May 7 - 10, 2026	Edmonton, AB	Saville Community Sports Centre
14UB & 15UB	May 14 - 17, 2026	Mississauga, ON	The International Centre
17UG	May 14 - 17, 2026	Calgary, AB	BMO Centre
17UB, 18UB & 18UG	May 20 – 23, 2026	Calgary, AB	BMO Centre
15UG	May 24 – 27, 2026	Calgary, AB	BMO Centre
16UB & 16UG	May 28 – 31, 2026	Calgary, AB	BMO Centre

*** Please note that both 14U events are open to all teams from across Canada**

Thank you to all our partners and sponsors for your continued support of the OVA and its programs and services!



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1.0 Administrative Staff

1.1 OVA Office Location

60 Scarsdale Rd, Unit #111
Toronto, Ontario M3B 2R7
General Line: 1-800-372-1568
Event Day Emergency Hotline: 647-467-5514

1.2 Youth Competitions Administrative Staff

Hayden Cavender – Programs Coordinator (hcavender@ontariovolleyball.org) / 647-249-1099)

4v4, 6v6 & TLS Girls Indoor Competitions & Ontario Championships.

Claire Melanson - Indoor Programs Coordinator (cmelanson@ontariovolleyball.org) / 416-426-7316 x104)

TLS Boys & 15U – 16U Indoor Competitions, Ontario Championships.

Jacob Barker – Indoor Programs Lead (jbarker@ontariovolleyball.org) / 416-426-7321)

17U – 18U Indoor Youth Competitions; Ontario Championships.

Mark Wiersma – Manager of Indoor Competitions & Special Events (mwiersma@ontariovolleyball.org) / 416-426-7428)

Planning, developing, and guiding Association staff for OVA Youth Competitions and Ontario Championships. Facility Partnerships, Hosting, Sport Court Rentals & Asset Management.

Carrie Campbell – Manager of Club Services (ccampbell@ontariovolleyball.org) / 416-426-7433)

Planning, promotion, implementation and evaluation of programs and resources supporting our Member Clubs in providing best-in-class organizational management at the local level.; Respect in Sport, Ontario Championships.

Kelvin Cheng – Manager of Operations (kcheng@ontariovolleyball.org) / 416-426-7233)

Officiating Program; NCCP Coaching Program; Police Screening Management; Club Forms; Coach Certification and Exemption Cards; Beach Tour.

Shunya Yamada – Operations Coordinator (syamada@ontariovolleyball.org) / 647-277-7963)

Youth Competition Support; Club Forms; Respect in Sport; Refereeing/Coaching Certification Support; Sitting Volleyball Support; OVA Beach Tour.

Mylene Andrade – Member Services Coordinator (mandrade@ontariovolleyball.org) / 416-426-7132)

General Inquiries; Membership Registration System (MRS); Letters of Good Standing; Online Shopping Cart; Insurance; Special Event Sanctioning; OVAtion Banquet and Hall of Fame, and member/volunteer recognition.

Dylan Brennand – Digital Media Coordinator (dbrennand@ontariovolleyball.org) / 647-277-7965)

Website Maintenance; Communications; Public and Media Relations; Digital and Social Media.

Antonia Bonaldi – Digital Content Creator (abonaldi@ontariovolleyball.org) / 437-538-5345)

Social media management, content creation, event coverage, OVA App.

George Huffman – Communications Coordinator (ghuffman@ontariovolleyball.org)

Original copy for websites, social media platforms, Hall of Fame and Awards; Between the Lines e-newsletter; video creation

LP Mainville – Director of Sport Development & Technology (lpmainville@ontariovolleyball.org / 416-426-7047)

Process and Policy for High Performance Sport and Team Ontario programs; Long Term Athlete, Coach and Referee Development (Indoor, Beach & Sitting); Oversight of Club Support Initiatives; Digital Strategy and Innovation.

Alishia Lidums – Director of Volleyball Operations (alidums@ontariovolleyball.org / 416-426-7431)

Program Development & Delivery for Indoor, Beach and Sitting; Operational Budgets; Grant writing; Management of Operations Staff; Special Event Management Lead (Ontario Championships, Hall of Fame and OVation Banquet); Ontario Championships Host City Selection, National Event bid writing and hosting

Jennifer Harkness – Director of Finance and Administration (jharkness@ontariovolleyball.org / 416-426-7318)

Financial Operations, Human Resources, Risk Management and Administration.

For any accounting enquiries please email: accounts@ontariovolleyball.org

2.0 Club Administration

2.1 Membership

All players, coaches, team staff and Club staff must be registered members with the OVA before they are eligible to participate in any activities associated with the OVA.

- All athletes must register as a Tryout Player (\$0) membership prior to attending tryouts to ensure they sign off on Rowan's Law compliance as well as the Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims, and Indemnity agreement.
- **All athletes must be registered members prior to their first Club practice. If athletes have been re-signed, they must purchase membership prior to attending their first club training session.**
- Coach Eligibility Policy can be found [HERE](#).
- All Club Contacts, Club Board members and/or Executives must be active members of the OVA prior to the Club Registering for the current season and must meet the requirements of the [OVA Club Leader Eligibility Policy](#).
- A player can only register and participate with one Club and one Province/Territorial Association.
- All individuals who sit on the bench at an OVA sanctioned event **must have** an approved Head Coach or Assistant Coach role in MRS.
 - **Individuals who do not have an approved coach role in MRS are not eligible to be listed on an OVA event scoresheet or sit on the bench. Ineligible individuals will be fined \$150 per occurrence and match results may be forfeited.**
- OVA Memberships are non-refundable.

Clubs are no longer able to purchase coach memberships in MRS when adding coaches to team rosters.

- In previous OVA seasons (and during the last few weeks), the MRS was still programmed to allow clubs to purchase a coach role for a member when they were added to a team roster. We kept this functionality last season as a test as we understand the convenience of clubs being able to pay for their coaches' memberships on their behalf.
- Unfortunately, this resulted in a large number of coaches being added to team rosters before their coach eligibility requirements were reviewed and approved by the OVA. With the new roster verification process being implemented this season, we absolutely cannot have coaches added to a team roster until they are approved in MRS.
- Therefore, going forward coaches can only be added to a team roster after their coach eligibility requirements have been completed and they have been approved in MRS.
- If you try to add a member to a team roster in MRS and the "head coach" or "assistant coach" options are not showing up, that means they do not have an approved coach role in MRS.
- If you have any questions about the eligibility status of any of your coaches, please feel free to email: pia@ontariovolleyball.org.

To be fully compliant with the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent Abuse and Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS) and insurance requirements, Volleyball Canada now requires that all Persons-In-Authority (PIAs) be fully compliant with Safe Sport requirements before their membership status is approved. A PIA is any person who holds a position of authority over a Vulnerable individual pursuant to the role assigned to them. Persons in Authority include, but are not limited to, Club Directors and Club staff, Coaches, Managers, Trainers, Referees, Chaperones and persons who manage finances.

Persons-in-Authority may not participate in volleyball activities until they have met their Safe Sport requirements. This includes background checks, annual screening, SafeSport training or any other requirements per the [OVA Coach Eligibility Policy](#), the [OVA Referee Eligibility Policy](#) or the [Club Leader Eligibility Policy](#). This means that PIAs cannot be involved in practices, camps, games, or meetings until they have completed their PIA requirements.

For the 2025-26 season, when an individual purchases their OVA membership for a membership category requiring Person-in-Authority checks, they will be placed in a **"Pending"** state until their PIA eligibility requirements are verified as

completed. At that point, their membership status will change to **“Approved”** and only then will they be able to engage in volleyball activities and be added onto club forms and rosters in MRS.

All members are bound by the OVA Membership Policy. The purpose of this policy is to contribute to the growth and development of volleyball for all Ontarians in a safe sporting environment by providing clubs and paying member categories with rules and requirements, including member obligations, fees and the terms/conditions of membership.

Read the full OVA Membership Policy by clicking [HERE](#).

2.2 Eligibility

Any Ontario team competing in any OVA sanctioned competition or tournament must be fully registered with the OVA as a Club team and may only use registered OVA members of that Club. All team members must be registered in MRS prior to participating in their first OVA event/activity of the season – this includes Club practices.

An OVA representative in any capacity may request proof of age, OVA membership registration, OVA Screening Disclosure Form or Police Record Check from a Club, team or individual at any time.

OVA members must be residents of Ontario. Any exception to this must have the approval of the OVA, Volleyball Canada and the provincial/territorial governing body where the individual resides. Contact the OVA office for further information and details of this membership approval process.

Ontario Volleyball (OVA) is committed to encouraging diversity, inclusion, equity and access in its administration, policies, programs, and activities. This is to ensure that the OVA provides Under-Represented Groups with an equitable range of opportunities to participate in the sport. As a result, although youth competitions are organized by male/female gender categories, we will allow athletes to play on teams and in competitions as any gender role that they identify with. Read the OVA Trans Inclusion Policy by clicking the “Other Policies” drop down located [HERE](#).

2.3 Tryout Window

The OVA requires that all Clubs adhere to the current season Tryout Window Policy. This policy outlines dates on which athletes are permitted to re-sign with the Club they completed the previous season with and dates when athletes are permitted to tryout and sign for new clubs.

For a full version of the Tryout Window Policy please click [HERE](#).

2.4 Athlete Transfer Policy

Athlete transfers between clubs during the competition season are permitted for various reasons, however, athletes, clubs and coaches must follow the procedures outlined in the Athlete Transfer Policy.

For a full version of the Athlete Transfer Policy please click on the “Athlete Transfer Policy” drop down located [HERE](#).

2.5 Club Requirements

Club Contacts will be responsible for filling out the Returning Club Information Form in MRS for the Club to register for the current season. Club Registration must be completed and the fee paid prior to any Club activities commencing (e.g. tryouts). Club staff must be entered on the form prior to their participation in an OVA event/activity.

The following information will be collected on the Club Form via the Membership Registration System (MRS):

- General Club Information (Club Name, Address, Club Contact, Phone Number, Email).
- Club Executive Information (Name, Position, Address, Email, Phone Number, Confirmation of Screening Disclosure Form completion).
- Club Staff Information (Staff name, Position, NCCP #, PRC/VSS Date, Confirmation of Screening Disclosure Form completion).
- Club Representative in charge of police/volunteer screening within the club (Name, Email, Phone number).
- House League/Recreational Programs (Program name, age & gender offered, program length, number of participants).
- Declaration that the Club will follow the current version of the OVA Screening Policy and that any adult individual intending to participate in the Club or its programs and activities will have a valid enhanced police record check completed within the last three years.
- Declaration that the club will adhere to all OVA policies and procedures.
- Declaration that the Club will ensure that all Coaches meet the VC and OVA Coaching Eligibility Requirements.
- Declaration that the Club will keep the information on this form updated throughout the season including the addition of any new Club Executive, Staff or coaches.
- These Declarations must be agreed to by the individual filling out the Returning Club Form (usually the Club contact). Club Executives will also be required to sign a document (MOU) containing similar declarations and attestations confirming that the Club is following OVA Policies and Procedures.
- **REMINDER:** Each Club executive, administrator and staff must be registered members of the OVA and meet the requirements of the [Club Leader Eligibility Policy](#) prior to the commencement of Club Activities.
- **Proof of Age for Registered Players:** Clubs must collect and maintain current proof of age records for Youth players (i.e. a copy of players' birth certificates). The records are to be retained by the Club throughout the duration of the 2025-2026 season (until August 31, 2026). When proof of age has been requested by the OVA, each requested player's birth certificate must be sent to the OVA office for validation. The OVA can request copies of athletes' proof of age at any time, and the Clubs must supply this documentation within two days of this request.

Club Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- Upcoming in September, all clubs will receive an MOU from the OVA which will outline club requirements, member benefits and acknowledgements for the authorized signatory(ies) of the club to sign. (Please note the Club Executives listed on the Club Information Form will be the club leaders contacted.)
- All clubs will need to sign and return the MOU before competing in an OVA competition.

All Clubs Must List a Technical Director contact in MRS: To help share best practices in athlete and coach development, all clubs will be required to designate a Technical Director in MRS whether they have a formal Technical Director position or not. The person listed will be the club's contact point for the OVA and will receive communications from the OVA's technical staff, receive invitations to webinars and the contact point for any of Volleyball Canada and OVA's decisions on athlete and coach development programs.

2.6 Unique Team Names and Age Identifiers in Team Names

- Although teams are often comprised of athletes of a certain age, their age should not be the determining factor of their skill level
- Teams are encouraged to participate in the tournaments that meet their skill level and challenge them to improve and develop
- Clubs with multiple teams in one age category (including teams playing up) **MUST** identify their teams with distinct names as there must be no duplicate team names across all age groups.
- Age identifiers will be removed by the Youth Competitions Coordinator if a team registers for an event with an age identifier in their team's name. If there are multiple teams with the same name in an event, the coaches name will be added to the team's name to differentiate the teams (i.e. "Jays Chad" and "Jays Kate")

2.7 Club Team Organization

For registration in MRS: a club team must consist of a minimum of 8 registered OVA athletes and a maximum of 15 registered OVA athletes for the 6v6 to 18U divisions (Minimum of 4 for 4v4 Rallyball events). Each team can list the following team staff:

- One (1) head coach **(REQUIRED)**
- Four (4) assistant coaches
- Four (4) team trainers
- One (1) club contact
- One (1) team contact
- One (1) secondary team contact

Members of a Club who are directly involved in the operation/administration of their Club but not registered with a team, such as executive personnel, directors, volunteers, and team contacts must also be registered members of the OVA.

For tournament play: a team may participate in OVA events with a minimum of 6 players, and a maximum of 15 permitted on the score sheet. The score sheet permits the following team staff to be on the bench:

- One (1) head coach **(REQUIRED)**
- Four (4) assistant coaches

Please see [Section 3.12](#) for the new process around the Head Coach role in MRS having view, edit and print capabilities for the MRS team roster. The HC will now be required to show the referee the MRS roster prior to every single regular season match in which the referee will ensure that every individual on the game sheet roster/sticker is also on the Head Coaches MRS roster printout.

All individuals who sit on the bench at an OVA sanctioned event **must have** an approved Head Coach or Assistant Coach role in MRS. The Coach Eligibility Policy can be found on the OVA website [HERE](#).

- For example: a team trainer that does not have a HC or AC role as part of their MRS profile is not able to sit on the team bench or be on the scoresheet in OVA sanctioned events.
- **Individuals who do not have an approved coach role in MRS are not eligible to be listed on an OVA event scoresheet or sit on the bench. Ineligible individuals will be fined \$150 per occurrence, and match results may be forfeited.**

Minimum Age: All coaches and team personnel members that are on the official roster in MRS must be a minimum of 11 years of age.

Team personnel who are parents of an infant (under the age of 1) will be permitted to have the infant with them on the bench during matches. The infant must be appropriately secured in a hands-free baby carrier or in a stroller directly behind the bench. The team must notify OVA of this occurrence prior to the event to ensure that competition officials are aware of it. The team may be asked to complete a Risk Acknowledgement form as they are exposing the infant to a higher-risk environment.

Team personnel who are the parent/caregiver to any young children may leave the bench to attend to them during the match provided the referee has been informed in advance. If the parent is the Head Coach, the Assistant Coach would be permitted to temporarily act as head coach during this time.

*An individual is not permitted to be designated as Head Coach for two teams in the same tournament. The same individual may be designated as a Head Coach for one team and a different team personnel role for another in the same tournament.

*The number of permitted athletes on a scoresheet for VC NATIONALS may be different than the OVA. Please refer to Volleyball Canada's competition guide for their rules and regulations.

2.8 Insurance

The Ontario Volleyball Association Insurance Program is available to fully registered members of the OVA. The OVA Insurance Program provides general liability and sport accident coverage. To find out more about coverage details please view the Ontario Volleyball Insurance Program documents on the OVA website [HERE](#).

Note: Certificates of Insurance are supplied for programs that Clubs offer. If non-OVA members attend a club event, those non-member participants **are not covered** under the OVA insurance policy. Please email insurance@ontariovolleyball.org for additional information.

All players and team staff must be registered through the MRS prior to participating in their tryout or first Club Practice (whichever happens first). This is to ensure that all athletes and team staff have signed off on Rowan's Law compliance as well as the Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims, and Indemnity agreement. Additionally, if athletes or team staff are not registered members, they are not covered by the insurance policy during practices and OVA run tournaments. Clubs will be held liable for any injuries sustained to that player or team staff member while they are not registered members of the OVA.

Certificate of Insurance

In order for a registered OVA Club or recreational league to obtain a certificate of insurance, all requests must be processed through the OVA office. Please fill out one Insurance Request Form for each event/facility and submit to insurance@ontariovolleyball.org a minimum of two weeks prior to the event date.

The Form can be found on the OVA website [HERE](#)

Injury Claim Forms

In order to make a claim under the OVA's Sport Accident Policy, the OVA must first receive a copy of the OVA Accident Report form. This is not a claim form, but this form must be completed prior to a claim form being provided by the OVA. If you have any questions regarding the OVA Insurance Program, please contact insurance@ontariovolleyball.org. Please do not contact the insurance company. You can access the OVA Accident Report Form on the OVA website under the Risk Management tab by clicking [HERE](#).

2.9 Letters of Good Standing

A Letter of Good Standing is required when a team wants to play in a tournament outside of Canada. The other country's volleyball federation requires that all teams be in good standing with their own federation, which is Volleyball Canada.

Volleyball Canada has created a fillable electronic form to facilitate the process of requesting a Letter of Good Standing. All teams needing a letter must follow the process outlined in the Letter of Good Standing Request Form. Please click [HERE](#) to access the Letter of Good Standing request. **Note: Please allow for a minimum of two business days to receive your letter of good standing.**

OVA teams travelling to the US to participate in a tournament with a Letter of Good Standing are covered by OVA General Liability Insurance. However, while travelling outside of Canada, OVA insurance does not cover medical expenses. We highly recommend that your teams arrange for Out of Country Medical Insurance.

Please note: Volleyball Canada's stance on issuing Letters of Good Standing may change due to COVID-19 and the inherent risks associated with Travel. Please be sure to check with Volleyball Canada prior to registering for out of province events.

For more information about the Letter of Good Standing, please contact the OVA's Membership Services Coordinator at info@ontariovolleyball.org.

3.0 Registration

3.1 How to Register

Each season, teams, players and coaches must register through the OVA Membership Registration System (MRS – <http://mrs.ontariovolleyball.org>) with payment by credit card (VISA or MasterCard).

3.2 Individual Membership Fees

- 4v4 Athletes should purchase a Recreational membership which is \$12.91 and includes a \$5.00 Volleyball Canada membership fee and HST. Any athletes wishing to participate in a competition stream outside 4v4 Rallyball MUST upgrade to a competitive level membership.
- For the 2025-26 season, membership fees with Volleyball Canada are \$37 and OVA fees for competitive athletes, coaches and club personnel is \$57. There will be no increase in membership fees for recreational athletes or referees. The total membership fee including HST is \$101.41 (OVA fee \$57 + \$7.41 HST + VC fee \$37)

OVA MEMBERSHIPS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

Any individual, team and/or Club having outstanding debts with either a Region or the OVA will be deemed members in bad standing and will be ineligible to obtain an OVA membership or participate in OVA programs, until such debts are paid. Please contact an OVA Program Coordinator to settle outstanding fees.

3.3 Club Fee

Clubs will be responsible for paying a \$450+HST annual fee. This fee will be charged when the Club Contact registers the Club in MRS by filling out the Returning Club Form.

3.4 Respect in Sport Parent Module

Respect in Sport is an accessible, online resource in the prevention of bullying, abuse, harassment, and discrimination (BAHD). The program's mission is to empower participants to recognize signs of BAHD and eliminate it from the game, through a global culture of respect.

- One parent or guardian of an athlete must complete the mandatory online Respect in Sport course
- RIS compliance for each club will be tracked and verified by the OVA
- The \$12 cost of the course is the responsibility of the parent or guardian
- The parent course is transferable between sports (i.e. if completed for Ontario Soccer Association, the parent can record that number in their OVA Respect in Sport profile and/or in MRS in their child's profile)
- Only one certificate number is required per household (i.e. if multiple siblings play within the OVA the course only needs to be completed once)
- Any parent/guardian who has not completed a RIS course, must do so prior to their child's participation in the OVA competitions
- The program is available in English and French. If there is a language barrier, a parent or a Club contact (on behalf of the parent) can ask for an extension or exemption if there are extenuating circumstances. An email must be sent to Carrie Campbell at ccampbell@ontariovolleyball.org to ask for an extension/exemption, prior to the November 30 deadline or the child's first event in the OVA.
- Additional information on Respect in Sport can be found by clicking [HERE](#).
- Please click [HERE](#) to register in Respect in Sport and complete the online module.

3.5 Tournament Entry Fees & Deadlines

Event	Cost (\$)
4v4 Rallyball	\$180 + HST
6v6 Rallyball, TLS, 15U	\$400 + HST
16U – 18U	\$425 + HST
All 2-Day events – Fall Classic/ New Year’s Open/Grand Prix/Grand Prix Qualifier/18U Bugarski Cup	\$850 + HST

The registration deadline for all regular season events will be approximately 6 weeks prior to the tournament as per the Youth Competitions Calendar located [HERE](#).

Teams/Clubs are responsible for ensuring that tournament entry fees are submitted by the deadline(s). **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES** will a team be granted late entry into an OVA tournament if it creates uneven pools (i.e. a 10 team on 3 courts). Teams who wish to register after the deadline has passed (even if team splits have not been posted) will be placed on a waiting list. If a spot becomes available, the team will be notified and will then pay the registration fee +\$100 late fee to participate.

3.6 Ontario Championships Entry Fees & Deadlines

Event	Cost (\$)
4v4 Rallyball Ontario Championships	\$995+ HST (2-day event)
6v6 Rallyball – 15U Ontario Championships	\$1,515 + HST (3-day event)
16U – 18U Ontario Championships	\$1,640 + HST (3-day event)

The registration deadline for all 2026 Ontario Championship events is Sunday December 7th at 11:59pm.

Please refer to the Ontario Championship Section of the website for all up-to-date information located [HERE](#).

3.7 Tournament Cancellation Policy

Weather Cancellation

If severe weather or unforeseen circumstances prevent a team from attending an event, the team must notify the appropriate Program Coordinator via email and the Emergency Event Day Hotline 647-467-5514.

Each team is responsible for assessing its own travel risk. The OVA cannot evaluate each individual teams travel situation. Teams are encouraged to monitor weather and road conditions before departing for an event. If a team decides to withdraw due to weather on the day before or the morning of the tournament, they may do so without penalty. This includes receiving a full refund and no risk of relegation.

- Events will generally only be cancelled if the venue permit is revoked (e.g., due to school board closures), or if multiple teams withdraw, leaving fewer than six teams remaining in the tournament.
- As long as the permit is still valid and at least six teams remain, the event is expected to proceed as planned.

Unless otherwise communicated, all events are presumed to be running. If a cancellation occurs, an update will be posted in the specific event’s tournament page located [HERE](#) and a direct message will be sent to all emails associated with affected team rosters as soon as OVA staff are made aware of the cancellation. There is no set timeframe for cancellation decisions as they are triggered by permit cancellations and withdrawing teams, which are both out of the OVA’s control.

Be aware that school boards can revoke permits with little or no notice. The OVA monitors weather conditions closely and stays in contact with hosts and permit providers the day prior to assess potential impacts. Note that cancellation risk

can vary significantly depending on the venue. For example, Public or Catholic school boards are more likely to cancel permits in areas not used to a lot of snow compared to an institution like Queen's University, which has only closed once in the past 31 years.

If an event is cancelled:

- Teams will receive a 100% refund and be credited as having participated
- Teams will be awarded points based on their pre-event seed (only if it does not lower a team's average)
- Teams will be realigned upward, but not downward, after a cancelled event
- Cancelled events will NOT be rescheduled

If a team withdraws due to weather but the event continues:

- Teams will receive a 100% refund and be credited as having participated
- Points will not be awarded
- Teams will not be realigned downward but rather stay in the same tier for the next event

Unconfirmed Hosts and Tournament Cancellation

With 30 – 70 events running each weekend, it is common to have a small number of events without a location/host confirmed while completing the team splits. Splits will be posted for the age group even if some locations have a venue location as TBD. The teams designated in an event without a host/venue location when the team splits are posted will be responsible for finding a venue. The host/venue confirmation for the event will be on a first come first serve basis.

If a host or venue is not confirmed one week before an OVA tournament, the event may be cancelled and will not be rescheduled and the four steps listed above "If an event is cancelled" will be followed.

Please note: All other divisions with confirmed hosts will proceed as scheduled.

3.8 Tournament Refund Policy

The OVA will deduct a 10% administrative fee from all refund/cancellation requests for any OVA indoor tournaments submitted prior to the registration deadline.

There is no refund for any cancellation requests submitted after the registration deadline and up until the day team splits have been posted.

There will be no refund or credit issued for any cancellation requests submitted from the time team splits are posted until 6 days prior to the tournament, and the team will be fined \$300.

Any cancellation request submitted within 5 days of the tournament will result in loss of the tournament entry fee and the team is fined \$400.

Failure to pay the fine within five business days will result in the Club being placed in bad standing and the Club teams will not be allowed to participate in any OVA event until the fine is paid in full.

All cancellation or refund requests must be made in writing to the OVA Program Coordinator responsible for the tournament's age division.

Note: Any cancellations initiated by the OVA will be refunded in full.

Ontario Championships Refund Policy

The OVA will deduct a 10% administrative fee from all refund/cancellation requests for any OVA indoor Ontario Championship event submitted prior to the registration deadline.

There will be no refund or credit issued for any cancellation requests submitted after the registration deadline up to 60 days prior to the start of the tournament.

There will be no refund or credit issued, and the team will be fined \$300.00 for any cancellation requested within 60 days up to 30 days prior to the first day of the Championships.

Any cancellation within 30 days of the Championship will result in loss of the Championship entry fee, and the team is fined \$600.

Failure to pay the fine within five business days will result in the Club being placed in bad standing and the Club teams will not be allowed to participate in any OVA event until the fine is paid in full.

All cancellation or refund requests must be made in writing to the OVA Program Coordinator responsible for the tournament's age division.

Note: Any cancellations initiated by the OVA will be refunded in full.

The OVA's full Financial Policy can be found under the "Other Policies" drop down located [HERE](#).

3.9 Tournament Hosting

The OVA's competition structure is highly dependent on the Clubs' ability to put forth tournament hosting applications for the various dates in our competitions calendar. Therefore, the location of tournaments depend on the location of facilities that Clubs are able to secure. In addition, OVA staff work to allocate high quality locations to help ensure enough venues are secured each season and to keep the average venue ranking in check.

As the sport of volleyball grows, there is an increase in demand for gyms every weekend. This demand requires a level of flexibility when determining hosting duties and tournament allocations.

A full outline of our hosting application process and deadlines can be found [HERE](#).

Clubs will be selected to host specific dates in the calendar months prior, however, they will not know which division (Premier/Select/Championship/Trillium White or Trillium Green) they are hosting until the OVA is able to create the team splits for the event. Team splits can be created for an event once the registration deadline has passed AND the results are in from the most recent event. Team splits are typically posted 3-4 weeks prior to each event.

It should be noted that in many cases the OVA does not have a surplus of hosting bids to select from, and we often need to solicit Clubs to host after deadlines have passed and teams are posted.

NOTE: Geographic boundaries can change for each event and are highly dependent on the location of hosting bids received.

Regional Representation

As a provincial sport organization, it is our mandate to support the growth of volleyball in all communities in Ontario by providing various Regions and Clubs with the opportunity to host. By spreading hosts across Ontario, we are meeting this mandate.

Ideal Facility Specifications

The OVA relies on the information in hosting applications to rank the facilities to ensure that they are assigned to the appropriate age class. Upon review of the hosting applications, the OVA uses the following guidelines when assigning tournament locations:

- 16U to 18U – service line at least 2.5m away from wall or bleachers, sideline 2.5m away from wall, 4.0m in between courts, ceiling height 7.0m, lines are CLEARLY marked, bright lighting, floors are clean, nets and standards are secure and padded for safety.
- TLS to 15U - service line at least 1.5m away from wall or bleachers, sideline 1.5m away from wall, and 3.0m in between courts, ceiling height 7.0m, lines are CLEARLY marked, bright lighting, floors are clean, nets and standards are secure and padded for safety.
- 6v6 Rallyball, TLS - service line at least 1.0m away from wall or bleachers, sideline 1.0m away from wall, and 2.0m in between courts, ceiling height 6.0m, lines are CLEARLY marked, bright lighting, floors are clean, nets and standards are secure and padded for safety.
- 4v4 Rallyball – 7x14 court, or doubles badminton court, bright lighting, floors are clean, nets and standards are secure and padded for safety.

Conditional vs. Non-conditional Hosting Bids

There are two types of bids that are submitted to host OVA events: conditional and non-conditional.

- Conditional bids are submitted with the requirement of any team within their club being assigned to the tournament that the club is hosting.
 - Clubs can put in additional requests for a specific team to host a specific event. The OVA will consider these requests when completing team splits but are not guaranteed and will only be granted if it works when looking at the age group and weekend as a whole.
- Non-conditional bids are open, and clubs are willing to host any age category and any division even if they do not have a team in the event.

Non-conditional bids are given priority; however, many bids that are submitted are conditional. This can influence the location of each division and the timeliness in which team splits are posted.

3.10 Tournament Draw Creation

Geography will continue to be the first determining factor when creating OVA tournament draws (aka Team Splits). The splits will then be adjusted to accommodate the following factors, in no order:

- Evenly balanced tournaments across divisions (i.e., Championship A, B, and C should have a similar average tournament rank)
- A team's previous km traveled within the age group (i.e., a team from the GTA may be required to make an 800+km round trip in 15UG and in 16UG group if they are playing up)
- Maximize exposure to as many teams as possible throughout the season
- Prevent multiple teams from the same club at one tournament location
- Spreading out underage teams
- The above-mentioned are subjective criteria, and the OVA staff will use its best discretion in creating tournament draws

3.11 Roster Lock Date (February 23, 2026)

The roster lock date for both the Regular Season and Ontario Championships is **Monday, February 23, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.** At that time, all rosters in MRS will be locked meaning clubs will not have the ability to make any further changes.

- After this deadline, no roster changes can be made. This includes athlete lateral movement, call-ups to older age groups, or coach changes.
- If a team requires a roster adjustment after the lock date, a Change Request Form will be available through Cognito Forms (\$50 per change). The OVA will review each request and provide a decision within 2 business days.
- If a team has an athlete or coach on the bench at an OVA sanctioned event that is not a full member in MRS or not on the team roster in MRS; the team will be sanctioned as per the OVA sanction chart which also can result in forfeited matches due to an ineligible person on the scoresheet.
- Teams have up to 15 athlete roster spots available in MRS. It is strongly recommended to fill all 15 spots with potential call-ups to ensure eligibility if a call-up is needed after the roster lock date.
- At the Ontario Championships coach check-in, coaches will be able to scratch any players or coaches not attending, which is a much simpler process than trying to add new participants at that time.

3.12 MRS Roster Printout Verification for all Regular Season Matches

Effective immediately, Head Coaches (HCs) are required to present a copy of their official MRS roster (printed or saved electronically on a phone) at the start of every match for all Regular Season Events.

The referee will compare the team's MRS roster to their roster sticker or list of names on the game sheet to confirm that all athletes and coaches listed on the game sheet also appear on the official MRS roster the HC is presenting.

The referee will compare the team's MRS roster to their roster sticker on the game sheet to confirm that all athletes and coaches listed on the roster sticker also appear on the official MRS roster the HC is presenting.

- It is acceptable for the MRS roster to include additional individuals who are not listed on the roster sticker.
- However, it is not permitted for the roster sticker to include individuals who are missing from the MRS roster.

Step-by-Step Process for Head Coaches

- The Head Coach role in MRS now can view, edit and print team rosters.
- Log in to MRS (mrs.volleyball.ca) at least one week prior to your event.
- Click on "My Teams" and then click on your team from the list.
- Review your team roster to ensure all athletes and coaches are correctly listed.
 - Only individuals on the MRS roster are eligible to appear on the bench.
 - HCs may add or remove athletes/coaches who are already approved members in MRS.
 - If an athlete or coach does not appear in MRS, they must register/create a profile.
- Once the roster is correct and includes all participants expected to appear on the game sheet, click the "Print Roster" button for a copy of the team roster. This can either be printed or saved as a pdf to a computer or a phone.
- At the start of each regular season match, present the MRS roster (paper or pdf) to the referee. The referee will verify that all participants on the roster sticker/game sheet are also included on the downloaded MRS roster.

Additional Notes

- Lateral athlete movement remains unlimited until the roster lock deadline of February 23, 2026

- Any lateral movement roster adjustments must be entered into MRS before each OVA regular season event and must appear on the official MRS roster presented to the referee prior to every regular season match.
- Please see [Section 4.9](#) for more information around lateral movement.
- Teams may continue to bring up to five underage athletes until the roster lock deadline of February 23, 2026.
 - Any underage athlete roster adjustments must be entered into MRS before each OVA regular season event and must appear on the official MRS roster presented to the referee prior to every regular season match.
 - Please see [Section 4.8](#) for more information around athletes playing up.
- When a coach creates an MRS profile, they are only approved by the OVA once all certification and membership requirements are completed. This approval process may take up to two business days.
 - For this reason, it is important to review your team roster well in advance of your event to ensure all required coaches are listed. Please note that a missing coach cannot be added the day before or on the day of an event due to this timeline.

For the first season of implementing these new Regular Season roster checks, there will be a “soft launch” applied to the 2025 Provincial Cups when it comes to athletes only.

- Referees will still check the MRS roster download presented by the HC prior to each match, and the full process outlined above will be followed.
- Any coach or team staff members that are not listed on the roster from MRS will not be permitted to sit on the bench at any OVA tournament (Including the Provincial Cup).
- However, for the Provincial Cup events, there will be leniency if an athlete is missing from the downloaded roster and will be allowed to play. However, they must be added immediately after the tournament to the team roster in MRS.
- All errors or omissions in MRS rosters must be corrected before the Challenge Cup events, where the process will be enforced without exception.
- Beginning with Challenge Cups and for the remainder of the season, any coach or athlete not listed on the official MRS roster will not be permitted on the bench until they have been added to the MRS roster by the HC.

What to do if there is a missing athlete or coach on the downloaded MRS roster:

- The start time of a match will not be delayed to fix an MRS roster issue.
 - Coach Missing on MRS Roster (All OVA Events)
 - HC to add the missing coach to the MRS roster if the Coach has already been approved by the OVA and is in MRS. The HC can then show the updated roster to the referee prior to the start of the match.
 - If the missing coach is not in MRS, this means they have either not created an MRS profile yet or have created a profile but are missing some requirements which is why they have not been approved by the OVA yet.
 - PLEASE NOTE – It takes the OVA 1-2 Business days to approve a coach once all their requirements have been met.
 - If the missing coach is not in MRS, then they are not eligible to be on the bench until they have created an MRS profile, completed all coaching requirements and been approved by the OVA. Once approved, the HC can then add the missing coach to the team’s MRS roster.
 - Athlete Missing on MRS Roster (Provincial Cup ONLY)
 - “Soft roster check” in place for athletes only for all Provincial Cups
 - If any athlete is missing, they must be added to the MRS roster immediately after the tournament
 - Athlete Missing on MRS Roster (All Other Events)

- HC to add the missing athlete to the MRS roster if there is still time before the start of the match. This should be possible if the athlete already has an active Competitive Athlete profile in MRS.
- If the missing athlete is not in MRS, the athlete or parent will have to create a Competitive Athlete profile in MRS and once completed, the HC can then add the player to their MRS roster.
 - If the HC cannot add this athlete to their MRS roster prior to the start of the match, then the athlete will miss the match until they have been added to the roster

4.0 Competition Regulations

Unless otherwise stated, the OVA follows Volleyball Canada's Rules and Regulations.

Although regulations are in place to govern competitions, every situation and circumstance cannot be foreseen. Interpretations as to how the regulations apply in a specific situation or circumstance can be clarified by the OVA Program Coordinator. It is the responsibility of the Program Coordinator to manage competitions efficiently and fairly and to solve any related problems. To that end, the OVA Program Coordinator may adjust and implement changes during the season if new circumstances arise.

4.1 Game Ball

Mikasa is the official supplier of all game balls for the OVA Competition. The following models will be used for each age division:

- Mikasa VUL 500 – 4v4 Rallyball
 - 4v4 Rallyball will use the Mikasa VQ200W-OVA volleyball starting in the 2026 – 2027 season
- Mikasa VQ200W-OVA - 6v6 Rallyball, TLS and 15U
- Mikasa V200W - 16U-18U
- Mikasa V200W - Team Ontario / High Performance

4.2 Uniforms

For OVA competition, the interpretation is: Jerseys must be uniform, clean and of the same colour, style and trim at first glance by the head official or designate. The colour of the shorts/pants must be uniform. The length or fit of the shorts/pants are irrelevant and of no consequence. It is not mandatory for team members to wear matching/identical socks.

All Coaches and team staff should follow the dress guidelines below during all matches:

- Must be dressed to represent their team in a professional manner
- Secure shoes (including both covered toe and heel straps) are encouraged for any team personnel who are on the sport court for both warm up and match play
- Hats are permitted
- These guidelines are strongly recommended for anyone acting as a line judge or score keeper during OVA sanctioned events.

Players' jerseys must be numbered from 1 to 99 inclusive, at least 15 cm high on the chest and 20 cm high on the back. The width of the stripe forming the number shall be 2 cm minimum. The numbers must be placed in the centre of the front and back of the jersey. The colour and brightness of the numbers must contrast with the colour and brightness of the jerseys.

- As per rule 4.3.3 of the Volleyball Canada Rulebook: "Players' jerseys must be numbered from 1 to 99".
- Jerseys identifying players as "0" or "00" are not permitted at National Competitions.

Note: To avoid any potential uniform violation problems, it is strongly recommended to Clubs that the jersey numerals not be included in any artwork or logo. The numerals are to be clearly visible and should stand alone, separated from any artwork or logo.

Refer to the Volleyball Canada Rule Book for the complete definition of the uniform for the Libero player – The Libero must wear a uniform whose jersey at least must contrast in colour with that of the other members of the team. The Libero uniform may have a different design, but it must be numbered like the rest of the team members.

The OVA logo (PMT) is available upon request from the office for Clubs who wish to display it on their uniforms. Requests for the logo must be in writing to dbrennand@ontariovolleyball.org.

When a uniform violation occurs at a Youth or Adult competition, players with non-matching uniforms shall not be permitted onto the court unless the team has less than 6 players with matching/identical uniforms. In such a case, the team will be fined \$25.00 per player per tournament, to a maximum of \$100.00 per tournament. The official in charge of the match is to note the violation on the score sheet and inform the Tournament Director after the match. The Tournament Director is to report all violations to the appropriate Youth Competitions staff member, along with their results.

Note: Refer to [Appendix III](#) to view the OVA Uniform Policy and [Appendix IV](#) to view the VC Uniform Policy

4.3 Soft Uniforms Rule

A soft uniform rule will be in effect for the first event of the season for each age group (Provincial Cup). This means that teams will be permitted to participate in OVA Provincial Cup events without matching uniforms at first glance.

- Soft Uniform Rule will be in effect for all 4v4 Rallyball events, however a number must be present on the front of the shirts.
- Uniforms will still be required to have numbers on the back or chest.
- Liberos will still be required to wear a contrasting jersey colour.
- Jersey numbers can exceed 99.

NOTE: The 4v4 age categories will have the soft uniform rule in effect for the entire 2025-2026 competition season. However, if they choose to play up in a 6v6 tournament, they are required to follow the OVA Uniform Policy.

4.4 Eligible Birth Years for Early Contact Initiative (ECI)

DATE OF BIRTH	4V4 RALLYBALL	6V6 RALLYBALL	TLS
2011 = 15yo (September 1 st , 2011, to December 31 st , 2011)	No	No	Yes
2012 = 14yo	No	Yes	Yes
2013 = 13yo	Yes	Yes	Yes
2014 = 12yo	Yes	Yes	Yes
2015 = 11yo	Yes	Yes	Yes*
2016 = 10yo	Yes	Yes*	Yes*

*Please note: 2015 and 2016 DOBs are permitted to participate in 6v6 Rallyball if developmentally appropriate. However, it is strongly encouraged that these athletes experience the full development spectrum as identified in the ECI.

Age Category	Chronological Age Class
4v4 Rallyball	Born 2014 or later
6v6 Rallyball	Born 2013 or later
TLS	Born 2012 or later

Age Category	Extended Age Class
4v4 Rallyball	Born between January 1st, 2013, and December 31st, 2013
6v6 Rallyball	Born between January 1st, 2012, and December 31st, 2012
TLS	Born between September 1 st , 2011 – December 31, 2011 *January 1 st , 2011 – August 31 st , 2011 – Application Required*

Playing Restrictions for Athletes Included in the Extended Age Categories in the ECI Divisions

Early Contact divisions will now align with the standard OVA protocol for Extended Age Class participation, with one difference. As of February 23, 2026, athletes registered under the Extended Age Class in 4v4, 6v6 or TLS may only be listed on the roster for that specific age category. These athletes are not permitted to move up or down to another age division as individuals. However, they may compete in an older age division if their entire team is registered to play up.

*TLS athletes who fall in the 17 – 24-month window (January 1st – August 31st) will be required to fill out an application to verify their suitability for the division and to ensure that each coach, parent and athlete are aware of their status for Volleyball Canada's Nationals. This application process is for OVA competitions only and ANY ATHLETE THAT FALLS IN THE 17 – 24-month AGE CATEGORY FOR THE TLS DIVISION WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR VOLLEYBALL CANADA'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

The applications must be completed and approved prior to an athlete's registration and participation in their first event of the season. Applications open July 1, 2025, and can be submitted with this link located [HERE](#). This application process is open until the roster lock deadline of February 23 for new players.

4.5 Age Categories 15U – 18U

Age Category	Chronological Age Class
15 & Under	Born 2011 or later
16 & Under	Born 2010 or later
17 & Under	Born 2009 or later
18 & Under	Born 2008 or later

Age Category	Extended Age Class
15 & Under	Born between September 1st, 2010, and December 31st, 2010
16 & Under	Born between September 1st, 2009, and December 31st, 2009
17 & Under	Born between September 1st, 2008, and December 31st, 2008
18 & Under	Born between January 1 st , 2007, and December 31 st , 2007

Playing Restrictions for Athletes Included in the Extended Age Categories in the 15U-18U Divisions

Athletes who are registered in an age category based on the Extended Age Class can only be registered and listed on a team roster for that single age category. They are not permitted to move up or down an age category as an individual. They are permitted to move laterally within the age category that they are registered in, or they can play up an age category if their entire team is playing up.

- **Example:** Linda was born September 5, 2010. She plays for the 15U Girls Division Blue Spikers team. Linda is permitted to move laterally within the age category (until February 23) and play for the 15UG Division Red Spikers team. She is not permitted to play on the 16U Division Spikers or TLS Division Spikers.
- **Example:** Steve was born November 10, 2009. He plays for the 16U Hitters. The 16U Hitters registered for the 17U McGregor Cup. Steve is permitted to play in the 17U event as part of the 16U Hitters team. Steve is not permitted to play in the 17U event as part of the 17U Hitters team.

Athletes with birthdates in the Extended Age Class but who are registered with a team based on the Chronological Age Class are not permitted to move down an age category.

- **Example:** John was born November 25, 2009. He plays for the 17U Boys Vikings. John is permitted to move laterally within the age category (until February 23) and play for the 17UB Red Vikings and play up on the 18U Vikings. He is not permitted to play for the 16U Vikings.

4.6 Recommendations for Athletes Registering on a Team Above their Chronological Age

Athletes registered in an age category above their Chronological Age Class should compete at that age group only if that category is more appropriate for their skill level.

- **Example:** Eric was born on February 15th, 2011, He plays for the 16U Boys Falcons because his skill level allows him to compete with the older players. This age group is more appropriate for his skill level, so he should only play for the 16U team this year and avoid playing with the 15U team.

This recommendation from the OVA is based on the principles of the Canadian Long-Term Development model (LTD), which clearly states: *“Training, competition and recovery programs should be based on the stage of the participant’s capability, rather than chronological age.”*

In selecting athletes for their teams, coaches and clubs should look at the skill level of players rather than simply looking at chronological age and place them on teams with athletes of matching skills.

4.7 19U Eligibility

Athletes born in 2007 are eligible to compete in 18U OVA tournaments including the Ontario Championships provided they are not a part of any OCAA, OUA, USports, CCAA, NCAA or NAIA Volleyball team for the 2025-2026 season. Redshirt athletes are permitted to play in the OVA if they have not been on a post-secondary school volleyball roster at any point during the season. Please note – Athletes born in 2006 are NOT eligible for OVA competition.

- Any athlete who has been listed on a post-secondary volleyball roster at any time (i.e., exhibition or standard match), this includes athletes who have ceased attending the post-secondary school for any reason during the current season are NOT eligible to participate in OVA competitions.
- Each 19U athlete will be responsible for signing and submitting a declaration form Located [HERE](#) confirming their status as an eligible player:
 - An 18U team can have an unlimited number of 19U Athletes for OVA competition.
 - The regulations surrounding 19U players may be different for Volleyball Canada Nationals. Please check VCs playing regulations for full details <https://volleyball.ca/en/competitions/>

4.8 Players Moving Up an Age Category

Youth teams may use a maximum of five lower age players (from different teams within the same Club) in an OVA competition between Nov 1, 2025 – Feb 23, 2026.

- Underage athletes joining a team for a one-off event before the roster lock deadline of February 23, 2026 must still be added to the team roster in MRS. The Head Coach must add the underage athlete(s) to the team roster as all athletes (and coaches) must be on the Head Coaches MRS roster printout to be approved by the referee at the start of every single regular season match.
 - Please see [Section 3.12](#) for more detail around the Head Coach MRS roster printout process that is mandatory for all regular season matches at OVA events.
- REMINDER - If a team has an athlete or coach on the bench at an OVA sanctioned event that is not a full member in MRS or not on the team roster in MRS; the team will be sanctioned as per the OVA sanction chart which also can result in forfeited matches due to an ineligible person on the scoresheet.

An athlete CANNOT participate for more than one team during the same tournament OR event. All tournaments within an age category for a specific Cup are in the same event (i.e., all tournaments that make up the 16UG Challenge Cup are

in the same event). For example, an athlete cannot play for a team on Saturday at a 16UG Trillium A tournament and then play for another team on Sunday for a Championship B 16UG tournament.

Ontario Championships – Athlete Eligibility Across Events

An athlete may not participate in two Ontario Championships held on the same weekend. For example, an athlete cannot be on the roster for both a 15U and a 17U team if those divisions compete during the same 3-day weekend.

Additionally, athletes/teams are not permitted to play in back-to-back events during a 6-day Ontario Championships. For instance, an athlete/team cannot compete in an event from Thursday to Saturday and then again from Sunday to Tuesday of the same championship week. An athlete/team can, however, compete in another Ontario Championship event if there is a day in between the two events (i.e. Sunday to Tuesday for the 1st event and Thursday to Saturday for the 2nd event).

4.9 Players Moving Laterally within an Age Category

Clubs may laterally move an unlimited number of athletes between teams in the same age class during regular season events between Nov 1, 2025 and the roster lock deadline of Feb 23, 2026. Lateral movement is defined as an unlimited number of players moving from roster A to roster B, and an unlimited number of players moving from roster B to roster A.

- Any lateral movement roster adjustments must be entered into the MRS rosters before each OVA regular season event and must be on the Head Coaches MRS roster printout to be approved by the referee at the start of every single regular season match.
 - Please see [Section 3.12](#) for more detail around the Head Coach MRS roster printout process that is mandatory for all regular season matches at OVA events.
- REMINDER - If a team has an athlete or coach on the bench at an OVA sanctioned event that is not a full member in MRS or not on the team roster in MRS; the team will be sanctioned as per the OVA sanction chart which also can result in forfeited matches due to an ineligible person on the scoresheet.

An athlete CANNOT participate for more than one team during the same tournament OR event. All tournaments within an age category for a specific Cup are the same event (i.e., all tournaments that make up the 16UG Challenge Cup are in the same event). For example, an athlete cannot play for a team on Saturday at a 16UG Trillium A tournament and then play for another team on Sunday for a Championship B 16UG tournament.

- 4v4 Provincial, Challenge and McGregor Cups are the only exception to this rule when the schedule is set up as an AM/PM wave concept.
 - 4v4 athletes cannot participate for more than one team at the 4v4 Bugarski Cup as this is the only event that will affect a team's seed for the 4v4 Ontario Championships.

Unlimited lateral movement will end on February 23, 2026, as a team's roster is locked as of 11:59pm on February 23, 2026.

4.10 Initial Placement Adjustment for New Clubs/Teams (Of Age Teams Only)

- Any club may apply to adjust a team's placement in the first OVA event if they are a new team but have athletes on the roster that have a 2024-2025 end of season rank.
- An existing team from the previous season can also be considered "NEW" if they have at least 6 or more new players on the roster that played for a different club the year prior.
 - Example: Maple City Volleyball Club is requesting an Initial Placement Adjustment for their 17UG team. The roster includes 4 returning players, 3 players who were with the club last season on a different team, and 5 players new to the club. This team would not be eligible for an adjustment, as it does not meet the criteria for a "new" team—only 5 players are new to the club, which is below the required threshold.

- CLARIFICATION FOR RETURNING 18U ATHLETES: If an athlete has previously played for the club in their 18U season and are returning to the club, they are eligible to be included in the six “new” athletes for an Initial Placement Adjustment. Their ranking will be taken at par (i.e. if the athlete finished 10th in 18U the previous season, they would have an individual ranking of 10 that can be included in the top 6 average).
- Applications must be received prior to the event registration deadline to be considered.
- The Initial Placement Adjustment can be applied to later events but is only guaranteed for the first event of the season.
 - **Please see Section 5.1 located [HERE](#) for the Fall Classic Qualification process as there are a limited number of spots available for New Of Age Teams looking to be placed directly into the Fall Classic**
- The Initial Placement Adjustment is determined by averaging the ranks of the 6 new athletes from the previous season (one year under the age category where the adjustment is requested).
 - An athlete’s rank can only be considered one of the six required ranks if they were part of a different club the year prior. This means the new team must have six new players on it that were part of a different club the year prior (except for returning 18U athletes’ clarification above).
 - PLEASE NOTE: The athletes that are included in the top 6 average initial placement are LOCKED to that team’s roster for the 2026 Ontario Championships. They may lateral move until February 23 but are required to be on the team’s official 2026 Ontario Championship roster.
- Teams with an average that place them in the top 35% of Trillium White, Championship or Select (as per Youth Competitions Structural Guidelines) in the first event will be granted the Initial Placement Adjustment.
 - For example: If a team is hoping to be placed directly into Championship and there are 9 Premier teams, 18 Select teams and 27 Championship teams, this new team must have a new player top 6 average of 36.45 or better (27×0.35) + 9 + 18.
- Teams who are granted the Initial Placement Adjustment will be seeded last in their respective tournament in the Trillium White, Championship or Select division as they will start the season with a NR (No Rank). Their first official rank will come after their first event when the event rankings are posted.
- Please send an email to your age group OVA Coordinator to apply.
- Fee: \$150.

4.11 Initial Placement Adjustment for Teams without 2025 OC results (Of Age Teams Only)

- Any club may apply to adjust a team’s placement in the first OVA event if they did not compete in the 2025 Ontario Championships in a specific age category but have a 2024-2025 Bugarski Cup Ranking.
- Applications must be received prior to the event registration deadline to be considered.
- The Initial Placement Adjustment can be applied to later events but is only guaranteed for the first event of the season.
 - This policy cannot place a team directly into the Fall Classic.
- The Initial Placement Adjustment is determined by using the teams 2025 Bugarski Cup Rankings (Overall Average) in comparison to Of Age teams only. A drop of 16.5 spots in the rankings will be applied and compared to where nearby (Of Age) teams are starting the 2025-2026 season.
 - Example: The 16UG Green Spikers finished the 2024–2025 season ranked 68th in the 15UG Bugarski Cup Rankings (Of Age Only). With a 16.5-spot downward adjustment applied, the team is now treated as the 84.5 ranked of-age team heading into the 2025–2026 season and will be placed accordingly.
- Teams who are granted the Initial Placement Adjustment will be seeded in their respective tournament in the Trillium White, Championship or Select division as the bottom seed as they will start the season with a NR (No Rank). Their first official rank will come after their first event when the event rankings are posted.
- Please send an email to your age group OVA Coordinator to apply.
- Fee: \$150.

4.12 Initial Placement for Underage Teams

- This policy is automatically completed for all underage teams by OVA staff. No application is required.
- If a team is competing in an older age category and has a pre-season rank in the older category, they will be placed according to that rank (i.e. 2025 Ontario Championship Result).

- If the team does not have a pre-season rank in the older age category, they will be automatically placed based on the percentages below by Youth Competitions staff (no application required). These percentages are only guaranteed for the first event (Provincial Cup) and will be used for initial placements in mid-season events ONLY IF vacancies in the draw are available (Step 2 of Section 5.4).
 - ****Please see Section 5.1 located [HERE](#) for the Fall Classic Qualification process as there are a limited number of spots available for underage teams****
- Underage teams who are granted the Initial Placement Adjustment will be seeded in their respective tournament in the Trillium White, Championship or Select division as the bottom seed as they will start the season with a NR (No Rank). Their first official rank will come after their first event when the event rankings are posted.
- The percentages below are based on a team's most recent of age rank that is available to OVA Staff at the time team splits are created.
 - For example:
 - 16UG Smashers have registered for the 17UG Provincial Cup. There has not been a 16UG event yet this season, which means the 16UG pre-season rankings (based on the 15UG 2025 Ontario Championship results) are the most recent rankings available. If the Smashers have a pre-season rank of 15th, there of age percentile would be 15/184 (total 15UG teams at the 2025 OCs) which comes to 8.15%. This would place the Smashers directly into 17UG Championship for the 17UG Provincial Cup.

Girls – Underage Initial Placement Into:				
	TLSG – 15UG	16UG	17UG	18UG
Select	0% - 2.00%	0% - 3.00%*	0% - 4.00%*	0% - 5.00%*
Championship	2.01% - 12.00%	3.01% - 15.00%	4.01% - 18.00%	5.01% - 21.00%
Trillium White	12.01% - 33.99%	15.01% - 37.99%	18.01% - 41.99%	21.01% - 46.99%
Boys – Underage Initial Placement Into:				
	TLSB – 15UB	16UB	17UB	18UB
Select	N/A	0% - 6.00%*	0% - 7.00%*	N/A
Championship	0% - 9.99%	6.01% - 14.99%	7.01% - 19.99%	0% - 12.99%*

Please see section 5.1 located [HERE](#) for the Fall Classic Qualification Process as limited underage spots are available

- ECI Division Clarifications:
 - 4v4 Girls Rallyball teams can play up in 6v6 Rallyball and self-declare into Select (Tier 1), Championship (Tier 2) or Trillium (Tier 3).
 - 4v4 Boys/Co-ed Rallyball teams can play up in 6v6 Rallyball and will be placed in Trillium.
 - 6v6 Girls Rallyball teams can play up in TLS and self-declare into Select (Tier 1), Championship (Tier 2) or Trillium (Tier 3) for the Provincial and Challenge Cups. The underage initial placement table above will apply to the 6v6 Girls Rallyball teams playing up for the first time in the TLS McGregor or Bugarski Cups if vacancies in the draw are available.
 - 6v6 Boys Rallyball teams can play up in TLS and self-declare into Championship (Tier 1) or Trillium (Tier 2) for the Provincial and Challenge Cup. The underage initial placement table above will apply to the 6v6 Boys Rallyball teams playing up for the first time in the TLS McGregor or Bugarski Cups if vacancies in the draw are available.

4.13 Ceiling Rule

For OVA competition ONLY, the ball will be permitted to touch the ceiling during rally play:

- A ball, other than a served ball, shall remain in play if it contacts the ceiling or other overhead objects 4.6 m (15') or more above the playing area. If benches, bleachers, low-hanging baskets or other floor obstructions are less than 2 m (6'6 3/4") from the court and interfere with play of the ball, the ball becomes out of play and a replay may be directed at the 1st referee's discretion.

- The ball is out of play when:
 - Rule 10.1.2 is not in effect, and the ball makes contact with the ceiling or obstruction above the opponent's playing area.
 - Rule 10.1.2 is in effect, and a ball that cannot be legally retrieved from the opponent's free zone contacts the ceiling or obstruction over the opponent's playing area.
 - The ball contacts the ceiling or obstruction above the team's playing area and crosses the plane of the net into the opponent's court.

NOTE RULE 10.1.2 of the Volleyball Canada Rulebook: The ball that has crossed the net plane to the opponent's free zone totally or partly through the external space, may be played back within the team hits, provided that:

10.1.2.1 the opponent's court is not touched by the player;

10.1.2.2 the ball, when played back, crosses the net plane again totally or partly through the external space on the same side of the court. The opponent team may not prevent such action.

NOTE ON CEILING RULE – the ball is still in play as long as the ball is still moving (i.e. the ball can travel along the ceiling and bounce multiple times, as long as the movement of the ball is still happening. If the ball stops, it is deemed out of play meaning a stopped/stuck ball is OUT.

4.14 Submission process for 6v6 Rallyball and TLS Self-Declare Events

It is each team's responsibility to complete the self-declare form as OVA staff will not be sending out the link for each event. The link can be found in the What's New Document, Youth Competitions Manual and under each event's page on the OVA website under "Upcoming Indoor Events"

- 6v6G, TLSG & TLSB Self-declare Cognito Form Link can be found [HERE](#) for the 2025/2026 Season.
- Teams entering their first event without submitting a self-declare form will be placed in the lowest tier. If a team has already competed in an event in the age group and does not complete a self-declare submission, they will be placed in the same tier as their previous event.
- If there are multiple submissions for a team for a specific event, the most recent submission will be used.

Self-Declare Submission Deadlines

6v6 Girls Provincial Cup	October 19, 2025
6v6 Girls Challenge Cup	November 30, 2025
6v6 Girls McGregor Cup	January 11, 2026
6v6 Girls Bugarski Cup	February 1, 2026

TLS Girls Provincial Cup	October 5, 2025
TLS Girls Challenge Cup	November 16, 2025

TLS Boys Provincial Cup	October 12, 2025
TLS Boys Challenge Cup	November 23, 2025

4.15 Spirit of the Rules Clause

The Ontario Volleyball Association is committed to providing a fair, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate competition environment for all participants. While our rules and eligibility criteria are designed to guide participation, they cannot account for every possible scenario.

- Should a team, individual, or club act in a manner that complies with the letter of the rules but is clearly contrary to the spirit and intent of those rules—particularly where such actions compromise fair play or the developmental integrity of the competition—the OVA reserves the right to conduct a review.

- In such cases, a Competition Review Panel will be convened to assess the situation. This panel will consider the broader context, the intent behind the actions, and the impact on the competition. The panel's decision will be final and may result in corrective actions, including but not limited to reclassification, disqualification, or eligibility restrictions, as deemed appropriate.
- All participants are expected to uphold not only the rules but the values of sportsmanship, respect, and equitable competition.

5.0 Seasonal Structure

5.1 Tournament Formats

Regular Season Events for all events leading to medals.

- Tournament formats may vary depending on the facility, age category, Early Contact stream, and gender
- Tournaments will be completed in one or two days on either Friday, Saturday, or Sunday
- The number of divisions offered per age category will depend on the number of teams registered
- Serpentine seeding, modified seeding or diagonal seeding will be used to place teams into their pools
- 4v4 Rallyball will play 3 sets to 15 wherever possible
- To provide a competition day of reasonable duration, with meaningful matches for teams:
 - All teams may not advance to the playoffs, leading to medals. Some consolation matches will be scheduled if time permits.
 - Formats that can be completed in 7-9 rounds, with teams playing 4-5 matches maximum will be given priority where possible (e.g. 9 teams on 3 courts, and 12 teams on 4 courts).
 - Premier, Select and Championship divisions in Cup tournaments will have a maximum of 9 teams. There may be some extenuating circumstances where additional teams may be added. This is at the discretion of the Program Coordinator responsible for the specific age category.
- Match formats (2/2, 2/3, 3/3, 3/5) will be indicated in the information notes and/or on the published schedule for each tournament. All matches have no "cap" in any sets unless otherwise indicated on the schedule.
- Realignment between divisions is based on a team's result in a previous event unless otherwise stated.
- Your qualification status for the next event (e.g. Trillium White, Championship, Select or Premier) will be forfeited if you choose not to participate in that event, unless you have received a tournament exemption (see Section 5.5).
 - Please Note - Step 3 of Section 5.4 (Filling tournament vacancies) does allow for the vast majority of teams who miss an event to maintain their spot in a specific division, but it is not guaranteed as it is based on the number of vacancies available.
- All sets are win by 2 (no cap) unless stated otherwise.

Development Events for ECI Age Groups

All 4v4 Rallyball events will consist of a round robin format with no formal results, points, promotion/relegation, or medals. This will allow teams an opportunity to focus on their development throughout the season.

- There will be a team ranking posted after the 4th and final event prior to the Ontario Championships (Bugarski Cup). This has been introduced to increase scheduling options and ensure competitive balance during the Ontario Championships.
- The focus of the Bugarski Cup will continue to be developmental as there will be no play-offs and no medals. The rankings posted after the Bugarski Cup will be used to seed the Ontario Championship 4v4 Rallyball divisions and will be based on a team's set ratio from the Bugarski Cup ONLY.
- If a 4v4 team participating in the Ontario Championships does not participate in the 4v4 Bugarski Cup, they will be seeded last in their Ontario Championships.

The first 6v6 Rallyball and TLS events (Provincial Cup) will still feature a standard tournament with playoffs, medals, points, and post event rankings. However, the points earned at the 6v6 Rallyball and TLS Provincial Cup's will not count towards a team's top 2 average for their Ontario Championship seeding.

- 6v6 and TLS Provincial Cup points may still come into play as an Ontario Championship seeding tiebreaker (Overall Average) in the event there is a tie in a team's top two average.

Convention Centre Events for 2025/26

The OVA is excited to once again host events at the EY Centre in Ottawa and the Niagara Falls Convention Centre, and to introduce the International Centre in Mississauga as the third regular season convention centre venue. Please click [HERE](#) for more information on all regular season Convention Centre Events.

- EY Centre (November 7-9, 2025)
 - Please click [HERE](#) for information on Ottawa and all the city has to offer
- International Centre (January 16-18, 2026)
- Niagara Falls Convention Centre (March 27-28, 2026)

Stay to Play for Convention Centre events:

- The Stay to Play policy is mandatory for OVA teams and is used to assist in actualizing the room night requirements for the OVA to receive discounted facility rentals, as well as obtain grants through host cities to be able to afford large facility rentals. Without Stay to Play, the Association would not be able to obtain rentals for large facilities across Ontario.
- The EY Centre, International Centre and Niagara Falls Convention Centre regular season events will be STAY TO PLAY for teams competing in the 2-day formats and are located 125+km away from the venue.
 - Teams located 550+km away will receive early access to hotel booking for the EY Centre 2-day events (city centre to city centre)
 - Teams located 400+km away will receive early access to hotel booking for the International Centre 2-day events and the Niagara Falls Convention Centre 2-day events (city centre to city centre)
- All travelling teams (125kms+/one way) are required to book hotel rooms through Hudson Travel Group (HTG Sports) to be eligible to play in the EY Centre, International Centre and Niagara Falls Convention Centre two-day tournaments.
- Teams participating in single day Convention Centre events or any teams less than 125km away are not required to stay in a hotel but if they choose to stay in a hotel then they must book through HTG. Please click [HERE](#) and scroll down towards the bottom of the page for more information regarding the regular season convention centre events stay to play policy and exemption request process.

Hotel booking portals will be set up by HTG Sports to ensure teams have access to the best possible rates and hotels closest to the facilities. More information will be posted by mid-September.

Please visit the Convention Centre page on the OVA website located [HERE](#) for all the most up to date information regarding these events.

Fall Classic (Two-day)

The Fall Classic takes place for each 16U - 18U age group on the same weekend as their Provincial Cup.

- 16UB/G, 17UB/G & 18UG
 - The top 24 teams will be placed into Select to start on Day 1 competing in a round robin format. Day 2 will consist of Select and Premier brackets based on the round robin results.
 - 16UB/G and 18UG will have their Fall Classic event at the EY Centre in Ottawa on Nov 8 – 9, 2025
 - 17UG will have their Fall Classic event on November 1-2, 2025, at a standard venue (i.e., one 6 court venue or two 3 court venues).
 - 17UB will have their Fall Classic event on November 15-16, 2025, at a standard venue (i.e., one 6 court venue or two 3 court venues).
- 18UB
 - The top 20 teams will be placed in Championship to start on Day 1, competing in a single day round robin. Day 2 will consist of Championship (12 team) and Premier (8 team) brackets based on the day 1 results.
 - 18UB will have their Fall Classic event at the EY Centre in Ottawa on November 8 – 9, 2025.
 - The remaining teams registered for the 18UB Provincial Cups will have a standard, single day event scheduled at different facilities across the province on either the Friday, Saturday or Sunday of the November 7th – 9th weekend.

Please see the chart below for a breakdown of how teams are placed into the respective Fall Classic events:

Fall Classic – Team Qualification						
	16U Girls (24 Teams)	17U Girls (24 Teams)	18U Girls (24 Teams)	16U Boys (24 Teams)	17U Boys (24 Teams)	18U Boys (20 Teams)
Step 1: Of-Age Automatic Qualifiers	Teams that finished in the Top 20 at the 2025 15UG Ontario Championships	Teams that finished in the Top 20 at the 2025 16UG Ontario Championships	Teams that finished in the Top 20 at the 2025 17UG Ontario Championships	Teams that finished in the Top 20 at the 2025 15UB Ontario Championships	Teams that finished in the Top 20 at the 2025 16UB Ontario Championships	Teams that finished in the Top 17 at the 2025 17U Boys Ontario Championships
Step 2: Of-Age Initial Placements	Teams that meet requirements for Select in Section 4.10 of the YCM (max. 1 team)	Teams that meet requirements for Select in Section 4.10 of the YCM (max. 1 team)	Teams that meet requirements for Select in Section 4.10 of the YCM (max. 1 team)	Teams that meet requirements for Select in Section 4.10 of the YCM (max. 1 team)	Teams that meet requirements for Select in Section 4.10 of the YCM (max. 1 team)	Teams that meet requirements for Championship in Section 4.10 of the YCM (max. 1 team)
Step 3: Underage Initial Placements	Teams that meet requirements for Select in Section 4.12 of the YCM (max. 4 teams)	Teams that meet requirements for Select in Section 4.12 of the YCM (max. 4 teams)	Teams that meet requirements for Select in Section 4.12 of the YCM (max. 4 teams)	Teams that meet requirements for Select in Section 4.12 of the YCM (max. 4 teams)	Teams that meet requirements for Select in Section 4.12 of the YCM (max. 4 teams)	Teams that meet requirements for Select in Section 4.12 of the YCM (max. 3 teams)
Step 4: Remaining Of- Age teams	Teams that finished outside of Top 20 at the 2025 15UG Ontario Championships (starting at 21 st and working down until remaining spots are filled)	Teams that finished outside of Top 20 at the 2025 16UG Ontario Championships (starting at 21 st and working down until remaining spots are filled)	Teams that finished outside of Top 20 at the 2025 17UG Ontario Championships (starting at 21 st and working down until remaining spots are filled)	Teams that finished outside of Top 20 at the 2025 15UB Ontario Championships (starting at 21 st and working down until remaining spots are filled)	Teams that finished outside of Top 20 at the 2025 16UB Ontario Championships (starting at 21 st and working down until remaining spots are filled)	Teams that finished outside of Top 17 at 2025 17UB Ontario Championships (starting at 18 th and working down until remaining spots are filled)

New Year's Open (Previously known as the 18U McGregor Cup):

The New Year's Open is a 2-day event for the entire 18UG & 18UB age groups located at the International Centre in Mississauga on 24 courts. This event replaces the 18U McGregor Cup as the third event in the 18U regular season.

- More information will be available on the OVA's Convention Centre Page located [HERE](#)
- Dates:
 - January 16 – 17, 2026 (Event 1)
 - 18UB Division 1 (Teams ranked #1 - #32)
 - 18UG Division 1 (Teams ranked #1 - #64)
 - January 17 - 18, 2026 (Event 2)
 - 18UB Division 2 (Teams ranked #33 - #64)
 - 18UG Division 2 (Teams ranked #65 - #128)
- Qualification:
 - 18U Teams (of age) are guaranteed entry as long as they have competed in the Provincial and/or Challenge Cup as they must be listed in the post 18U Challenge Cup rankings (Overall Average).
 - *Unique scenarios may be reviewed for of age teams who have not participated in either the 18U Provincial or Challenge Cups*
 - 17U Teams (underage) will be accepted to fill out the Boys (64 Team) and Girls (128 Team) tournament draws.
 - Underage teams will be accepted based on rank. Meaning the highest ranked underage teams will be accepted first based on the post 18U Challenge Cup Rankings (Overall Average)
 - An underage team who would like to participate in the New Year's Open must compete in either the 18U Provincial Cup or 18U Challenge Cup to be included in the post 18U Challenge Cup Rankings (Overall Average). An underage team cannot participate in the New Year's Open if it is their first 18U event of the season.
 - *Unique scenarios may be looked at if it helps fill out the tournament draw, and all other interested underage teams have already been accepted*
- Seeding:
 - Teams will be seeded into Division 1 or Division 2 based on the post 18U Challenge Cup Rankings (Overall average).
 - There is no realignment after the 18U Challenge Cup as the traditional Premier, Select, Championship & Trillium tiers do not exist in the 18U New Year's Open.
 - To clarify, teams that have only competed in either the 18U Provincial Cup OR Challenge Cup (i.e. 1 previous event) still qualify and are seeded based on the post Challenge Cup rankings (Overall average).
 - For example, if a team only competed in the 18UG Challenge Cup and finished 2nd in the Championship tier. They earned 775 points and will have an overall average of 775 points as their only finish.
- Points:
 - Please see [Section 5.9](#) for the New Year's Open Point structure which is weighted in a similar manner to the other four 18U regular season events.
 - Points received at the New Year's Open will count towards a team ranking just like any other 18U regular season event and can be used towards a team's top 2 average for Ontario Championship seeding.
- Realignment into future events:
 - The post New Year's Open Rankings (Overall Average) will be used to assign teams into tiers for the Furlani Cup (except for the GPQ):
 - Grand Prix Qualifier (aka Premier)
 - Top 12 ranked teams based on top 2 average with the New Year's Open Rankings (Overall Average) being the tiebreaker.
 - Select, Championship, Trillium White and Trillium Green:

- Teams will be assigned into tiers based on the post New Year's Open Rankings (Overall Average)
 - Please note – Section 4.10, 4.11 and 4.12 Initial Placement policies will be followed when creating the 18U Furlani Cup tiers to maintain competitive balance.
 - Step 3 of section 5.4 will also be taken into consideration for teams that did not participate in the New Year's Open to ensure they are still placed in an appropriate tier for the 18U Furlani Cup to maintain competitive balance.

Grand Prix Qualifier (Two-day)

The fourth event of the season—the Furlani Cup—will feature a two-day, 12-team Grand Prix Qualifier exclusively for the 18U age group. This qualifier replaces the traditional Premier division at the Furlani Cup.

The 12 participating teams will be selected based on their Top 2 Average, with the New Year's Open Rankings (based on Overall Average) used as a tiebreaker if needed. The top eight finishers from this qualifier will earn an invitation to the 18U Grand Prix, a two-day event held at the Niagara Falls Convention Centre from March 27–28, 2026.

Please see [Section 5.10](#) for the updated point structure for the 12 team Grand Prix Qualifier.

Grand Prix (Two-day)

The Grand Prix acts as the regular season Championship and is designed to provide teams with a high-performance competitive environment while emphasizing rest, recovery, scouting, and strategic planning. This event replaces the Premier division of the Bugarski Cup for the 16U to 18U age groups. Please see [Section 5.10](#) for the updated Grand Prix point structure that now weights the Grand Prix slightly higher than the other regular season events

- 18U
 - Eight teams will qualify based on results from the Grand Prix Qualifier.
- 16U & 17U
 - Twelve teams will qualify based on their Top 2 Average, with the McGregor Cup Rankings (Overall Average) used as the tiebreaker.

NOTE: Circumstances may arise that may warrant modification to tournament structures.

5.2 2025-2026 Ontario Volleyball Seasonal Structure for Girls and Boys

Age Division	Tournament	Divisions	Seeding within Tournament Draw	Realignment for the Next Event
Realignment and division sizes may vary as this chart is ONLY A PREDICTION/GUIDELINE and is subject to change to correlate with the registrations received				
4v4 Rallyball Girls	Provincial Cup	Trillium	Random	None – Please Note: There will be no playoffs, team placings or medals at the Provincial Cup with each team scheduled at random to play 4-5 matches throughout the day. Results will not count towards future rankings as this is a Developmental event.
	Challenge Cup	Trillium	Random	None – Please Note: There will be no playoffs, team placings or medals at the Challenge Cup with each team scheduled at random to play 4-5 matches throughout the day. Results will not count towards future rankings as this is a Developmental event.
	McGregor Cup	Trillium	Random	None – Please Note: There will be no playoffs, team placings or medals at the McGregor Cup with each team scheduled at random to play 4-5 matches throughout the day. Results will not count towards future rankings as this is a Developmental event.
	Bugarski Cup	Trillium	Random	None – Please Note: There will be no playoffs, team placings or medals at the Bugarski Cup with each team scheduled at random to play 4-5 matches throughout the day.
	Ontario Championships		Bugarski Cup Set Ratio	*Set Ratio will be used from the Bugarski Cup to seed the Ontario Championships* Teams will self-declare into D1 or D2 at the Ontario Championships. A team's set ratio from the Bugarski Cup will be used as a secondary criterion (If needed) to adjust a team's self-declare option to ensure the correct number of teams are placed in each Division.
4v4 Rallyball Boys/Coed	Provincial Cup	Trillium	Random	None – Please Note: There will be no playoffs, team placings or medals at the Provincial Cup with each team scheduled at random to play 4-5 matches throughout the day. Results will not count towards future rankings as this is a Developmental event.
	Challenge Cup	Trillium	Random	None – Please Note: There will be no playoffs, team placings or medals at the Challenge Cup with each team scheduled at random to play 4-5 matches throughout the day. Results will not count towards future rankings as this is a Developmental event.
	McGregor Cup	Trillium	Random	None – Please Note: There will be no playoffs, team placings or medals at the McGregor Cup with each team scheduled at random to play 4-5 matches throughout the day. Results will not count towards future rankings as this is a Developmental event.
	Bugarski Cup	Trillium	Random	None – Please Note: There will be no playoffs, team placings or medals at the Bugarski Cup with each team scheduled at random to play 4-5 matches throughout the day.
	Ontario Championships		Bugarski Cup Set Ratio	*Set Ratio will be used from the Bugarski Cup to seed the Ontario Championships*

Competitive Division	Tournament	Divisions	Seeding within Tournament Draw	Realignment for the Next Event
Realignment and division sizes may vary as this chart is ONLY A PREDICTTION/GUIDELINE and is subject to change to correlate with the registrations received				
6v6 Rallyball Girls	Provincial Cup	Select Championship Trillium	Random (Self-Declare for division)	Teams will self-declare for either Select (Tier 1), Championship (Tier 2), or Trillium (Tier 3). The Provincial Cup will feature a traditional OVA tournament format with playoffs, medals, and points awarded. Provincial Cup results will not count towards a team's top 2 average for their Ontario Championship seeding.
	Challenge Cup	Select Championship Trillium	Provincial Cup Rankings (Self-Declare for division)	Teams will self-declare for either Select (Tier 1), Championship (Tier 2), or Trillium (Tier 3). The Challenge Cup will feature a traditional OVA tournament format with playoffs, medals, and points awarded.
	McGregor Cup	Select Championship Trillium	Challenge Cup Rankings (Self-Declare for division)	Teams will self-declare for either Select (Tier 1), Championship (Tier 2), or Trillium (Tier 3). The McGregor Cup will feature a traditional OVA tournament format with playoffs, medals, and points awarded.
	Bugarski Cup	Select Championship Trillium	McGregor Cup Rankings (Self-Declare for division)	Teams will self-declare for either Select (Tier 1), Championship (Tier 2), or Trillium (Tier 3). The Bugarski Cup will feature a traditional OVA tournament format with playoffs, medals and points awarded.
	Ontario Championships		Top 2 average points awarded from Challenge Cup, McGregor Cup and Bugarski Cup	The Bugarski Cup Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for OC Seeding
6v6 Rallyball Boys	Provincial Cup	Trillium	Random	The Provincial Cup will feature a traditional OVA tournament format with playoffs, medals, and points awarded. The top performing teams from the Provincial Cup will be realigned into Championship for the Challenge Cup. Provincial Cup results will not count towards a team's top 2 average for their Ontario Championship seeding.
	Challenge Cup	Championship (9) Trillium	Provincial Cup Rankings	The Challenge Cup will feature a traditional OVA tournament format with playoffs, medals, and points awarded. Realignment will take place with the 7 th – 9 th place teams from Championship moving to Trillium and the first place Trillium teams moving to Championship.
	McGregor Cup	Championship (9) Trillium	Challenge Cup Rankings	The McGregor Cup will feature a traditional OVA tournament format with playoffs, medals, and points awarded. Realignment will take place with the 7 th – 9 th place teams from Championship moving to Trillium and the first place Trillium teams moving to Championship.
	Bugarski Cup	Championship (9) Trillium	McGregor Cup Rankings	The Bugarski Cup will feature a traditional OVA tournament format with playoffs, medals and points awarded.
	Ontario Championships		Top 2 average points awarded from the Challenge Cup, McGregor Cup and Bugarski Cup	The Bugarski Cup Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for OC Seeding

Competitive Division	Tournament	Divisions	Seeding within Tournament Draw	Realignment for the Next Event
Realignment and division sizes may vary as this chart is ONLY A PREDICTION/GUIDELINE and is subject to change to correlate with the registrations received				
TLS Girls	Provincial Cup	Select Championship Trillium	6v6 end of season rankings from 2024-2025 (Self-declare for division)	Teams will self-declare for either Select (Tier 1), Championship (Tier 2), or Trillium (Tier 3). The Provincial Cup will feature a traditional OVA tournament format with playoffs, medals, and points awarded. Provincial Cup results will not count towards a team's top 2 average for their Ontario Championship seeding. Non-Specialization: 6-6 only. All positions event.
	Challenge Cup	Select Championship Trillium	Provincial Cup Rankings (Self-declare for division)	Teams will self-declare for either Select (Tier 1), Championship (Tier 2), or Trillium (Tier 3). The Challenge Cup will feature a traditional OVA tournament format with playoffs, medals, and points awarded. A team's point average from the Provincial and Challenge Cup (Challenge Cup Rankings) will be used to realign teams into Trillium, Championship, Select and Premier divisions for the McGregor Cup Non-Specialization: 6-6 only. All positions event.
	McGregor Cup	Premier (27) Select (45) Championship (72) Trillium	Challenge Cup Rankings	The McGregor Cup will feature a traditional OVA tournament format with playoffs, medals, and points awarded. Realignment will take place with the 7 th – 9 th place teams moving down and the 1 st place teams moving up for the Bugarski Cup. Limited-Specialization: 4-2,6-2,6-3 permitted. No 5-1 Permitted.
	Bugarski Cup	Premier (27) Select (45) Championship (72) Trillium	McGregor Cup Rankings	The Bugarski Cup will feature a traditional OVA tournament format with playoffs, medals and points awarded. Limited-Specialization: 4-2,6-2,6-3 permitted. No 5-1 Permitted.
	Ontario Championships		Top 2 average points awarded from the Challenge Cup, McGregor Cup and Bugarski Cup	The Bugarski Cup Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for OC Seeding Limited-Specialization: 4-2,6-2,6-3 permitted. No 5-1 Permitted.
TLS Boys	Provincial Cup	Championship Trillium	6v6 end of season rankings from 2024-2025 (Self-Declare for division)	Teams will self-declare for either Championship (Tier 1) or Trillium (Tier 2). The Provincial Cup will feature a traditional OVA tournament format with playoffs, medals, and points awarded. Provincial Cup results will not count towards a team's top 2 average for their Ontario Championship seeding. Non-Specialization: 6-6 only. All positions event.
	Challenge Cup	Championship Trillium	Provincial Cup Rankings (Self-Declare for division)	Teams will self-declare for either Championship (Tier 1) or Trillium (Tier 2). The Challenge Cup will feature a traditional OVA tournament format with playoffs, medals, and points awarded. A team's point average from the Provincial and Challenge Cup (Challenge Cup Rankings) will be used to realign teams into Trillium, Championship and Premier divisions for the McGregor Cup. Non-Specialization: 6-6 only. All positions event.
	McGregor Cup	Premier (9) Championship (18) Trillium	Challenge Cup Rankings	The McGregor Cup will feature a traditional OVA tournament format with playoffs, medals, and points awarded. Realignment will take place with the 7 th – 9 th place teams moving down and the 1 st place teams moving up for the Bugarski Cup. Limited Specialization: I.e., 4-2, 6-2, 6-3, etc., permitted. No 5-1 permitted.
	Bugarski Cup	Premier (9) Championship (18) Trillium	McGregor Cup Rankings	The Bugarski Cup will feature a traditional OVA tournament format with playoffs, medals and points awarded. Limited Specialization: I.e., 4-2, 6-2, 6-3, etc., permitted. No 5-1 permitted.
	Ontario Championships		Top 2 average points awarded from the Challenge Cup, McGregor Cup and Bugarski Cup	The Bugarski Cup Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for OC Seeding Limited Specialization: I.e., 4-2, 6-2, 6-3, etc., permitted. No 5-1 permitted.

Competitive Division	Tournament	Divisions	Seeding within Tournament Draw	Realignment for the Next Event
Realignment and division sizes may vary as this chart is ONLY A PREDITCTION/GUIDELINE and is subject to change to correlate with the registrations received				
15UG	Provincial Cup	Select (36) Championship (54) Trillium White (72) Trillium Green	Based on the TLS end of season rankings from 2024-2025 along with the Initial Placement Policies (Section 4.10, 4.11, 4.12)	1st – 4th place teams from the Select division will move up to the Premier division 9th place teams from the Select division will move down to the Championship division 1st place teams from the Championship, Trillium White and Green divisions will move up 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship and Trillium White divisions will move down
	Challenge Cup	Premier (18) Select (36) Championship (54) Trillium White (72) Trillium Green	Provincial Cup Rankings	7th – 9th place teams from the Premier, Select, Championship and Trillium White divisions will move down 1st place teams from the Select, Championship, Trillium White and Green divisions will move up
	McGregor Cup	Premier (18) Select (36) Championship (54) Trillium White (72) Trillium Green	Challenge Cup Rankings	7th – 9th place teams from the Premier, Select, Championship and Trillium White divisions will move down 1st place teams from the Select, Championship, Trillium White and Green divisions will move up
	Bugarski Cup	Premier (18) Select (36) Championship (63) Trillium White (72) Trillium Green	McGregor Cup Rankings	
	Ontario Championships		Average points from a team's top 2 finishes	The Bugarski Cup Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for OC Seeding
15UB	Provincial Cup	Championship (27) Trillium	Based on the TLS end of season rankings from 2024-2025 along with the Initial Placement Policies (Section 4.10, 4.11, 4.12)	1st – 3rd place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Premier division 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium division 1st place teams from the Trillium division will move up to the Championship division
	Challenge Cup	Premier (9) Championship (27) Trillium	Provincial Cup Rankings	7th – 9th place teams from the Premier and Championship divisions will move down 1st place teams from the Championship and Trillium division will move up
	McGregor Cup	Premier (9) Championship (27) Trillium	Challenge Cup Rankings	7th – 9th place teams from the Premier and Championship divisions will move down 1st place teams from the Championship and Trillium division will move up
	Bugarski Cup	Premier (9) Championship (27) Trillium	McGregor Cup Rankings	
	Ontario Championships		Average points from a team's top 2 finishes	The Bugarski Cup Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for OC Seeding

Competitive Division	Tournament	Divisions	Seeding within Tournament Draw	Realignment for the Next Event
Realignment and division sizes may vary as this chart is ONLY A PREDICTION/GUIDELINE and is subject to change to correlate with the registrations received				
16UG	Fall Classic (Select - 2 Day) & Provincial Cup	Select (24) Championship (54) Trillium White (63) Trillium Green	Based on the 15UG end of season rankings from 2024-2025 along with the Initial Placement Policies (Section 4.10, 4.11, 4.12)	1st – 8th place teams from the Day 2 Premier bracket will stay in Premier 1st – 5th place teams from the Day 2 Select brackets will move up to Premier 6th – 8th place teams from the Day 2 Select brackets will stay in Select 1st place teams from the Championship, Trillium White and Green divisions will move up 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship and Trillium White divisions will move down
	Challenge Cup	Premier (18) Select (27) Championship (54) Trillium White (63) Trillium Green	Provincial Cup Rankings	7th – 9th place teams from the Premier, Select, Championship and Trillium White divisions will move down 1st place teams from the Select, Championship, Trillium White and Green divisions will move up
	McGregor Cup	Premier (18) Select (27) Championship (54) Trillium White (63) Trillium Green	Challenge Cup Rankings	- Grand Prix teams will be selected using a team's average points from their best two events - The McGregor Cup Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for Grand Prix Seeding) - Any remaining Premier teams from the McGregor Cup will move down to the Select division 7th – 9th place teams from the Select, Championship and Trillium White divisions will move down 1st place teams from the Championship, Trillium White and Green divisions will move up
	Grand Prix (2 day) & Bugarski Cup	Grand Prix (12) Select (27) Championship (45) Trillium White (54) Trillium Green	McGregor Cup Rankings (Grand Prix – Top 2 average)	
	Ontario Championships		Average points from a team's top 2 finishes	The Bugarski Cup Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for OC Seeding
16UB	Fall Classic (Select - 2 Day) & Provincial Cup	Select (24) Championship (27) Trillium	Based on the 15UB end of season rankings from 2024-2025 along with the Initial Placement Policies (Section 4.10, 4.11, 4.12)	7th place teams from the Day 2 Premier bracket will move down to Select 1st place teams from the Day 2 Select brackets will move up to Premier 7th place teams from the Day 2 Select brackets will move down to Championship 1st place teams from the Championship and Trillium divisions will move up 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down
	Challenge Cup	Premier (9) Select (18) Championship (27) Trillium	Provincial Cup Rankings	7th – 9th place teams from the Premier, Select and Championship divisions will move down 1st place teams from the Select, Championship and Trillium divisions will move up
	McGregor Cup	Premier (9) Select (18) Championship (27) Trillium	Challenge Cup Rankings	- Grand Prix teams will be selected using a team's average points from their best two events - The McGregor Cup Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for Grand Prix Seeding) - Any remaining Premier teams from the McGregor Cup will move down to the Select division 7th – 9th place teams from the Select and Championship divisions will move down 1st place teams from the Championship and Trillium divisions will move up
	Grand Prix (2 day) & Bugarski Cup	Grand Prix (12) Select (18) Championship (27) Trillium	McGregor Cup Rankings (Grand Prix – Top 2 average)	
	Ontario Championships		Average points from a team's top 2 finishes	The Bugarski Cup Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for OC Seeding

Competitive Division	Tournament	Divisions	Seeding within Tournament Draw	Realignment for the Next Event
Realignment and division sizes may vary as this chart is ONLY A PREDICTION/GUIDELINE and is subject to change to correlate with the registrations received				
17UG	Fall Classic (Select - 2 Day) & Provincial Cup	Select (24) Championship (36) Trillium White (54) Trillium Green	Based on the 16UG end of season rankings from 2024-2025 along with the Initial Placement Policies (Section 4.10, 4.11, 4.12)	7th place teams from the Day 2 Premier bracket will move down to Select 1st place teams from the Day 2 Select brackets will move up to Premier 7th place teams from the Day 2 Select brackets will move down to Championship 1st place teams from the Championship, Trillium White and Green divisions will move up 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship and Trillium White divisions will move down
	Challenge Cup	Premier (9) Select (27) Championship (45) Trillium White (54) Trillium Green	Provincial Cup Rankings	7th – 9th place teams from the Premier, Select, Championship and Trillium White divisions will move down 1st place teams from the Select, Championship, Trillium White and Green divisions will move up
	McGregor Cup	Premier (9) Select (27) Championship (45) Trillium White (63) Trillium Green	Challenge Cup Rankings	- Grand Prix teams will be selected using a team's average points from their best two events - The McGregor Cup Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for Grand Prix Seeding) - Any remaining Premier teams from the McGregor Cup will move down to the Select division 7th – 9th place teams from the Select, Championship and Trillium White divisions will move down 1st place teams from the Championship, Trillium White and Green divisions will move up
	Grand Prix (2 day) & Bugarski Cup	Grand Prix (12) Select (27) Championship (45) Trillium White (63) Trillium Green	McGregor Cup Rankings (Grand Prix – Top 2 average)	
	Ontario Championships		Average points from a team's top 2 finishes	The Bugarski Cup Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for OC Seeding
17UB	Fall Classic (Championship - 2 Day) & Provincial Cup	Select (24) Championship (27) Trillium	Based on the 16UB end of season rankings from 2024-2025 along with the Initial Placement Policies (Section 4.10, 4.11, 4.12)	7th place teams from the Day 2 Premier bracket will move down to Select 1st place teams from the Day 2 Select brackets will move up to Premier 7th place teams from the Day 2 Select brackets will move down to Championship 1st place teams from the Championship and Trillium divisions will move up 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down
	Challenge Cup	Premier (9) Select (18) Championship (27) Trillium	Provincial Cup Rankings	7th – 9th place teams from the Premier, Select and Championship divisions will move down 1st place teams from the Select, Championship and Trillium divisions will move up
	McGregor Cup	Premier (9) Select (18) Championship (27) Trillium	Challenge Cup Rankings	- Grand Prix teams will be selected using a team's average points from their best two events - The McGregor Cup Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for Grand Prix Seeding) - Any remaining Premier teams from the McGregor Cup will move down to the Select division 7th – 9th place teams from the Select and Championship divisions will move down 1st place teams from the Championship and Trillium divisions will move up
	Grand Prix (2 day) & Bugarski Cup	Grand Prix (12) Select (18) Championship (27) Trillium	McGregor Cup Rankings (Grand Prix – Top 2 average)	
	Ontario Championships		Average points from a team's top 2 finishes	The Bugarski Cup Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for OC Seeding

Competitive Division	Tournament	Divisions	Seeding within Tournament Draw	Realignment for the Next Event
Realignment and division sizes may vary as this chart is ONLY A PREDICTION/GUIDELINE and is subject to change to correlate with the registrations received				
18UG	Fall Classic (Select - 2 Day) & Provincial Cup	Select (24) Championship (36) Trillium White (45) Trillium Green	Based on the 17UG end of season rankings from 2024-2025 along with the Initial Placement Policies (Section 4.10, 4.11, 4.12)	7th place teams from the Day 2 Premier bracket will move down to Select 1st place teams from the Day 2 Select brackets will move up to Premier 7th place teams from the Day 2 Select brackets will move down to Championship 1st place teams from the Championship, Trillium White and Green divisions will move up 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship and Trillium White divisions will move down
	Challenge Cup	Premier (9) Select (18) Championship (36) Trillium White (45) Trillium Green	Provincial Cup Rankings	There is no traditional realignment after the Challenge Cup leading into the next event. The New Year's Open will feature two divisions. Division 1 (top 64 teams) and Division 2 (next 64 teams). The Challenge Cup Rankings (also known as Overall Average) will be used to place and seed teams into both Divisions.
	New Year's Open (2 day)	Division 1 (64) Division 2 (64)	Challenge Cup Rankings	- GP Qualifier teams will be selected using a team's average points from their best two events. - The New Years Open Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for GP Qualifier Seeding) - The remaining tiers (Select, Championship, Trillium White & Trillium Green) will be filled and seeded based on the New Year's Open Rankings along with Section 4.10, 4.11, 4.12 and Step 2/3 of Section 5.4
	Grand Prix Qualifier (2 day) & Furlani Cup	QP Qualifier (12) Select (18) Championship (36) Trillium White (45) Trillium Green	McGregor Cup Rankings (Grand Prix Qualifier – Top 2 Average)	- The top 8 teams from the GP Qualifier will be in the Grand Prix - Any remaining teams from the Qualifier will move down to Select 1st place teams from the Championship, Trillium White and Green divisions will move up 7th – 9th place teams from the Select, Championship and Trillium White divisions will move down
	Grand Prix (2 day) & Bugarski Cup (2 day)	Grand Prix (8) Select (24) Championship (36) Trillium White (48) Trillium Green	Furlani Cup Rankings	
	Ontario Championships		Average points from a team's top 2 finishes	- Division 1 at the Ontario Championships will feature a 16 team draw with a modified format - The Bugarski Cup Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for OC Seeding
18UB	Fall Classic (Championship - 2 Day) & Provincial Cup	Championship (20) Trillium	Based on the 17UB end of season rankings from 2023-2024 along with the Initial Placement Policies (Section 4.10, 4.11, 4.12)	8th place team from the Day 2 Premier bracket will move down to Championship 1st – 2nd place teams from the Day 2 Championship bracket will move up to Premier 11th – 12th place teams from the Day 2 Championship bracket will move down to Trillium 1st place teams from Trillium will move up to Championship
	Challenge Cup	Premier (9) Championship (18) Trillium	Provincial Cup Rankings	There is no traditional realignment after the Challenge Cup leading into the next event. The New Year's Open will feature two divisions. Division 1 (top 32 teams) and Division 2 (next 32 teams). The Challenge Cup Rankings (also known as Overall Average) will be used to place and seed teams into both Divisions.
	New Year's Open (2 day)	Division 1 (32) Division 2 (32)	Challenge Cup Rankings	- GP Qualifier teams will be selected using a team's average points from their best two events. - The New Years Open Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for GP Qualifier Seeding) - The remaining tiers (Championship & Trillium) will be filled and seeded based on the New Year's Open Rankings along with Section 4.10, 4.11, 4.12 and Step 2/3 of Section 5.4
	Grand Prix Qualifier (2 day) & Furlani Cup	GP Qualifier (12) Championship (18) Trillium	McGregor Cup Rankings (Grand Prix Qualifier – Top 2 average)	- The top 8 teams from the GP Qualifier will be in the Grand Prix - Any remaining teams from the Qualifier will move down to Championship 1st place teams from the Trillium division will move up 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down
	Grand Prix (2 day) & Bugarski Cup (2 day)	Grand Prix (8) Championship (24) Trillium	Furlani Cup Rankings (Grand Prix – Based on QPQ final standings)	- Division 1 at the Ontario Championships will feature a 16 team draw with a modified format - The Bugarski Cup Rankings (also known as the Overall Average) will be used as the tiebreaker for OC Seeding
	Ontario Championships		Average points from a team's top 2 finishes	

5.3 Placement for the First Event of the Season

- 15U – 18U
 - Teams will be split and seeded using their Ontario Championship finish from 2025.
 - AS A REMINDER - Of age teams will be “bumped down” to account for these three policies:
 - Initial Placement Adjustment for New Clubs/Teams
 - Initial Placement Adjustment for Teams without Ontario Championship results
 - Placement for Underage Teams
 - For example - If the top 45 teams are going to start the year in Championship and the Red Bears have a result of 45th at the 2025 Ontario Championships, there is a very good chance the Red Bears will not start the year in Championship after adding in teams based on the above policies.
 - Please see Section 5.1 [HERE](#) for the Fall Classic Qualification Process
- TLS
 - TLS Girls teams will self-declare into Select (Tier 1), Championship (Tier 2) or Trillium (Tier 3) for the Provincial Cup. Teams will be seeded within the division of their choosing based on their 2025 Ontario Championships results.
 - TLS Boys teams will self-declare in Championship (Tier 1) or Trillium (Tier 2) for the Provincial Cup. Teams will be seeded withing the division of their choosing based on their 2025 Ontario Championship results.
- 6v6
 - 6v6 Girls teams will self-declare into Select (Tier 1), Championship (Tier 2) or Trillium (Tier 3) for the Provincial Cup. Teams will be seeded at random within the division of their choosing.
 - 6v6 Boys teams will all be placed into Trillium and seeded at random.
- 4v4
 - Teams will all be placed into Trillium and seeded at random.

5.4 Promotion for Vacancies in Tournament Draws

After promotion/relegation occurs, as outlined on the tournament schedule, any additional open spots (in all tiers) will be filled using the following criteria, in the order listed:

- If the 1st place team from a Select, Championship, Trillium White or Trillium Green event does not register for the next event, the 2nd place team will be moved up to ensure all events receive representation.
- Any underage team that meets the requirements outlined in [Section 4.11 “Placement for underage teams”](#) in the Youth Competitions Manual.
- Teams who have missed previous events but should be in a specific division from a competitive balance perspective.
 - Example: Spikers finished 4th place in Championship at the Challenge Cup. Spikers missed the McGregor Cup event but will then stay in Championship for the Bugarski Cup event if there is a vacancy available.
 - Example: The Red Wings finished 1st in Trillium White at the Provincial Cup. The Red Wings missed the Challenge Cup and McGregor Cup events but will be promoted to Championship for the Bugarski Cup event if there is a vacancy available.
- Promotion of 2nd place teams from the most recent event will be considered.
 - Example: If 1 vacancy remains in Trillium White for the McGregor Cup, only the 2nd place teams from the Trillium Green Challenge Cup will be considered.

- Team's rank: All registered teams will be considered in this final step which is the only time a team set to be relegated down will be considered to fill a vacancy.
 - Provincial and Challenge Cup 9th (last) place teams are not considered in this step (unless noted otherwise or if all 3rd place teams have already been promoted) and will be relegated down. 9th place (last) teams from the McGregor and Furlani Cups will be considered in this final step when filling tournament vacancies.

Note: A team's rank is defined as their average points awarded during the current season. Rank will be used as the tiebreaker if fewer vacancies are available in a specific division, then the number of eligible teams for each of the criteria listed above. Out of province teams will not fall into the above criteria as they will be treated on a case-by-case scenario.

5.5 Tournament Exemptions (15U-18U ONLY)

This exemption will provide a team that has demonstrated the ability to compete at the highest level available in the age class the option to maintain their placement within a division, despite missing an OVA event.

- A maximum of one team will be awarded an exemption per event for the current season in each age category.
- The team must be ranked in the top four teams in terms of the most recent rankings in the entire age category (Boys or Girls)
- Exemptions can be granted only once per season, per team.
- Exemptions only secure a spot until the next scheduled tournament. After this date all exemptions are VOID.
- Exemption does not secure ranking/seeding within a division; ranking continues to be based on average overall points.
- The number of teams moving up or down after a tournament will vary based on the number of exemptions granted. This will be noted on the schedules for these tournaments prior to the event.
- Teams must declare to the OVA tournament coordinator their intent to file for exemption **6 weeks** prior to the tournament they are scheduled to miss.
- A team's rank will be used to prioritize exemptions if more than two teams apply for the same event.

There are no tournament exemptions for:

- 4v4 Rallyball, 6v6 Rallyball and TLS Events
- 15U – 18U Provincial Cup Events
- 18U Grand Prix Qualifier Events

Section 5.5 is the only way for a team to guarantee they keep their placement in a specific division. However, step 3 of section 5.4 allows for most teams who miss an event to maintain their division placement through tournament vacancies.

5.6 Regular Season Tournament Ranking, Realignment & Seeding

Rankings:

Regular Season Rankings are posted after each event (6v6 – 18U). For example, the McGregor Cup Rankings are posted after the McGregor Cup and are based on these six steps:

- Overall average
- The number of OVA events the team has participated in their age division
- A team's result in the most recent OVA event and working backwards to the first event of the season

- A team's result at the previous Ontario Championships
- A team's seed going into the previous Ontario Championships
- Coin toss

Realignment:

Realignment takes place after each regular season event to ensure optimal competitive balance is achieved throughout the season. Realignment is initially based on a team's result at the most recent event. The standard realignment (i.e. 1st place teams move up and the 7th – 9th place teams move down (unless noted otherwise)) takes place followed by Section 5.4 to fill in all remaining vacancies. The predicted seasonal structure for each age group can be found in Section 5.2.

Tournament Seeding:

Regular Season Tournaments (unless noted otherwise) are seeded based on the most recent Tournament Ranking. For example, the McGregor Cup events are seeded based on the Challenge Cup Rankings.

Reminder There is a difference between the words RANKING and RESULT. For example, the Bugarski Cup Rankings are posted after the Bugarski Cup and are based on the 6 step criteria listed above while a Bugarski Cup Result is a specific result at the Bugarski Cup (i.e. 2nd place, 5th place, etc.).

16U – 17U Grand Prix and 18U Grand Prix Qualifier tournament seeding is based on a team's top 2 average followed by the six-step process above.

18U Grand Prix tournament seeding is based on a team's result at the 18U Grand Prix Qualifier.

5.7 Tie Breaking Procedures for Pool Play Ranking

If two or more teams, within a pool, are tied at the end of the preliminary round, the following criteria will be applied in order until all ties are broken, and all tied teams ranked. For example, if there is a tie between teams X, Y & Z and criteria b) can determine X as first, Y as second and Z as third, then no further criteria is needed. However, if criteria b) determines X as first (or third) and there is still a tie between Y & Z, then the ranking of the remaining teams will be determined by proceeding to criteria c) and so on, if necessary. Continue through the sequence of criteria and **DO NOT** start at a) again.

- It is important to note that in the above example, in a 3-way tie, moving to step c) or further does not mean looking at the head-to-head result between just the two remaining tied teams. In a 3-way tie, all three (3) originally tied teams' data is considered in each step of the tiebreaker until ALL three (3) placings are confirmed. An originally tied team's data is always included in the remaining steps to determine the placings of all originally tied teams even if one of the teams placing was solved in an earlier step.

Pools that play two straight sets will start at point "b" of the tiebreaking procedure as there are no matches won/lost when playing two straight sets.

- a. The team having the best ratio of won/lost matches, considering matches played between the original tied teams, will be ranked higher*
- b. The team having the best ratio of won/lost games, considering matches played between the original tied teams will be ranked higher*
- c. The team having the best ratio of won/lost games, considering all matches of the round, will be ranked higher

- d. The team having the best ratio of points for/against, considering games played between the original tied teams, will be ranked higher *
- e. The team having the best ratio of points for/against, considering ALL games played during the round robin, will be ranked higher
- f. Coin toss by the tournament director and head official in the presence of team representatives

**Note: Step a, b and d only take the original tied teams' results into account during the tie-breaking process. Do not include the results from the teams not included in the original tie.*

5.8 OVA Indoor Point System

6v6B – 15UB & 18UB				16UB & 17UB				
Rank	Premier	Championship	Trillium	Rank	Premier	Select	Championship	Trillium
1	1000	900	800	1	1000	900	800	700
2	975	875	775	2	975	875	775	675
3	960	860	760	3	960	860	760	660
4	945	845	745	4	945	845	745	645
5	930	830	730	5	930	830	730	630
6	915	815	715	6	915	815	715	615
7	895	795	695	7	895	795	695	595
8	880	780	680	8	880	780	680	580
9	865	765	665	9	865	765	665	565
10		750	650	10		750	650	550
11		750	650	11		750	650	550
12		750	650	12		750	650	550

6v6G - 18UG					
Rank	Premier	Select	Championship	Trillium (White)	Trillium (Green)
1	1000	900	800	700	600
2	975	875	775	675	575
3	960	860	760	660	560
4	945	845	745	645	545
5	930	830	730	630	530
6	915	815	715	615	515
7	895	795	695	595	495
8	880	780	680	580	480
9	865	765	665	565	465
		750	650	550	450
		750	650	550	450
		750	650	550	450

5.9 New Year's Open Point System

New Year's Open - 18UB

Tier 1 (Fri – Sat)		Tier 2 (Fri – Sat)		Tier 3 (Sat – Sun)		Tier 4 (Sat – Sun)	
1	1000	1	860	1	800	1	735
2	975	2	845	2	790	2	725
3	960	3	835	3	780	3	715
4	945	4	825	4	770	4	705
5	930	5	815	5	760	5	695
7	910	7	805	7	755	7	690
9	895	9	795	9	750	9	685
11	880	11	785	11	745	11	680
13	865	13	780	13	740	13	675

New Year's Open - 18UG (Fri - Sat)

Tier 1		Tier 2		Tier 3		Tier 4	
1	1000	1	860	1	775	1	725
2	975	2	845	2	765	2	715
3	960	3	835	3	760	3	710
4	945	4	825	4	755	4	705
5	930	5	815	5	750	5	700
7	910	7	805	7	745	7	695
9	895	9	795	9	740	9	690
11	880	11	785	11	735	11	685
13	865	13	780	13	730	13	680

New Year's Open - 18UG (Sat - Sun)

Tier 5		Tier 6		Tier 7		Tier 8	
1	690	1	640	1	590	1	540
2	680	2	630	2	580	2	530
3	675	3	625	3	575	3	525
4	670	4	620	4	570	4	520
5	665	5	615	5	565	5	515
7	660	7	610	7	560	7	510
9	655	9	605	9	555	9	505
11	650	11	600	11	550	11	500
13	645	13	595	13	545	13	495

5.10 Grand Prix Qualifier & Grand Prix Point System

18U Grand Prix Qualifier*		18U Grand Prix		16U – 17U Grand Prix	
1	1000	1	1020	1	1020
2	975	2	995	2	995
3	960	3	980	3	980
4	945	4	965	4	965
5	930	5	950	5	955
6	920	6	935	6	945
7	915	7	920	7	935
8	910	8	905	8	925
9	905			9	915
10	900			10	905
11	895			11	900
12	890			12	895

* 18U GPQ point structure will also be used for any 12 team Premier regular season events that are run.

6.0 Playing Rules and Regulations

The rules listed in the current edition of the Volleyball Canada Rule Book are in effect unless otherwise noted.

6.1 Roster Size

Teams are permitted to have a roster size of 15 athletes for any OVA Regular Season event and Ontario Championships. All 15 athletes can appear on the scoresheet and are eligible to compete in any given match.

6.2 Net Heights

Age Category	Girls	Boys
4v4	2.15m	2.20m
6v6	2.15m	2.20m
TLS	2.15m	2.20m
15U	2.20m	2.35m
16U	2.24m	2.35m
17U	2.24m	2.43m
18U	2.24m	2.43m

6.3 Libero Rules

Age Category	Libero Permitted	
	Girls	Boys
4v4 RB	NO	NO
6v6 RB	NO	NO
TLS	NO	NO
15U	NO	NO
16U	YES	YES
17U	YES	YES
18U	YES	YES

* There is only one (1) libero permitted for all age categories with a libero

6.4 Substitution Rules

Age Category	# of Substitutions	
	Girls	Boys
4v4	Rotational	Rotational
6v6	Fairplay	Fairplay
TLS	Fairplay	Fairplay
15U	12 Limited	12 Limited
16U	6 Limited	6 Limited
17U	6 Limited	6 Limited
18U	6 Limited	6 Limited

- "Rotational" means players on the bench are part of the player rotations. Players will come off the court upon the completion of the rallyball sequence following their serve. See 4v4 playing regulations ([Section 6.8](#)) for detailed information about rotations in the 4v4 Rallyball division.
 - 12 sub limited (one entry & one exit per player) in age categories with **NO** Libero
 - 6 sub limited (one entry & one exit per player) in age categories **WITH** a Libero

6.5 Mandatory Pre-Game Warm Up Protocol

When one team has exclusive use of the court, the other team must either be at its team bench, out of the playing area or shagging balls for the opposing team (optional). Warming up with volleyballs at the team bench, behind the court, in the spectator walkways or anywhere else in the venue **is not permitted**.

The following warm-up protocol will be in effect unless stated otherwise:

- Primary Warm-up Protocol – (8-4-4): For all teams first match of the day
 - Eight (8) minutes of shared court time for ballhandling
 - Four (4) minutes of exclusive time for the serving Team
 - Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for the receiving Team
 - No shared hitting and serving
- Secondary Warm-up Protocol – (2-4-4): For all other Matches within the tournament
 - Two (2) minutes of shared court time for ball handling
 - Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for serving Team
 - Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for the receiving Team
 - No shared hitting and serving

Shared Court (2mins or 8mins)	Referee(s): Check net height, visual check to ensure net and court are safe to play, then conduct coin toss. Head coaches prepare lineup forms.
	Teams: On court activities (stretching/pepper), designated sides ONLY.
Serving team warm-up (4mins)	Referee(s): Whistle start of the 4min warm-up for serving team. Conducts instructions for score keepers and lines persons, inspects equipment and playing surface.

	Teams: Serving team has entire court; receiving team is off the court with NO volleyball use (suggestion - The receiving team may help shag balls during the serving team's warm up).
Receiving team warm-up (4mins)	Referee(s): Whistle the end of the 4 min warm-up for serving team and start of the 4min warm-up for receiving team. Line-ups are collected from both coaches.
	Teams: Serving team has entire court; receiving team is off the court with NO volleyball use (suggestion - The receiving team may help shag balls during the serving team's warm up).

Warm-up Protocol Adjustment for all convention centre events

Teams are now required to warm-up from baseline to net instead of the sideline to sideline. This is to help cut down the number of rogue volleyballs affecting play on nearby courts.

- This rule is mandatory for convention centres but is also recommended for all regular season tournaments when there are tight courts side by side.

Hitting Warm up Protocol

- To reduce the incidence of injuries and concussions during warm-up and to further align with Volleyball Canada, updates have been made the OVA's warm-up protocol. This protocol is to be followed by all teams during the designated on-court warm-up time:
 - Designate one side of the court as the attacking side and ask spectators to avoid sitting in this area.
 - Hitting should be directed away from courts with active games and from spectator seating areas.
 - Any ball from the receiving side of the court, entered to the attacking side, must be entered from outside of the court. **Coaches are not permitted inside the court on the receiving side.**
 - Retrieved balls must be returned along the sidelines of the court and not through the receiving court.
 - Players are permitted to pass on court (either side) during the serving portion of warm-ups, even if multiple balls are being served at the same time but must stay on the same side during hitting warm-ups.
 - If the team is using both sides of the court, i.e., full court game type activity – only one ball can be in play at any given time.
 - Opposing teams are not permitted to use volleyballs in the free zone during the other team's allocated court time. It is recommended for the opposing team to support the retrieval of volleyballs for the team on the court.
 - Athletes should not be crossing under the net during hitting warmups into the direct path of the balls.

RECOMMENDATION: The team that is not participating in the hitting warm up retrieves the balls for the on-court team.

6.6 Step in Rule

A one foot step in on a serve is permitted at any OVA regular season event in facilities with less than 2.0 meters at the base line. The ball must be contacted prior to the trailing foot crossing the line. The trailing foot may not pass the lead foot but is permitted to enter the court.

If a court has different amounts of free space on each end line, a step in will only be permitted on the end line that has less than 2.0m of free space.

6.7 Fair Play Rule

- Any player on the starting scoresheet who does not start the first set must start the second set.
- In the case of a team with less than 12 players on the game roster, players who played in the first set and who are starting the second set can be substituted at any time during the second set (**Ontario only**).
- In the case of an injury, an Exceptional Substitution may be made. The injured/ill player may not return to the same set but may return to play in subsequent sets. Emotional distress can be considered an Exceptional Substitution.
- Fair Play Clarification due to addition of 14 player roster:
 - Only 14 players can be on the scoresheet for any given match. These 14 players registered on the scoresheet are the only ones eligible to participate in the match. The 14 players registered on the scoresheet may vary from match to match.
- 12 different players must start either the first or second set. There are no restrictions on who can play in the third set. The remaining one or two players must start the third set or start the first set of the next match (Round Robin or Playoffs). This rule does not change if it is a possible elimination playoff game.
 - If a match is completed in two sets, the 13th and/or 14th player(s) must start the 1st set of the team's next match.
 - If a match goes to a third set, the 13th and/or 14th player(s) must start either the third set of the current match or the first set of the team's next match.
 - It is up to the coach as to if they would like the 13th and/or 14th player(s) in the 3rd set or save them for the 1st set of the next match even if it is an elimination match.
- A player who did not play the first set cannot be substituted in the second set.
- Substitutions follow the normal substitution rules. Twelve (12) sub limited (one entry and one exit per player) rule will be in effect for the third set for 6v6 Rallyball - 15U and 6 sub limited for 16U.
- Fair play rules will be in effect for the following age divisions:
 - 6v6 Rallyball Boys and Girls.
 - TLS Boys and Girls.
 - 15U Boys and Girls for pool play matches only (including Day 1 & 2 of Ontario Championships (**Ontario only**)).
 - 16U Boys and Girls for pool play matches only in the Trillium Divisions at regular season events (does NOT include Ontario Championships) (**Ontario only**).
 - Note: The libero is considered a starting position within the fair play rule.
- Coaches that do not roster athletes on the score sheet or misrepresent an athlete's playing status to avoid compliance with the fair play rule, will be subject to a sanction of \$100 per occurrence and possible forfeit of results.
- Coaches are responsible for tracking fair play rules throughout the day to ensure they are in compliance with fair play rules. Coaches that are found to be in non-compliance with the fair play rules during an event will be subject to forfeiture of matches in the event.
- An athlete can still line and not play in the game if they are injured. They would be scratched from the roster.

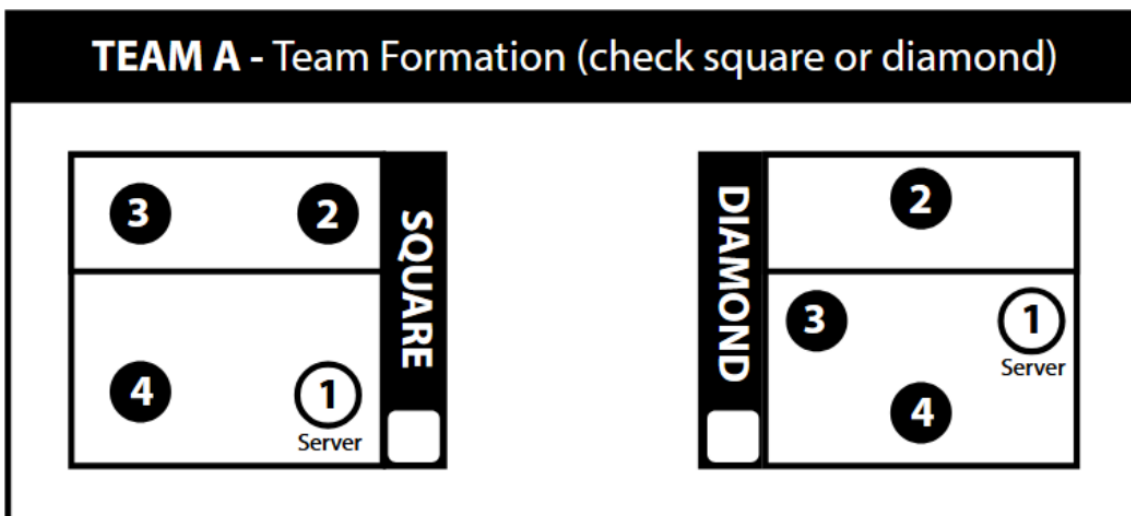
Note: Please check Volleyball Canada's National Championship Competition Manual for Fair Play rules as they may differ from the above.

Compliance Procedure: The head coach must submit a standard roster form at the first match of the day. This roster will be used for the duration of the day. The same roster sheet must be used for ALL matches. The verification by the scorekeeper and 1st official will be conducted for all matches. If a player is unable to play, it must be noted on the score sheet.

Please check Volleyball Canada's National Championship Competition Manual for Fair Play rules as they may differ from the above.

6.8 4v4 Rallyball Playing Regulations

- Players not on the court must rotate into the game upon completion of the Tripleball sequence that follows their serve. For example: Player A serves the ball and stays on court for the following 2 free balls to complete the Tripleball sequence. Once that sequence is complete, Player A rotates out of the court and player B takes their place on the court.
- All team members must play in each set. The only exception to this rule is if a team has more than 10 players on their roster, in which case they can be split into two groups who each participate in a single set. If the match goes to a third set tiebreaker, the coach can play one of the groups a second time in the match.
- Systems of Play:
 - Teams must designate the setter position and maintain it for the whole set. The designated setting position must be front row.
 - The player(s) in the back court (serve receiver/server) are permitted to attack from anywhere on the court.
 - Teams can use a diamond or square (2 front, 2 back) defensive formation.
 - NOTE: The server is always the player who has just rotated from the front row to the back row.
 - Example in box formation: the player who was just in the front row right side position will be the server once they complete a rotation.
 - Example in diamond formation: the player who was just in the front row middle (#2 in the diagram below) and is rotating to the position on the right is now the server.
 - First Serve Clarification:
 - If Team A serves first in set 1, then Team B serves first in set 2, and Team A serves first in set 3. This means the first serve in a new set is always given to the team that did not serve first in the previous set.



For more information and full playing regulations on 4v4 Rallyball, please visit the Early Contact Initiative section of the OVA Website located [HERE](#).

- Introduction of Ranking for 4v4 Rallyball
 - There will be a team ranking posted after the 4th and final event prior to the Ontario Championships (Bugarski Cup Rankings). This change has been introduced to increase scheduling options and ensure competitive balance during the Ontario Championships.
 - The focus of the Bugarski Cup will continue to be developmental, and there will be no play-offs and no medals. The rankings posted after the Bugarski Cup will be used to seed the Ontario Championship 4v4 Rallyball divisions and will be based on a team's set ratio from the Bugarski Cup ONLY.
 - 4v4G teams will self-declare into Division 1 or Division 2, and a team's set ratio from the Bugarski Cup will seed teams within each Division. The self-declare deadline for 4v4G is 11:59 p.m. on Monday, February 16. A link will be sent to all teams in early February.
 - A team's set ratio from the Bugarski Cup will be used as a secondary criterion to adjust a team's self-declare option (If needed) to ensure the correct number of teams are placed in each Division.
 - Division 1 and Division 2 will both be tiered into smaller playoff brackets on Day 2 to maximize competitive balance.
 - If a 4v4 team participating in the Ontario Championships does not participate in the 4v4 Bugarski Cup, they will be seeded last in their Ontario Championships.

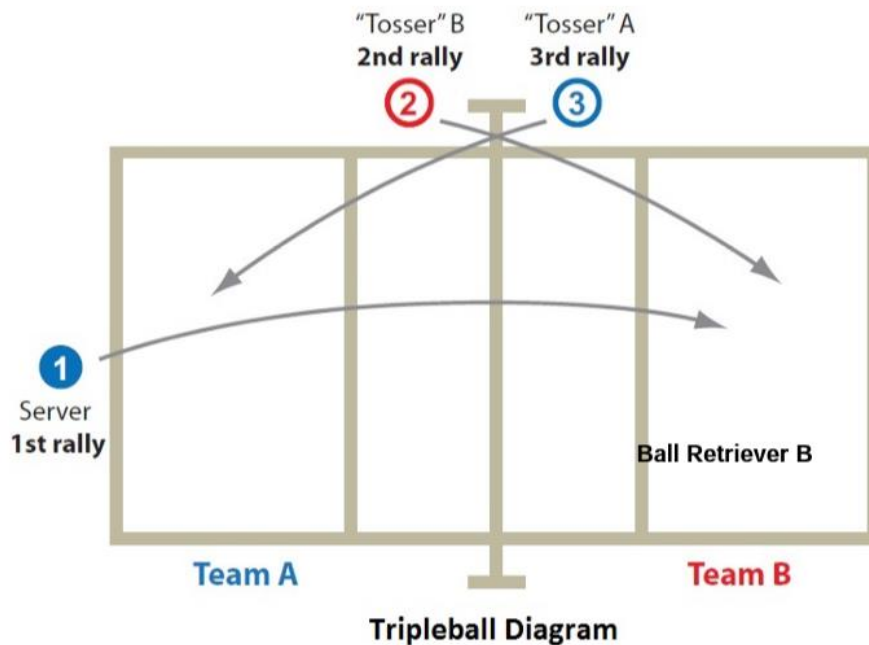
6.9 6v6 Rallyball Playing Regulations

The goal of Tripleball is to promote better skill development, participation, meaningful competition, and fun.

Overview of the Tripleball Sequence:

- a) The game follows a sequence of three rallies (service, tossed ball 1, tossed ball 2).
 - * 1st rally – introduced by the server
 - * 2nd rally – tossed ball given to the receiving team
 - * 3rd rally – tossed ball given to the serving team
- b) The service rotates between teams after each three-ball sequence.
- c) A team must rotate and introduce a new server when it is their turn to serve.
- d) Every ball introduced is worth one point.

Ball Retriever A



6v6 Rallyball Rules

- Requests for substitutions can only occur between a three-ball sequence
- In the deciding set, teams switch sides once a team reaches 8 points (if side switching is needed on the court due to an unfair advantage). If this occurs during a three-ball sequence, then the change of court will be made after the sequence is completed.
- Teams are required to declare on the scoresheet a designated setter position on the court prior to the start of each set.
 - Example: if a team circles position 3 on their lineup, the athlete in position 3 is the "setter" throughout that set.
 - Rule Clarification – the setter is allowed to come out of position #1, #2, or #3. The setter position must remain the same for the entire set.
 - Other players are permitted to perform the second contact if needed, but it is up to the official's discretion to issue a warning to the team if they feel that the team is not using their designated setter position properly. Further discipline is possible if the team refuses to follow this rule.
- The free ball toss occurs when the three front row athletes are standing at the net and ready to transition. Once there is a verbal/non-verbal cue (tosser can say "Free Ball" or slap the volleyball), athletes are permitted to transition off the net.
- The freeball introduction toss can be directed to position 5 or 6. The toss must be consistent in each match.
- Free balls must be received with a forearm pass, otherwise a replay will occur.
- An overpass from the free ball toss is not a re-toss. Play continues.
- When serving, players cannot switch positions after the serve. Players must remain in their rotational order until the ball crosses back to their side of the net. Once the ball crosses back over to their side, normal volleyball movement is allowed during the play, but players must come back to their rotational order once the ball is sent to the other side of the net.

- i) When in serve reception, the players' serve reception configuration needs to be the same throughout the set along with the designated setter position.
 - o Common Misinterpretations of the Rule: Teams can isolate players in serve reception in certain rotations
 - FALSE: Teams need to keep the same serve-reception configuration throughout the whole set. A position can be isolated (ex. Athlete in position 1), but that position needs to be consistently isolated throughout the set.
- j) To improve the flow of the game, it is recommended that each team provide a ball retriever who collects the balls from athletes at the end of a rally. Please remain at a safe distance from the court during play.

Guidelines for Tossers:

- a) The Head Coach, Assistant Coach or a competent volunteer may be the Tosser and introduce balls to their own team. To clarify, the Tosser is not allowed to "verbally coach while tossing" even if they are a HC or AC.
- b) Balls are tossed underhand with two hands, with little to no spin and above the height of the antennae to allow athletes time to play the ball.
- c) The Tosser can step into the court to introduce the ball but must immediately move a safe distance away from the court after the toss.
- d) The free ball will be introduced directly to the athlete in position 5 or 6, otherwise a replay will occur.
- e) The free ball will be introduced when the front row players are at the net and ready to transition; the Tosser verbally cues the athletes by calling "Free Ball". Tossers encourage a fast-paced transition between the end of a rally and the next toss.

6v6 Rallyball Reminders

- o The 6v6 regular season tier structure is set up with a developmental focus. The goal of this division is to prepare teams for the Traditional Limited Specialized (TLS) division. If you are a very strong 6v6 team and are not finding the 6v6 level of competition meaningful, your team should strongly consider moving to TLS. This will not only improve your team's meaningful competition but also the competitive balance for the remaining teams in 6v6.
 - o A team is not required to play in all four (4) tournaments within Early Contact Initiative (ECI) age categories. They may begin the season in one category and progress into another. Teams are only required to participate in 2 events within the same division they are registered for the Ontario Championships to qualify.

6.10 TLS: Event #1 and Event #2: All Position Events

The first and second events in TLS will be all-position events, which means the rotational order of the players needs to be respected.

- No specialization is allowed.
 - o Everyone plays in each position.
 - o The designated setting position needs to be noted on the scoresheet at the beginning of each set by the head coach. Each player will become the designated setter when they are in that position.
 - Rule Clarification – the setter is allowed to come out of position #1, #2, or #3. The setter position must remain the same for the entire set.
 - Ex: The Spikers have their designated setter in position 2 while the Rockets have their designated setter in position 3.

- When serving, players cannot switch positions after the serve. Normal volleyball movement is allowed during the play, but players must come back to their rotational order once the ball is sent to the other side of the net.
- When in serve reception, the players' serve reception configuration needs to be the same throughout the set along with the designated setter position.
- All serve receive formations are permitted, but again, the serve receive formation needs to be the same throughout the set.
- REMINDER – TLS competition allows athletes to receive a serve with the overhead pass
- Common Misinterpretations of the Rule:
 - The play stops if someone other than the designated setter sets the ball
 - FALSE: The only thing that matters is that players keep their rotational order, so the play doesn't stop if someone else sets the ball, just like in Rallyball.
 - Teams can isolate players in serve reception in certain rotations
 - FALSE: Teams need to keep the same serve-reception configuration throughout the whole set. A position can be isolated (ex. Athlete in position 1), but that position needs to be consistently isolated throughout the set.
- Servers will be limited to 5 consecutive serves by each player while in the serving position
 - Once the 5th serve is completed and the serving team still has possession, a new player rotates into the serving position
 - **It is the team's responsibility to monitor the number of consecutive serves an athlete has completed.** If a player serves more than 5 serves, the referee will signal a fault. The serving team will lose all points earned after the 5th serve and will lose a service. The opposing team will earn a point and gain the serve.
 - Rule Clarification:
 - A max of 5 serves is for each rotation and not per player. After 5 serves, everyone rotates, regardless of whether there were substitutions.
 - If the serving team exceeds the serve limit, they do not rotate after the fault. The opposing team will get a point and serve the next ball. Once the team who had the original serving fault receives serve again, they will rotate to ensure a server is not skipped.

6.11 TLS: Events #3 and #4

For events 3-4, teams can pick the semi-specialized system of their choice:

- Full specialization using a 5-1 system is NOT allowed at any tournament for TLS
- Teams must pick a partially specialized system such as a 6-2, 6-3 or 4-2 or stick with the 6-6 system of events 1 & 2.
 - There must be 2 or more setters on the court at all times. The designated setting positions will depend on the chosen system.
 - Rule Clarification – In a 6-2 formation, the setter can come from the front row for one rotation as long as the 3 setting positions are the same for each setter throughout the entire match.
- Regardless of the system (6-2, 4-2 or 6-3), the Serve Receive formation must remain the same for each setter.
 - Example: You are running a 6-2 formation, with your setter coming from Position 1 (back row). In Rotation 1 (Setter in Position 1, non-active Setter in Position 4), you decide to have your non-active Setter back up into the serve receive formation. This is permitted. However, in Rotation 4

(the non-active Setter has now become the active setter), you must have the new non-active Setter also back up into the serve receive formation.”

- It is expected that coaches will abide by the rules outlined above, as these are in place with the best interest of each athlete’s development in mind. Should a coach be found not abiding by these rules in games, referees are instructed to follow the following 2-step procedure:
 - Referee to provide the team captain with an explanation of the infraction, along with a verbal warning to the coach.
 - Referee to award a point to the opposing team, signaling a “rotational error” if it happens again.
 - This will continue each time a team commits a violation.
- REMINDER – TLS competition allows athletes to receive a serve with the overhead pass
- Players can switch positions after the serve.
- Servers will be limited to 5 consecutive serves by each player while in the serving position
 - Once the 5th serve is completed and the serving team still has possession, a new player rotates into the serving position
 - **It is the team’s responsibility to monitor the number of consecutive serves an athlete has completed.** If a player serves more than 5 serves, the referee will signal a fault. The serving team will lose all points earned after the 5th serve and will lose a service. The opposing team will earn a point and gain the serve
 - Rule Clarification:
 - A max of 5 serves is for each rotation and not per player. After 5 serves, everyone rotates, regardless of whether there were substitutions.
 - If the serving team exceeds the serve limit, they do not rotate after the fault. The opposing team will get a point and serve the next ball. Once the team who had the original serving fault receives serve again, they will rotate to ensure a server is not skipped.

***REMEMBER:**

- NO SPECIALIZATION = no specialized players (6-6 systems).
- FULL SPECIALIZATION = all players are specialized (5-1 system).
- LIMITED SPECIALIZATION = some players are specialized, and some are not.

For more information and full playing regulations on Traditional Limited Specialization (TLS), please visit the ECI page on the OVA website located [HERE](#).

6.12 Serve Receive Rule

4v4 Rallyball & 6v6 Rallyball are not permitted to receive a serve with an overhead motion using the fingers. The first referee will use the “double contact” signal to indicate this infraction. TLS to 18U competition allows athletes to receive a serve with the overhead pass.

6.13 Game Day Scheduling

The Tournament director has the authority (in consultation with coaches and the Head Official) to move matches ahead and/or move matches to a different court than scheduled, to avoid delays and shorten the length of the tournament day as long as the format is kept the same.

6.14 No Side Switching Between Sets for All OVA Events

The 25/26 season will adopt and expand the 24/25 Convention Centre pilot to no side switching in-between sets for ALL regular season events in addition to the Convention Centre and Ontario Championship events.

- If the head referee determines there is a clear advantage on one side, then a side switch will take place between sets for that court. The head referee will make the decision at the start of the day as to which

courts in the venue (if any) will require a side switch to maintain consistency throughout the day for all teams.

- Any side switching decision must be made before the start of the match. A side switching request mid match will not be accepted unless there was a change to the venue's structure.

6.15 Noise Makers

The use of any type of noise makers (cowbells, air horns, drums, whistles, phone applications, etc) is prohibited. Spectators will be asked to refrain from using these devices. If they continue to use them, they will be confiscated.

6.16 Pom Poms

The use of Pom Poms will no longer be allowed on the team benches or the area where athletes stand at the end of their team bench at regular season or Ontario Championship events. This is due to the amount of tinsel that makes its way onto the court, creating an unsafe playing surface for athletes.

- Spectators may still use Pom Poms to cheer on the athletes in the spectator seating area ONLY.

6.17 OVA Emergency Hotline

The OVA Emergency hotline is available to coaches and event hosts to assist with a variety of issues that may occur during a tournament. These issues often need immediate assistance and require consulting an OVA staff person, including but not limited to:

- Teams unable to travel due to weather
- Permit issues on site
- Tiebreaking assistance
- Any type of altercation on site
- Scheduling issue (ranking, seeding, team drop out)
- Protests

OVA Emergency HOTLINE: 647-467-5514

6.18 Cameras and Tripods

Teams are permitted to record matches throughout OVA events, however, please note:

- Tripods are not permitted on the sport court or field of play, nor can they be placed in any team or player areas (Team bench, warm up zone, serving zone)
- Tripods cannot be placed in areas not permitted for spectators
- The OVA is not responsible for any damage to the camera or related equipment
- The OVA reserves the right to restrict/deny the filming of any matches or to move or remove a camera

6.19 Lining and Scoring

The 24/25 Lining and Scoring protocol will continue for the 25/26 season. The lining and scoring for the 25/26 season will reflect the Volleyball Canada system which has been in place for the past three seasons and will be applied to all regular season events for the 15U to 18U divisions, including convention centre events and the Ontario Championships.

- Each team will be required to provide one athlete per game to act in the role of line judge.
- The athlete line judge will call lines for their own team (i.e. on the same side of the court as their own team bench) throughout the entirety of the match. Athlete line judges will be placed on opposite corners from each other.
- If the athlete acting as line judge is to be subbed into the match, the referee will provide adequate time for this change.

- Each team will be required to provide one volunteer per match to act in the role of Scorer or Assistant Scorer. This role may be completed by a parent or any supporter of the team. This individual should not be changed once the match protocols have started.
- The Assistant Scorer will be responsible for the manual scoreboard while the Scorer will be responsible for the scoresheet.
- Clarification around roster size for 15U – 18U lining duties.
 - Should a team not have sufficient athletes (roster of eight or fewer) to fill this role, the opposing team will be asked to supply an athlete volunteer from their roster to fill the second line judge role. If this is not possible, the referee may approve that no line judges will be used for that game/match.
 - If a team having nine or more athletes on their roster chooses not to comply with the line judge requirements, they will receive a three-point penalty per set that they do not comply in addition to the \$75 per match fine as per the OVA Fines and Sanctions Chart. This will be administered by providing the opposing team with three points at the start of each set that they do not comply (i.e. the beginning score of the set will be 3-0 for the opposing team).
- If a team of any roster size does not provide a volunteer scorekeeper, they will receive a three-point penalty per set that they do not comply in addition to the \$75 per match fine as per the OVA Fines and Sanctions Chart.
 - To clarify, if a 15U – 18U team does not provide both an athlete line judge (when the team has 9 or more on the roster) and a scorekeeper (any roster size), the team would receive a \$150 per match fine and would start each set down 0-6 that they do not provide both a line judge and scorekeeper.

*Please note, the athlete lining protocol above is only in effect for the 15U-18U age groups. The 4v4, 6v6 and TLS age groups (ECI) will still use parent/team volunteers as both scorers and liners.

- To clarify: the penalty for not providing a line (any roster size) and/or scorekeeper (any roster size) volunteer at the ECI age groups will result in the same fines/penalty as mentioned above.

Those who are interested in using a free e-module on how to fill out a scoresheet, please click [HERE](#). Additional resources can be found on the OVA Hosting Page located [HERE](#).

Teams will not be responsible for lining or scoring matches if the host has provided event staff.

6.20 Protests

To officially protest or appeal a decision, the captain must launch the protest **immediately** to the first referee who will then indicate to the scorekeeper that a protest has been lodged. In case of an incident during a match, the protest has to be requested at the moment the incident occurs, **before play resumes**.

Protests - Any protest or appeal at an OVA Tournament will be overseen by a Competition Jury, composed of any three of the following:

- A representative of the Hosting team (Jury Chairperson)
- The head official or approved designate
- An OVA representative (if on site)
- A non-partisan OVA member appointed by the head official

The Competition Jury has the highest level of authority at the event, and its decisions take precedence and cannot be appealed. They are in place to evaluate complaints and render decisions regarding issues that arise about the event organization and all technical matters. The Head Official or approved designate will assume the role of Jury Chairperson.

The Competition Jury may be called upon to make decisions on, but not limited to any of the following matters:

- Competition protests
- Player eligibility
- Uniforms
- Spectators
- Playing surface/areas

The following types of issues can be protested or appealed:

- An improper decision by the referee who did not apply the rules or regulations correctly
- An improper decision of the scorer who made a mistake on the rotational order or on the score
- Please note that **judgement calls cannot be protested**. A referee's decision regarding a playing action (i.e. ball handling or misconduct) cannot be protested.
- As per Volleyball Canada's Guidelines for Referees and the rulebook, coaches yelling across the court at referees at any time is an immediate sanctionable offense. This is not appealable.
- The protest will be accepted or rejected prior to the resumption of play by the tournament jury.

In the case of an incident during a match, the protest must be requested at the moment the incident occurs and before play resumes. Please remember that NO match will be replayed, as protests must be placed the moment of the incident.

In the event of a protest, the following will occur:

- Teams must log into MRS and register for the "\$100 Protest Fee" Clinic. The fee of \$100 must be paid through MRS immediately in order to assemble the jury. The \$100 fee will be returned in 1-2 business days if the protest is upheld.
- The Head Official will notify both teams that there is a protest and will ask both teams to stay in the gym on court, until the final decision is rendered.
- The chairperson of the jury convenes the jury.
- The jury interviews the coach of the protesting team and all involved parties, as they see fit (e.g.: opposing coach, officials, captains, athletes, etc.).
- The protest is then reviewed for acceptance or refusal.
 - Refusal means that the point, game or match result stands as played.
 - Acceptance involves replaying the event in whole or in part depending on the judgement of the Jury.
- The jury deliberates and makes a decision. The chairperson of the jury informs all parties involved of the decision made.
- Once the match has ended, the captain must describe the incident on the scoresheet or on a paper attached to the scoresheet before he signs off the scoresheet.

Notes:

- ***Judgement calls are not permitted to be protested (i.e., ball handling).***
- ***Protests cannot be made once the play continues after the incident occurs.***

6.21 Purple Card Sanction Policy – All OVA Competitions

The purpose and intent of the Purple Card Sanction policy is to effectively address and sanction any inappropriate or prohibited behavior exhibited by any Ontario Volleyball member (adult or junior), parent or spectator, attending and observing any Ontario Volleyball Event. This policy is further intended to preserve order in its activities and maintain the safety and protection of all Ontario Volleyball members. This policy outlines the procedural usage of the "PURPLE" card, which supplements the yellow and red sanction cards currently used by

match Referee(s). The Ontario Volleyball Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct policy remains in effect. Please click [HERE](#) for a full copy of the Policy.

In addition to the working referee, any event in which the OVA utilizes Referee Development Teams (RDT), the RDT members supervising the playing areas will have the ability to issue purple cards. Members of the RDT can include Head Referees, Area Supervisors, and mentors.

6.22 Default Procedure

If a team is not in attendance for their scheduled match time, and it has been confirmed by the area supervisor/host that they are not currently playing another match at the facility, the referee will wait 10 minutes from the start time and then call a default for the 1st set. The referee will wait another 10 minutes, and if the team does not show up, they forfeit the match. The on-site team will win the match 25-0, 25-0 for 2/3 matches or 25-0, 25-0, 25-0 for 3/5 matches.

6.23 Assignment of Officials

All officials who work at OVA tournaments are certified Level 1 (Local Badge) or above, meet the OVA Referee Eligibility Policy and are full members of the OVA.

Age Category	Cup Tournaments	Ontario Championships
4v4 – 15U	First Officials will be provided for pool play and playoff matches at all OVA tournaments.	First Officials will be provided for pool play and playoff matches
16U – 17U	Premier: First and Second officials will be provided for pool play and playoff matches. Select, Championship & Trillium: First Officials will be provided for pool play and playoff matches.	Division 1 Tier 1 Single official will be provided for all pool play matches on Day 1 and 2 and double officials for playoff matches on Day 3. Liners will be provided for D1/T1 semifinals and medal matches on Day 3* All other divisions/tiers: Single official for all matches.
18U	Premier: First and Second officials will be provided for pool play and playoff matches. Championship & Trillium: First Officials will be provided for pool play and playoff matches.	Division 1 Tier 1 Single official will be provided for all pool play matches on Day 1. Double officials will be provided for playoff matches on Day 2 and 3. Lines people will be provided for D1/T1 semi-finals on Day 2 and medal matches on Day 3* All other divisions/tiers: Single official for all matches.

** Dependent on number of referees available on event day*

6.24 Medical Supplies at Regular Season Events

- Medical supplies or on-site medics are not provided for most regular season OVA events. Coaches/teams must have their own First Aid kits and/or supplies.
- The only regular season events that provide this service are the EY Centre; International Centre, Niagara Falls Convention Centre and Grand Prix events.

6.25 Travel Expectations for OVA Regular Season Events

- To create a competition stream that provides competitively balanced matches along with serving the entire province of Ontario, travel is required for events.
- The Youth Competitions team keeps track of all KMs travelled by each team for OVA sanctioned events throughout the season. This data comes into play as one of the criteria when creating team splits (i.e. proximity to the venue along with past travel).
- All teams across the province **should expect to make at least one 400+km (one-way) trip for a regular season event whether you are a Trillium or Premier team at each age group you are participating in.** This means if you are a 15UB team playing in the 15UB and 16UB age groups, you can expect to make a big regular season trip at 15UB and 16UB as each age group is treated separately. Greater Toronto Area (GTA) teams typically do not see more than one of these larger regular season trips per season in each age group. The OVA can take turns between GTA teams (when possible) filling in these satellite tournament locations due to KM tracking.

6.26 Registration for “Weekends” vs a specific day of the weekend.

- To accommodate the continued growth in division sizes and our facility needs, the OVA will be increasing the number of events that a team registers for the weekend as opposed to a specific date. Teams will be assigned to a specific day on the weekend once the team splits have been posted. Team Splits are posted on the OVA website once the event registration deadline closes AND the results from the most recent event have been received to complete the realignment.
- These “Weekend Registrations” are identified in the OVA Calendar using an Asterix next to the event. Please click [HERE](#) to view the OVA Calendar.

6.27 Playing on Sport Court Rule

The playing area includes the playing court and the free zone. Each team must play within its designated playing area.

Sport Court: The area beyond the edge of the sport court is designated as a non-playing zone. Therefore, the last point of contact prior to contact with the ball must be on the sport court and the player must always play the ball on the sport court tile with BOTH FEET touching the Sport Court.

Examples:

- One foot on the sport court, one foot on the cement while playing the ball = play is whistled dead.
- One foot on the sport court and one foot in the air while playing the ball, momentum carries you off the court before the 2nd foot can make contact with the sport court = play is whistled dead.
- Jump in the air, play the ball, and land off the sport court = play is whistled dead.
- Leave the playing area and step on a chair and play the ball = play is whistled dead.
- Play the ball on the sport court with both feet touching the Sport Court, the momentum of the athlete carries them off the court = play continues.

Any service action must be initiated with at least one foot in contact with the Sport Court.

These rules are in place to minimize the risk to athletes.

7.0 Ontario Championships

7.1 Ontario Championships Eligibility Requirements

Fully registered youth teams are eligible for the Ontario Championships provided they meet the following requirements:

Age Category	Number of OVA Events
4v4 Rallyball	No Eligibility Requirements
6v6 Rallyball to 18U	2

Teams from Region 1 are exempt from eligibility requirements; however, they must adhere to the posted deadlines and follow OVA policies regarding Respect In Sport and screening.

Ontario Championship seeding is based on a team’s top two average in the age group they are competing in (except for 4v4 Rallyball). The final regular season rankings (Bugarski Cup Rankings – based on Overall Average) will be used to break any ties in seeding.

- Region 1 teams who did not compete in a regular season event will be treated on a case-by-case scenario when it comes to their division/seed at the Ontario Championships.
- 4v4 Rallyball Ontario Championship seeding is based on a team’s set ratio from the Bugarski Cup only.

Teams are guaranteed into one Ontario Championship event (Playing Up OR Of Age) if they meet the eligibility requirements.

- For Example: A 16UG team can choose to play up in the 17UG Ontario Championships as their priority event and then be added to the waitlist for the 16UG Ontario Championship event.
- *Spots may be limited for teams choosing to play up as their priority event based on venue availability*.

It is anticipated that a small number of openings will be available in the 2026 Ontario Championships for teams to play up, which will help fill out uneven pools/divisions.

- Teams who are interested in playing up and who have played in at least 2 events at the older age group throughout the regular season will be required to register on a waitlist. This waitlist will require teams to provide a \$200 deposit.
 - If your team is selected from the waitlist to participate in the event and your team registers for the event, your deposit will be refunded.
 - If your team is selected from the waitlist and your team declines the position, your deposit will be forfeited.
 - If your team is not selected from the waitlist, your deposit will be refunded.
- IF there are open spots in an age group, underage teams will be selected through one of two methods based on the OC age group divisional breakdown they are looking to register for.
 - Underage team selection process for age groups with only 1 division:
 - A random draw will take place with all underage teams on the waitlist. Teams will be drawn at random until the desired number of open spots have been filled to create even schedules.
 - For example: Five 16UB teams have registered for the 17UB OC waitlist. If there are three spots available, three teams will be drawn at random to fill those three spots. These three teams will be seeded in the tournament draw according to their top 2 average while playing up at 17UB events during the regular season.

- Underage team selection process for age groups with 2 or more divisions:
 - A random draw will take place with underage waitlist teams that have a top 2 average that places them in the last division of the age group.
 - If additional spots are still needed, a 2nd random draw will take place with underage waitlist teams that have a top 2 average that places them in the 2nd last division of the age group.
 - This process will continue until all open spots have been filled.
 - Example: The 16UG age group has four divisions and a total of two openings for the entire age group. A random draw will take place between the 15UG underage waitlist teams that have a top 2 average at the 16UG age group that would place them into Division 4. If there are three 15UG waitlist teams for example that meet this criteria, a random draw will take place between those three teams to fill in those two open spots. These two teams will be seeded in Division 4 based on their top 2 average while playing up at 16UG events during the regular season.
 - If there was only one 15UG team that had a top 2 average that placed them into Division 4, that team would automatically be selected and the process would then move to underage teams that qualify for Division 3 and a random draw would take place between those 15UG teams to fill in the final remaining spot in Division 3.

Deposits have been implemented to control registration numbers and to ensure deadlines will be met when creating team splits and schedules.

As a reminder, an athlete/team may not play in back-to-back events at a 6-day Ontario Championships. For example, an athlete cannot be listed on the roster of a team on the Thursday to Saturday event and on a team roster in the Sunday to Tuesday event of the same 6-day event.

Out of province teams are permitted to participate in the Ontario Championships provided they are members in good standing of the OVA and have met the eligibility requirements.

7.2 4V4 Rallyball

The OVA will run a 4V4 Girls and 4V4 Boys/Co-ed Ontario Championships. These events will take place over two days, and all teams are guaranteed two matches on their second day of the playoffs.

- 4v4G Clarification:
 - Teams will self-declare into Division 1 or Division 2, and a team's set ratio from the Bugarski Cup will seed teams within each Division. The self-declare deadline for 4v4G is 11:59 p.m. on Monday, February 16. A link will be sent to all teams in early February.
 - A team's set ratio from the Bugarski Cup will be used as a secondary criterion to adjust a team's self-declare option (if needed) to ensure the correct number of teams are placed in each Division.
 - Division 1 and Division 2 will both be tiered into smaller playoff brackets on Day 2 to maximize competitive balance.
- If a 4v4 team participating in the Ontario Championships does not participate in the 4v4 Bugarski Cup, they will be seeded last in their Ontario Championships.

7.3 Ontario Championships Travel Rebate Policy

Team travel subsidy of \$80 is included in the registration fee. All team travel forms must be received by May 22nd, 2026.

Travel subsidy payouts are based on a team's km traveled throughout the entire season and not just the Ontario Championships. More information on the team travel subsidy policy (along with the Travel Claim Form) can be found at the bottom of the "Travel & Accommodations" page on the OVA website located [HERE](#).

7.4 Ontario Championships Stay to Play Policy

Ontario Volleyball has instituted a Stay to Play policy to ensure accommodations availability for all Indoor Championship's participants while better managing competition costs. The Stay to Play policy is in effect for all Indoor Ontario Championships.

For the most up to date information on the Stay to Play Policies, and other important team information please visit the Ontario Championship Website located [HERE](#).

7.5 National Championships

Please review age eligibility for Volleyball Canada as the ECI and 19U eligibility differs. [Click here](#) for more info.

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	VENUE
14UG	April 30 – May 3, 2026	Ottawa, ON	Carleton University
14UB & 14UG	April 30 – May 3, 2026	Moncton, NB	CEPS Louis-Robichaud- Universite de Moncton
14UB & 14UG	May 7 - 10, 2026	Edmonton, AB	Saville Community Sports Centre
14UB & 15UB	May 14 - 17, 2026	Mississauga, ON	The International Centre
17UG	May 14 - 17, 2026	Calgary, AB	BMO Centre
17UB, 18UB & 18UG	May 20 – 23, 2026	Calgary, AB	BMO Centre
15UG	May 24 – 27, 2026	Calgary, AB	BMO Centre
16UB & 16UG	May 28 – 31, 2026	Calgary, AB	BMO Centre

**** Please note that both 14U events are open to all teams from across Canada***

8.0 Coaching

8.1 Coach Eligibility Policy

All athletes have the right to a safe, inclusive and responsible volleyball experience. As people in positions of authority, coaches have an important role to play in providing this type of environment. Coaches have the responsibility to:

- Complete the necessary training in order to provide an environment that is physically, mentally, emotionally and socially safe for all athletes and participants
- Complete the necessary training in order to provide a responsible learning environment that incorporates Volleyball Canada's teaching methodologies, technical guidelines and long-term athlete development principles

- Ensure that all of their coach training is current so as to be able to provide a safe and responsible volleyball experience for all

MANDATORY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR OVA COACHES

To be approved as a Head Coach or Assistant Coach with the Ontario Volleyball Association (OVA), individuals must complete all required qualifications prior to registering as an OVA member.

- Abide by the OVA Screening Policy
 - Submit a Level 2 Criminal Record & Judicial Matters Check (CRJMC) or [Enhanced Police Information Check \(E-PIC\)](#) completed within 3 years.
 - Complete the [OVA Screening Disclosure Form via MRS registration](#)
 - Comply with further steps under the OVA Screening Policy as necessary
- Complete the following training
 - [Making Head Way](#) (Free)
 - Coaches Association of Canada [Safe Sports Training](#) (Free)
 - NCCP [Anti-Racism in Coaching](#) e-learning module (Free)
 - [Foundations of Volleyball](#) (\$89)
 - [Making Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation](#) (\$85 or free if course was completed)

Registrants who do not meet all requirements will have their membership marked as pending and will not be eligible to participate in OVA club activities involving youth athletes. It is the responsibility of OVA Clubs to verify the eligibility of their coaches prior to having them register as members and listing them on their Club Information Form at the start of the season.

Individuals who do not have an approved coach role in MRS are not eligible to be listed on an OVA event scoresheet. Ineligible individuals sitting on the bench will be fined \$150 per occurrence and match results may be forfeited.

*Coaches attending Nationals should check [Volleyball Canada's Coach Certification Policy](#) to verify compliance

Additional Information

- Assistant Coaches may stand between rallies (not during play) and move along the bench area or change seating positions. There is no restriction on the number of Assistant Coaches that can stand in between rallies.
- All individuals who sit on the bench at an OVA sanctioned event or who are involved with youth athletes in an OVA club training environment must meet the OVA Coach Eligibility Policy prior to their registration as an OVA member.

- All individuals who sit on the bench at an OVA sanctioned event must have an approved Head Coach or Assistant Coach role in MRS. To clarify, if a team trainer would like to sit on the team bench during an OVA event, they must add an Assistant Coach role to their profile in MRS.
- The requirements for Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches are the same. All coaches listed on the scoresheet must have completed Foundations of Volleyball and the Making Ethical Decision online evaluation.
- Coaches who are only present in the training environment and do not sit on the bench at OVA events can register in the role of Practice Coach in MRS. Practice Coaches are not required to complete Foundations of Volleyball or the Making Ethical Decisions online evaluation.
- Teams with the intention of attending Nationals should verify the Volleyball Canada Coach Eligibility policy as it has further requirements than the OVA policy

8.2 Police Screening

The OVA requires mandatory Police checks for all Persons In Authority (PIA). A PIA is any person who holds a position of authority over a Vulnerable individual pursuant to the role assigned to them. Persons in Authority include, but are not limited to, Club Directors and Club staff, Coaches, Managers, Trainers, Referees, Chaperones and persons who manage finances.

Screening of personnel and volunteers is an important part of providing a safe sporting environment and has become a common practice among sport organizations that provide programs and services to the community. The OVA is responsible at law, to do everything reasonable to provide a safe and secure environment for participants in its programs, activities and events. The OVA takes this responsibility very seriously and is committed to fulfilling the duty of care it owes to its members.

At minimum, Persons in Authority must complete the following:

- An Enhanced Police Information Check (E-PIC) every three years. This check can be completed online through mybackcheck.com
- A Screening Disclosure Form every three years. This form will be completed as part of the registration process in MRS for any of the above-mentioned roles.
- A Screening Renewal Form every year that a Screening Disclosure Form is not required. This form will be completed as part of the registration process in MRS for any of the above-mentioned roles.

For more information on the OVA Screening Policy please click [HERE](#).

8.3 Coaching Code of Ethics

In addition to the OVA Code of Conduct, OVA Coaches must follow the NCCP Code of Ethics. Please click [HERE](#) to view the OVA Code of Conduct.

The NCCP Code of Ethics was written by the Coaches Association of Canada and is included as Chapter 1 of the Volleyball Canada Coaches Manual Level 1 - an excerpt of which can be found below:

Principle	Standards of Behaviour Expected of Coaches
Physical safety and health of Athletes	Ensure that training or competition site is safe at all times Be prepared to act quickly and appropriately in case of emergency

	Avoid placing athletes in situations presenting unnecessary risk or that are beyond their level
	Strive to preserve the present and the future health and wellbeing of athletes
Coaching Responsibility	Make wise use of the authority of the position and make decisions in the interest of the athletes
	Foster self-esteem among athletes
	Avoid deriving personal advantage for a situation or decision
	Know one's limitations in term of knowledge and skills when making decisions giving instructions or taking action
	Honour commitments, word given and agreed objectives
Integrity in relations with others	Avoid situations that may affect objectivity or impartiality of coaching duties
	Abstain from all behaviors considered to be harassment or inappropriate relations with an athlete
	Always ensure decision are taken equitably
Respect	Ensure that everyone is treated equally regardless of athletic potential, race, sex, language, religion or age
	Preserve the dignity of each person in interacting with others
	Respect the principles, rules and policies in force
Honouring sport	Strictly observe and ensure observance of all regulations
	Aim to compete fairly
	Maintain dignity in all circumstances and exercise self-control
	Respect officials and accept their decisions without questioning their integrity

If any OVA member is found to be in violation of the Code of Conduct, please fill out the OVA Incident Report form and email it to the OVA at info@ontariovolleyball.org. The Incident Report Form can be found on the OVA website located [HERE](#) under the Risk Management tab. Please download the form prior to completing it.

9.0 Safe Sport

The OVA is committed to practicing safe sport and ensuring our athletes are provided with a safe and healthy environment in which to learn and develop. Safe sport practices are the responsibility of all members, including coaches, parents/guardians, athletes, referees, club administrators and volunteers.

9.1 Person in Authority Code of Conduct

The OVA values the safety, rights and wellbeing of our athletes and their families. It is the responsibility of every OVA club, coach, volunteer and staff member to participate in the effort to create a safe environment for all OVA participants. Coaches play a vital role in shaping the youth of tomorrow through sport.

The OVA relies on them and other persons in authority to be role models and to put young athletes on a path to success. The dynamic between coach and athlete gives rise to a power imbalance and a culture of unquestioned trust that can result in abuse. As such, it is imperative that all persons in positions of authority (PIA) be held to a high standard of conduct. A PIA is any person who holds a position of authority over a Vulnerable individual

pursuant to the role assigned to them. Persons in Authority include, but are not limited to, Club Directors and Club staff, Coaches, Managers, Trainers, Referees, Chaperones and persons who manage finances.

Abuse in sport, particularly sexual abuse and the grooming behaviour that precedes it, destroys the positive impact of sport and causes untold harm to victims and those around them. Consequently, the OVA has a strong obligation to establish and maintain systems that prevent abuse and respond to conduct that poses risk to OVA athletes.

9.2 Person in Authority Code of Conduct – Purpose

This Person in Authority Code of Conduct is intended to protect OVA participants from abuse. It provides guidelines for conduct that are consistent with the development of healthy relationships between adult persons in authority and youth sport participants. The Code provides behaviour guideposts that identify inappropriate or concerning behaviour at an early stage to help better protect athletes and coaches.

OVA Safe Sport Person In Authority Code of Conduct & Rule of Two Clarification policies can be found [HERE](#).

9.3 Policies

Ontario Volleyball has adopted several policies aimed at addressing the maltreatment of individuals in sport. These policies include:

- Person in Authority (PIA) Code of Conduct
- Discipline and Complaints Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Screening Policy A full list of Ontario Volleyball policies can be found [HERE](#)

9.4 Reporting a Complaint

Ontario Volleyball Association has zero tolerance for any type of abuse. Individuals are required to report abuse or suspected abuse. If you are the victim of abuse, harassment, or discrimination, please don't hesitate to report it.

Any Individual (as defined in the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy) may report a Complaint to Ontario Volleyball Association (OVA) or the Discipline Chair. Sport Dispute Management Inc. (SDM) has been appointed by the OVA Ethics Committee as the independent third-party Discipline Chair to administer complaints. To file a complaint, please use the [secure and confidential SDM Intake Form](#). If OVA receives a complaint directly it will be forwarded to Sport Dispute Management Inc, the appointed Discipline Chair. All complaints will be processed in accordance with the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy.

9.5 Mental Health

Volleyball Canada believes the mental health and safety of athletes is vital to strong performances on the court. We are encouraging everyone to make mental health a priority by providing a mental health checklist, as well as sharing useful links. For you to perform your best on court you must take care of yourself off court. The Canadian Centre for Mental Health and Sport (CMHS) is a registered charity supporting the mental health and performance of competitive and high-performance athletes, coaches, and performing artists. The CCMHS is the first Centre in Canada to offer collaborative sport/performance-focused mental health care services designed to help athletes, coaches, and performing artists achieve their performance goals while preserving their mental health and well-being. The CCMHS provides mental health services to competitive and high-performance athletes and coaches, as well as competitive performing artists. Here are the eligibility criteria:

- Must be 16 years of age or older
- Must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- Must participate in a sport or performance domain at a competitive or high performance level
- Must be experiencing mental health challenges

Disclaimer: The Canadian Centre for Mental Health is not a partner of Volleyball Canada, they are a resource for mental health, we do not control who is approved for treatment. Kids Help Line If you are feeling depressed or anxious, please tell someone you trust or contact the Kids Help Line 1-800-668-6868 or text 686868.

9.6 Concussion Policy and Safety Protocols

Concussions are very common in volleyball and should be taken seriously. Ontario Volleyball has developed the OVA's Concussion Policy and protocols to help guide the management of athletes who may have a suspected concussion as a result of participation in OVA. You can find the concussion policy here. Each year, all OVA members must review the OVA Concussion Code of Conduct related to their role. They must also review the applicable Concussion Awareness Resources at [43 Ontario.ca/concussions](https://43ontario.ca/concussions). The updated version of the OVA Concussion Policy from January 2026 can be found [HERE](#).

During member registration individuals must acknowledge that they have completed these reviews in order to complete the registration process. To further support a safe sporting environment, the OVA modified the warmup protocol (point 6.5) for 2022-23 and beyond. This new protocol will be mandatory at all OVA events to help minimize the potential for concussions during warmups. All coaches are required to take the free E-learning module 'Making Head Way' from the CAC. The CAC has many other helpful concussion resources found here. Parachute is Canada's national charity dedicated to injury prevention, and they have a great concussion protocol resource located [HERE](#).

Please see the OVA website for more information on concussion prevention, identification, management, and treatment.

10.0 Awards

10.1 Tournament Medals

At OVA tournaments, gold, silver and bronze medals (15 of each) will be awarded at every event that has 6 or more teams participating, for the 6v6 Rallyball to 18U Divisions. Medals will not be awarded in the 4v4 divisions.

For Ontario Championships, gold, silver and bronze will be awarded for all divisional and tier winners.

10.2 OVA Award of Excellence

The Award of Excellence awards will be given to Club coaches to present to one member of each team at the Ontario Championships (4v4 – 18U). Medals will be distributed in coach's packages at Ontario Championships.

10.3 OVA Grand Prix All Star Teams

All Star Selections will be made at the Grand Prix for the 16U-18U athletes and will be highlighted as the OVA Grand Prix All Stars at the Ontario Championships.

10.4 Evelyn Holick and Ken Davies Awards

These awards are presented at the Ontario Championships to recognize a female and a male athlete (respectively) for their demonstration of leadership, sportsmanship, determination, and athletic abilities throughout the season. Coaches and Clubs are invited to submit nominations (from within their own Club or

from other Clubs) using the online submission form [HERE](#) for Ken Davies and [HERE](#) for Evelyn Holick by February 1st of each season. Once nominations have been received a selection committee will be formed to review the nominations.

Evelyn Holick is the standing role model for all female volleyball participants in Ontario. She coached Team Ontario (women) in the very first Canada Games and was the first female from Ontario to earn National certification as an indoor official.

Ken Davies was a member of Team Ontario and a participant in the 1989 Canada Games. His determination to become a member of the Canada Games team led to the formation of the Ganaraska Wolves Volleyball Club, which was started to provide opportunities for athletes within the Orono/Newcastle community. Sadly, two months after the 1989 Canada Games, Ken's life was taken in a traffic accident involving a drunk driver.

The Ken Davies and Evelyn Holick Award winners will receive \$1000 athletic scholarship each, presented at the annual OVAtion Awards Banquet.

10.5 Scarborough Solars Award

The Scarborough Solars Award will be awarded annually to a minimum of two (2) Ontario athletes (equal number of male and female athletes) who have been selected to, or who have the ability to, represent Ontario/Canada in international volleyball or beach volleyball competitions.

Recipients will be selected via committee based on their athletic achievement, impact of the OVA on the applicant, and the impact of receiving the Award on the athlete. Awards will be between \$500 and \$1,000 per athlete per year.

10.6 OVAtion Banquet

Celebrating Volleyball for Life, the annual OVAtion Awards honour those who have distinguished themselves by providing their time, effort and support to the promotion and development of volleyball in the province.

The OVA relies on its members to nominate those in their Club to receive these prestigious awards. For more information, and to access the nomination criteria and forms, please click [HERE](#).

10.7 OVA Hall of Fame

The annual OVA Hall of Fame inductions honour those who have distinguished themselves and made a lasting impact on volleyball in the province of Ontario.

Each year, the OVA relies on its members to nominate past or present members in the athlete, team, coach, referee, builder, or Furlani Legend categories.

For more information and to access the nomination criteria and forms, please click [HERE](#)

Appendices

Appendix I What's New (2025-2026)

FORMATS AND RULES OF THE GAME

4V4G RALLYBALL

The 2026 4v4G Ontario Championships will feature two divisions.

- Teams will self-declare into Division 1 or Division 2 and a team's set ratio from the Bugarski Cup will seed teams within each Division. The self-declare deadline for 4v4G is 11:59 p.m. on Monday, February 16. A link will be sent to all teams in early February.
- A team's set ratio from the Bugarski Cup will also be used as a secondary criterion to adjust a team's self-declare option (If needed) to ensure the correct number of teams are placed in each Division.
- Division 1 and Division 2 will both be tiered into smaller playoff brackets on Day 2 to maximize competitive balance.

The VUL500 Volleyball (White) will no longer be used for OVA competition starting in the **2026 - 2027** season. This upcoming 2025-2026 season will be the last year the VUL500 volleyball will be used for the 4v4 Rallyball division. Starting in the 2026-2027 season, the VQ200 (Green/White – Currently used in 6v6 – 15U) will be used for 4v4 Rallyball.

EARLY CONTACT INITIATIVE – AGE ELIGIBILITY UPDATE

The 25/26 season will maintain the same age eligibility structure for the Early Contact Initiative (ECI) divisions (4v4, 6v6, and TLS) as in previous years with a slight tweak to the in-season movement.

- TLS
 - Chronological Age: January 1 – December 31, 2012
 - Extended Age Class: September 1 – December 31, 2011
 - Note: Athletes born between January 1 – August 31, 2011, may participate in the TLS division through an approved application process. Applications open July 1, 2025, and can be submitted with this link located [HERE](#). This application process is open until the roster lock deadline of February 23 for new players.
- 6v6 Rallyball
 - Chronological Age: January 1 – December 31, 2013
 - Extended Age Class: January 1 – December 31, 2012
- 4v4 Rallyball
 - Chronological Age: January 1 – December 31, 2014
 - Extended Age Class: January 1 – December 31, 2013

New for the 2025/26 season:

- Early Contact divisions will now align with the standard OVA protocol for Extended Age Class participation, with one difference. As of February 23, Athletes registered under the Extended Age Class in 4v4, 6v6 or TLS may only be listed on the roster for that specific age category. These athletes are not permitted to move up or down to another age division as individuals. However, they may compete in an older age division if their entire team is registered to play up.

NEW YEAR'S OPEN (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS THE 18U MCGREGOR CUP):

The New Year's Open is a 2-day event for the entire 18UG & 18UB age groups located at the International Centre in Mississauga on 24 courts. This event replaces the 18U McGregor Cup as the third event in the 18U regular season.

- More information will be available on the OVA's Convention Centre Page located [HERE](#)
- Dates:
 - January 16 – 17, 2026 (Event 1)
 - 18UB Division 1 (Teams ranked #1 - #32)

- 18UG Division 1 (Teams ranked #1 - #64)
 - January 17 - 18, 2026 (Event 2)
 - 18UB Division 2 (Teams ranked #33 - #64)
 - 18UG Division 2 (Teams ranked #65 - #128)
- Qualification:
 - 18U Teams (of age) are guaranteed entry as long as they have competed in the Provincial and/or Challenge Cup as they must be listed in the post 18U Challenge Cup rankings (Overall Average).
 - *Unique scenarios may be reviewed for of age teams who have not participated in either the 18U Provincial or Challenge Cups*
 - 17U Teams (underage) will be accepted to fill out the Boys (64 Team) and Girls (128 Team) tournament draws.
 - Underage teams will be accepted based on rank. Meaning the highest ranked underage teams will be accepted first based on the post 18U Challenge Cup Rankings (Overall Average)
 - An underage team who would like to participate in the New Year's Open must compete in either the 18U Provincial Cup or 18U Challenge Cup to be included in the post 18U Challenge Cup Rankings (Overall Average). An underage team cannot participate in the New Year's Open if it is their first 18U event of the season.
 - *Unique scenarios may be looked at if it helps fill out the tournament draw, and all other interested underage teams have already been accepted*
- Seeding:
 - Teams will be seeded into Division 1 or Division 2 based on the post 18U Challenge Cup Rankings (Overall average).
 - There is no realignment after the 18U Challenge Cup as the traditional Premier, Select, Championship & Trillium tiers do not exist in the 18U New Year's Open.
 - To clarify, teams that have only competed in either the 18U Provincial Cup **OR** Challenge Cup (i.e. 1 previous event) still qualify and are seeded based on the post Challenge Cup rankings (Overall average).
 - For example, if a team only competed in the 18UG Challenge Cup and finished 2nd in the Championship tier. They earned 775 points and will have an overall average of 775 points as their only finish.
- Points:
 - A new points structure will be introduced for this event weighted in a similar manner as the other four 18U regular season events.
 - Points received at the New Year's Open will count towards a team ranking just like any other 18U regular season event and can be used towards a team's top 2 average for Ontario Championship seeding.
- Realignment into future events:
 - The post New Year's Open Rankings (Overall Average) will be used to assign teams into tiers for the Furlani Cup (except for the GPQ):
 - Grand Prix Qualifier (aka Premier)
 - Top 12 ranked teams based on **top 2 average**
 - Select, Championship, Trillium White and Trillium Green:
 - Teams will be assigned into tiers based on the post New Year's Open Rankings (Overall Average)
 - Please note – Section 4.10, 4.11 and 4.12 Initial Placement policies will be followed when creating the 18U Furlani Cup tiers to maintain competitive balance.
 - Step 3 of section 5.4 will also be taken into consideration for teams that did not participate in the New Year's Open to ensure they are still placed in an appropriate tier for the 18U Furlani Cup to maintain appropriate competitive balance.

GRAND PRIX EVENTS

The 16U & 17U Grand Prix events will now feature a 12 team draw (based on top 2 average followed by overall average) instead of the traditional 8 team format.

- The 18U Grand Prix events will still feature the 8-team format as the 18U age group has five regular season events which includes the 18U Grand Prix Qualifier 12 team format.

WARM-UP PROTOCOL ADJUSTMENT FOR ONTARIO CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

The Ontario Championships have traditionally seen a 5-5 warm-up for all matches within each event. The 2026 Ontario Championships will now follow the regular season Secondary Warm-up Protocol of a 2-4-4 for all matches within the tournament (Unless Noted Otherwise).

(2-4-4): For all matches within the Ontario Championships:

- Two (2) minutes of shared court time for ball handling
- Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for serving Team
- Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for the receiving Team
- No shared hitting and serving

Warm up protocols may change throughout the year depending on tournament format, permit restrictions and any other event variables.

WARM-UP PROTOCOL ADJUSTMENT FOR ALL CONVENTION CENTRE EVENTS

Teams are now required to warm-up baseline to net instead of sideline to sideline. This is to help cut down the number of rogue volleyballs affecting play in nearby courts.

- This rule is mandatory for convention centres but is also recommended for all regular season tournaments when there are tight courts side by side.

LINING AND SCORING FOR OVA TOURNAMENTS

The 24/25 Lining and Scoring protocol will continue for the 25/26 season with one tweak for the TLS age group.

- TLS will now follow the same Lining & Scoring protocol as 4v4/6v6 Rallyball. The ECI age groups (4v4, 6v6 & TLS) will use parent/team volunteers as both scorers and lines persons.
- 15U – 18U will continue with athletes completing the lining duties along with parent/team volunteers at the score table.
- Clarification around roster size for 15U – 18U lining duties.
 - Each team will be required to provide one (1) volunteer athlete from their roster per game, to act in the role of line judge. Should a team not have sufficient athletes (roster of eight or fewer) to fill this role, the opposing team will be asked to supply an athlete volunteer from their roster to fill the second line judge role. If this is not possible, the referee may approve that no line judges will be used for that game/match.
 - If a team having nine (9) or more athletes on their roster chooses not to comply with the line judge requirements, they will receive a three (3) point penalty per set that they do not comply in addition to the \$75 per set fine as per the OVA Fines and Sanctions Chart. This will be administered by providing the opposing team with three (3) points at the start of each set (i.e. the beginning score of the set will be 3-0 for the opposing team).

NO SIDE SWITCHING BETWEEN SETS FOR ALL OVA EVENTS

The 25/26 season will adopt and expand the 24/25 Convention Centre pilot to no side switching in-between sets for **ALL** regular season events in addition to the Convention Centre and Ontario Championship events.

- If the head referee determines there is a clear advantage on one side, then a side switch will take place in between sets for that court. The head referee will make the decision at the start of the day as to which courts in the venue (if any) will require a side switch to maintain consistency throughout the day for all teams.
 - Any side switching decision must be made before the start of the match. A side switching request mid match will not be accepted unless there was a change to the venue's structure.

ASSISTANT COACHES ON TEAM BENCH

Assistant Coaches may stand between rallies (not during play) and move along the bench area or change seating positions. There is no restriction on the number of Assistant Coaches that can stand in between rallies.

STAFF PERMITTED ON TEAM BENCH

All individuals who sit on the bench at an OVA sanctioned event **must have** an approved Head Coach or Assistant Coach role in MRS.

- **Individuals who do not have an approved coach role in MRS are not eligible to be listed on an OVA event scoresheet or sit on the bench. Ineligible individuals will be fined \$150 per occurrence and match results may be forfeited.**

COACHES AND TEAM STAFF ATTIRE

All Coaches and team staff should follow the dress guidelines below during all matches:

- Must be dressed to represent their team in a professional manner
- Secure shoes (including both covered toe and heel straps) are encouraged for any team personnel who are on the sport court for both warm up and match play
- Hats are permitted

These guidelines are strongly recommended for anyone acting as a line judge or score keeper during OVA sanctioned events.

SPIRIT OF THE RULES CLAUSE

The Ontario Volleyball Association is committed to providing a fair, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate competition environment for all participants. While our rules and eligibility criteria are designed to guide participation, they cannot account for every possible scenario.

- Should a team, individual, or club act in a manner that complies with the letter of the rules but is clearly contrary to the spirit and intent of those rules—particularly where such actions compromise fair play or the developmental integrity of the competition—the OVA reserves the right to conduct a review.
- In such cases, a Competition Review Panel will be convened to assess the situation. This panel will consider the broader context, the intent behind the actions, and the impact on the competition. The panel’s decision will be final and may result in corrective actions, including but not limited to reclassification, disqualification, or eligibility restrictions, as deemed appropriate.
- All participants are expected to uphold not only the rules but the values of sportsmanship, respect, and equitable competition.

YOUTH SITTING VOLLEYBALL PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

OVA is launching a Youth Sitting Volleyball Provincial Championship during the Ontario Championships in April 2026. Open to coed athletes born 2008–2012 (14U–18U), this first-of-its-kind Canadian event promotes inclusion and awareness.

Teams must include athletes with a classified disability but may also roster able-bodied players. Full details, including registration, format, and rules, will be released in January 2026.

Clubs are encouraged to start sitting volleyball sessions this fall to build interest.

ADMINISTRATION

OVA CLUB FEE

- The OVA Club fee has been increased to \$450
- The What’s New 2.0 released in mid-August will have further clarification around tournament and membership fees.

ONTARIO CHAMPIONSHIP REGISTRATION DEADLINE

- The 2026 Ontario Championship Deadline has moved up to Sunday December 7th at 11:59pm.

Submission process for 6v6 and TLS Self-Declare Events:

It is each team’s responsibility to complete the self-declare form as OVA staff will not be sending out the link for each event. The link can be found in the What’s New Document, Youth Competitions Manual and under each event’s page on the OVA website under “Upcoming Indoor Events”

- 6v6G, TLSG & TLSB Self-declare Cognito Form Link can be found [HERE](#) for the 2025/2026 Season.

- Teams entering their first event without submitting a self-declare form will be placed in the lowest tier. If a team has already competed in an event in the age group and does not complete a self-declare submission, they will be placed in the same tier as their previous event.
- If there are multiple submissions for a team for a specific event, the most recent submission will be used.

Self-Declare Submission Deadlines

6v6 Girls Provincial Cup	October 19, 2025
6v6 Girls Challenge Cup	November 30, 2025
6v6 Girls McGregor Cup	January 11, 2026
6v6 Girls Bugarski Cup	February 1, 2026

TLS Girls Provincial Cup	October 5, 2025
TLS Girls Challenge Cup	November 16, 2025

TLS Boys Provincial Cup	October 12, 2025
TLS Boys Challenge Cup	November 23, 2025

REGISTRATION FOR “WEEKENDS” WILL CONTINUE FOR THE 2025-2026 SEASON

To accommodate the continued growth in division sizes and our facility needs, the OVA will be increasing the number of events that register for the weekend as opposed to a specific date. Teams will be assigned to a specific day on the weekend once the team splits have been posted. Team Splits are posted on the OVA website once the event registration deadline closes AND the results from the most recent event have been received to complete the realignment.

- These “Weekend Registrations” are identified in the OVA Calendar. Please click [HERE](#) to view the OVA Calendar.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

REMINDER - ALL Athletes, Coaches and Club Personnel must register in the OVA Membership Registration System

(MRS) prior to participating in any OVA or Club activity (including tryouts). This is necessary to ensure compliance with provincial concussion legislation (Rowan’s Law) and to sign off on the online waivers of liability prior to participating in any OVA related activities.

- If a team has an athlete, coach or team staff on the bench at an OVA sanctioned event that is not a full member in MRS or not on the team roster in MRS; the team will be sanctioned as per the OVA sanction chart which also can result in forfeited matches due to an ineligible person on the scoresheet.
- A Tryout Player role of \$0 is in the system so that players are not required to pay for a membership prior to being selected to a team.
 - Players who are selected for the team will then have to upgrade to a paid membership prior to attending Club practices or if Clubs wish to pay for the full membership for the athlete, they can do so while creating their Club teams and adding players to those teams.
 - Clubs must ensure that athletes and/or parents/guardians show proof of MRS registration on the first night of tryouts for a club via smartphone screen or paper print out.
 - The Early Re-signed and Re-signed athletes will be responsible for registration prior to attending Club practices.

Club coaches must also be registered in MRS prior to running tryouts, practices, etc. All individuals must sign into MRS and register to sign off on Rowan’s Law education and waivers. Once again, if Clubs wish to pay the full membership of their coaches and other club staff, Coaches and Club staff can register as a volunteer (\$0 fee) and then Club admins can pay Club staff membership fees when adding team staff to each team.

TRAVEL EXPECTATIONS FOR OVA REGULAR SEASON TOURNAMENTS

- To create a competition stream that provides competitively balanced matches along with serving the entire province of Ontario, travel is required for events.
- The Youth Competitions team keeps track of all KMs travelled by each team for OVA sanctioned events throughout the season. This data comes into play as one of the criteria when creating the team splits (i.e. proximity to the venue along with past travel).
- All teams across the province should expect to make at least one 400+km (one-way) trip for a regular season event whether you are a Trillium or Premier team at each age group you are participating in. This means if you are a 15UB team playing in the 15UB and 16UB age groups, you can expect to make a big trip at 15UB AND 16UB as each age group is treated separately. Greater Toronto Area (GTA) teams typically do not see more than one of these larger regular season trips per season in each age group. The OVA will take turns between GTA teams (when possible) filling in these satellite tournament locations due to KM tracking.

VC NATIONAL COMPETITIONS - UNIFORM REGULATIONS

- As per rule 4.3.3 of the Volleyball Canada Rulebook: *"Players' jerseys must be numbered from 1 to 99"*.
- Jerseys identifying players as "0" or "00" are not permitted at National Competitions.

FIRST AID KIT AND SUPPLIES

- Medical supplies or on-site medics are not provided for regular season OVA events. Coaches/teams must have their own First Aid kits and/or supplies.
 - The only regular season events that provide this service are the EY Centre, International Centre, Niagara Falls Convention Centre and Grand Prix events.

KING & QUEEN OF THE BEACH TOURNAMENTS

After a successful pilot last season, the King & Queen of the Beach format will be regularly offered in 2025–26. These events allow athletes to register as individuals and compete in a rotating format, playing with and against a variety of partners. The athlete with the most wins — regardless of who they're paired with — is crowned King or Queen of the Beach. This format supports competition and adaptability, helps athletes expand their network and potentially discover future partners — all while staying active in the sand through the winter.

TLS SERVE RECEIVE RULE

The TLS stream (Boys & Girls) are now permitted to receive a serve with an overhead motion using the fingers. This change aligns with Volleyball Canada's updated serve receive rule for the 2026 14U Nationals.

New Roster lock date

The roster lock date for both the Regular Season and the Ontario Championships has been updated to Monday, February 23, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. At that time, all rosters in MRS will be locked meaning clubs will not have the ability to make any further changes.

- After this deadline, no roster changes can be made. This includes athlete lateral movement, call-ups to older age groups, or coach changes.
- If a team requires a roster adjustment after the lock date, a Change Request Form will be available through Cognito Forms (\$50 per change). The OVA will review each request and provide a decision within 2 business days.
- If a team has an athlete or coach on the bench at an OVA sanctioned event that is not a full member in MRS or not on the team roster in MRS; the team will be sanctioned as per the OVA sanction chart which also can result in forfeited matches due to an ineligible person on the scoresheet.
- Teams have up to 15 athlete roster spots available in MRS. It is strongly recommended to fill all 15 spots with potential call-ups to ensure eligibility if a call-up is needed after the roster lock date.
- At the Ontario Championships coach check-in, coaches will be able to scratch any players or coaches not attending, which is a much simpler process than trying to add new participants at that time.

Roster Verification for all Regular Season Tournaments

Effective immediately, Head Coaches (HCs) are required to present a copy of their official MRS roster (printed or saved electronically on a phone) at the start of every match for all Regular Season Events.

The referee will compare the team's MRS roster to their roster sticker or list of names on the game sheet to confirm that all athletes and coaches listed on the game sheet also appear on the official MRS roster the HC is presenting.

- It is acceptable for the MRS roster to include additional individuals who are not listed on the roster sticker.
- However, it is not permitted for the roster sticker to include individuals who are missing from the MRS roster.

Step-by-Step Process for Head Coaches

- The Head Coach role in MRS now can view, edit and print team rosters.
- Log in to MRS (mrs.volleyball.ca) at least one week prior to your event.
- Click on "My Teams" and then click on your team from the list.
- Review your team roster to ensure all athletes and coaches are correctly listed.
 - Only individuals on the MRS roster are eligible to appear on the bench.
 - HCs may add or remove athletes/coaches who are already approved members in MRS.
 - If an athlete or coach does not appear in MRS, they must register/create a profile.
- Once the roster is correct and includes all participants expected to appear on the game sheet, click the "Print Roster" button for a copy of the team roster. This can either be printed or saved as a pdf to a computer or a phone.
- At the start of each regular season match, present the MRS roster (paper or pdf) to the referee. The referee will verify that all participants on the roster sticker/game sheet are also included on the downloaded MRS roster.

Additional Notes

- Lateral athlete movement remains unlimited until the roster lock deadline of February 23, 2026.

- Any lateral movement roster adjustments must be entered into MRS before each OVA regular season event and must appear on the official MRS roster presented to the referee prior to every regular season match.
- Please see Section 4.9 of the Youth Competitions Manual for more information around lateral movement.
- Teams may continue to bring up to five underage athletes until the roster lock deadline of February 23, 2026.
 - Any underage athlete roster adjustments must be entered into MRS before each OVA regular season event and must appear on the official MRS roster presented to the referee prior to every regular season match.
 - Please see Section 4.8 of the Youth Competitions Manual for more information around athletes playing up.
- When a coach creates an MRS profile, they are only approved by the OVA once all certification and membership requirements are completed. This approval process may take up to two business days.
 - For this reason, it is important to review your team roster well in advance of your event to ensure all required coaches are listed. Please note that a missing coach cannot be added the day before or on the day of an event due to this timeline.

For the first season of implementing these new Regular Season roster checks, there will be a “soft launch” applied to the 2025 Provincial Cups when it comes to athletes only.

- Referees will still check the MRS roster download presented by the HC prior to each match, and the full process outlined above will be followed.
- Any coach or team staff members that are not listed on the roster from MRS will not be permitted to sit on the bench at any OVA tournament (Including the Provincial Cup).
- However, for the Provincial Cup events, there will be leniency if an athlete is missing from the downloaded roster and will be allowed to play. However, they must be added immediately after the tournament to the team roster in MRS.
- All errors or omissions in MRS rosters must be corrected before the Challenge Cup events, where the process will be enforced without exception.
- Beginning with Challenge Cups and for the remainder of the season, any coach or athlete not listed on the official MRS roster will not be permitted on the bench until they have been added to the MRS roster by the HC.

What to do if there is a missing athlete or coach on the downloaded MRS roster:

- The start time of a match will not be delayed to fix an MRS roster issue.
 - Coach Missing on MRS Roster (All OVA Events)
 - HC to add the missing coach to the MRS roster if the Coach has already been approved by the OVA and is in MRS. The HC can then show the updated roster to the referee prior to the start of the match.
 - If the missing coach is not in MRS, this means they have either not created an MRS profile yet or have created a profile but are missing some requirements which is why they have not been approved by the OVA yet.
 - PLEASE NOTE – It takes the OVA 1-2 Business days to approve a coach once all their requirements have been met.
 - If the missing coach is not in MRS, then they are not eligible to be on the bench until they have created an MRS profile, completed all coaching requirements and been approved by the OVA. Once approved, the HC can then add the missing coach to the team’s MRS roster.
 - Athlete Missing on MRS Roster (Provincial Cup ONLY)
 - “Soft roster check” in place for athletes only for all Provincial Cups
 - If any athlete is missing, they must be added to the MRS roster immediately after the tournament
 - Athlete Missing on MRS Roster (All Other Events)
 - HC to add the missing athlete to the MRS roster if there is still time before the start of the match. This should be possible if the athlete already has an active Competitive Athlete profile in MRS.

- If the missing athlete is not in MRS, the athlete or parent will have to create a Competitive Athlete profile in MRS and once completed, the HC can then add the player to their MRS roster.
 - If the HC cannot add this athlete to their MRS roster prior to the start of the match, then the athlete will miss the match until they have been added to the roster.

Roster Verification for Ontario Championships

This process is still the same except for the new roster lock date of February 23, 2026 at 11:59pm. As of this date, all rosters will be locked in MRS and OVA staff will then download all rosters to be used to update the team rosters in the OVA Champs app and preparing the Ontario Championship coach check in sheets.

Clubs are no longer able to purchase coach memberships in MRS when adding coaches to team rosters

In previous OVA seasons (and during the last few weeks), the MRS was still programmed to allow clubs to purchase a coach role for a member when they were added to a team roster. We kept this functionality last season as a test as we understand the convenience of clubs being able to pay for their coaches' memberships on their behalf.

Unfortunately, this resulted in a large number of coaches being added to team rosters before their coach eligibility requirements were reviewed and approved by the OVA. With the new roster verification process being implemented this season, we absolutely cannot have coaches added to a team roster until they are approved in MRS.

Therefore, going forward coaches can only be added to a team roster after their coach eligibility requirements have been completed and they have been approved in MRS.

If you try to add a member to a team roster in MRS and the "head coach" or "assistant coach" options are not showing up, that means they do not have an approved coach role in MRS.

If you have any questions about the eligibility status of any of your coaches, please feel free to email: pia@ontariovolleyball.org.

2026 Nationals Age Categories

Volleyball Canada recognizes the following age categories for indoor competitions in the 2025-2026 season:

Birth Month	18U*	17U	16U	15U	14U
Sept – December	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Jan – December	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012

*For 2026 Indoor Club Nationals, 18U Age Category ONLY:

A team roster for the 18U category may include the following:

- 2 athletes born from Jan 1-August 31, 2007
 - With the following restriction:
 - Athletes are NOT permitted to be part of any USport, CCAA or other post-secondary volleyball program for the current season (October 1, 2025-May 1, 2026) *
- NEW – A **maximum** of 2 current USport, CCAA, or other post-secondary* athletes born from Sept 1 – Dec 31, 2007. Athletes born in 2008 are eligible to be part of a team roster without any post-secondary restrictions.
 - The club and post-secondary coach should agree this is developmentally appropriate considering the season of play, training load and circumstances of the post-secondary athlete.

***Definition of Post-Secondary:** Part of a Post-Secondary Volleyball program is defined as rostered with a post-secondary institution that they are attending, beginning October 1, 2025. Athletes are permitted to tryout/train with a post-secondary team in September 2025. CEGEP Division 1 athletes who are registered in the CCAA are considered post-secondary athletes. CEGEP athletes in Division 2 and 3 are not considered post-secondary athletes. Post-secondary does not include intramural programs or club programs within a post-secondary institution.

Upon request the 18U Head Coach and/or Club President shall provide eligibility verification of any athletes attending post-secondary institution.

Exemptions:

Under extraordinary circumstances only, [an exemption request](#) for athletes born prior to the 16-month window to play in a specific age group may be considered. The Head Coach/Team Manager must make a request. Initial requests must go to the PTA and acknowledgement from the PTA must be provided in the submission to Volleyball Canada. Submission for exceptions will only be considered if they are based on LTD Principles. There is a \$50 fee for all age exemption requests. It should be noted that a PTA may implement different age category requirements. The team is responsible to ensure athletes meet eligibility for both PTA and VC participation prior to athlete selection.

Guiding Principles:

Long Term Development (LTD) research demonstrates the flaws of placing athletes into their birth year for participation in sports. In short, the discrepancies that can occur between youth within the same birth year create significant disadvantages for late developing male athletes and to a lesser degree, early developing females. Volleyball Canada, by providing a range of months (16) within a competitive division, gives athletes greater flexibility to choose a level that best suits their needs and supports LTD research. Athletes, parents and coaches

should consider the short term and long-term benefits of playing in different age categories. Clubs may have their own policies playing up/playing down in different age categories

Provincial and Territorial Associations may have their own policies regarding age categories and/or age eligibility/participation for competitions.

Be sure to check Volleyball Canada's Eligibility requirements for the TLS and 19U age division. They may differ from OVA Competitions

APPROVED BRANDING AREAS ON OVA COMPETITION UNIFORMS

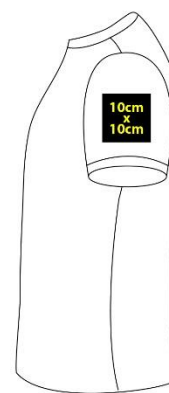
FRONT



BACK



SIDE



NOTES



- Approved space for sponsors names and logos
- Minimum 7cm gap between player number and sponsor print



- Approved space for Club / Athlete Name (Back)
- Approved space for Club / Team Logo (Front)



- Official Ontario Volleyball Uniform Logo
- Please visit our website or email info@ontariovolleyball.org for a printable version of this logo.

VOLLEYBALL CANADA UNIFORM GUIDELINES



The Volleyball Canada uniform guidelines provide a detailed breakdown of the requirements associated with the creation of uniforms to ensure that there is compliancy with the Rules of the Game. The specific focus of the uniform is on the jersey and shorts and the corresponding information contained in Rules 4.3 and 19.2 of the current year rulebook.

In addition, there is information pertaining to advertising and sponsorship logos, a section of frequently asked questions, procedural information for having uniforms verified by Volleyball Canada's Uniform Committee and samples of compliant uniforms and non-compliant uniforms.

Equipment

- A player's equipment consists of a jersey and shorts
- The colour and design for the jerseys must be uniform for the team (except for the Libero)
- The colour for the shorts must be uniform for the team (except for the Libero)
 - The length or fit of the shorts are irrelevant and of no consequence
- The uniform must be clean
- Players' jerseys must be numbered from 1 – 99
 - The number must be placed on the jersey at the centre of the front and of the back
 - The colour and brightness of the numbers must contrast with the colour and brightness of the jerseys
 - The number must be a minimum of 10 cm in height on the chest
 - The number must be a minimum of 15 cm in height on the back
 - The stripe forming the number shall be a minimum of 2 cm in width
- It is forbidden to wear uniforms of a colour different from that of the other players (except for the Libero)
- It is forbidden to wear uniforms without official numbers

Libero Uniforms

- The Libero player(s) must wear a uniform which has a different dominant colour from any dominant colour of the team jersey
- The uniform must clearly contrast with the rest of the team
- The Libero uniforms must be numbered like the rest of the team

VOLLEYBALL CANADA

UNIFORM GUIDELINES



Advertising and Sponsorship Logos

- When adding advertising material to a jersey, the following should be considered:
 - No more than three (3) pieces of advertising material can be added to a jersey:
 - One (1) block of advertising material can be included on the body of the shirt and must not exceed 300 cm²
 - One (1) block of advertising material can be included on each sleeve and must not exceed 50 cm²
 - The logo of the manufacturer is authorized on the team uniform so long as it does not exceed 30 cm² or 6 cm x 5 cm
 - The logo of the manufacturer does not count towards the three pieces of advertising material
 - If adding a logo or advertising, it must not inhibit the requirements associated with the numbering of a jersey
 - If adding a logo or advertising, it should not be the visual focal point of the jersey

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I have an athlete that will play one set as a regular player and the next set as the Libero. When he/she wears our light uniforms, this player wears jersey #6. When he/she wears our dark uniform, this player wears #14. How do I list this on the team roster at the start of the match?
An athlete is bound to a single number for the entire duration of a match. In this case, the coach/captain must choose the role for the athlete and uniquely assign him/her either #6 or #14 prior to verifying the data on the team roster at the start of the match. It is not possible for an athlete to switch numbers for the next set to allow them to be Libero.
2. When we purchased our uniforms we only ordered a single set of jerseys plus one extra jersey (#15) to use as our Libero uniform. We have two athletes that take turns being Libero. Can I list a generic Libero in the team roster?
No. Every athlete must be listed by name and assigned a unique identifying number on the roster. It is not permissible to list the athletes under a number and then add a generic Libero to the team roster.
In this case, the coach/captain must choose the role for the athletes and uniquely assign him/her either their regular number or #15 prior to verifying the data on the team roster at the start of the match. The athlete will be bound to the designation for the entirety of the match.

VOLLEYBALL CANADA

UNIFORM GUIDELINES



Frequently Asked Questions

3. We are reusing some of last year's uniforms and ordered a couple of new jerseys for new athletes. The design from the previous year was discontinued, but we were able to find something very similar. Is this acceptable?

The Rules of the Game require the colour and design of the jersey to be uniform for the team with the exception of the Libero. Having uniforms of multiple design for the team would not be acceptable.

4. I have two jerseys with the same number. Can I modify one of them by adding tape to the jersey?

No. Modification of a jersey via an external medium (tape in this case) is not permitted.

5. My athlete forgot their jersey at home/hotel. Can they wear something comparable, a warm-up shirt, etc. to play?

The athlete must have a jersey that is uniform to the rest of the team. In this case, the coach must make a decision.

If they are determined to have the athlete participate in the match, they can have another athlete give up their jersey to the one that forgot it and register the player under the new number on the team roster (prior to verification). The athlete that gives up their jersey is now ineligible to participate in the match. This could be done on a rotation so the same person is not ineligible for every match.

If the coach does not want another athlete to give up their jersey, the athlete that forgot to bring their equipment is not eligible to participate until they get their jersey.

6. During the match, one of our jerseys becomes soiled with blood. What options exist for the athlete to continue playing?

A jersey that is soiled with blood must either be replaced or cleaned (until the stain is completely removed) prior to the athlete resuming the competition. The coach has three options to choose from if the stain cannot be cleaned:

1. If the team has an identical set of spare uniforms, directly replace the soiled jersey with the replacement
2. If the team has a replacement jersey that is of a unique number, the player can wear this jersey and a notation will be made on the scoresheet to permit the change in number
3. If the team does not have a replacement jersey, they may change jerseys with a player on the bench with the exception of the Libero or the Libero replacement. A notation will be made on the scoresheet to permit the change in number. The athlete who changes jerseys is no longer eligible to participate in the match.

VOLLEYBALL CANADA

UNIFORM GUIDELINES



Uniform Submissions

Teams and clubs will be able to submit their uniform proofs and photos via formstack. The link to the submission page is as follows:

https://VolleyballCanada.formstack.com/forms/2021_22_uniform_approval_request_form

Jersey submissions that meet the standards of the Rules of the Game will be approved and an associated letter of approval will be provided to the team.

For teams planning on registering and attending the 2022 Volleyball Canada National Championships, please be advised that jersey approvals are recommended and must be completed no later than February 28, 2022.

Volleyball Canada Uniform Committee

The Volleyball Canada Uniform Committee is made up of a selection of International referees from across the country. Every submission that is received will be viewed by three members of the committee.

On average, the committee will strive to complete reviews and provide approvals or subsequent feedback within the business week that submissions are received. That said, based on the number of submissions received or actively in the queue, response times may be faster or slower.

VOLLEYBALL CANADA UNIFORM GUIDELINES



Uniform Samples that Meet Approval

Committee Comments	Team Uniform	Libero Uniform
Compliant with all standards Provides clear contrast Approved		
Compliant with all standards Provides clear contrast Approved		
Compliant with all standards Common accent colours are isolated to one location. At a glance, contrast exists Approved		
Compliant with all standards Provides clear contrast Approved		

VOLLEYBALL CANADA UNIFORM GUIDELINES



Uniform Samples that Do Not Meet Approval

Committee Comments	Team Uniform	Libero Uniform
Compliant with most standards Fails to provide contrast Not Approved		
The colour of the number does not contrast with the colour of the jersey Inverted colour scheme does not provide contrast Not approved		
Compliant with most standards Direct inversion of colours does not provide contrast Not Approved		
The colour of the number does not contrast with the colour of the jersey Jerseys from the same colour family/palette do not provide contrast Not approved		

Appendix VI OVA Fines and Sanctions

Volleyball, because of its regulations and its traditions, offers a philosophy of competition guided by the highest standards of good sportsmanship. For that reason, all participants (teams, players, coaches, officials, managers, administrators, and spectators) in tournaments and meetings under the authority of the OVA, have a duty to conduct themselves in a reasonable and acceptable manner. They must avoid all unsportsmanlike conduct, acts or practices which are, in the opinion of the OVA, detrimental to the sport. Whenever a penalty occurs, a fine or sanction may be given which may lead to additional action through the [Discipline and Complaints Policy](#). Such acts include but are not limited to:

Violation	Fine	Sanctions
Teams with unregistered/ineligible coaches listed on team rosters and/or sitting on the bench in any tournaments.	\$150 per match/occurrence	Results may be forfeited. OVA review, possible suspension and further fines.
Having unregistered/ineligible players competing and/or on the bench.	\$150 per match/occurrence	Results may be forfeited. OVA review, possible suspension and further fines.
Club coaches who participate in club activities who are not approved registered members in MRS (i.e. must meet the Coach Eligibility Policy)	Up to \$500	OVA review, possible suspension and further fines.
Club executives, administrators, managers, contacts who are not approved registered members (i.e. must meet the Club Leader Eligibility Policy) and have performed club duties.	Up to \$500	OVA review, possible suspension and further fines.
Any person in authority who has participated in club activities but who is not an approved registered member in MRS with the appropriate role.	Up to \$500	OVA review, possible suspension and further fines.
Club Leaders allowing ineligible participants and/or person in authority individuals to participate in Club/OVA activities.	Up to \$500	OVA review, possible suspension and further fines.
Failure to submit Club Information Form and MOU to OVA Office, prior to competing in OVA sanctioned event.	As determined by the OVA, a minimum \$500	Clubs that do not return the Club Information Form and MOU prior to competing in an OVA event will be placed in bad standing and will be subject to a fine and/or forfeit.
Failure to meet the Uniform Policy.	\$25 per player, to a maximum of \$100 per tournament	The official in charge of the match is to note the violation on the score sheet and inform the Tournament Director after the match.
Coaches who do not roster athletes on the scoresheet or misrepresent an athlete's playing status to avoid compliance with the Fair Play or Developmental Substitution rules.	\$150 per occurrence	Results may be forfeited for any events which misrepresented a team's roster that a coach has listed on the scoresheet. Additional sanctions may also be issued depending on the number of occurrences and/or history of previous violations.
Teams not fulfilling their scorekeeping and lining duties.	\$75 per occurrence	Team cannot play in any OVA event until fine is paid in full.
Club/Team misconduct at tournaments (damage, misbehaving, failure to abide by facility rules, OVA Code of Conduct).	Minimum fine of \$500 and cost of damage to facility	Fine may vary based on the severity of the violation and cost of damage and suspension from one month up to one year may be applied. Further penalties may be determined through the execution of the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy.

Team not showing up at a tournament without notification in writing to the OVA.	Loss of entry fee + \$350	Entry fee will not be refunded, and the club will be fined \$350 to be paid within 5 business days.
Individuals committing an act which is considered an offence under any duly promulgated law.	Fines may be levied	Suspension for one year or more. Further penalties may be determined through the execution of the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy.
Betting or action as a “bookmaker” on matches or tournaments.	Fines may be levied	Suspension from one month to one year. Further penalties may be determined through the execution of the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy.
Defaulting a game or match in a competition except because of injuries or other valid reasons.	Fine equal to the registration fee	Forfeit from the tournament, plus fine equal to the registration fee and suspension from two weeks to one year for team or individual.
Playing in a competition under an assumed name, or age, falsifying a team entry form, or giving false information to a tournament official of the OVA	Fine equal to the registration fee	Forfeit from the tournament, plus a fine equal to the registration fee and suspension from two weeks to one year for team or individual. Further penalties may be determined through the execution of the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy.
Withdrawing a team from a match except because of injuries or other valid reason.	Fine equal to the registration fee	Forfeit for the tournament, plus fine equal to registration fee and suspension from two weeks to one year for team or individual.
Any event participant showing outward displays or temper, aggressive conduct, physical contact, rude or offensive behavior	Fines may be levied	Immediate removal from current event. Possible suspension from all and future OVA events in addition to further penalties determined through the execution of the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy.
Offensive Conduct/Using profanity or obscene language or gestures.	Fines may be levied	Suspension from the current event/future events up to one year and/or fine. Further penalties may be determined through the execution of the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy.
Deliberately throwing or hitting a ball in the direction of an official, spectator or opponent.	Fines may be levied	Verbal warning and/or suspension from the current event/future events up to one year and/or fine. Further penalties may be determined through the execution of the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy.
PENALTY CARDS Violations		
Yellow Card – 1 st offence issued during the season		Warning letter issued
Yellow Card – 2 nd offence issued during the season		Warning letter issued
Yellow Card – 3 rd offence issued during the season	\$50	Suspension from the remainder of the current tournament and/or next tournament. OVA review & possible further suspension
Red Card – 1 st offence issued during the season		Warning letting issued
Red Card – 2 nd offence issued during the season	\$200	Suspension from the remainder of the current tournament and next tournament OVA review & possible further suspension.

Three or more red cards issued during the season	\$250	Suspension from the remainder of the current tournament and next tournament Possible further suspension.
Two yellow cards and one red card issued during the season	\$200	Suspension from the remainder of the current tournament and next tournament OVA review & possible further suspension.
Any combination of four or more cards (yellow/red) issued during the season	\$250	Suspension from the remainder of the current tournament and next tournament OVA review & possible further suspension.
Expulsion from match: Yellow & Red card together – 1 st offence	\$200	Suspension from the remainder of the current tournament and next tournament. OVA review & possible further suspension.
Expulsion from match: Yellow & Red card together – 2 nd offence	\$400	Suspension from the remainder of the season OVA Review with Discipline and Complaints committee
Disqualification for unsportsmanlike conduct from match: Yellow & Red card separate – 1 st offence	\$300	Suspension for the remainder of current tournament and from the next tournament OVA review & possible further suspension
Disqualification for unsportsmanlike conduct from match: Yellow & Red card separate – 2 nd offence	\$500	Suspension from the remainder of the season OVA Review with Discipline and Complaints committee
A combination of two or more expulsions/disqualifications in the same season.	Fines may be levied.	Suspension for the remainder of the season OVA Review with Discipline and Complaints committee
Purple Card – 2 nd offence issued to a team during the season		Warning Letter to the Club and Team
Purple Card – 3 rd offence issued to a team during the season	\$250	OVA review & possible team sanctions
Purple Card Expulsion	\$500	OVA Review with Discipline and Complaints committee
Purple Card Disqualification	\$500	OVA Review with Discipline and Complaints committee

- Further penalties may be determined through the execution of the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy.
- The OVA reserves the right to sanction and fine event participants, teams and Clubs for items above and beyond the infractions listed above.
- Any cards, yellow or red, issued for a delay of game will not be included in the sanctions listed above. Participants who receive multiple misconduct sanctions during one event, may be subject to additional penalties, up to and including removal from that event, or further discipline post-event.
- All Suspensions and sanctions will include Volleyball Canada's National Championships.

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