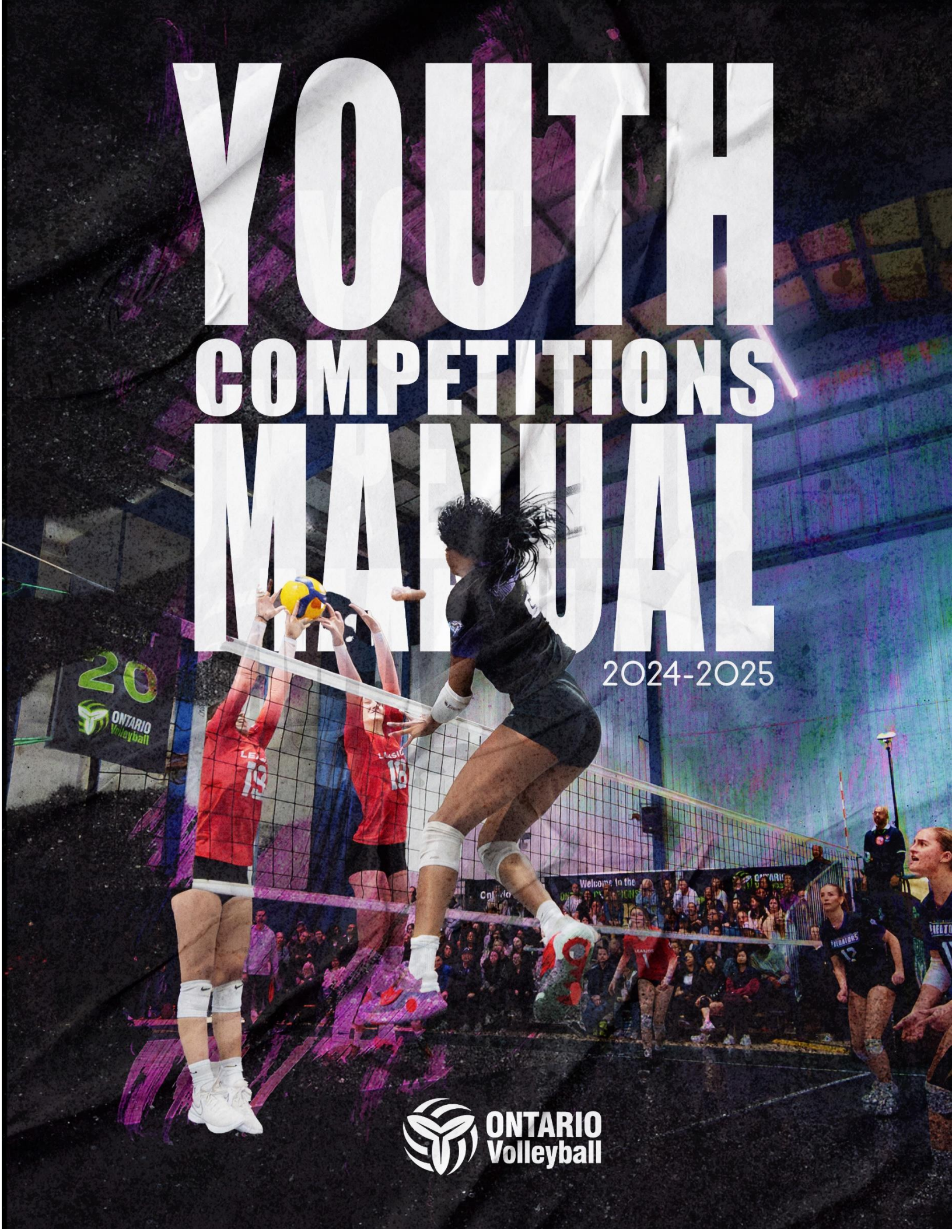
YOUTH COMPETITIONS MANUAL

2024-2025



ONTARIO Volleyball

2024-2025 Youth Competitions Calendar

November		Deadline	Fees (+HST)
2*	17U Girls Fall Classic (2-day) / Provincial Cup	September 22, 2024	$850/$425
8-10**	16U Girls Fall Classic (2-day) / Provincial Cup	September 29, 2024	$850/$425
	18U Girls Fall Classic (2-day) / Provincial Cup	September 29, 2024	$850/$425
	16U Boys Fall Classic (2-day) / Provincial Cup	September 29, 2024	$850/$425
	18U Boys Fall Classic (2-day) / Provincial Cup	September 29, 2024	$850/$425
16	4v4 Girls Provincial Cup	October 6, 2024	$180
	TLS Girls Provincial Cup	October 6, 2024	$400
17	6v6 Girls Provincial Cup	October 6, 2024	$400
	17U Boys Fall Classic (2-day) / Provincial Cup	October 6, 2024	$850/$425
23*	15U Girls Provincial Cup	October 13, 2024	$400
	TLS Boys Provincial Cup	October 13, 2024	$400
30*	17U Girls Challenge Cup	October 20, 2024	$425
	4v4 Boys/Co-ed Provincial Cup	October 20, 2024	$180
	15U Boys Provincial Cup	October 20, 2024	$400
December			
7*	16U Girls Challenge Cup	October 27, 2024	$425
	6v6 Boys Provincial Cup	October 27, 2024	$400
	16U Boys Challenge Cup	October 27, 2024	$425
14	TLS Girls Challenge Cup	November 3, 2024	$400
	18U Boys Challenge Cup	November 3, 2024	$425
15	4v4 Girls Challenge Cup	November 3, 2024	$180
	18U Girls Challenge Cup	November 3, 2024	$425
January			
11	6v6 Girls Challenge Cup	December 1, 2024	$400
	15U Boys Challenge Cup	December 1, 2024	$400
	17U Boys Challenge Cup	December 1, 2024	$425
12	15U Girls Challenge Cup	December 1, 2024	$400
	4v4 Boys/Co-ed Challenge Cup	December 1, 2024	$180
18	16U Girls McGregor Cup	December 8, 2024	$425
	18U Boys McGregor Cup	December 8, 2024	$425
19	18U Girls McGregor Cup	December 8, 2024	$425
	TLS Boys Challenge Cup	December 8, 2024	$400
25*	4v4 Girls McGregor Cup	December 15, 2024	$180
	TLS Girls McGregor Cup	December 15, 2024	$400
	6v6 Boys McGregor Cup	December 15, 2024	$400

February		**Deadline**	**Fees (+HST)**
1	6v6 Girls McGregor Cup	December 22, 2024	$400
	16U Boys McGregor Cup	December 22, 2024	$425
2	17U Girls McGregor Cup	December 22, 2024	$425
8	15U Girls McGregor Cup	December 29, 2024	$400
9	4v4 Boys/Co-ed McGregor Cup	December 29, 2024	$180
	15U Boys McGregor Cup	December 29, 2024	$400
	17U Boys McGregor Cup	December 29, 2024	$425
15*	18UG Grand Prix Qualifier (2-day) /Furlani Cup	January 5, 2025	$775/$425
	TLS Boys McGregor Cup	January 5, 2025	$400
	18UB Grand Prix Qualifier (2-day) /Furlani Cup	January 5, 2025	$775/$425
22	TLS Girls Bugarski Cup	January 12, 2025	$400
	6v6 Boys Bugarski Cup	January 12, 2025	$400
23	16U Girls Grand Prix (2-day) / Bugarski Cup	January 12, 2025	$775/$425
March			
1	6v6 Girls Bugarski Cup	January 19, 2025	$400
	4v4 Boys/Co-ed Bugarski Cup	January 19, 2025	$180
	16U Boys Grand Prix (2-day) /Bugarski Cup	January 19, 2025	$775/$425
2	15U Girls Bugarski Cup	January 19, 2025	$400
22	4v4 Girls Bugarski Cup	February 9, 2024	$180
	6v6 Boys Bugarski Cup	February 9, 2024	$400
	TLS Boys Bugarski Cup	February 9, 2024	$400
	17U Boys Grand Prix (2-day) /Bugarski Cup	February 9, 2024	$775/$425
23	17U Girls Grand Prix (2-day) /Bugarski Cup	February 9, 2024	$775/$425
28-30**	18U Girls Grand Prix (2-day) / Bugarski Cup (2-day)	February 16, 2025	$775
	15U Boys Bugarski Cup	February 16, 2025	$400
	18U Boys Grand Prix (2-day) / Bugarski Cup (2-day)	February 16, 2025	$775

*Teams will register for the weekend. Teams will find out which day their tournament is on once the event registration deadline closes and team splits are posted on the OVA website (3-4 weeks prior). Please note – most of these events will still be taking place on the Saturday with only a few events being held on Sunday. This will affect the teams scheduled on Nov 2, Nov 9, Nov 23, Nov 30, Dec 7, Jan 25 & Feb 15.

** Please reference the 2024/2025 Regular Season Convention Centre Events page on the OVA website located HERE as to how the EY Centre (Nov 8-10) and Niagara Falls Convention Centre (Mar 28-30) will be integrated into these regular season weekends.

2025 ONTARIO CHAMPIONSHIPS

EVENT*	DATE	VENUE	Age Group	DEADLINE
1	April 4-6, 2025	Rim Park, Waterloo ON	16UG & 4v4 Boys/Co-ed**	January 5, 2025
2	April 11-13, 2025	Rim Park, Waterloo ON	TLSG	January 5, 2025
3	April 17-19, 2025	Rim Park, Waterloo ON	17UG & TLSB*	January 5, 2025
4	April 20-22, 2025	Rim Park, Waterloo ON	15UB*, 16UB* & 17UB*	January 5, 2025
5	April 25-27, 2005	Rim Park, Waterloo ON	4v4G**, 18UG & 18UB	January 5, 2025
6	April 24-26, 2025	EY Centre, Ottawa ON	15UG	January 5, 2025
7	April 27-29, 2025	EY Centre, Ottawa ON	6v6G & 6v6B	January 5, 2025

***** If there is a higher then expected growth in one of the TLSB-17UB age groups, there is potential for a trade between those age groups in Event #3 and #4. For example, if there is a larger then expected growth in TLSB and they no longer fit in Event #3, they would be traded with either 15UB, 16UB or 17UB to ensure we still fit within the venue capacity. If a trade is made between TLSB – 17UB in Event #3 and #4, the trade would take place on January 13th, 2025.

** 4v4 Boys/Co-ed: 2 Day event (April 5-6, 2025)

** 4v4 Girls: 2-Day event (Will play on either April 25-26, 2025, OR April 26-27, 2025). To be confirmed in mid-January

2025 VOLLEYBALL CANADA INDOOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	VENUE
14U*	April 30 – May 4, 2025	Ottawa, ON	Carleton University
14U*	April 30 – May 4, 2025	Fredericton, NB	Grant Harvey Centre
14U*	May 8 - 11, 2025	Winnipeg, MB	RBC Convention Centre
15UB	May 8 - 11, 2025	Edmonton, AB	Edmonton Expo Centre
15UG & 17UB	May 14 – 17, 2025	Edmonton, AB	Edmonton Expo Centre
16UG & 17UG	May 18 – 21, 2025	Edmonton, AB	Edmonton Expo Centre
16UB, 18UG & 18UB	May 22 – 25, 2025	Edmonton, AB	Edmonton Expo 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!

Table of Contents

1.0 Administrative Staff 1

1.1 OVA Office Location 1

1.2 Youth Competitions Administrative Staff 1

2.0 Club Administration 2

2.1 Membership 2

2.2 Eligibility 2

2.3 Tryout Window 3

2.4 Athlete Transfer Policy 3

2.5 Club Requirements 3

2.6 Club Team Organization 4

2.7 Insurance 5

2.8 Letters of Good Standing 6

3.0 Registration 7

3.1 How to Register 7

3.2 Individual Membership Fees 7

3.3 Club Fee 7

3.4 Respect in Sport Parent Module 7

3.5 Tournament Entry Fees & Deadlines* 8

3.6 Ontario Championships Entry Fees & Deadlines** 8

3.7 Cancellation Policy 8

3.8 Tournament Refund Policy 9

3.9 Tournament Hosting 10

3.10 Roster Lock Date 11

4.0 Competition Regulations 12

4.1 Game Ball 12

4.2 Uniforms 12

4.3 Soft Uniforms Rule 13

4.4 Eligible Birth Years for Early Contact Initiative (ECI) 13

4.5 Age Categories 15U – 18U 14

4.6 Recommendations for Athletes Registering on a Team Above their Chronological Age 14

4.7 19U Eligibility 14

4.8 Players Moving Up an Age Category 15

4.9 Players Moving Laterally within an Age Category 15

4.10 Initial Placement Adjustment for New Clubs/Teams 15

4.11 Initial Placement Adjustment for Teams without end of season 2023-2024 results 16

4.12 Initial Placement for Underaged Teams 16

4.13 Ceiling Rule 17

5.0 Seasonal Structure 18

5.1 Tournament Formats 18

5.2 2024-2025 Ontario Volleyball Seasonal Structure for Girls and Boys 22

5.3 Placement for the First Event of the Season 30
5.4 Promotion for Vacancies in Tournament Draws 30
5.5 Tournament Exemptions (15U-18U ONLY) 31
5.6 Tie Breaking Procedure for Tournament Seeding 31
5.8 OVA Indoor Points System 32
6.0 Playing Rules and Regulations 34
6.1 Roster Size 34
6.2 Net Heights 34
6.3 Libero Rules 34
6.4 Substitution Rules 34
6.5 Mandatory Pre-Game Warm Up Protocol 35
6.6 Step In Rule 36
6.7 Fair Play Rule 36
6.8 4v4 Rallyball Playing Regulations 37
6.9 6v6 Rallyball Playing Regulations 38
6.10 TLS: Event #1 and Event #2: All Position Events 40
6.11 TLS: Events #3 and #4 41
6.12 Serve Receive Rule 41
6.13 Game Day Scheduling 41
6.14 Side Switching In-between Sets – Pilot 41
6.15 Noise Makers 42
6.16 Pom Poms 42
6.17 OVA Hotline 42
6.18 Recreational Cell Phone and Tripod Use 42
6.19 Lining and Scoring 42
6.20 Protests 43
6.21 Purple Card Sanction Policy – All OVA Competitions 44
6.22 Default Procedure 44
6.23 Assignment of Officials 44
6.24 Medical Supplies at Regular Season Events 45
6.25 Travel Expectations for OVA Regular Season Events 45
6.26 Registration for “Weekends” vs a specific Saturday or Sunday 45
6.27 Playing on Sport Court Rule 45
7.0 Ontario Championships 46
7.1 Ontario Championships Eligibility Requirements 46
7.2 4V4 Rallyball 47
7.3 Ontario Championships Travel Rebate Policy 47
7.4 Ontario Championships Stay to Play Policy 47
7.5 National Championships 48
8.0 Coaching 49
8.1 Coach Eligibility Policy 49
8.2 Police Screening 50

8.3 Coaching Code of Ethics 50
9.0 Safe Sport 52
9.1 Person in Authority Code of Conduct 52
9.2 Person In Authority Code of Conduct – Purpose 52
9.3 Volleyball Canada and Abuse Free Sport 52
9.4 Education 53
9.5 Policies 54
9.6 Mental Health 54
9.7 Concussion Policy and Safety Protocols 55
9.8 Rowan's Law – Concussion Safety 56
10.0 Awards 57
10.1 Tournament Medals 57
10.2 OVA Award of Excellence 57
10.3 OVA Grand Prix All Star Teams 57
10.4 Evelyn Holick and Ken Davies Awards 57
10.5 Scarborough Solars Award 57
10.6 OVAtion Banquet presented by Nothers Signs and Recognition 58
10.7 OVA Hall of Fame 58
Appendices 59
Appendix I What's New 2024-2025 59
Appendix II Volleyball Canada Age Categories 64
Appendix III OVA Uniform Logo Policy 65
Appendix IV VC Uniform Guidelines 66
Appendix V OVA Fines and Sanctions 72

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 Hotline: 647-467-5514

1.2 Youth Competitions Administrative Staff

Claire Melanson - Indoor Programs Coordinator (cmelanson@ontariovolleyball.org / 416-426-7316 x104) – 4v4, 6v6, TLS & 15U Boys Indoor Competitions, Ontario Championships.

Jacob Barker – Indoor Programs Coordinator (jbarker@ontariovolleyball.org / 416-426-7321) –15U Girls & 16U - 17U Indoor Youth Competitions; Ontario Championships.

Mark Wiersma – Manager of Indoor Competitions (mwiersma@ontariovolleyball.org / 416-426-7428) –Planning, developing, and guiding Association staff for all OVA Youth Competitions and Ontario Championships deliverables, 18U Indoor Youth Competitions; Facility Partnerships/Hosting; Sport Court Rentals, Asset management.

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

Michelle Kozlowskyj – Operations Coordinator (mkozlowskyj@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.

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 – Athlete Development Director (lpmainville@ontariovolleyball.org / 416-426-7047)
Process and Policy for High Performance Sport and Team Ontario programs; Long Term Athlete Development (Indoor, Beach & Sitting); Coaching Development (Indoor, Beach & Sitting); Manage Indoor and Beach athlete development staff,

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 (Ontario Championships, Hall of Fame and OVAtion Banquet);

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.**
- **All coaches and club staff must be registered members with the OVA prior to attending their first tryout or training session (whichever comes first) and meet the eligibility requirements as per the 2024-2025 Coach Eligibility Policy located 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 (1) Club and one (1) Province/Territorial Association.
- ANY person sitting on the bench at an OVA competition or participating in team practices **MUST** be a registered member of the OVA. This includes coaches and trainers. If you have a practice player that will not be attending competitions, they can be registered as a recreational member to attend practices only.
- OVA Memberships are non-refundable.

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 2024-25 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 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 HERE.

2.3 Tryout Window

The OVA requires that all Clubs adhere to the current season's Tryout Window Policy. This policy outlines dates 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 HERE.

2.5 Club Requirements

Club Contacts will be responsible for filling out a Returning Club Information Form in MRS for the Club to register for the current season. Club Registration must be completed 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 withing the last three (3) 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 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 2024-2025 season (until August 31, 2023). 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 (2) days of this request.

Do Not Use 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, reducing the chance of clerical errors when seeding tournaments
- 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")

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 Club Team Organization

For registration in MRS: a club team must consist of a minimum 8 registered OVA athletes and a maximum of 15 registered OVA athletes for our 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 14 permitted on the score sheet. The score sheet permits the following team staff to be on the bench:

- One (1) head coach **(REQUIRED)**
- Two (2) assistant coaches
- One (1) trainer
- One (1) medical staff

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. 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.

2.7 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 about coverage details please view the Ontario Volleyball Insurance Program documents on the OVA website.

Note: Certificates of Insurance are supplied for programs that are offered to fully registered members of the OVA. If your Club is hosting a non-OVA tournament or special event or camp, event sanctioning or the purchase of additional insurance is required to be covered by the OVA insurance policy. If non-OVA members attend an event not sanctioned by the OVA, **they 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 (1) Insurance Request Form for each event/facility and submit to insurance@ontariovolleyball.org a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the event date.

The Form can be found on the OVA website: https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/insurance

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 by clicking HERE.

2.8 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 (2) 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 2024-25 season, membership fees with Volleyball Canada will increase from $35 to $36 and OVA fees for competitive athletes, coaches and club personnel will increase from $55 to $57. There will be no increase in membership fees for recreational athletes or referees. The total membership fee including HST is $100.41 (OVA fee $57 + $7.41 HST + VC fee $36)
- **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 $350+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 participating 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 28 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

4v4 Rallyball	$180 + HST
6v6 Rallyball, TLS, 15U	$400 + HST
16U-18U	$425 + HST
2-Day - Grand Prix/Grand Prix Qualifier/18U Bugarski Cup	$775 + HST
2-Day - Fall Classic (16U-18U)	$850 + HST

The registration deadline for all regular season events for all age divisions will be **6 weeks prior to the tournament.**

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 a regular season 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

4v4 Rallyball Ontario Championships:	$995 + HST (2-day event)
6v6 Rallyball – 15U Ontario Championships:	$1,480 + HST (3-day event)
16U – 18U Ontario Championships	$1,605 + HST (3-day event)

Please refer to the Ontario Championship Section of the website for all up-to-date information located HERE.

3.7 Cancellation Policy

Weather Cancellation
If local weather or other circumstances prevent a team from traveling to an event unexpectedly, teams must contact the appropriate Program Coordinator via email, or call the **OVA hotline (647-467-5514),** and the tournament host if possible.

Each team must assess their own risk when making the decision to travel due to weather or other extenuating circumstances. It is not possible for the OVA to assess each team's travel situation. It is recommended that weather and road conditions be checked prior to commencing travel. The Tournament Host and OVA Program Coordinator will consider local weather, road conditions and the number of teams who will not be attending when deciding if a cancellation is warranted.

Any decision to cancel an event due to weather concerns will be published by the OVA at www.ontariovolleyball.org under "Upcoming Indoor Events" on each tournament page at approximately 2pm on the Friday prior to a competition weekend. If no cancellation notice is published, it should be assumed that the event will continue as scheduled. School boards have the authority to cancel any permit with very limited notice without consulting the permit holder or the OVA. However, these instances are out of the OVA's control and we will do our best to communicate these cancellations as soon as notification is received.

If a tournament is cancelled by the OVA, 100% of the registration fee will be refunded. If the tournament is not cancelled, any teams that withdraw due to weather concerns, will be reimbursed their entry fee, and will still be credited as having participated in the tournament. Please note that it is highly unlikely that a cancelled tournament will be rescheduled.

Unconfirmed Hosts and Tournament Cancellation
Teams will be designated into their appropriate division, regardless of whether or not a host location has been confirmed within 3 weeks of an event. Teams designated in a division without a host location are responsible for

finding/booking an appropriate gym space.

If hosts are not confirmed two (2) weeks prior to an OVA tournament, tournaments without hosts may be cancelled and not rescheduled. Teams that were designated into divisions that were cancelled due to the lack of a host or inclement weather will receive points (*only if it does not lower a team's average) based on their seed for the cancelled event and the event will count towards participation for the Ontario Championships. NOTE: All other divisions with confirmed hosts will still proceed with the tournament.

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 up until 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 $200.

Any cancellation requests submitted within 5 days of the tournament will result in loss of the tournament entry fee and the team is fined $300.

Failure to pay the fine within five (5) 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 age division.

Note: Any cancellations initiated by the OVA will be 100% refunded.

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.

For the Ontario Championships, 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 (5) 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 age division.

Note: Any cancellations initiated by the OVA will be 100% refunded.

The OVA's full Financial Policy can be found by clicking here.

3.9 Tournament Hosting

The OVA's competition structure is highly dependent on our Clubs' ability to put forth tournament hosting applications for the various dates in our competitions calendar. Therefore, locations of our tournaments depend on the location of facilities that our Clubs are able to secure. In addition, OVA staff work to allocate the highest quality locations to all Fall Classic, Grand Prix and Grand Prix Qualifiers.

As our sport 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 in the club resource section of the OVA website located 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 out 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, lines are CLEARLY marked, 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 bids. *Conditional bids* are submitted with certain stipulations should the bid be accepted. *Non-conditional* bids are open and clubs are willing to host any age category and any division.

Many bids that are submitted are conditional. This can influence the location of each division and the timeliness in which teams are posted.

Competitive Balance
Geography will continue to be the first determining factor when creating OVA tournament draws. The draws will then be adjusted to accommodate the following factors, in no particular 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.
- The above- mentioned are subjective criteria and the OVA staff will use its best discretion in creating tournament draws.

3.10 Roster Lock Date
All athletes, coaches and team staff must be added to a team's official roster in MRS prior to **February 1st, 2025** in order to be eligible for the remainder of the regular season, 2025 Ontario Championships and 2025 Volleyball Canada Youth Nationals.

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 OVA Competition. The following models will be used for each age division:

- Mikasa VUL 500 – 4v4 Rallyball
- Mikasa VQ200W-OVA - 6v6 Rallyball, TLS and 15U
- Mikasa V200W - 16U-18U
- Mikasa V200W - Team Ontario / High Performance

4.2 Uniforms

Each registered team shall be appropriately dressed for competition as follows:

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 for 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 must follow the dress guidelines below during all OVA events.

- Must be dressed in coaching attire as to represent their team and club in a professional manner (e.g. no baseball caps).
- Must wear appropriate footwear. Only closed toe shoes allowed (prohibited footwear include but not limited to sandals, flip flops, crocs, etc.).

Volunteer Minor Officials: Head wear is permitted for team staff/volunteers/guardians while performing scorekeeping or lining duties at all OVA 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.

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 shirts on the front.
- 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 2024-2025 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
2010 = 15yo (September 1st 2010 to December 31st, 2010)	No	No	Yes
2011 = 14yo	No	Yes	Yes
2012 = 13yo	Yes	Yes	Yes
2013 = 12yo	Yes	Yes	Yes
2014 = 11yo	Yes	Yes	Yes*
2015 = 10yo	Yes	Yes*	Yes*

***Please note: 2015 and 2014 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.**

***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. Please click HERE for a link to the on-line application.

4.5 Age Categories 15U – 18U

Age Category	Chronological Age Class
15 & Under	Born 2010 or later
16 & Under	Born 2009 or later
17 & Under	Born 2008 or later
18 & Under	Born 2007 or later

Age Category	Extended Age Class
15 & Under	Born between September 1st 2009 and December 31st 2009
16 & Under	Born between September 1st 2008 and December 31st 2008
17 & Under	Born between September 1st 2007 and December 31st 2007
18 & Under	Born between January 1st 2006 and December 31st, 2006

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, 2009 She plays for the 15U Girls Division Blue Spikers team. Linda is permitted to move laterally within the age category 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, 2008. He plays for the 16U Division Boys Hitters. The 16U Division Boys Hitters register 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 a 17U Hitters.

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, 2008. He plays for the 17U Boys Vikings. John is permitted to move laterally within the age category and play for the 17UB Red Vikings and play up on the 18U Vikings. He is not permitted to play on 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, 2010 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 2006 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 2024-2025 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 2005 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 (non-roster) lower age players (from that same Club) in an OVA competition. The names of the players moving up are to be bracketed on the score sheets.

An athlete CANNOT participate for more than one (1) 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 is not able to play for a team on Saturday at a 16UG Trillium A tournament and then play on another team on Sunday for a Championship B 16UG tournament.

An athlete CANNOT participate in two (2) Ontario Championships if they are held on the same weekend. For example, an athlete cannot be listed on the roster of a team in both the 15U and 17U Ontario Championships if they are held on the same 3-day event weekend. In addition, an athlete 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.

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. 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. All team rosters must be finalized and submitted by the Ontario Championship roster submission deadline. This rule applies to all age groups.

An athlete CANNOT participate for more than one (1) team during the same tournament OR event. All tournaments within an age category for a specific Cup are in same event (i.e., all tournaments that make up the 16UG Challenge Cup are in the same event). For example, an athlete is not able to play for a team on Saturday at a 16UG Trillium A tournament and then play on another team on Sunday for a Championship B 16UG tournament.

Documentation to the OVA office is not required for lateral movement for regular season events, but the names of those players moving laterally are to be bracketed on the score sheets. A player who has been moved laterally from roster A to roster B can only participate for team B at that tournament.

4.10 Initial Placement Adjustment for New Clubs/Teams

- 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 2023-2024 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*
- Applications must be received prior to the Provincial Cup registration deadline to be considered.
- The Initial Placement Adjustment is only guaranteed for the first event of the season.
- The Initial Placement Adjustment is determined by averaging a minimum of six (6) athlete's rank in the previous season (one year under the age category where the adjustment is requested).

- Teams with an average that places them in the top half of Trillium White, Championship or Select (as per Youth Competitions Structural Guidelines) in the first event will be granted the Initial Placement Adjustment.
- Teams who are granted the Initial Placement Adjustment will be seeded last in their respective tournament in the Trillium White, Championship or Select division.
- Fee: $150.

4.11 Initial Placement Adjustment for Teams without end of season 2023-2024 results

- Any club may apply to adjust a team's placement in the first OVA event if they did not compete in the 2023-2024 season in a specific age category.
- Applications must be received prior to the Provincial Cup registration deadline to be considered.
- The Initial Placement Adjustment is only guaranteed for the first event of the season.
- The Initial Placement Adjustment is determined by using the top 6 players average finish from the 2023-2024 season.
- Teams with an average that places them in the top half of Trillium White, Championship or Select (as per Youth Competitions Structural Guidelines) in the first event will be granted the Initial Placement Adjustment.
- 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.
- Fee: $150.

4.12 Initial Placement for Underaged Teams

- 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.
- 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. 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.
    - 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.
    - 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 2024 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 15/152 (total 15UG teams at the 2024 OCs) which comes to 9.86%. 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% - 2.00%	0% - 3.00%	0% - 4.00%
Championship	2.01% - 12.00%	2.01% - 14.00%	3.01% - 17.00%	4.01% - 20.00%
Trillium White	12.01% - 30.99%	14.01% - 33.99%	17.01% - 36.99%	20.01% - 39.99%

Boys – Underage Initial Placement Into:		
	TLSB – 16UB	**17UB – 18UB**
Championship (Provincial Cup/Fall Classic)	0% - 3.99%	0% - 5.99%
Championship (All other events)	0% - 9.99%	0% - 9.99%

- * 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 into 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 plying 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 plying 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.

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 Saturday and/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 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 5.5).
    - Step 3 of Section 5.4 (Filling in tournament vacancies) does allow for 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.

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.

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). 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.

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.

Fall Classic (2-day)
The Fall Classic takes place for each 16U-18U age group on the same weekend as their Provincial Cup. This event is for the top 20 teams at the 16UB – 18UB age groups and the top 24 teams at the 16UG – 18UG age groups.

- 16UB – 18UB
    - The top 20 teams will be placed into Championship to start on Day 1, competing in a single day pool play. Day 2 will consist of Championship (12 team) and Premier (8 team) brackets based on the day 1 results.
    - 16UB and 18UB will have their Fall Classic event at the EY Centre in Ottawa on Nov 9 – 10, 2024.
    - 17UB will have a Fall Classic event as well but it will be at a standard venue (i.e., one 6 court venue or two 3 court venues) on November 16-17, 2024.
    - The remaining teams registered for the 16UB-18UB Provincial Cups will have a standard, single day event scheduled at different facilities across the province.
- 16UG – 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.
    - 16UG and 18UG will have their Fall Classic event at the EY Centre in Ottawa on Nov 9 – 10, 2024
    - 17UG will have a Fall Classic event as well but it will be at a standard venue (i.e., one 6 court venue or two 3 court venues) on November 2-3, 2024.

Grand Prix Qualifier (2-day)
For the 18UG/B Premier division only, the 4th event of the season (Furlani Cup) will consist of a two-day, 12 team qualifier for the Grand Prix. The 12 teams for this 4th event will be chosen based on top 2 average finishes. The top 8 finishing teams from the Grand Prix qualifier will receive an invite for the 18U Grand Prix (also a 2-day event).

Grand Prix (2-day)
The goal of these events is to expose teams to a highly competitive environment and to place emphasis on rest and recovery, as well as scouting and planning. Eight (8) teams will compete in a two (2) day tournament. Pool Play will take place on Saturday and Playoff matches on Sunday, which may include challenge matches.

NOTE: Circumstances may arise that may warrant modification to the tournament structure.

Convention Centre Events for 2024/25
The OVA is excited to have the opportunity to continue with a couple Convention Centre events for the upcoming regular season. The EY Centre events on November 8 – 10, 2024 are proudly brought to our membership in partnership with Ottawa Tourism as this event is only made possible through their generous support. Please click HERE for information on Ottawa and all the city has to offer. The Niagara Falls Convention Centre events will take place on March 28 – 30, 2025. Please click HERE for more information around the two convention centre events.

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.

- Both the EY 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 (club address to EY 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 or Niagara Falls Convention Centre 2-day tournaments.

- Teams participating in single day Convention Centre events or any teams less then 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.

- November 8-10, 2024 – EY Centre in Ottawa (24 courts)
    - November 8th – traditional single day tournament format
        - Friday 12pm – 9:00pm
        - Eight traditional single day (9 team on 3 court) events. The 16UG, 18UG, 16UB and 18UB age groups will be scheduled across the province on this weekend with 8 of these tournaments being assigned to the EY Centre for their single day event on Friday November 8th. The breakdown of the Friday single day events will most likely look like this:
            - 16UG – 3 regular 9 team on 3 court events
            - 18UG – 3 regular 9 team on 3 court events
            - 16UB – 1 regular 9 team on 3 court event
            - 18UB – 1 regular 9 team on 3 court event
            - Team Splits will be posted on the OVA website after the registration deadline has passed.
    - November 9th – November 10th (2-day events)
        - Saturday (8:30am – 5pm) & Sunday (8:00am – 4:30pm)
        - 16UG/18UG – Top 24 teams – will break out into Premier/Select brackets on Day 2
        - 16UB/18UB – Top 20 teams – will break out into Premier/Championship brackets on Day 2
    - The rest of the single day, 16UB, 16UG, 18UB & 18UG locations will be spread out in local gyms accross the province on Saturday Nov 9th or Sunday Nov 10th

    - Team Splits will be posted on the OVA website after the registration deadline has passed.

- March 28-30, 2025 – Niagara Falls Convention Centre (12 courts)
    - The 18U B/G Grand Prix events will be taking place on the Saturday and Sunday. The breakdown for the weekend will most likely look like this:
    - March 28th (11am – 8pm)
        - Four 15UB single day events
    - March 29th (9am – 6pm) – March 30th (8am - 5pm)
        - 18UB Grand Prix
        - 18UG Grand Prix
        - Two 18UG Bugarski Cup events
        - One 18UB Bugarski Cup event
    - Team Splits will be posted on the OVA website after the registration deadline and the most recent event has passed.

- Outside of the NFCC events listed above, the breakdown for the remaining single day events across the province are as follows:
  - 15UB – Saturday March 29th
  - 18U – Saturday March 29th – Sunday March 30th (2-day event for all divisions)

Hotel booking portals will be set up by HTG Sports to ensure teams have access to the bests 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.

5.2 2024-2025 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 PREDITCTION/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. ***Set Ratio will be used from the Bugarski Cup to seed the Ontario Championships***
	Ontario Championships		Bugarski Cup Set Ratio	
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. ***Set Ratio will be used from the Bugarski Cup to seed the Ontario Championships***
	Ontario Championships		Bugarski Cup Set Ratio	

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****				
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	
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 7th – 9th 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 7th – 9th 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	

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****				
TLS Girls	Provincial Cup	Select Championship Trillium	6v6 end of season rankings from 2023-2024 (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 (18) Select (36) Championship (54) 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 7th – 9th place teams moving down and the 1st place teams moving up for the Bugarski Cup. **Limited-Specialization: 4-2,6-2,6-3 permitted. No 5-1 Permitted.**
	Bugarski Cup	Premier (18) Select (36) Championship (54) 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	**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 2023-2024 (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 7th – 9th place teams moving down and the 1st 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	**Limited-Specialization: 4-2,6-2,6-3 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 (27) Championship (36) Trillium White (54) Trillium Green	Based on the TLS end of season rankings from 2023-2024	The 1st - 3rd place teams from the Select division will move up to the Premier division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Select division will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Select division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium White division The 1st place teams from the Trillium White division will move up to the Championship division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Trillium White division will move down to the Trillium Green division The 1st place teams from the Trillium Green division will move up to the Trillium White division
	Challenge Cup	Premier (9) Select (27) Championship (36) Trillium White (54) Trillium Green	Provincial Cup Rankings	The 7th – 9th place teams from the Premier division will move down to the Select division The 1st place teams from the Select division will move up to the Premier division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Select division will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Select division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium White division The 1st place teams from the Trillium White division will move up to the Championship division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Trillium White division will move down to the Trillium Green division The 1st place teams from the Trillium Green division will move up to the Trillium White division
	McGregor Cup	Premier (9) Select (27) Championship (45) Trillium White (54) Trillium Green	Challenge Cup Rankings	The 7th – 9th place teams from the Premier division will move down to the Select division The 1st place teams from the Select division will move up to the Premier division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Select division will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Select division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium White division The 1st place teams from the Trillium White division will move up to the Championship division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Trillium White division will move down to the Trillium Green division The 1st place teams from the Trillium Green division will move up to the Trillium White division
	Bugarski Cup	Premier (9) Select (27) Championship (45) Trillium White (54) Trillium Green	McGregor Cup Rankings	
	Ontario Championships		Average points from a team's top 2 finishes	
15UB	Provincial Cup	Championship (18) Trillium	Based on the TLS end of season rankings from 2023-2024	The 1st – 4th place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Premier division The 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium division The 1st place teams from the Trillium division will move up to the Championship division
	Challenge Cup	Premier (9) Championship (18) Trillium	Provincial Cup Rankings	The 7th – 9th place teams from the Premier division will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Premier division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium division The 1st place teams from the Trillium division will move up to the Championship division
	McGregor Cup	Premier (9) Championship (27) Trillium	Challenge Cup Rankings	The 7th – 9th place teams from the Premier division will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Premier division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium division The 1st place teams from the Trillium division will move up to the Championship division
	Bugarski Cup	Premier (9) Championship (27) Trillium	McGregor Cup Rankings	
	Ontario Championships		Average points from a team's top 2 finishes	

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****				
16UG	Fall Classic (Select - 2 Day) & Provincial Cup	Select (24) Championship (36) Trillium White (54) Trillium Green	Based on the 15UG end of season rankings from 2023-2024	The 7th place teams from the Day 2 Premier bracket will move down to the Select division The 1st place teams from the Day 2 Select brackets will move up to the Premier division The 7th place teams from the Day 2 Select brackets will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Select division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium White division The 1st place teams from the Trillium White division will move up to the Championship division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Trillium White division will move down to the Trillium Green division The 1st place teams from the Trillium Green division will move up to the Trillium White division
	Challenge Cup	Premier (9) Select (27) Championship (36) Trillium White (54) Trillium Green	Provincial Cup Rankings	The 7th – 9th place teams from the Premier division will move down to the Select division The 1st place teams from the Select division will move up to the Premier division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Select division will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Select division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium White division The 1st place teams from the Trillium White division will move up to the Championship division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Trillium White division will move down to the Trillium Green division The 1st place teams from the Trillium Green division will move up to the Trillium White division
	McGregor Cup	Premier (9) Select (27) Championship (45) Trillium White (54) Trillium Green	Challenge Cup Rankings	Grand Prix teams will be selected using a team's average points from their best two events Any remaining Premier teams from the McGregor Cup will move down to the Select division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Select division will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Select division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium White division The 1st place teams from the Trillium White division will move up to the Championship division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Trillium White division will move down to the Trillium Green division The 1st place teams from the Trillium Green division will move up to the Trillium White division
	Grand Prix (2 day) & Bugarski Cup	Grand Prix (8) Select (27) Championship (45) Trillium White (54) Trillium Green	McGregor Cup Rankings (Grand Prix – Top 2 average with overall average being the tiebreaker)	
	Ontario Championships		Average points from a team's top 2 finishes	
16UB	Fall Classic (Championship - 2 Day) & Provincial Cup	Championship (20) Trillium	Based on the 15UB end of season rankings from 2023-2024	The 8th place team from the Day 2 Premier bracket will move down to the Championship division The 1st- 2nd place teams from the Day 2 Championship bracket will move up to the Premier division The 11th – 12th place teams from the Day 2 (Championship) bracket will move down to the Trillium division The 1st place teams from Trillium will move into the Championship division
	Challenge Cup	Premier (9) Championship (18) Trillium	Provincial Cup Rankings	The 7th – 9th place teams from the Premier division will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Premier division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium division The 1st place teams from the Trillium division will move up to the Championship division
	McGregor Cup	Premier (9) Championship (27) Trillium	Challenge Cup Rankings	Grand Prix teams will be selected using a team's average points from their best two events Any remaining Premier teams from the McGregor Cup will move down to the Championship division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium division The 1st place teams from the Trillium division will move up to the Championship division
	Grand Prix (2 day) & Bugarski Cup	Grand Prix (8) Championship (27) Trillium	McGregor Cup Rankings (Grand Prix – Top 2 average with overall average being the tiebreaker)	
	Ontario Championships		Average points from a team's top 2 finishes	

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****				
17UG	Fall Classic (Select - 2 Day) & Provincial Cup	Select (24) Championship (27) Trillium White (36) Trillium Green	Based on the 16UG end of season rankings from 2023-2024	The 7th place teams from the Day 2 Premier bracket will move down to the Select division The 1st place teams from the Day 2 Select brackets will move up to the Premier division The 7th place teams from the Day 2 Select brackets will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Select division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium White division The 1st place teams from the Trillium White division will move up to the Championship division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Trillium White division will move down to the Trillium Green division The 1st place teams from the Trillium Green division will move up to the Trillium White division
	Challenge Cup	Premier (9) Select (18) Championship (27) Trillium White (36) Trillium Green	Provincial Cup Rankings	The 7th – 9th place teams from the Premier division will move down to the Select division The 1st place teams from the Select division will move up to the Premier division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Select division will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Select division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium White division The 1st place teams from the Trillium White division will move up to the Championship division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Trillium White division will move down to the Trillium Green division The 1st place teams from the Trillium Green division will move up to the Trillium White division
	McGregor Cup	Premier (9) Select (18) Championship (27) Trillium White (45) Trillium Green	Challenge Cup Rankings	Grand Prix teams will be selected using a team's average points from their best two events Any remaining Premier teams from the McGregor Cup will move down to the Select division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Select division will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Select division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium White division The 1st place teams from the Trillium White division will move up to the Championship division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Trillium White division will move down to the Trillium Green division The 1st place teams from the Trillium Green division will move up to the Trillium White division
	Grand Prix (2 day) & Bugarski Cup	Grand Prix (8) Select (18) Championship (36) Trillium White (45) Trillium Green	McGregor Cup Rankings (Grand Prix – Top 2 average with overall average being the tiebreaker)	
	Ontario Championships		Average points from a team's top 2 finishes	
17UB	Fall Classic (Championship - 2 Day) & Provincial Cup	Championship (20) Trillium	Based on the 16UB end of season rankings from 2023-2024	The 8th place team from the Day 2 Premier bracket will move down to the Championship division The 1st- 2nd place teams from the Day 2 Championship bracket will move up to the Premier division The 11th – 12th place teams from the Day 2 (Championship) bracket will move down to the Trillium division The 1st place teams from Trillium will move into the Championship division
	Challenge Cup	Premier (9) Championship (18) Trillium	Provincial Cup Rankings	The 7th – 9th place teams from the Premier division will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Premier division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium division The 1st place teams from the Trillium division will move up to the Championship division
	McGregor Cup	Premier (9) Championship (18) Trillium	Challenge Cup Rankings	Grand Prix teams will be selected using a team's average points from their best two events Any remaining Premier teams from the McGregor Cup will move down to the Championship division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium division The 1st place teams from the Trillium division will move up to the Championship division
	Grand Prix (2 day) & Bugarski Cup	Grand Prix (8) Championship (27) Trillium	McGregor Cup Rankings (Grand Prix – Top 2 average with overall average being the tiebreaker)	
	Ontario Championships		Average points from a team's top 2 finishes	

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****				
18UG	Fall Classic (Select - 2 Day) & Provincial Cup	Select (24) Championship (27) Trillium White (27) Trillium Green	Based on the 17UG end of season rankings from 2023-2024	The 7th place teams from the Day 2 Premier bracket will move down to the Select division The 1st place teams from the Day 2 Select brackets will move up to the Premier division The 7th place teams from the Day 2 Select brackets will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Select division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium White division The 1st place teams from the Trillium White division will move up to the Championship division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Trillium White division will move down to the Trillium Green division The 1st place teams from the Trillium Green division will move up to the Trillium White division
	Challenge Cup	Premier (9) Select (18) Championship (27) Trillium White (27) Trillium Green	Provincial Cup Rankings	The 7th – 9th place teams from the Premier division will move down to the Select division The 1st place teams from the Select division will move up to the Premier division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Select division will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Select division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium White division The 1st place teams from the Trillium White division will move up to the Championship division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Trillium White division will move down to the Trillium Green division The 1st place teams from the Trillium Green division will move up to the Trillium White division
	McGregor Cup	Premier (9) Select (18) Championship (27) Trillium White (27) Trillium Green	Challenge Cup Rankings	Grand Prix Qualifier teams will be selected using a team's average points from their best two events Any remaining Premier teams from the McGregor Cup will move down to the Select division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Select division will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Select division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium White division The 1st place teams from the Trillium White division will move up to the Championship division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Trillium White division will move down to the Trillium Green division The 1st place teams from the Trillium Green division will move up to the Trillium White division
	Grand Prix Qualifier (2 day) & Furlani Cup	QP Qualifier (12) Select (18) Championship (27) Trillium White (27) Trillium Green	McGregor Cup Rankings (Grand Prix Qualifier – Top 2 average with overall average being the tiebreaker)	The top 8 teams from Qualifier event will be in the Grand Prix for the next event Any remaining teams from the Qualifier event will move down to the Select division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Select division will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Select division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium White division The 1st place teams from the Trillium White division will move up to the Championship division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Trillium White division will move down to the Trillium Green division The 1st place teams from the Trillium Green division will move up to t
	Grand Prix (2 day) & Bugarski Cup (2 day)	Grand Prix (8) Select (24) Championship (24) Trillium White (24) 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
18UB	Fall Classic (Championship - 2 Day) & Provincial Cup	Championship (20) Trillium	Based on the 17UB end of season rankings from 2023-2024	The 8th place team from the Day 2 Premier bracket will move down to Championship The 1st- 2nd place teams from the Day 2 Championship bracket will move up to the Premier division The 11th – 12th place teams from the Day 2 (Championship) bracket will move down to the Trillium division The 1st place teams from Trillium will move up to the Championship division
	Challenge Cup	Premier (9) Championship (18) Trillium	Provincial Cup Rankings	The 7th – 9th place teams from the Premier division will move down to the Championship division The 1st place teams from the Championship division will move up to the Premier division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium division The 1st place teams from the Trillium division will move up to the Championship division
	McGregor Cup	Premier (9) Championship (18) Trillium	Challenge Cup Rankings	Grand Prix Qualifier teams will be selected using a team's average points from their best two events Any remaining Premier teams from the McGregor Cup will move down to the Championship division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium division The 1st place teams from the Trillium division will move up to the Championship division
	Grand Prix Qualifier (2 day) & Furlani Cup	GP Qualifier (12) Championship (18) Trillium	McGregor Cup Rankings (Grand Prix Qualifier – Top 2 average with overall average being the tiebreaker)	The top 8 teams from GP Qualifier event will be in the Grand Prix for the next event Any remaining teams from the GP Qualifier event will move down to the Championship division The 7th – 9th place teams from the Championship division will move down to the Trillium division The 1st place teams from the Trillium division will move up to the Championship division

	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
	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 2024.
    - 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 2024 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.
- 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 2024 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 2024 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 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 or Early contact stream the option to maintain their placement within a division, despite missing an OVA event. There will be no exemptions given for the 18U Grand Prix Qualifiers.

- A maximum of two (2) teams will be awarded an exemption per event for the current season in each age category.
- The team must be ranked in the top four (4) teams in terms of the most recent rankings in the entire age category for boy's divisions.
- The team must be ranked in the top eight (8) in terms of the most recent rankings in the entire age category for girl's divisions.
- Exemption can be granted only once per season, per team.
- Exemption only secures 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 2 teams apply for the same event.

Note: There are no tournament exemptions for 4v4 Rallyball, 6v6 Rallyball or TLS events due to the structure of their season.
Note: 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 a vacancies.

5.6 Tie Breaking Procedure for Tournament Seeding

Teams will be seeded using an average result from the OVA points system, where possible. Any ties will be broken using the following methods, which will be applied in order until all ties are broken, and all tied teams are ranked:

a. The number of OVA events the team has participated in their age division
b. A team's result in the most recent OVA event and working backwards to the first event of the season
c. A team's result at the previous Ontario Championships
d. A team's seed going into the previous Ontario Championships

e. Coin toss

Note: 16U – 17U Grand Prix and 18U Grand Prix Qualifier tournament seeding is based on a teams top 2 average followed by overall average followed by the 5-step tie breaking procedure above.

Note: 18U Grand Prix tournament seeding is based on a teams 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 among teams X, Y & Z and criteria b) is able to 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 Points System

The OVA has developed a points system whereby the following important criteria can be met:

- An accumulation or average of points can illustrate a team's ranking among other teams in the province
- An accumulation or average of points can break ties between teams for tournament seeding

No changes in tournament seeding will be made 3 days prior to the event.

	6v6B - 18UB Points System		
Rank	**Premier**	**Championship**	**Trillium**
1	1000	900	800
2	975	875	775
3	960	860	760
4	945	845	745
5	930	830	730
6	915	815	715
7	895	795	695
8	880	780	680
9	865	765	665
10*		750	650
11*		750	650
12*		750	650

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

*If a 12 team Premier draw is needed, the following points will be awarded:

1	1000
2	975
3	960
4	945
5	930
6	920
7	905
8	895
9	885
10	865
11	865
12	865

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 14 athletes for any OVA Regular Season event and Ontario Championships. All 14 athletes can appear on the scoresheet and are eligible to compete in any given match.

6.2 Net Heights

	Net Height	
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

	Libero Permitted	
Age Category	**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

	# of Substitutions	
Age Category	**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 balls at the team bench, behind the court, or in the spectator walkways **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).

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.
  - 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.
  - If a libero is receiving serves, then only one ball must 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 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 2 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.

- 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 as a starting position within the fair play rule.
  - Note: 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.

Note: 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 (#3 in the diagram below) and is rotating to the position on the right is now the server.

For more information and full playing regulations on 4v4 Rallyball, please visit:
https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/4v4-rallyball

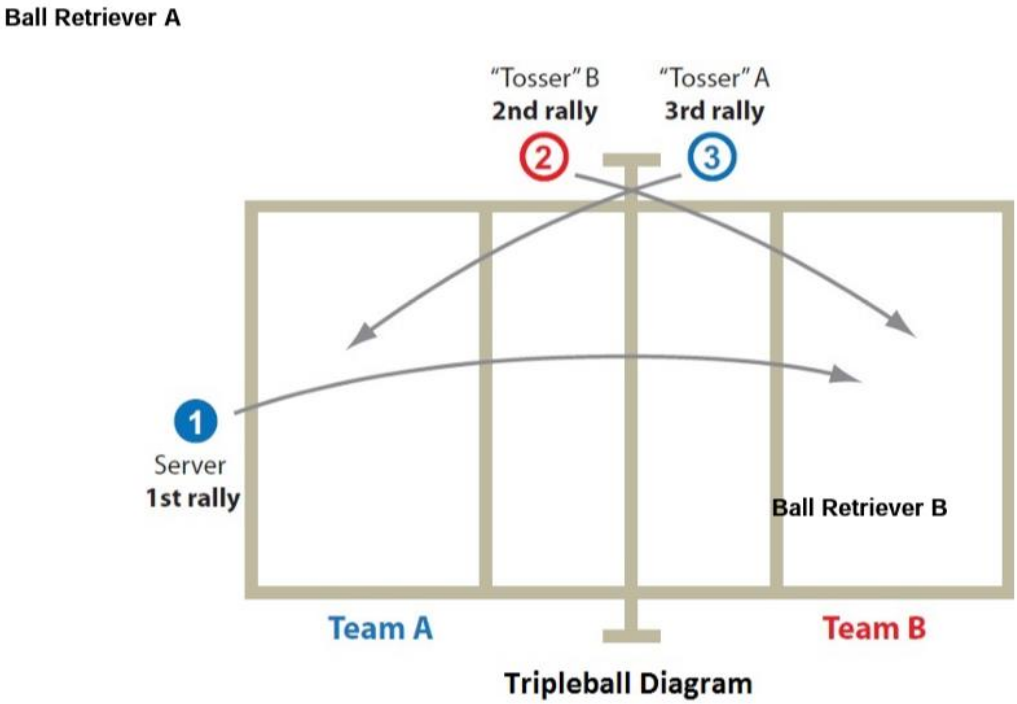
- Introduction of Ranking for 4v4 Rallyball
    - There will be a team ranking posted after the 4th and final event prior to the Ontario Championships (Bugarski Cup). This change has been introduced to increase scheduling options and ensure competitive balance during the Ontario Championships.
    - 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.
    - 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.



Tripleball Diagram

6v6 Rallyball Rules

a) Requests for substitutions can only occur between a three-ball sequence
b) In the deciding set, teams switch sides once a team reaches 8 points. If this occurs during a three-ball sequence, then the change of court will be made after the sequence is completed.

c) 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.
d) The free ball toss is to occur 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.
e) The freeball introduction toss can be directed to position 5 or 6. The toss must be consistent each match.
f) Free balls must be received with a forearm pass, otherwise a replay will occur.
g) An overpass from the free ball toss is not a re-toss. Play continues.
h) 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.
    - 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 through 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 follow 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 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.
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 an end of a rally and the next toss.

6v6 Rallyball Reminders

- The 6v6 regular season tier structure is setup 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.

- 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.

For more information and full playing regulations on 6v6 Rallyball, please visit:
https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/6v6-rallyball

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

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

- No specialization is allowed.
  - Everyone plays at each position.
  - 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.
- The coach can choose any position as the designated setting position, but this position must stay consistent throughout the entire set.
  - Ex: The Flames 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.
- 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 through 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 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.

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.
- Back row players other than the designated setter must always be involved in the serve receive formation, they cannot be hidden.
    - The participation of front row players in the serve reception formation is optional and will depend on the chosen serve reception system.
- 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 lose a service. The opposing team will earn a point and gain the serve

*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: https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/traditional-limited-specialized

6.12 Serve Receive Rule

4v4 Rallyball, 6v6 Rallyball and TLS streams 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. 15U 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.

6.14 Side Switching In-between Sets – Pilot

- A no side switching pilot will be implemented for all matches that take place at the Niagara Falls Convention Centre, Ey Centre and Ontario Championships for the 2024-2025 season.
    - If the head ref determines there is a clear advantage on one side, then a side switch will take place in between sets for that court.

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 Hotline

The OVA 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 HOTLINE: 647-467-5514

6.18 Recreational Cell Phone and Tripod Use

The recreational use of cell phones or tripods for personal photography/filming on the bench is not permitted at OVA events. Use of cell phone and other devices are permitted when collecting data. All filming for match footage must be set up off court.

6.19 Lining and Scoring

After evaluation of the lining and scoring pilot, the OVA has chosen to move in a different direction to better accommodate the needs of all our tournament stakeholders. The lining and scoring for the 2024-25 season will reflect the Volleyball Canada system which was introduced two years ago and will be applied to all regular season events for the TLS to 18U divisions, including convention centre events and the Ontario Championships.

- Each team will be required to provide one (1) athlete per game to act in the role of line judge. Should the team not have sufficient athletes to fill this role, the opposing team will be asked to supply a second athlete. If this is not possible, the referee will manage the match with no line judges.
- The athlete line judge will call lines for their own team (i.e. 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 (1) 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 been started.
- The Assistant Scorer will be responsible for the manual scoreboard while the Scorer will be responsible for the scoresheet.

*Please note, this system is only in effect for TLS-18U age groups! The 4v4 and 6v6 age groups will still use parent/team volunteers as both scorers and lines persons.
Those who are interested in using a free e-module on how to fill out a scoresheet, please use this link.

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

If a team skips their lining and score keeping duties, the team will be fined $75 per match. All fines must be paid in full prior to participating in another OVA tournament. Teams will be listed in bad standing until all outstanding fines are paid in full.

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.

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

Please remember that NO match will be replayed, as protests must be placed at the moment of the incident.

- 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.
- 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 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 of the event in whole or in part depending on the judgement of the Jury.
- The jury deliberates and renders a decision. The chairperson of 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 to be 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.

NEW FOR 2024-2025 - 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. Lines people will be provided for D1/T1 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 Ontario Championships 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, 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 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 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 Saturday or Sunday

- To accommodate our growing facility needs, we will continue to have a few weekends where teams will register for the weekend. Teams will be assigned to either the Saturday or Sunday once the event registration deadline closes and team splits are posted on the OVA website.
- These 7 "Weekend Registrations" are identified in the OVA Calendar. 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.

Examples:

- One foot on the sport court, one foot on the cement while playing the ball = 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, the momentum of the athletes 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 the 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) 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.

It is anticipated that a small number of openings will be available in the 2025 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 filed.
    - 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 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 playoffs.

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 23rd , 2025 (Travel Claim form can be found HERE) to be included in the travel equalization cost sharing. The distribution of subsidies may not exceed the total amount of travel subsidy fund, thus, the team payouts are dependent on the number of teams that qualify.

Note – Travel subsidy payouts are based on a team's km traveled throughout the season and not just the Ontario Championships. Please see the travel claim form above for more details. More information on the team travel subsidy policy 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 OC's Website:

https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/accommodations

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
14U*	April 30 – May 4, 2025	Ottawa, ON	Carleton University
14U*	April 30 – May 4, 2025	Fredericton, NB	Grant Harvey Centre
14U*	May 8 - 11, 2025	Winnipeg, MB	RBC Convention Centre
15UB	May 8 - 11, 2025	Edmonton, AB	Edmonton Expo Centre
15UG & 17UB	May 14 – 17, 2025	Edmonton, AB	Edmonton Expo Centre
16UG & 17UG	May 18 – 21, 2025	Edmonton, AB	Edmonton Expo Centre
16UB, 18UG & 18UB	May 22 – 25, 2025	Edmonton, AB	Edmonton Expo 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 (2024 – 2025 Coach Eligilibty Policy can be found HERE)

All individuals involved with youth athletes must complete the following requirements prior to their registration as an OVA member in a **Coach or Club Technical Director role.** These requirements apply to **all individuals in those roles,** regardless of certification status, experience, or years of involvement:

- 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

- 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)

- All individuals in a Head Coach or Assistant Coach role and all individuals acting as a Head Coach or Assistant Coach during an OVA event must also complete the following training prior to their registration as a member of the OVA
    - Foundations of Volleyball ($89)
    - Making Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation ($85 or free if course was completed)

It is the responsibility of OVA Clubs to verify the eligibility of their coaches prior to them registering as members. Clubs will confirm the eligibility of their coaches in their Club Information Form at the start of the season. The OVA staff will provide Club audits throughout the season to ensure compliance of coaches.

Individuals who have not completed the above requirements are not eligible to be registered as an OVA member in the following roles: Assistant Coach, Head Coach and Club Technical Director.

Please click HERE for a link to the Eligibility requirements on the OVA website.

Additional Information

- 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.
- The requirements for Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches are now 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:

a) An Enhanced Police Information Check (E-PIC) every three years. This check can be completed online through mybackcheck.com

b) 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.

c) 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 visit: https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/code-of-conduct 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 objectively or impartiality of coaching duties
	Abstain from all behaviours 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 online at www.ontariovolleyball.org. Please download the form prior to completing it.

9.0 Safe Sport

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 – Click here

Rule of Two Clarification: Click here

9.3 Volleyball Canada and Abuse Free Sport

Abuse-Free Sport is an independent program that is part of a growing national movement to rid Canadian sport of all forms of harassment, discrimination, and abuse. As program signatories, Volleyball Canada and the OVA are active participants in this movement.

Unlike the previous approach, where each national sport organization created its own system for dealing with complaints of maltreatment, this is a centralized “one-stop-shop.” It is independent and led by experts in their fields, using education and research to prevent maltreatment at all levels of sport.

The Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (OSIC) serves as the central hub. It operates independently to administer complaints about alleged violations of the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS).

Where there are admissible allegations of abuse, harassment or discrimination, OSIC conducts independent investigations and recommends sanctions against individuals who violate the UCCMS.

OSIC will also maintain a national sanctions registry, which prevents individuals from evading sanctions by moving to different sports or to different jurisdictions.

Per Section 12 of the Ontario Volleyball Association's Person In Authority Code of Conduct, the OVA will require that complaints relating to Abuse and Prohibited Behaviours (as defined in the UCCMS) must be handled by an Independent Third Party.

Per Section 22 of the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy, any complaint arising from the application of the UCCMS (e.g. matters concerning Prohibited Behaviours, including Abuse/Maltreatment) must be directed to OSIC. All processes required for the administration of the UCCMS will be addressed in accordance with the policies and procedures of OSIC.

As OVA Clubs are bound to follow OVA policies and procedures, this obligation applies to Clubs as well. **Any complaint containing allegations relating to abuse, maltreatment or any of the prohibited behaviours as defined in the UCCMS must be forwarded to the OVA and directly to OSIC.**

For designated participants within our organization, there is access to a wide range of resources, including victim services and referrals to specialized mental health professionals and experienced lawyers – all of it available in English and French. You can access the website by clicking on the Abuse-Free Sport logo or by visiting https://abuse-free-sport.ca/.

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE

Volleyball Canada is committed to a sport environment free from abuse that is safe for all participants.

Volleyball Canada 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, or you've witnessed such an incident within our sport, you are encouraged to contact the Canadian Sport Helpline by phone or text at 1-888-83SPORT (77678), or by email to info@abuse-free-sport.ca, 12 hours a day, 7 days a week.

When the incidents recounted appear admissible, operators can assist you in filing a report through a confidential online platform, if desired.

Please view the Complaint Process HERE.

9.4 Education

VC requires that all individuals involved with the sport across the country take the safe sport training module, available via the Coaching Association of Canada website.

As of April 1, 2020, anyone associated with a Sport Canada funded organization must be trained on conduct to prevent and address maltreatment. This includes coaches, referees, parents of youth athletes, high performance

staff and contractors, officials and all administrative staff and volunteers whether they may have direct contact with athletes or not.

The Safe sport module is a free, 90-minute eLearning module that gives all participants the tools to recognize, address, and prevent maltreatment in sport. The module aligns with the principles of the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent Maltreatment in Sport and meets Sport Canada's requirements for Safe Sport education.

Visit the safe sport training site for more information: https://safesport.coach.ca/

To take the training, you must create an account in "The Locker", even if you are not a coach (it's free!) We suggest saving a screenshot of the final slide when completed for your records.

Other online resources (mainly for coaches) that can be completed from home include the following (please note fees may be required).

https://sportforlife-sportpourlavie.ca/catalog.php
https://www.respectgroupinc.com/keeping-girls-in-sport/
https://coach.ca/nccp-multi-sport-training-modules

For more info on coaching resources, contact: coaching@volleyball.ca

9.5 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.

9.6 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

Click here to learn more.

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.

If you are starting to feel anxious and are worried about your mental health, here is a checklist that may help you feel better.

1. Fueling your body with nutritious food
2. Journaling
3. Nature Breaks (walks in the park)
4. Listening to uplifting music
5. Taking a Digital Detox
6. Move your body (any type of activity is great)
7. Deep breathing and grounding techniques
8. Stretching
9. Taking bubble baths (also great for injury prevention)
10. Focus on what you can control
11. Spending time with people who build you up
12. Spending time alone if needed
13. Talking to someone when you need it
14. Getting lots of sleep

9.7 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 Ontario.ca/concussions. During member registration individuals must acknowledge that they have completed these reviews to complete the registration process.

All **Club** staff and athletes must register with the OVA prior to Club tryouts commencing to ensure that the OVA Concussion Code of Conduct has been reviewed. The tryout player role is a $0 membership fee. If Clubs pay for the club staff membership fees, the club staff can register as a volunteer $0 membership role and at the time the Club Contact creates the teams and adds the coaching staff, they can upgrade the coaching and team staff to a full membership.

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 have 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 https://parachute.ca/en/professional-resource/concussion-collection/canadian-guideline-on-concussion-in-sport/

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

9.8 Rowan's Law – Concussion Safety

The mandatory requirements of Rowan's Law (Concussion Safety), include the review of Concussion Awareness Resources and Concussion Codes of Conduct. This Law makes it mandatory for sports organizations to:

- Ensure that athletes under 26 years of age, parents of athletes under 18, coaches, team trainers and officials confirm every year they have reviewed Ontario's Concussion Awareness Resources.
- Establish a Concussion Code of Conduct that sets out rules of behaviour to support concussion prevention.
- Establish a Removal-from-Sport and Return-to-Sport protocol.

For more resources on Rowan's Law click the following links:

- Rowan's Law – Complete Legislation and Regulations Under the Act
- Government of Ontario Concussion Awareness Resource E-Booklet
    - 10 & Under (OVA 4v4 Rallyball)
    - 11 – 14 (OVA 4v4 and 6v6 Rallyball and TLS)
    - 15 & Older

The OVA Concussion Codes of Conduct for all roles are included in Waiver section of the Membership Registration System (MRS) and must be reviewed prior to completing the registration process.

Rowan's Law: Phase 2

As of January 1st, 2022, sport organizations must:

- Establish **Removal-From-Sport and Return-To-Sport Protocols.** Template available here.
- Identify a designated person as having specific responsibilities under the Removal/Return-to-Sport Protocols. A sample protocol template can be found here.
- Make their protocols available to designated person(s), and any athlete (and their parent if the athlete is under 18 years of age) who has been removed from training, practice or competition due to a suspected concussion.
- Each sport organization shall create a retention policy for personal information if one does not exist. Organizations can refer to sections 40(1) and 40(4) of the Freedom of Informations and Privacy Act, 1990 (FIPPA) and/or sections 30(1) and 30(4) of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1990 (MFIPPA) for information about the retention and disposal of personal information.

More information regarding Rowan's Law can be found HERE under the Concussion Policy section.

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 15U to 18U Divisions. Medals for the ECI stream will be awarded as outlined in their seasonal structure. 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 (https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/ocs-kendaviesaward and https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/ocs-evelynholickaward) 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 presented by Nothers Signs and Recognition

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 visit the OVA website.

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 visit:
https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/hall-of-fame

Appendices

Appendix I What's New 2024-2025

FORMATS AND RULES OF THE GAME

6V6 RALLYBALL UPDATES AND CLARIFICATIONS

- 6v6 Girls Competition Structure
    - The 6v6 Girls division will continue with the Self-Declaration method for all four tournaments.
        - Coaches can "self-declare" for the division they feel is the best fit for their team throughout the regular season.
        - This year, coaches will have the option of self-declaring for three tiers: **Tier 1 (Select, advanced level), Tier 2 (Championship, intermediate level), Tier 3 (Trillium, development level).**
        - This decision was made due to the continuous growth of the 6v6 Girl's age group and the need to create more competitively balanced matches that are fun and align with a team's appropriate developmental stage.
    - All four regular season events for the 6v6 Girls division will feature a standard single-day tournament format, with playoffs, points and medals included. However, the first event (Provincial Cup) will not count towards a team's top 2 points average for their Ontario Championship seeding.

- 6v6 Boys Competition Structure
    - All four regular season events for the 6v6 Boys division will feature a standard single-day tournament format, with playoffs, points and medals included. However, the first event (Provincial Cup) will not count towards a team's top 2 points average for their Ontario Championship seeding.
    - Realignments have been introduced at the 6v6 Boys level as there are not enough teams to warrant self-declare. There is also a wide range of skill level in this age group resulting in the need for a 9 team Championship division to ensure competitive balance stays in check throughout the season.
        - The first event (Provincial Cup) will feature only a Trillium Division.
        - The 2nd event (Challenge Cup) will feature one (1) Championship division (9 Teams) and approximately three (3) Trillium divisions (27 Teams) based on the results of the 1st event (Provincial Cup).
        - After event #2 (Challenge Cup) and event #3 (McGregor Cup), realignment will take place with the 7th – 9th place teams from Championship moving to Trillium and the first place Trillium teams moving to Championship.

TRADITIONAL LIMITED SPECIALIZED (TLS) UPDATES AND CLARIFICATIONS

- TLS Girls Competition Structure
    - The TLS Girls division will continue with the Self-Declaration method for the first 2 tournaments.
        - Coaches will have the ability to "self-declare" for the division they feel is the best fit for their team.
        - This year, coaches will have the option of self-declaring for three tiers: **Tier 1 (Select, advanced level), Tier 2 (Championship, intermediate level), Tier 3 (Trillium, development level).**
        - This decision was made due to the continuous growth of the TLS Girls age group and the need to create more competitively balanced matches that are fun and align with a team's appropriate developmental stage.
    - All four regular season events for the TLS Girls division will feature a standard single-day tournament format, with playoffs, points and medals included. However, the first event (Provincial Cup) will not count towards a team's top two points average for their Ontario Championship seeding.
    - Realignments after only the 3rd event (McGregor Cup) have been introduced at the TLS Girls level to help optimize the 4th event's (Bugarski Cup) competitive balance resulting in a more accurate Ontario Championship seeding for teams.

        - The first (Provincial Cup) and second (Challenge Cup) events will feature Select, Championship and Trillium divisions based on self-declare selections.
        - The 3rd event (McGregor Cup) will feature two (2) Premier (18 Teams), four (4) Select (36 Teams), six (6) Championship (54 Teams) and approximately nine (9) Trillium (81 Teams) divisions based on a team's average from the Provincial and Challenge Cups.
        - After event #3 (McGregor Cup), realignment will take place with the 7th – 9th place teams moving down and the 1st place teams moving up for the 4th event (Bugarski Cup).

- TLS Boys Competition Structure
    - The TLS Boys division will continue with the Self-Declaration method for the first two tournaments.
        - Coaches will have the ability to "self-declare" into Tier 1 (Championship) or Tier 2 (Trillium).
    - All four regular season events for the TLS Boys division will feature a standard, single day tournament format, with playoffs, points and medals included. However, the first event (Provincial Cup) will not count towards a team's top 2 points average for their Ontario Championship seeding.
    - Realignments after only the 3rd event (McGregor Cup) have been introduced at the TLS Boys level to help optimize the 4th events (Bugarski Cup) competitive balance resulting in a more accurate Ontario Championship seeding for teams as well.
        - The first (Provincial Cup) and second (Challenge Cup) events will feature Championship and Trillium divisions based on self-declare selections.
        - The 3rd event (McGregor Cup) will feature one (1) Premier (9 Teams), two (2) Championship (18 Teams) and approximately three (3) Trillium (27 Teams) divisions based on a team's average from the Provincial and Challenge Cups.
        - After event #3 (McGregor Cup), realignment will take place with the 7th – 9th place teams moving down and the 1st place teams moving up for the 4th event (Bugarski Cup).

<u>18UG STRUCTURE UPDATE</u>

- Due to the continued growth at the 18UG level, the Trillium division will now be split into Trillium White and Trillium Green just like the 15UG – 17UG age groups.

<u>UPDATE TO WARM-UP PROTOCOLS FOR REGULAR SEASON EVENTS</u>

Warm-up times for a team's first match of the day has been increased to 8-4-4 from 5-4-4 unless otherwise stated on the event schedule. There have been no changes to secondary warms up of the day.
New time protocols are as follows:

- 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.

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

<u>LINING AND SCORING FOR OVA TOURNAMENTS</u>

- After evaluation of the lining and scoring pilot, the OVA has chosen to move in a different direction to better accommodate the needs of all our tournament stakeholders. The lining and scoring for the 2024-25 season will reflect the Volleyball Canada system which was introduced two years ago and will be applied to all regular season events for the TLS to 18U divisions, including convention centre events and the Ontario Championships.

- Each team will be required to provide one (1) athlete per game to act in the role of line judge. Should the team not have sufficient athletes to fill this role, the opposing team will be asked to supply a second athlete. If this is not possible, the referee will manage the match with no line judges.
- The athlete line judge will call lines for their own team 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 (1) 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 been started.
- The Assistant Scorer will be responsible for the manual scoreboard while the Scorer will be responsible for the scoresheet.

**Please note, this system is only in effect for TLS-18U age groups! The 4v4 and 6v6 age groups will still use parent/team volunteers as both scorers and lines persons.*

SIDE SWITCHING IN-BETWEEN SETS

- A no side switching pilot will be implemented for all matches that take place at the Niagara Falls Convention Centre, Ey Centre and Ontario Championships for the 2024-2025 season.
  - If the head ref determines there is a clear advantage on one side, then a side switch will take place in between sets for that court.

POM POMS AT OVA EVENTS

- 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.

PURPLE CARD POLICY UPDATE

New for the 2024-2025 OVA season, 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.

ADMINISTRATION

OVA and VOLLEYBALL CANADA MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASES

Ontario Volleyball will be raising its membership fees for the 2024/2025 season as outlined in the Membership Policy. There will be no increase in membership fees for recreational athletes or referees. While your fees are increasing, please remember that your membership comes with a growing list of discounts on things like volleyball gear, insurance, awards and more. A full list can be found on our Member Benefits page.
Volleyball Canada will be increasing their membership fee to $36, up $1 from the 2023/2024 season. Volleyball Canada membership is included in your OVA membership fees. All Membership fees are plus HST.

- **Membership Fees $100.41**
  - Volleyball Canada $36.00
  - Ontario Volleyball $57.00 + HST $7.41 (Total $64.41)

COACHING ELIGIBILITY POLICE - UPDATE

- As announced in the 2023-24 season, all coaches are required to complete the NCCP Anti-Racism in Coaching e-learning module in The Locker to be eligible in 2024-25. This is a free course.
- **All who sit on the bench at an OVA sanctioned event or are involved with youth athletes in an OVA club training environment must meet the OVA Coach Eligibility Policy before their registration as an OVA member**
- The requirements for Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches are the same.
- Please click HERE for the OVA's Coach Eligibility Policy

- 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. The Practice Coach role in MRS requires Making Headway, CAC (Coaching Association of Canada) Safesport training and the NCCP Anti Racism in Coaching e-learning module. 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.

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.

- 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.

REGISTRATION FOR SELECT "WEEKENDS" WILL CONTINUE FOR THE 2024-2025 SEASON

- To accommodate our growing facility needs, we will continue to have a few weekends where teams will register for the weekend. Teams will be assigned to either the Saturday or Sunday once the event registration deadline closes and team splits are posted on the OVA website.

These select "Weekend Registrations" are identified in the OVA Calendar. Please click HERE to view the OVA Calendar.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

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 can 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 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, Niagara Falls Convention Centre and Grand Prix events.

Appendix II Volleyball Canada Age Categories

2025 Nationals Age Categories

	Adult	18U	17U*	16U	15U	14U
Sept	OPEN	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Oct		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Nov		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Dec		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Jan		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Feb		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Mar		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Apr		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
May		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
June		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
July		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Aug		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Sept		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Oct		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Nov		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Dec		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011

Adult: OPEN
18U: Athletes born from September 1, 2006 to Dec 31 2006 (16 months)
17U: Athletes born from September 1, 2007 to Dec 31 2007 (16 months)
16U: Athletes born from September 1, 2008 to Dec 31 2008 (16 months)
15U: Athletes born from September 1, 2009 to Dec 31 2009 (16 months)
14U: Athletes born from September 1, 2010 to Dec 31 2010 (16 months)
*Athletes on a current CCAA or CIS volleyball roster, will not be permitted to play in the 17U age class regardless of birthdate.

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

Appendix III OVA Uniform Logo Policy

APPROVED BRANDING AREAS ON OVA COMPETITION UNIFORMS

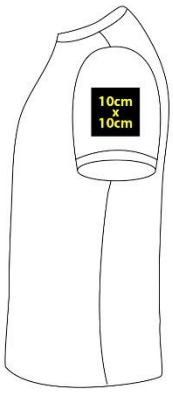
FRONT



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)
- If 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 cm^2
    - One (1) block of advertising material can be included on each sleeve and must not exceed 50 cm^2
  - The logo of the manufacturer is authorized on the team uniform so long as it does not exceed 30 cm^2 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 V 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 occurrence	Results may be forfeited for any events which an unregistered/ineligible coach has been listed on the scoresheet.
Club coaches, administrators, managers who do not have a police and vulnerable sector screening check or Screening Disclosure Form on file with their Club. Coach Elgibility	$150 per occurrence	Coaches will not be able to attend any OVA event (including club practices) until a PRC/VSS, or Screening Disclosure Form is produced.
Having unregistered/ineligible players competing and/or on the bench.	$150 per occurrence	Players cannot participate in any OVA event until they become a fully registered member of the OVA, and the Club has paid the fine. Results may be forfeited for any events which an unregistered/ineligible player has been listed on the scoresheet.
Failure to submit Club Form to OVA Office.	See Club Information Form	Clubs who do not return the Club Information Form 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 for the tournament, plus fine equal to 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 for the tournament, plus fine equal to 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 – 2nd offence issued during the season		Warning letter issued
Yellow Card – 3rd offence issued during the season	$50	Suspension from the remainder of the current tournament and/or next tournament. OVA review & possible further suspension
Yellow Card – 4th offence issued during the season	$200	Suspension from the remainder of the current tournament and/or next tournament OVA review & possible further suspension.
Five or more yellow cards issued during the season	$250	Suspension from the remainder of the current tournament and next tournament OVA review & possible further suspension.
Red Card – 1st offence issued during the season		Warning letting
Red Card – 2nd 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.
Any combination of 2 or more yellow or red cards issued during the season	$150	Suspension from the remainder of the current tournament and/or next tournament.
Expulsion from match: Yellow & Red card together – 1st offense	$200	Suspension from the remainder of the current tournament and next tournament. OVA review & possible further suspension.
Expulsion from match: Yellow & Red card together – 2nd 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 – 1st 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 – 2nd 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 – 2nd offence issued to a team during the season		Warning Letter to the Club and Team
Purple Card – 3rd 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 can include Volleyball Canada's National Championships.

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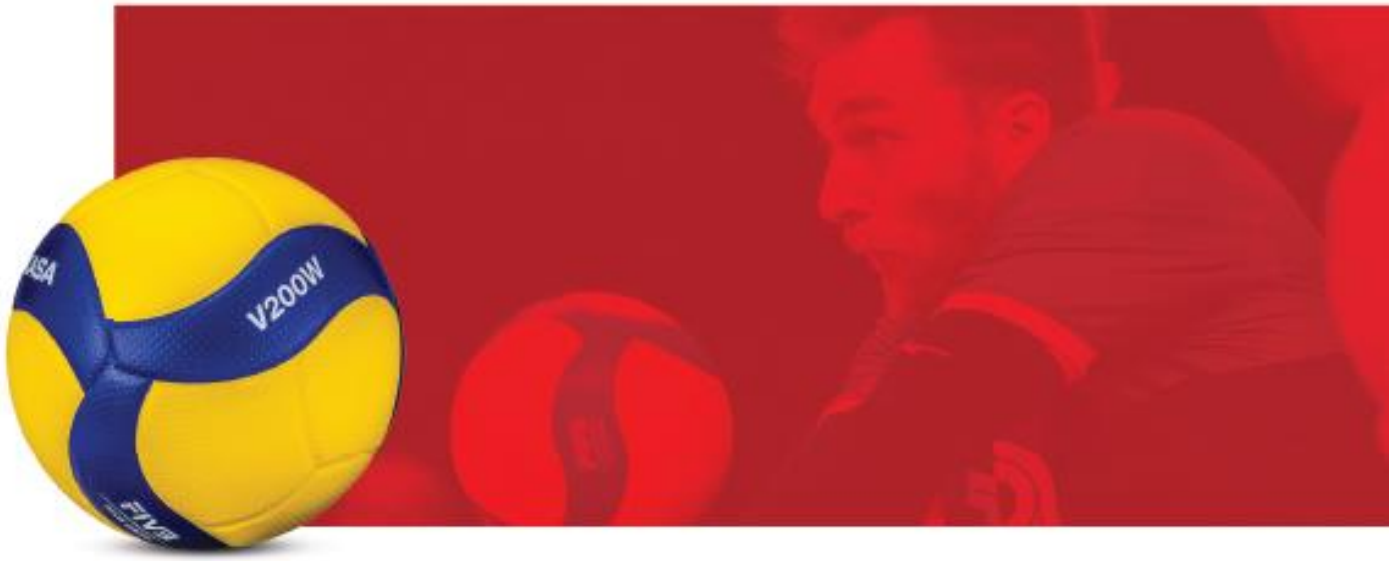

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