Competition Guide 2026-2027

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INTRODUCTION

Volleyball Nova Scotia exists to provide athletes, coaches, referees and volunteers with opportunities and support for participation, development, and advancement within the sport of volleyball.

This document is a guide containing information regarding the 2026-2027 indoor club season. All standard rules and regulations are from the Volleyball Canada 2026-2027 Rule Book, exceptions are noted within this document. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming season or require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Volleyball Nova Scotia's (VNS) office at (902) 425-5450, ext. 322 or email vns@sportnovascotia.ca.

Be sure to visit Volleyball Nova Scotia's website at http://www.volleyballnovascotia.ca. The website is updated regularly for your convenience to keep you informed about upcoming events, schedules, workshops, PD and programs for both indoor and beach volleyball.

TYPES OF COMPETITION

This Guide covers three types of competition:

1. **Super Series** - The Super Series is comprised of two events in each of the following age groups: 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U for Female (17U & 18U may be combined if minimum #'s not achieved) and 14U, 16U, 18U for Male. Each event is organized by VNS and hosted by clubs throughout the province. Results are used to regroup teams in tiers of the same skill level for the next event. The final Super Series event is used to tier and seed participating teams in the NS Championships. Each event is organized by VNS and hosted by clubs throughout the province. Results are used to tier and seed participating teams in the NS Championships.

2. **NS Championships -** The NS Championships is the culmination of the competition year held during the spring, prior to the Volleyball Canada (VC) National Championships. This 2-day event determines each team's final placement in the province and is used for seeding at the VC National Championships.

3. **Open Tournaments** – Any tournament hosted by a VNS approved club outside of the Super Series or NS Championships must be designated as an Open Tournament. An Open Tournament is a VNS-sanctioned event organized by a club and officiated by Volleyball Canada-certified and registered officials. Hosts will be required to apply and meet minimum hosting standards to be designated a sanctioned event, which includes being posted on the VNS website. Approved clubs are not permitted to host unsanctioned events.

MEMBERSHIPS

All coaches (or any other PIA (Persons in Authority)):

a) must hold an **Approved** VNS Coach Membership prior to interacting with players in any manner (in-person or electronically), including any Signing or Tryout periods.

b) Note: **Person In Authority (PIA)** is defined as:
   - anyone who holds a position of power, influence or responsibility over others (often younger or more vulnerable participants) in a sporting organization. Because of that role, there is a **power imbalance** in their interactions.
   - **Examples of roles that typically qualify as a PIA include**:
     1. Coaches & any team staff (managers, helpers, strength & conditioning coaches, practice coaches, mentors).
     2. Referees
     3. Club administrators, board members, volunteers in leadership capacities

c) All players/athletes:
   - must be registered & hold a VNS membership prior to their participation in any team activity.
   - can only register and participate with one (1) club.

Membership Fees:
All competitive membership fees for teams (12U – 18U, team staff, coaches, club directors, etc.) is **$86.00 + tax & fees**, which includes a $38.00 Volleyball Canada membership fee. All Recreational membership fees are **$17.00 + tax & fees**, which includes a $5.00 Volleyball Canada membership fee.
VNS Memberships are valid until **August 31, 2027**. Memberships are not pro-rated and are non-refundable.

Types of Memberships:

d) Recreational:

- A Recreational Membership is required for any **Coach/PIA** (see above definition) OR **player** who participates in training-only.
- Recreational Memberships are available at a reduced rate that reflects the appropriate insurance coverage and access to VNS Events/Services.
- **Categories of Recreational Memberships Available:**
    i. Recreational Coach
    ii. Recreational Player
    iii. Club Team Manager – Not on Bench
    iv. Club President

e) Competitive:

- A Competitive Membership is required for any **Coach/PIA or Player** who is sitting on a bench (listed on a roster) at a sanctioned VNS competition (including Open events). Coaches/PIA competitive memberships must be approved by VNS to be active.
- **Categories of Competitive Memberships Available:**
    i. Competitive Head Coach
    ii. Competitive Assistant Coach
    iii. Competitive Manager
    iv. Competitive Youth Player

f) Please visit the VNS website under **Memberships** at http://www.volleyballnovascotia.ca for all procedures.

Note: All players, coaches, and team staff must hold an approved VNS membership before participating in any team activities. If anyone participates without an approved VNS membership, the club will be fined $250 and placed in bad standing until the fine is fully paid

ELIGIBILITY & ROSTERS

ELIGIBILITY:
Any team competing in a VNS sanctioned competition (Open, Super Series or NS Championships) must be fully registered with VNS as a club team and may only use registered competitive members.

- A VNS representative in any capacity may request proof of registration of a club, team, or individual at any time.
- VNS members must be residents of Nova Scotia. Any exception to this must have the approval of VNS, Volleyball Canada, and the provincial/territorial governing body where the individual resides. Contact the VNS office for further information and details of this membership approval process.
- HRM Club Team Offerings Regulations:
    a. Clubs located in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) will only be permitted to offer teams for which they had a feeder team during the preceding year.
    b. VNS will provide each approved HRM club with a specific list of teams they are eligible to offer for the upcoming season.
    c. HRM Club* team offering requirements:

i. No requirement for clubs offering teams at 12U, 13U and 14U age categories.
ii. To offer a 15U team, a club must have had a 13U or 14U team** in that gender participate in the indoor NS Championships the prior season.
iii. To offer a 16U team, a club must have had a 14U or 15U team** in that gender participate in the indoor NS Championships the prior season.
iv. To offer a 17U team, a club must have had a 15U or 16U team** in that gender participate in the indoor NS Championships the prior season.
v. To offer an 18U team, a club must have had a 16U or 17U team** in that gender participate in the indoor NS Championships the prior season.

*An HRM Club is defined as a club offering activities inside the HRM.
** Each feeder team may only be referenced once.

- An out of Province team wanting to participate in VNS sanctioned competition (including Open Events) must receive approval from VNS **and** from their Provincial or Territorial Sport Organization (P/TSO). Each team must provide VNS with an official letter indicating that the team is registered and in good standing. All out of province team staff must meet VNS PIA BIG 4 requirements. VNS reserves the right to deny entry into an event based on the registration capacity.
- Out of Province teams wanting to participate in NS Championships must compete in the event's ranking tournament(s) (ex. Super Series). Out-of-province teams may be permitted to participate in Super Series and NS Championships should space allow. Participation in the Super Series does not guarantee entry into the Nova Scotia Championships.

ROSTERS:

Team Composition:

- A registered youth team may register up to fifteen (15) players and must register a minimum of eight (8) players.
  - **a. For 18U/17U/16U/15U:**
    - i. All 15 players are eligible to play in any single match.
    - ii. The fifteen names must be listed on the score sheet before each match.
  - **b. For 14U/13U/12U:**
    - i. Only twelve (12) athletes of the possibly 15 on the roster may play in any single match in age categories with Fair Play. The twelve names must be listed on the score sheet before each match. Players not listed on the score sheet can be in uniform, participate in the warmup and sit on the bench, however, cannot participate in the match. The 12 athletes listed on the score sheet can vary match to match.
- A team may register up to five (5) coaches on the roster and must register a minimum of two (2) coaches per team and strive to have at least 2 Persons In Authority (PIA) on the bench for all matches. PIA must also be registered with VNS and meet all PIA requirements.
- A minimum of six (6) players can compete at a VNS sanctioned event.

Players & Coaches Featured On A Roster

- A player may only be registered on one (1) team roster in the same age category. A player may be registered on more than one team roster, as long as it is not in the same age category.
- A coach may only be listed on the Roster as the Head Coach of one (1) team in the same age category & gender.
- A coach may serve as the Head Coach for a maximum of two (2) teams per season. Any exemptions to this limit will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and subject to approval by Volleyball Nova Scotia. Club Directors can contact VNS at vns@sportnovascotia.ca to request an exemption.
- The minimum age for a Head Coach is 16 years of age, and it is highly recommended they have a

support/mentor coach with an approved VNS Coach Membership present while taking on this role.

- **Coaches 18 & Under:**
    - VNS encourages & supports athletes getting involved in coaching.
    - Coaches who are **14 years old to 18 years old** must meet the **BIG 3 PIA** requirements (no police check needed) before interacting with athletes in any manner as a coach.
    - Coaches **under the age of 14** will be considered **Jr. Coaches**, and do not need to meet PIA requirements, however they must be registered with VNS as an athlete and be supervised in their coaching role at all times by an Approved VNS Coach.

Players Moving Up or Down an Age Category

As long as Volleyball Canada regulations are not contravened (making a team ineligible for the VNS Provincial or VC National Championships), youth teams may use a maximum of three (3) **non-roster**, **age-eligible** players (from that same Club) in a VNS competition **EXCLUDING** NS Championships. The players must play with that team for the entirety of that event. Documentation to the VNS office is not required, however **the names of the players moving up or down are to be bracketed on the score sheets.**

The roster for the Volleyball Canada National Championships must be the same roster used for the NS Championships.

Players Moving Laterally Within an Age Category

For Clubs that have two or more teams in the same age category, lateral movement is defined as a maximum of three (3) players moving from roster A to roster B, and a maximum of three (3) players moving from roster B to roster A. Documentation to the VNS office is not required but **the names of those players moving laterally are to be bracketed on the score sheets**. A player who has been moved laterally from one roster to another may not play for two teams in the same competition. Lateral movement is NOT permitted after the Roster Lock Deadline, including NS Championships.

The roster for the Volleyball Canada National Championships must be the same roster used for the NS Championships.

ROSTER LOCK DEADLINE

Teams must submit their complete rosters on Sportlomo for the remainder of the season to VNS by 12:00 PM on **January 27th, 2027.**

Up to 3 roster changes per team will be permitted between January 28th and March 4th, 2027. Roster changes after March 4th will only be considered on a per-case basis, subject to approval by VNS, and a fine of $100 **per change** will be applied at the discretion of VNS. Roster changes requested within 2 weeks of the NS Championships for a team will only be considered on a per-case basis, subject to approval by VNS, and a fine of **$250 per change** will be applied at the discretion of VNS.

Jersey #'s must be entered in Sportlomo 4 weeks prior to your NS Championships.

The roster for the Volleyball Canada National Championships must be the same roster used for the NS Championships.

AGE CATEGORIES

The following rules apply to both NS Championships and VC National Championships:

2026-2027 Club Athlete Age Categories are as follows:

18U**: Athletes born between September 1, 2008 and Dec 31, 2009 (16 months)
17U*: Athletes born between September 1, 2009 and Dec 31, 2010 (16 months)
16U: Athletes born between September 1, 2010 and Dec 31, 2011 (16 months)
15U: Athletes born between September 1, 2011 and Dec 31, 2012 (16 months)
14U: Athletes born between September 1, 2012 and Dec 31, 2013 (16 months)
13U: Athletes born between September 1, 2013 and Dec 31, 2014 (16 months)
12U: Athletes born on September 1, 2014 and Dec 31, 2017 (40 months) – Minimum age of 10 years old.

*** Athletes born September 1-December 31 of the previous year, on a current CCAA or USports volleyball roster, will not be permitted to play in the 17U age class.**

****For 2027 VC Club Nationals & VNS Provincials, 18U Age Category ONLY:**

- A team roster for the 18U category may include the following:
  - 2 athletes born from Jan 1 - August 31, 2008, with the following restrictions:
    - Athletes are NOT permitted to be part of any USports, CCAA, or other Post-Secondary*** volleyball program for the current season (October 1, 2026-May 1, 2027)
  - A **maximum** of 2 current USports, CCAA, or other post-secondary athletes born from Sept 1 - Dec 31, 2008. Athletes born in 2009 are eligible to be part of a team roster without any post-secondary restrictions.
  - The club and post-secondary coach should agree this is developmentally appropriate considering the season of play, training load and circumstances of the post-secondary athlete.

***Definition of Post-Secondary:**

- Rostered with a post-secondary institution that they are attending, beginning October 1, 2026
- Athletes are permitted to tryout/train with a post-secondary team in September 2026.
- Post-Secondary does NOT include RSEQ collegiate athletes in Division 2 & 3, intramural programs or club programs, within a post-secondary institution.
- RSEQ athletes in Division 1, who are registered in their 1st year of collegiate studies and CCAA are NOT considered post-secondary athletes.
- Upon request the 18U Head Coach and/or Club President shall provide eligibility verification of any athletes attending post-secondary institution

Guiding Principles:

Volleyball Canada, by providing a range of months (16) within a competitive division, gives athletes greater flexibility to choose a level that best suits their needs and supports Long Term Development (LTD) research. Athletes, parents and coaches should consider the short-term and long-term benefits of playing in different age categories. Clubs may have their own policies playing up/playing down in different age categories

CLUB TRYOUT PERIOD

Club / Team Selection (2026-2027)

Communication: Please note that any exchange of information between a club and athlete including offers letters must include parents/guardians.

The Re-signing, Early Signing, Unofficial Offer, and Official Offer letters will be the only way clubs may communicate an offer. These letters have been created to provide all clubs with a consistent message when making offers.
Important dates and timelines:

- Re-signing and Early Signing Period (November 10 - November 15)
- Tryout Period (December 6 - December 15)

Offer Letters
Re-Signing Offer Letter **(November 10 – November 15)**
Early Signing Offer Letter **(November 10 – November 15 (16U-18U Age Categories Only)**
Unofficial Offer Letter **(December 6 - December 15)**
Official Offer Letter **(December 16, 5:00pm)**

Copies of letters can be found in the Tryouts section on the VNS website HERE.

Re-signing Period (November 10 – November 15)
During this period, clubs have the option to offer spots to players who were members of their club in the previous season by sending them a Re-signing Offer Letter. Players can accept this offer by signing the Re-signing Offer Letter and returning it to the club. *Offers expire 48 hours after they are sent.*

Early Signing Period (November 10 – November 15) - 16U-18U Age Categories Teams Only
During this period, athletes may initiate communication with other clubs to express their interest in joining a 16U through 18U team in a new or different club. This should be done by sending a club an Athlete Expression of Interest Form. Players can accept this offer by signing the Early Signing Offer Letter and returning it to the club. *Offers expire 48 hours after they are sent.*

Click Here for a list of Youth Volleyball Clubs in Nova Scotia, sorted by region.

Clubs have the option to offer spots to players who express interest by sending them an Early Signing Offer Letter. Players can accept this offer by signing the Early Offer Letter and returning it to the club. *Offers expire 48 hours after they are sent.*

No offers can be made or accepted between November 16 and December 5.

Tryout Period (December 6 - December 15)
Players who have not yet signed an offer with a club will enter the Tryout Period, which will take place from December 6 to December 15.

Unofficial Offers:
Clubs can make “unofficial offers” to players during the Tryout Period by using the Unofficial Offer Letter**.** This letter represents the club's intention to offer the player a spot at the end of the Tryout Period. Players are free to unofficially accept the offer but are not obligated to respond.

Official Offers:
Clubs can make "official offers" to players by using the Official Offer Letter starting at 5:00pm on December 16. This

offer is valid until 5:00pm on December 18. Players must reply within that timeframe to secure their spot on the team. Any official offer that has not been responded to by that time **may expire** at the club's discretion.

Additional Information
Clubs may not require payment of any club fees until the tryout period has ended, excluding a tryout fee.

Teams/clubs may select players after the Tryout Period; however, they need to be aware that athletes may have already joined other teams. Once an athlete has accepted a spot with another team, they will not be able to switch teams.

For more information please contact VNS Executive Director, Jason Trepanier.

OFF SEASON PROGRAM REGULATIONS

The goal with *Off-Season Regulations* is to foster an environment where athletes have access to a wide variety of volleyball opportunities while upholding the integrity of our Tryout Policies and ensuring a level playing field for all clubs during team formation.

The *Off-Season* period begins the day after the final Indoor National Championships and continues until the start of the official Tryout Period. All participants (coaches, athletes, helpers, etc.) must hold an approved VNS Membership to participate (Note: Memberships expire annually on Aug 31st.).

During this time, clubs may offer two categories of indoor programming: **Open Activities** and **Closed Activities**.

Open Activities
These are programs available to any interested participant, regardless of their previous club affiliation. Typical examples include:

- Camps
- Clinics
- House leagues
- Introductory or skill-based training

Note: For Open Activities targeting more experienced athletes, clubs may require participants to have prior club volleyball experience. Clubs may also offer early or priority registration to returning members of their club. **Tryouts, evaluations, or selection processes are not permitted during Open Activities.**

Closed Activities
These programs are limited to athletes who were members of the offering club during the most recent competitive season. Common examples include:

- Skill-based training
- Team practices
- In-house competitions

Off-Season Competition
Clubs may choose to continue competition during the off-season, both in and out of province. To do so, the following conditions must be met:

- Teams must consist solely of athletes who were registered with the club in the previous competitive season.
- All participants must hold a current *Competitive Membership*.
- All coaches and staff must meet the PIA BIG 4 requirements.
- Clubs must submit a request to Volleyball Nova Scotia at least two weeks prior to any out-of-province competition.

SCOUTING & RECRUITING POLICY

Volleyball Nova Scotia strongly encourages the volleyball community to work cooperatively to ensure all volleyball participants have a positive experience by following these principles and rules. These guidelines apply to all Post-Secondary recruiters.

1. Recruiters, coaches, or scouting agency representatives are **NOT** allowed to have direct contact (verbally, electronically or with printed material) with an athlete while their team is still participating in a tournament.

2. Recruiters must introduce themselves and the institution/organization they represent to tournament staff/organizers upon arrival.

3. Recruiters should be wearing clothing that clearly indicates the institution they are representing.

4. Recruiters can speak directly with an athlete once their competition is over but must have consent from their coach and/or parent/guardian(s) and follow the Rule of 2.

5. Tournament staff has the right to ask a recruiter/coach to leave the gymnasium or venue if recruiting practices are not respected.

6. Occasionally a player may initiate contact with a recruiter/post-secondary coach. If this is done during school hours, practices, tournaments or league/exhibition games; then it is the recruiter's responsibility to inform the athlete they can have a conversation after the activity and once they have received the coach and/or parents' permission, while following the Rule of 2.

7. Anyone may report any recruiting practices they feel do not meet the above regulations. Club coaches should be aware that casual interaction between post-secondary coaches/recruiters and athletes during a tournament is acceptable, so long as conversations and contact do not involve recruitment.

8. Volleyball Nova Scotia is responsible for reporting all infractions to the appropriate association, athletic conference(s) and/or member institution. Violation of these rules, or the spirit of these rules, may result in sanctioning of a recruiter/coach.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY

It is the policy of Volleyball Nova Scotia to foster a spirit of competitiveness in the safest possible environment. It is the responsibility of every member, coach, referee, volunteer, and staff to practice Risk Management and Safety on a continuous basis.

When a team applies to host a VNS event, it is their responsibility to provide a safe environment for players, coaches, referees, volunteers, and spectators.

Safe Sport

Quality sport experiences provide countless benefits, like boosting physical and mental health, bringing people together to be part of a community, developing invaluable life skills, and much more. By maintaining secure and supportive sport environments, we can ensure that everyone enjoys the many advantages of participating.

Sport Nova Scotia has provided provincial sport organizations across the province with supports meant to ensure safer and more respectful environments for all participants. If you are experiencing or have witnessed maltreatment in our

sport system, there is an accessible and confidential complaint process now available to you.

Individuals are able to make complaints of maltreatment as identified in the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS). This includes complaints of physical maltreatment, neglect, psychological maltreatment, sexual maltreatment, grooming, boundary transgressions and discrimination. Please be advised that administrative concerns (like coach assignments, player selections, or facility bookings for example) should continue to be directly communicated to Volleyball Nova Scotia.

To find out more about making a safe sport complaint, click here to visit Sport Nova Scotia.

Person In Authority (PIA) and Rule of 2 Guidelines:

Person In Authority (PIA) is defined as:

- anyone who holds a position of power, influence or responsibility over others (often younger or more vulnerable participants) in a sporting organization. Because of that role, there is a **power imbalance** in their interactions.

Examples of roles that typically qualify as a PIA include:

- Coaches and team staff (managers, etc.)
- Referees
- Club administrators, board members, volunteers in leadership capacities

All PIA must have their membership approved prior participating in any tryouts, practices, team activities, as well as any VNS sanctioned event (including Open Tournaments, Super Series and NS Championships), as well as Volleyball Canada National Championships.

In order to be approved, PIAs will need the following **PIA BIG 4** requirements:

1. **Background screening – Please see Criminal Record Check Section below for all details and requirements.**
2. **Safe Sport Training e-Learning Module**
3. **Anti-Racism in Sport e-Learning Module**
4. **Approved VNS Coach Membership**

All PIAs should also review and adhere the following:

- **Volleyball Canada's Code of Conduct and Abuse Policy**
- **Responsible Coaching Movement's Rule of Two**
    - Any one-on-one interaction between a PIA and an individual athlete must be justifiable and take place in an open and observable environment. A best practice is minimally 2 PIA who are trained and screened. If possible one of the PIAs should be the same gender as the athlete. If a PIA is not available, another screened volunteer, parent, or adult can be recruited. An exception is made for medical emergencies.

CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK

Volleyball Nova Scotia follows a strict policy whereby all PIA working directly with athletes in registered club programs must have the following:

- **Criminal Record Check (expires 3 years from date issued and must be valid through August 31st of the current season):**
    - *Must* be submitted to VNS before the coach's first interaction (electronic or in-person) with youth.
    - Clubs will be fined $250 per team staff person ***not*** meeting the requirement and the team staff person(s) will be removed from all team rosters.

- Any PIA added to rosters after must submit their check **prior** to interacting (electronically or in-person) with any athletes.

- **How to obtain a Criminal Records Check:**
  - **Online with Trustii:**
    - In order to make the process of acquiring a Police Record Check as painless as possible, VNS has partnered with Trustii, a service that allows you to complete your own background check online.
    - Checks are provided at a discount for VNS members for $18.99 + tax.
    - This process is designed to be secure, simple, and fully digital, allowing you to complete all required steps quickly from your computer or mobile device.
    - Start your check NOW.
    - **NOTE: Our new online partner, Trustii, can be used by any resident in NS (not just HRM).**
  - **For Coaches who prefer to visit their local police detachment:**
    - You will need to visit your local RCMP station to obtain your Criminal Record Check.
    - Please note: a letter is no longer needed to obtain this, as a Vulnerable Sector Screen is no longer required.

COACHING CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Volleyball Nova Scotia's Club Coach Eligibility Requirements are to ensure that all coaches participating in the club season have the competencies necessary to provide every athlete with a safe, inclusive, and responsible sport experience.

Guiding Principles:
All athletes have the right to a NCCP trained coaching staff.

All coaches have the responsibility to:

- provide an environment that is physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially safe for all athletes and participants.

- provide a learning environment that incorporates teaching methodologies, technical guidelines, and long-term development principles.

- Ensure that all training is current and updated, as required.

Head Coaches:

- Must meet the **PIA BIG 4 Requirements**.
- Must meet all **Minimum Course Requirements** listed below (regardless of previous certification)
- Must meet all **Certification Requirements** listed below**.**

Assistant Coaches/Managers/Helpers/ anyone who interacts with athletes in ANY way:

- Must meet all the **PIA BIG 4 Requirements**.
- *Note: Assistant Coaches/Managers attending VC Nationals must have additional courses completed.*

Deadlines:

- **Fall (Off-Season) Programming – All Coaches must have the BIG 4 prior to interacting with athletes in any manner (electronic or in-person).**

- **November 9th, 2026 – BIG 4 PIA Requirements Completed for all coaches/helpers who will be participating in tryouts.**
  - Coaches are NOT permitted to participate in the Tryout Process including Re-Signing, Early Signing & Tryout Periods in any way until these are completed.
  - Coaches added to the Coach Audit/Roster after Nov 9th – **BIG 4** PIA Requirements MUST be completed before the first interaction with athletes (electronic or in-person).

- **January 27th, 2027 – All Coach Education Requirements for all coaches must be completed & Head Coaches in Year 3 must be registered for any Evaluations required for the 2026-2027 season.**

Head Coach Minimum Course Requirements

Minimum Head Coach Requirements	Making Head Way in Sport	Free	*The Making Head Way eLearning provides coaches with the latest information specific to Concussion Management*	**DEADLINE January 27th, 2027**
	Making Ethical Decisions	$85	*Making Ethical Decisions offers coaches the opportunity for training and evaluation in ethical decision-making.*	
	Foundations of Volleyball	$89	*Foundations of Volleyball eLearning introduces coaches to VC's teaching methodologies and long-term athlete development principles.*	

Head Coach Certification Requirements:

- All Head Coaches listed on any VNS roster must meet the requirements below, relating to their number of years as a Head Coach since 2017.
- **Coaches who require a Coach Evaluation this season MUST be REGISTERED by January 27th, 2027.**
- ***Note:*** *The 2020-2021 season does NOT count as a year towards Head Coaching as there were no Provincial Championships*

SANCTIONS: Head Coaches who do not meet the requirements for that year (outlined below) will be subject to a **$250** CAD fine, payable prior to participation in that year's Provincial Championships and will not be permitted to Head Coach in future seasons until requirements have been met.

	2026-2027 Head Coach Requirements
12U **13U** **14U** **15U** **16U** **17U** **18U**	All coaches participating as a Head Coach at any age category Provincial Championships for their **3rd season (or more)** since 2017 are required to have **CERTIFIED DEVELOPMENT COACH** status by the above listed deadline. HC's in Yr. 1 or 2 must minimally meet PIA BIG 4 & Minimum Course Requirements listed above by the deadline stated.

Note: *Coaches who are attending* ***VC National Championships*** *have different requirements. Please visit HERE to view them.*

COMPETITION REGULATIONS

As per Volleyball Canada 2026-2027 Rule Book:

- *Please note full explanations of 2026-2027 changes HERE.*

Uniforms

Volleyball Nova Scotia follows Volleyball Canada's Uniform Guidelines with the exception below:

While it is a best practice for all liberos to have a unique libero-jersey number for an event, VNS recognizes the financial impact this can have on clubs that may have multiple athletes in a libero role. Therefore, VNS will approve an athlete having a libero jersey number that differs from their non-libero jersey number, within the same match. The number of either of those jerseys cannot be the same number as another athlete. Please inform the R2 (or R1, if no R2) of this before signing the scoresheet.

Pom Poms & Noise Makers

The use of Pom Poms on the playing area (including team benches) is not permitted as they create a slipping hazard to participants.

VNS acknowledges that competition venues may be loud and encourages spectators to take personal precautions, as needed, to protect hearing, especially that of young children/infants. The use of any type of noise maker (cowbells, air horns, drums, whistles, phone applications, etc.) is prohibited. The use of noisemakers may lead to the confiscation of the item and/or removal of the individual from the facility.

Side Switching after each set

If the Head Coach(es) of both teams can reach consensus at the start of a match that both sides are equal, no side switching between sets. If one coach does not agree, switch sides.

Match formats

All matches will be best 2/3 sets (25, 25, 15) unless otherwise indicated.

Serving Space

If serving space is less than 2m, then all players will be allowed a step-in on the serve.

Line Judges

Each team will be required to provide one (1) volunteer athlete from their roster, per game, to act in the role of line judge. Should a team not have sufficient athletes (roster of 8 or fewer) to fill this role, the opposing team will be

asked to supply an athlete volunteer from their roster to fill the second line judge role.

If this is not possible, the referee may approve that no line judges will be used for that game/match.

The athletes acting as line judge are permitted to be substituted into the match.

If a team having 9 or more athletes on their roster chooses not to comply with the line judge requirements, they will receive a 3-point penalty per set that they do not comply. This will be administered by providing the opposing team with three (3) points at the start of each set (ie. the beginning score of the set will be 3-0 for the opposing team).

Prolonged Interruptions

Prolonged match interruptions will use the following rule:

- Should one or several interruptions occur, when the match is resumed the interrupted set shall continue normally with the same score, players (except expelled or disqualified ones) and positions, and the record of all sanctions will be maintained. The sets already played will keep their scores.

Ball Contacting the Ceiling Rule

If the first or second hit of the team contacts/touches the ceiling or venue infrastructure directly attached to the ceiling (E.g. rafters, ceiling joists, etc.) above the field of play and remains available for continuation of the rally (on the same side of the court) allowing a second or third contact for the same team, the rally is legal, and the play is permitted to continue.

In the case where the ball contacts/touches the ceiling or venue infrastructure directly attached to the ceiling (E.g. rafters, ceiling joists, etc.) above the field of play and rebounds into the opponent's court this is ruled a fault.

In the case where the ball contacts/touches the ceiling or venue infrastructure that is not situated over the field of play, this is ruled a fault.

The referee will use the **Out Signal** in correlation to these faults.

Requirements for a fair competition environment:

1. For consistency of the competition environment, only the competition hosting entity has the authority to assess and determine the boundaries of the free playing space.
2. It is imperative that the hosting entity communicate or make readily available to all participants (coach, referee, player, manager, etc.):
    a. The clearly defined free zone as part of the playing area.
    b. Clearly identifiable markings on the ceiling or overhead object(s) that define the playing space above the playing area.

Warm Up Protocol

Teams will be granted a 2-minute shared court warm up followed by an individual 4-minute team warm up each. The 2-minute shared warm up will commence one minute after the referee has whistled to instruct teams to shake hands from the previous match, but athletes may not use balls in their warmup before referees have cleared the court after completing net adjustments, if required. A full 2 minutes with balls will be allowed once net adjustments have been completed.

The coin toss will commence at this time, and coaches and team captains will be responsible to ensure their team roster is recorded and verified by signing the score sheet within this 2-minute timeframe.

Team Warm-ups will be conducted using the 2-4-4 format, which is as follows:

2 minutes for players to warm-up on their respective side of the court and 4 minutes for each team to use the full court (traditionally used for spiking and serving practice).

Warm-up Protocol 7.2.4 Volleyball Canada – In an effort to reduce the incidence of injuries and concussions during warm-up, Volleyball Canada has developed the following warm-up protocol. This protocol is to be followed by all teams during the designated on- court warm-up time:

a. Athletes must remain on their side of the net immediately following an attack and only move to the opposite side of the net from outside of the court. Athletes are not permitted into the receiving court.
b. Any ball from the receiving side of the court, entered to the attacking side, must be entered from outside of the court.
c. Retrieved balls must be returned along the sidelines of the court and not through the receiving court.
d. 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.
e. 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.

For teams that do not follow the warm-up protocol, the referees will note on the score sheet the non-compliance of the warm-up protocol. The league, PTA, or Volleyball Canada will determine the appropriate sanction.

At the end of the match, teams must vacate the court (playing area and bench area) within one minute of the completion of their match to allow for the next teams playing full access to the court.

Note: *The Tournament Director has the authority (in consultation with coaches & Head Referee) to move matches ahead and/or move matches to a different court than scheduled in order to avoid delays & shorten the length of the tournament day. See specific tournament notes for other info.*

SEEDING AND TIE-BREAKING

During an Event:

Two (2) tied teams: When two teams are tied, the winner of the head-to-head match during the round will be ranked higher.

Three (3) teams or more: When three or more teams are tied, the tie-breaking criteria are applied one after the other until all the tied teams have been ranked:

a) The team having the best ratio of won/lost matches, considering all matches played during the round between the tied teams, will be ranked higher.
b) The team having the best ratio of won/lost sets, considering all matches played during the round between the tied teams, will be ranked higher.
c) The team having the best ratio of won/lost sets, considering all matches played of the round, will be ranked higher.
d) The team having the best ratio of points for/against, considering sets played between the tied teams during the round, will be ranked higher.

e) The team having the best ratio of points for/against, considering ALL sets played during the round, will be ranked higher.
f) As determined by the Organizing Committee (ex. Extra set, toss of a coin, etc.)

Note: This means that if there is a tie among teams X, Y, and Z, and Criteria (b) is able to be used to determine X as first, Y as second and Z as third, then no further criteria are to be used. The tie is broken.

However, if Criteria (b) determines the seeding/ranking of only one of the tied teams, then the remaining teams which are still tied will use Criteria (c) and so on to determine their seeding/ranking. Do not start at (a) again. Continue through the sequence of criteria using the results of teams x, y, and z for criteria (d).

Note: When multiple teams have the same final placement in the seeding event, points ratio considering all matches played will determine seeding.

PROTESTS

At all VNS sanctioned events, **protests must be settled immediately at the time of the incident**, on site by the Protest Committee, **NOT** after the match. Only the captain may legally protest on an error in applying a rule or rule interpretation.

1. The captain must lodge the protest immediately to the first referee who will then indicate to the scorekeeper that a protest has been lodged.
2. The captain must then describe the incident on the score sheet. This record includes game number, score, ball possession and player position on floor at time of protest.
3. The protest is then referred to the Protest Committee (i.e. Tournament Director, Head Official, and VNS Representative) for deliberation of acceptance or refusal.

The Referee's decisions regarding ball handling faults are not open to protest.

Note: The protest protocol at NS Championships is described later in this document and supersedes the above policy.

GAME BALL

The official indoor ball for VNS Competitions will be the Mikasa VS123W-SL in the 12U category, the Mikasa VQ200w-CAN in the 13U-16U age categories and the Mikasa V200W in the 17U-18U age categories.

NET HEIGHTS

Age Category	Girls	Boys
12U (Co-ed)	2.15m	
13U	2.15m	2.20m
14U	2.15m	2.20m
15U	2.20m	2.35m
16U	2.24m	2.35m
17U	2.24m	2.43m
18U	2.24m	2.43m

AGE SPECIFIC RULES

Libero Rules

The use of a Libero is not permitted at the 12U/13U/14U boys and girls age categories.
The use of ONE (1) Libero is permitted at 15U/16U boys and girls age categories.
The use of up to TWO (2) Liberos is permitted at 17U/18U boys and girls age categories.

- *Note: 2 liberos at 17U is in Nova Scotia ONLY, only 1 libero will be permitted at VC Nationals.*

Substitution Rules

8-sub limited (one entry & one exit per player) in age categories **WITH** a Libero (15U/16U/17I/18U).
Fair play rule in 12U/13U/14U in effect.

Fair Play Rule

- The Fair Play rule will be applied to the 12U, 13U and 14U age categories for all genders.
- Rosters may have up to 15 athletes on them, however only 12 may be active/rostered in any one match within Fair Play categories. The 12 who are active can vary from match to match.
    - Athletes who are not rostered for that match can participate in warmup, sit on the bench, and may be in uniform.
    - "Healthy Scratches" are not permitted. Active rosters may only include less than 12 athletes, if less than 12 athletes are present and able to play (i.e. not injured or ill).
        - Ex. If 11 athletes are present, 11 active roster spots must be filled per match.
        - Ex. If 14 athletes are present, 12 active roster spots must be filled per match.
        - Ex. If 9 athletes are present, 9 active roster spots must be filled per match.
- All players listed on the score sheet must start the first or second set.
- Teams are strongly encouraged to distribute playing time among all players on the team.
- Substitutions are not permitted in the first or second set.
    - In the case of 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. Any line up can be used at the start of the third set. In the third set 12 'limited' substitutions are permitted.
- Any line up can be used at the start of the third set.
    - For 12U & 13U in the 3rd set, substitution requests can only occur between a three-ball sequence.
    - Teams switch sides in the third set once a team reaches 8 points. If this occurs during a three-ball sequence, then the switch will be made after the sequence is complete.
    - For 14U, substitutions in the 3rd set can be made as normal, using the 12 sub limited regulations.

Serve Receive Rule
There are no restrictions on how a ball is received from a serve at any age category.

TRIPLEBALL

The goal of Tripleball is to promote better skill development through more rallies, increase participation, and encourage meaningful competition and fun.

12U:

- Co-ed Participation (no limit on number of athletes per gender)
- A serving line will be set by taping hash marks at 7M from the net to allow more success while serving.
    - Referees will use judgement to extend the serving line across the court, but unless egregious, focus will be on successful rallies and play at this level.
    - Clubs running 12U programming please contact VNS for a roll of approved light-adhesive floor tape to get started. Light-Adhesive floor tape is available locally at Cleve's Sporting Goods.
- Tripleball will be the official game format for all sanctioned VNS events during the entire season including NS Championships.
- The Tripleball-specific scoresheet can be downloaded HERE.

13U:

- Tripleball will be the official game format for all sanctioned VNS events during the entire season including NS Championships.
- The Tripleball-specific scoresheet can be downloaded HERE.

14U:

- VNS strongly recommends limiting the use of a 5-1 serve receive system and instead using systems that promote overall athlete development such as 6-6, 6-3, 6-2, 4-2.
    - Please visit the VNS Recommended Systems document HERE for more information.
- Super Series is a part of the 14U competition offerings by VNS and the final Super Series will be used to seed for NS Championships. More information under the Super Series section in this document.

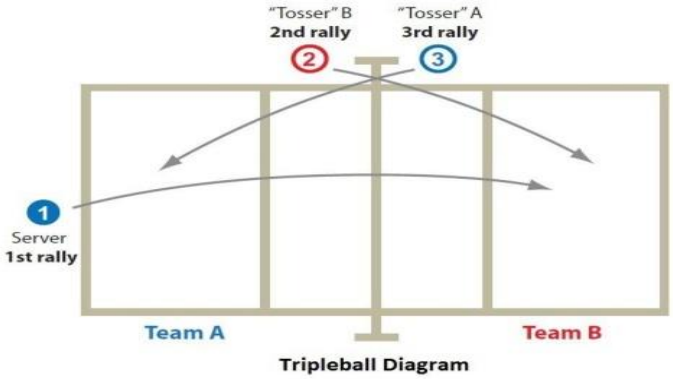
Overview of the Tripleball Sequence:

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 to the player in position 6
- 3rd rally – tossed ball given to the serving team to the player in position 6

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 (1) point.



Tripleball Diagram

Tripleball rules:

a) Switching to a different position from your service order during a rally is NOT PERMITTED.
b) No player specialization
    a. Each rotation will have a different designated player assuming the role of setter.
    b. Before the beginning of the set the coach must note on the scoresheet which court position the setter will be in. This can be court position #1, #2 or #3.
        i. *Note:* It is strongly recommended that court position #1 only be used for advanced 13U teams capable of adding this level of difficulty without reducing the number of rallies or pass, set, attack sequences.
c) Fair Play substitution rules apply.
d) Time-outs & substitutions cannot occur during a 3-ball sequence. These requests must be made at the end of a sequence and before the introduction of serve.
e) Athletes must play the tossed ball with a forearm pass, otherwise a replay will occur.
f) No libero.
g) All other standard volleyball rules not listed above continue to apply.
    a. **Recommendation for referees to use an elastic band to keep track of serving team.*

Rules for Tossers:

a) The Head Coach, Assistant Coach or a competent volunteer may be the "Tosser" and introduce the ball to their own team.
b) Tossers should be located on the same side of the playing area as the 1st referee.
c) 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.
d) 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.
e) The free ball must be tossed directly to the athlete rotationally in position six, otherwise a replay will occur.
f) 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".
g) The Tosser should encourage a fast-paced transition between an end of a rally and the next toss.

ENTRY FEES

Open Tournaments – Set by the tournament organizer

Super Series – $725 + HST (this one-time fee covers all two events)

NS Championships – $495 + HST (NS Championships 1 & 2) // $455 + HST (NS Championships 3 & 4)

NOTE: ALL event registration/entry fees are payable online, through Sportlomo.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Super Series registration will close on **January 7th, 2027, at 12:00pm**.
NS Championships registration will close on **February 4th, 2027, at 12:00pm**.

Teams/ Clubs are responsible for ensuring that entry fees are submitted by the deadline(s). Late entries may be permitted at the discretion of VNS. Any registration after the deadline will be charged an additional $100.00 on top of the initial registration fee.

CANCELLATION POLICY

If a tournament is cancelled it is generally for one of two reasons: less than 4 teams have registered, facility closures and/or inclement weather conditions.

If local weather or other circumstances prevent a team from traveling to a Super Series event, the coach must notify the VNS office and the event host immediately. It is recommended that weather and road conditions be checked, as clubs must assume responsibility for safety and risk management. VNS will consider local weather, road conditions and the number of teams who will not be attending when deciding if cancellation is warranted. If an event is cancelled, or teams are unable to attend due to mitigating circumstances, teams will be reimbursed their entry fee, minus any tournament administrative expenses that cannot be recovered due to cancellation. It is highly unlikely to reschedule a cancelled event pending facility availability, availability of teams and conflicts with other tournaments.

REFUND POLICY

Super Series - Teams dropping out 14 days or more before an event will receive an 80% refund.

Teams dropping out 13 days or less before an event will not be refunded.

OPEN TOURNAMENTS

An Open Tournament is a VNS sanctioned tournament organized by a club and is officiated by VC Certified & Registered officials.

Hosts will be required to apply and meet the following minimum standards to be designated as a sanctioned event:

- Teams can play a maximum of 5 matches in one day.
- Teams can play a maximum of 2 matches (rounds) in a row.
- Teams can sit a maximum of 2 matches (rounds) in a row.
- Volleyball Canada and Volleyball Nova Scotia rules will apply including rules of play and tie-breaking procedures.
- Use assigned officials through the VNS Referee Assignor.
- Use Volleyball Nova Scotia's official competition volleyballs.
- Complete an Open Tournament Report and submit to VNS upon event completion.
- **Note:** ***Open Tournaments for Super Series age groups will not be sanctioned on the same weekend as a Super Series.***
- Once an Open Tournament has been sanctioned by VNS, the event will be posted on the VNS Open Tournaments Page.
- Any out of province teams wishing to participate in an Open Tournament, must show the host an email from VNS showing they are eligible (meaning they are in good standing with their own PT/A + their coaches meet the VNS PIA BIG 4 requirements).

Unsanctioned Events

Volleyball Nova Scotia's insurance coverage is only applicable for Open Tournaments, Super Series, and NS Championships. These events adhere to our Safe Sport requirements, employ certified referees, and follow our tournament standards. Registered participants in these events are covered under our insurance policy.

It is important to note that competitions not listed on the Open Tournaments webpage, and not directly organized by VNS or Volleyball Canada, are considered unsanctioned and therefore not covered by our insurance policy. It's crucial for everyone to understand these limitations and take necessary precautions to ensure the safety and well-being of all

participants. **Participating in unsanctioned events may invalidate insurance coverage, putting participants at risk.**

We strongly urge all clubs to prioritize safety and compliance with VNS regulations to minimize potential risks during club events.

SUPER SERIES & SEEDING EVENT GUIDELINES AND STRUCTURE

The Super Series is used to tier and seed teams for the NS Championships based on skill level, which is measured throughout the season by tournament results.

Guidelines:

- Tournaments will be comprised of 8 teams, when possible, with each team guaranteed 4 matches. There will be placement matches to finish each event, and mini banners will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams.
- Adjustments will be made to groups only if the number of registered teams does not permit a group of 8 teams. *# of matches played, rest/recovery, & meaningful competition will be the objectives for the selected format of the odd pool(s).*
- When possible:
    - all teams will have an equal number of matches.
    - teams will not play more than 2 matches in a row.
    - teams will not sit off for more than 2 matches in row.
- Teams that do not participate in the Super Series will be seeded at NS Championships behind all the teams that have participated in the Super Series
- A maximum admission fee of $2 per spectator may be charged.

Structure:

- Tier size will be dependent on registration; we will strive for the following possible structures:
    - **Structure A:**
        - **Age Category**
            - **Tier 1 – Group A**
            - **Tier 2 – Group B, Group C**

    - **Structure B:**
        - **Age Category**
            - **Tier 1 – Group A**
            - **Tier 1B – Group B**
            - **Tier 2 – Group C, Group D, etc.**

- We will also strive to have Groups of 8 teams with a minimum of 2 Tiers and 3 Groups per Age Category where possible.
- In age categories with 5 or more groups, Super Series 1 will start using **Structure B**.

SUPER SERIES AGE CATEGORIES

14U, 15U, 16U, 17U, 18U Age Categories

Female:

- Female 18U teams will compete in the 18U Age Category for Super Series.
- Female 17U teams will compete in the 17U Age Category for Super Series.
- Female 16U teams will compete in the 16U Age Category for Super Series.

- Female 15U teams will compete in the 15U Age Category for Super Series.
- Female 14U teams will compete in the 14U Age Category for Super Series.

Male:

- Male 17U & 18U teams will compete **together** in the 18U Age Category for Super Series.
- Male 15U & 16U teams will compete **together** in the 16U Age Category for Super Series.
- Male 14U teams will compete in the 14U Age Category for Super Series.

Rules of play: Standard VC age-specific category rules will apply to all age categories.

SUPER SERIES PLACEMENT AND SEEDING

The following system will be used to place and seed teams in the Super Series and Provincial Championships:

Super Series 1 – Initial Seeding

- **Female Super Series**
  - Seeding and group allocation **will be based on results of NS Championships in the previous year**. Start at 1) and continue through the sequence of criteria and **DO NOT** start at 1) again after a team has been seeded:

1) 17U Super Series will be seeded 1st, followed by 18U, then 16U, then 15U, then 14U. Results from last season's NS Championships can only be used **once** for each team's finish for seeding purposes.
2) 17U Female will be seeded based on the final NS Championships results in the 16U Age Category.
3) For 18U Tier 1:
   i) Seed 1-6: Top 6 highest placing teams from 17U NS Championships.
   ii) Seed 7: Highest placing 18U team from 18U NS Championships from a club not already in Tier 1.
   iii) Seed 8: Highest placing 16U team from 16U NS Championships from a club not already in 18U Tier 1 AND not entering 17U, minimum placement of top 4 in 16U.
      (1) If no 16U team is eligible, this seed would go to the next highest placing 18U team from a club not already in Tier 1.
   iv) If there are unfilled positions in 18U Tier 1 that cannot be filled through the steps above, teams who finished in 18U Tier 1 at NS Championships will be considered first.
4) For 18U Tier 2 and beyond:
   i) Seed 9: Next highest placing 18U team.
   ii) Seed 10: Next highest placing 17U team.
   iii) Repeat this alternating pattern until all teams from previous season are seeded.
   iv) All remaining teams will be in Tier 2 and grouped with geographical considerations.
5) Female 16U will be seeded based on the final NS Championships results in the 15U Age Category.
6) Female 15U will be seeded based on the final NS Championships results in the 14U Age Category.
7) 14U will be grouped based on geography and seeded based on the final NS Championships results from the 13U Age Category.

Note: When multiple teams have the same final placement, the percentile score will be used to break placement ties.

- **Male Super Series**
  - 18U, 16U and 14U Boys seeding and allocation will be based on results of NS Championships in the previous year. Start at 1) and continue through the sequence of criteria and **DO NOT** start at 1) again after a team has been seeded.
  - If a club earns more than 1 spot in a Tier 1 Age Group, VNS will connect with the club to decide at their discretion to use their seeding for a second team in Tier 1 or keep it at the lower age.

1) 18U Super Series will be seeded 1st, followed by 16U, followed by 14U. Results from last season's NS

Championships can only be used **once** for each team's finish for seeding purposes.

2) 18U Super Series will be seeded with the top 4 18U teams & the top 2 16U teams, considering NS Championship Tier 1 teams only.
3) If there are unfilled positions in 18U Tier 1 that cannot be filled through the steps above, teams who finished in 18U Tier 1 at NS Championships will be considered first, then 16U Tier 1.
4) 16U Super Series will be seeded with the top 4 16U teams, the top 2 14U teams, in that order, considering VNS Championship Tier 1 teams only.
5) If there are unfilled positions in 16U Tier 1 that cannot be filled through the steps above, teams who finish in 16U Tier 1 at NS Championships will be considered first, then 14U Tier 1. 16U T2 will be seeded starting with the next highest finishing 14U Team, followed by the next highest finishing 16U team, and continue to alternate until all spots are filled.
6) 14U Super Series will be grouped based on geography and seeded based on NS Championships results in the 14U NS Championships from the previous year.
7) When multiple teams have the same final placement, the percentile score will be used to break placement ties.

18U, 17U, 16U & 15U Super Series 1 - Movement

- If there are 2 groups, the 1st and 2nd place teams in the Tier 2 Group will move up to Tier 1, the 2 lowest placing teams in Tier 1 will move down to Tier 2.
- If there are 3 or 4 groups in an Age Category, the number of teams moving down from Tier 1 will equal the number of groups in the lower tier.
    - For example, 2 teams will move down if there are two groups in the lower tier, and the 1st place team in each of the lower Tiers would move up.
- If there are 5 or more groups in an Age Category, Tier 1B will be maintained for the next Super Series event:
    - The bottom 2 teams from Tier 1 move down to Tier 1B, and the top 2 teams from Tier 1B will move up to T1.
    - The 1st place teams in Tier 2 will move up to Tier 1B, and an equal number of lowest placing teams from Tier 1B will move down to Tier 2.

14U Super Series 1 – Movement

- The top placing teams will create a Tier 1 group, and the lowest placing teams will join to create Tier 2 group(s) and allocated based on geography.

Super Series 2 - Seeding

- SS#2 is seeded based on SS#1 Result (final rank).
- Serpentine seeding within Tiers will be used.
- Teams may be moved from their ranked group (within the same Tier) by VNS to accommodate travel and playing a variety of opponents **ONLY** if the team they are being switched with is close in ranking.

Female Super Series 2 - Movement

- Divisions without a Tier 1B
    - The number of teams moving down from Tier 1 will equal the number of groups in Tier 2
    - The 1st place team in each Tier 2 Group will move up to Tier 1.
- Divisions with a Tier 1B
    - The bottom 2 teams from Tier 1 move down to Tier 1B, and the top 2 teams from Tier 1B will move up to T1.
    - The number of teams moving down from Tier 1B will equal the number of groups in Tier 2, The 1st place teams in each Tier 2 group will move up to Tier 1B.

Male Super Series 2 - Movement

- If there are 2 groups, the 1st and 2nd place teams in the Tier 2 Group will move up to Tier 1, the 2 lowest placing teams in Tier 1 will move down to Tier 2.
- If there are 3 or more groups in an Age Category, the number of teams moving down from Tier 1 will equal the number of groups in the lower tier. For example, 2 teams will move down if there are two groups in the lower tier.

Super Series Cancellations - Movement

In situations where Super Series tournaments are cancelled, rescheduled, or significantly altered, VNS staff will use their discretion to determine the most appropriate approach to promotion and relegation for that event. Decisions will aim to maintain fairness and competitive integrity while considering the practical realities of the situation.

Guiding Principles
When making these decisions, VNS staff will be guided by the following principles:

1. **Fairness** – Movement decisions should be made with consideration for all teams affected, avoiding any undue advantage or disadvantage.
2. **Consistency** – Where possible, similar situations should be handled in a similar way across divisions and age categories.
3. **Transparency** – Any changes to movement or tier structure should be communicated clearly to all affected teams, along with a brief explanation.

SUPER SERIES MOVEMENT TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURES

If two or more teams are tied at the end of a seeding event, the following criteria will be applied, **in order,** until all ties are broken, and all tied teams ranked. This means that 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.

For Groups that have the same number of teams in each group:

a) The team having the best ratio of won/lost **matches**, considering all matches played during the event, will be ranked higher.
b) The team having the best ratio of won/lost **sets,** considering all matches played during the event, will be ranked higher.
c) The team having the best ratio of **points for/against**, considering all sets played during the event, will be ranked higher.
d) A coin toss by the tournament director and head official in the presence of team representatives.

For Groups that have a different number of teams in each group:

a) The team having the lowest “Percentile Score” will be ranked higher.
    a. A team's "Percentile Score" is determined by taking their final tournament rank and dividing it by the total number of teams in their tournament. For instance, if Team X finishes 3rd in an event with 10 teams, their “Percentile Score” would be 3 divided by 10, which equals 0.3.

WITHDRAWING FROM SUPER SERIES EVENT

A team that does not participate in a Super Series event will be ranked in last place of their scheduled Tier. Movement, re-grouping, tiering, and seeding procedures for the next event will be followed using these results. Teams withdrawing due to inclement weather may request to have their finish reflect their tournament entry ranking.

SUPER SERIES EVENT HOSTING

The success of the indoor season depends on clubs obtaining facilities and hosting Super Series events.

Note: Pool assignment will be based on applicant's team seeding as best possible but not guaranteed. VNS reserves the right to move teams that are relatively close in ranking due to travel without compromising meaningful competition.

Host Application Deadline: Minimum 4 weeks prior to Event Date.

- Hosting Applications can be found on the "Super Series" page under the "Club Volleyball" on the VNS website.
- Applications are to be forwarded to the VNS office for approval. Please note that facilities must provide a safe environment for athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators.

The following is an overview of hosting a VNS event:

Benefits of Host

- Host will receive $45 per team if they are able to provide scorekeepers for matches and $25 per team if they are not able to provide scorekeepers.
- Fundraising potential such as food concessions.
- Opportunity to promote the sport and your club as well as encourage local support.
- Minimize travel expenses for your Club teams by staying local to compete.
- May charge admission at the door – maximum of $2.00 per person.

Responsibilities of VNS

- Approve and confirm hosting bids and facilities.
- Confirm online registration of participating teams.
- Seed the teams and create an event schedule.
- Distribute information to participating teams.
- Send an electronic event package to the host (Hosting Guidelines & Procedures, Competitions Guide, EAP template, Results Document).
- Mail a tournament package (Scoresheets, lineup cards, Pool Boards, Playoff Brackets)
- Have major officials assigned to the event.

Responsibilities of the Event Host

- Submit application (obtain a facility; provide directions and/or a map for e-mailing).
- Obtain approval for and operate a food concession.
- Liaise with VNS regarding event matters.
- Contact local media (newspapers, radio, and television) and VNS Staff with pre and post event info.
- Appoint one Tournament Director for each venue being used.
- Establish a three-person Protest Committee (ex. Head Official or designate, the Tournament Director, a participating coach, VNS Rep if one is present at the event). Members of the Protest Committee cannot decide on a protest in which they were involved as participants.
- Communicate with Referees and all Head Coaches around the parameters of the Ceiling Rule will be in used.
- Introduce yourself to the teams/coaches so that they are aware of who is in charge.
- Introduce yourself to the Head Official and give him/her a copy of the schedule and event information & provide any other pertinent information from the host.
- Oversee the competition in accordance with VNS Regulations (ensure that a copy of the Competitions Guide is at the event for reference).

- Consult with VNS Staff if a schedule revision is necessary due to teams not showing or other circumstances.
- Manage the score sheets and post results throughout the day.
- Implement VNS tie break rules as published.
- Complete Google Sheet Results including uploading photos of pool boards & playoff brackets into the Google Sheet, and email Veronica to let her know it's been completed by the following Monday at 12:00pm at the latest.
- Report any problems to VNS the following Monday and document in writing via email any incidents that require a follow up, including Warmup Violations, etc.
- Return the event package to VNS within one week: score sheets, completed results board, host expense claim.

Note: Hosting claims must be submitted to the VNS Office within 3 weeks of the event. Hosting claims must be attached with the Facility Invoice to receive full reimbursement of hosting fees. Hosting fees will not be remitted after the end of the VNS fiscal year (September 30).

Scorekeeping at Super Series

The host may supply scorekeepers and receive additional compensation for doing so. In cases where they don't, each team is to supply one person for their match. VNS has created a Scorekeeping Tutorial available HERE to share with your club members. *Please advise VNS in your hosting application whether you are planning to provide scorekeepers.*

NS CHAMPIONSHIPS ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Registered youth teams in approved volleyball clubs are eligible for NS Championships provided they have met all the event requirements.

NS CHAMPIONSHIPS SEEDING AND FORMAT

NS Championships will include the following age categories:

- **Co-Ed – 12U**
- **Male - 14U, 16U & 18U**
- **Female – 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U & 18U**
    - Age categories with less than 8 registered teams for NS Championships may be combined with the age category 1 year older.

14U/15U/16U/17U/18U NS Championships Seeding:
NS Championships will be seeded based on the final ranking of the last Super Series event **AFTER** movement of teams has occurred. Higher seeded teams will be serpentine seeded together in pools based on their initial seeding. Lower seeded teams will be serpentine seeded together in pools as well. Teams may move up or down between tiers for playoffs based on their pool play results.

Note: In Divisions that have 24 teams, the preferred format for Tier 1 and 2 of NS Championships will be a 24-team schedule, using pools of 3 teams. The top seeded teams will be seeded together in pools A and B, with a guarantee of remaining in Tier 1, with the remaining teams seeded using the serpentine method for the remaining pools. This format rewards the strong results of the top 6 teams, allows for meaningful matches throughout the event, and provides all 24 teams with a pathway to Tier 1 Gold.

12U & 13U NS Championships Seeding:
This tournament is seeded randomly; however, coach feedback and geography will be considered when seeding this event and determining how many Tiers are offered.

NS CHAMPIONSHIPS PROTEST PROCESS

Any protest or appeal at a VNS Championship will be overseen by a Competition Jury, composed of a combination of the following:

- The Tournament Director or approved designate.
- Two members from the Referee Management Team or approved designates.

The Competition Jury has the highest level of authority at the NS Championships, and its decisions take precedence and cannot be appealed. They are in place to evaluate complaints and render decisions regarding issues that arise about the event organization and all technical matters. The Competition Jury may be called upon to make decisions on, but not limited to, any of the following matters:

- Competition Protests
- Player Eligibility
- Uniforms
- Spectators
- Venues
- Accommodation
- Schedules and Draws

The following types of issues can be protested or appealed:

- An improper decision by the referee who did not apply the rules or regulations.
- An improper decision of the scorer who made a mistake on the rotational order or on the score.
- Please note that judgment calls cannot be protested. A referee's decision regarding a playing action (ie. ball handling or misconduct) cannot be protested.
- The protest will be accepted or rejected prior to the resumption of play by the tournament jury.

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.

- A fee of $50 must be provided in cash immediately in order to assemble the Competition Jury to assess the protest. The funds will be returned if the protest is upheld; however, if it is overturned, the funds will go towards referee development.

In case of an incident during a match, the protest must be requested at the moment the incident occurs, before play resumes. Please remember that NO match will be replayed, as protests must be placed at the moment of the incident. For further explanation, please refer to Protest Procedures of the Indoor Rulebook and Judges' Conference.

- Notify both teams that there is a protest.
- Ask both teams to stay in the gym until the final decision is rendered.
- The chairperson of jury convenes the jury.
- The jury interviews the coach of the protesting team.
- The jury interviews all parties involved, as they see fit (e.g.: opposing coach, officials, captains, athletes, etc.)
- The jury deliberates and renders a decision.
- The chairperson of the jury informs all parties involved of the decision made.

VNS SUPER SERIES AND CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

DATE	EVENT	AGE	LOCATION
January 29-31	Super Series #1	16UG & 16UB	TBD
February 5-7	Super Series #1	14UG & 14UB	TBD
February 12-14	Super Series #1	15UG & 17UG	TBD
February 19-21	Super Series #1	18UG & 18UB	TBD
February 26-28	Super Series #2	16UG & 16UB	TBD
March 19-21	Super Series #2	14UG & 14UB	TBD
April 2-4	Super Series #2	15UG	TBD
April 9-11	Super Series #2	17UG	TBD
April 9-11	NS Championships 1	12U Co-Ed, 13UG	Halifax
April 16-18	Super Series #2	18UG, 18UB	TBD
April 16-18	NS Championships 2	14UG, 14UB	Halifax
April 23-25	NS Championships 3	15UG, 16UG, 16UB	Halifax
April 30-May 2	NS Championships 4	17UG, 18UG, 18UB	Halifax

VOLLEYBALL CANADA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

To be eligible to play in a Volleyball Canada Championship, all participants (players, coaches, managers) must be registered members of Volleyball Nova Scotia and meet Volleyball Canada entry requirements. Entries will be verified for eligibility. At Volleyball Canada Championships, players may be required to provide personal identification.

For a Volleyball Canada Championship, all teams who participate in their respective NS Championships are eligible to register, the current exception being Masters.

DATE	EVENT	AGE	LOCATION
April 30 – May 2, 2027	VC Nationals	14U	Moncton Coliseum Moncton, NB
April 30 – May 2, 2027	VC Nationals	14UB & 15UB	Cohere Centre Ottawa, ON
May 7-9, 2027	VC Nationals	17UB	Edmonton Expo Centre Edmonton, AB
May 13-15, 2027	VC Nationals	15UG	Edmonton Expo Centre Edmonton, AB
May 14-16, 2027	VC Nationals	14UG	REAL District Regina, SK
May 14-16, 2027	VC Nationals	14UB	Olympic Oval Richmond, BC
May 16-18, 2027	VC Nationals	14UG	The International Centre Mississauga, ON
May 17-19, 2027	VC Nationals	16UG	Edmonton Expo Centre Edmonton, AB
May 20-22, 2027	VC Nationals	16UB	The International Centre Mississauga, ON
May 21-23, 2027	VC Nationals	18U	Edmonton Expo Centre Edmonton, AB
May 25-27, 2027	VC Nationals	17UG	Edmonton Expo Centre & Saville Community Sports Centre Edmonton, AB

Competition Dates **DO NOT include Coach Check-In/Practice Day*

For more information regarding the Volleyball Canada National Championships please visit their **website.**

Coaches attending VC National Championships should be familiar with the VC Nationals Indoor Competition Guide for additional regulations.