"What's New?"

VNS 2026-2027 Competition Guide

VNS presents a summary of **What's New?** in the 2026-2027 Competition Guide.

This document is a highlight of ***significant changes only***; please see the **VNS 2026-2027 Competition Guide** for all changes and detailed explanations. All changes have been highlighted in red and change rationale noted in blue.

All deadlines for registration, etc. have been updated; please see the guide for specifics:

- **Key Deadlines:**
  - **Club Re-Signing Period:** **Nov 10 – Nov 15, 2026**
  - **Club Early Signing Period** (16U/17U/18U teams only) **Nov 10 – Nov 15, 2026**
  - **Club Tryout Period:** **Dec 6 – Dec 15, 2026**
  - **Club Official Offers may begin:** **Dec 16, 5:00pm, 2026**
  - **Super Series Registration:** **Jan 7, 2027, 12:00pm**
  - **Roster Lock Deadline** **Jan 27, 2027, 12:00pm**
  - **Coaching Cert. Requirements Met:** **Jan 27, 2027, 12:00pm**
  - **Coach Evaluation Registration** (Year 3+ Coaches) **Jan 27, 2027, 12:00pm**
  - **NS Championships Registration:** **Feb 4, 2027, 12:00pm**

- **Key Event Dates:**
  - **Super Series #1** **16UG/16UB** **Jan 29-31, 2027**
  - **Super Series #1** **14UG/14UB** **Feb 5-7, 2027**
  - **Super Series #1** **15UG/17UG** **Feb 12-14, 2027**
  - **Super Series #1** **18UG/18UB** **Feb 19-21, 2027**
  - **Super Series #2** **16UG/16UB** **Feb 26-28, 2027**
  - **Super Series #2** **14UG/14UB** **Mar 19-21, 2027**
  - **Super Series #2** **15UG** **Apr 2-4, 2027**
  - **Super Series #2** **17UG** **Apr 9-11, 2027**
  - **NS Championships** **12U/13UG** **Apr 9-11, 2027**
  - **Super Series #2** **18UG/18UB** **Apr 16-18, 2027**
  - **NS Championships** **14UG/14UB** **Apr 16-18, 2027**
  - **NS Championships** **15UG/16UG/16UB** **April 23-25, 2027**
  - **NS Championships** **17UG/18UG/18UB** **Apr 30-May 2, 2027**

Roster Lock Deadline (Pg. 6)

Roster changes within 2 weeks of the NS Championships for a team will only be considered on a case-by-case basis, subject to approval by VNS, and a fine of $250 per change will be applied at the discretion of VNS.

- *Fine increased due to a high number of changes being requested in the 2 weeks before an event.*

Age Categories (Pg. 7)

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.

- *Updated to reflect accurate birth years for 2026-27.*

Criminal Records Check (Pg. 11/12)

Only a Criminal Records Check is required for Persons In Authority (PIA) – Coaches, Referees, Managers, etc. (please see Comp Guide for full PIA definitions), the Vulnerable Sector Screen portion is NO LONGER required.

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.

- *Updated to aligns with VC safe sport practices*

Coach Certification Requirements (Pg. 12/13/14)

Deadlines have been updated, no other changes.

- Nov 9th, 2026:
  - 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).

- Jan 27th, 2027:
  - All Online Course Requirements for Head Coaches must be complete, Head Coaches requiring evaluation this season must be registered by this date.

Coaching Requirements for Coaches attending VC Nationals are linked within – note timeline and courses are different from VNS timelines.

- *Amended to reflect updated dates.*

Competition Regulations (Pg. 14)

VC Rule Book Updates (Linked HERE)

- *Click Link to view all rule changes for 2026-2027:*
  - *Rule 8.4 (specifically 8.4.2) ball is not "out" when touching the ceiling.*
    - *Ball Contacting the Ceiling wording clarified.*
  - *Rule 19.1.1 Designation of Libero (Libero permitted in 15U, 2 Liberos permitted in 18U)*
  - *Internal Pass (Double Contact) Interpretation – permitted on 1st or 2nd contact if made during one action and ball remains on the same side of the court*
  - *Rule 9.2.2 Push/Carry/Catch/Throw Tip Attack – re-clarification of existing rule & will be called as such.*
  - *Two (2) Handed Attacks – A deliberate two-handed attack hit is a Fault.*

Side Switching after Each Set (Pg. 14)

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.

- *Added to minimize disruption and delayed timing during matches.*

Prolonged Interruptions (Pg. 15)

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.
- *Slight rule adjustment from VC due to facility constraints if events run behind.*

Age-Specific Rules (Pg. 18)

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.*

- *15U libero & 2 liberos at 18U rule adjusted to align with VC, but also allowing 2 liberos at 17U due to frequently competing within 18U events throughout the season.*

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.

- *VC led pilot in NS to review use of 8 subs + allow coaches more flexibility with the roster.*

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

- *Amended to align with VC.*

Tripleball – Rules for Tossers (Pg. 20)
Tossers should be located on the same side of the playing area as the 1st referee.

- *Limits congestion by bench/score table.*

Entry Fees (Pg. 20)

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)

- *Updated to reflect amounts, NS Championships 1 & 2 will not include the Canada Games Centre due to availability of that facility.*

Super Series Structure (Pg. 22)
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**.
- *Updated - larger age categories start with a Tier 1B so 4+ teams are not moving down out of*

Tier 1.

Super Series 1 – Initial Seeding (Pg. 23)

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.

- *Alleviates large gaps in the initial seeding process since boys age divisions are 2 years apart, where a club may repeat in 2+ age categories.*

Super Series 1 Movement (Pg. 24)

- 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.

- *Tier 1B will not be used in age categories with 4 or less groups. Age categories with 5 or more groups will have a Tier 1B in all Super Series events.*

12U & 13U NS Championships Seeding (Pg. 27)

This tournament is seeded randomly; however, coach feedback and geography will be considered when seeding this event and determining how many Tiers are offered.

- *Updated to no longer include Open Tournament results, they have historically not been an accurate method to seed these events.*

Super Series & VNS Championships Dates (Pg. 29)

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

VC National Championship Dates and Locations (Pg. 30)

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.