

SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA

Boys and Girls 15 Years & Under Volleyball Championships

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Section A – Championship Overview

- A - 1.** These Rules and Guidelines should be read in conjunction with School Sport Australia Policies, Championship Protocols and the Volleyball Championship Organisational Manual.
- A - 2.** The Championships shall be played under the Official Rules of Volleyball as issued by the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) or adopted by the Volleyball Australia except where herein stated.
- A - 3.** The Championships shall be conducted in accordance with a current Memorandum of Understanding between School Sport Australia and Volleyball Australia.

A - 4. Championship Length

- A - 4.1** The Championships shall be played on as many consecutive days as necessary using at least three (3) playing courts.
- A - 4.2** Duration of competition shall be six (6) days.

A - 5. Eligibility

All players are to be aged 15 Years or Under on 31 December of the year of competition.

A - 6. Age Dispensation

Age Dispensation may be granted to a State or Territory for these Championships as allowed through the School Sport Australia Sport Participation Policy.

A - 7. Team Size

Each State/Territory may enter one team of girls that shall be a maximum of twelve (12) players and one team of boys that shall be a maximum of twelve (12) players.

A - 8. Attendance at Championships

All students who participate in the School Sport Australia Volleyball Championships must remain at the Championship location throughout the duration of the Championships and be bound by all Championship arrangements, except in exceptional circumstances as per School Sport Australia policy.

Section B – Competition Structure

B - 1. Program / Schedule

- B - 1.1** The host member body shall provide, where possible, a training session in the competition venue on the day prior to the commencement of the Championships.

B - 2. Draw

- B - 2.1** The most practical arrangement is to have the girls' and boys' sections played on separate courts.
- B - 2.2** Early and late games to be distributed evenly across all competing teams. Teams should play on each day of the championships.
- B - 2.3** Matches should not be blocked as one gender at a time. Rather, there should be a mix of boys and girls matches so that, where possible, teams from the same state are able to support each other.
- B - 2.4** Where possible, the draw should cater for:
- B - 2.4.1** Teams from the same state should not play in the same time slot;
 - B - 2.4.2** All matches of one gender should not be played in the same time slot.
 - B - 2.4.3** The Territory Shields should preferably be played no earlier than day three of the Championships.

This is to be permanently incorporated into the draw.
 - B - 2.4.4** If possible, a night game may be included in the draw. The National Volleyball Advisor to liaise with the host member body regarding the mechanics of the draw.
- B - 2.5** Teams will not be obliged to play any more than two matches on any one day.
- B - 2.6** The host member body shall conduct a draw for the Championships using the following draw format and by considering the rules outlined in B - 2.9, B - 2.10 and B - 2.11. Once the draw has been completed it will be approved by the National Volleyball Advisor prior to publication.
- B - 2.7** The host member body has the flexibility to schedule host teams around the Opening Ceremony.
- B - 2.8** Gold medal playoffs are to be rotated each year, i.e. boys' final game in one year, girls the final game the next year.
- B - 2.9** 7 and 8 team format:

A single round robin will be played with a final series. The final series at the conclusion of the round robin matches will be as follows:

FINAL	ROUND MATCHES	FINALS
1st v 2nd (match A)	Loser A v Winner B (match X)	Winner A v Winner X
3rd v 4th (match B)	Loser B v Winner C (match Y)	Loser X v Winner Y
5th v 6th (match C)	Loser C v Winner D (match Z)	Loser Y v Winner Z
7th v 8th (match D)	Loser Z v Loser D	

B - 2.10 6 and 4 team format:

A double round robin with a normal finals format i.e. 1st v 2nd for the gold playoff etc.

The first round draw in a 6-team format shall be as follows:

One gender will be assigned 1 – 6 and the other gender 11 – 16.

The host state may choose the numbers for their teams and the remaining teams will be allocated by ballot.

The second round will be seeded and matches between the top seeds to be distributed evenly over the final round. The duty teams for the second round will be allocated to ensure an even number of duties. The National Volleyball Advisor to liaise with the host member body as to the final draw format.

DAY / TIME	COURT 1	COURT 2	COURT 3
DAY 1			
9.00	1 v 6	13 v 14	2 v 5
10.30	3 v 4	11 v 16	
12.30	1 v 5	12 v 15	
14.00	6 v 4	16 v 14	
16.00	2 v 3	12 v 13	11 v 15
DAY 2			
9.00	11 v 14	6 v 2	15 v 13
10.30	16 v 12	1 v 4	
12.30	11 v 13	5 v 3	
14.00	14 v 12	4 v 2	

16.00	15 v 16	5 v 6	1 v 3
DAY 3			
9.00	3 v 6	1 v 2	4 v 5
10.30	11 v 12	14 v 12	13 v 16

B - 2.11 5 team format:

A double round robin with semi-finals. The 1st team advancing to the grand final to play the winner of 2nd v 3rd semi-final. The loser to play the winner of 4th v 5th match for bronze.

B - 3. Duration of matches

B - 3.1 The minimum on court warm up time shall be twenty (20) minutes.

B - 3.2 Minimum time allowance for each match shall be 90 minutes. Warm up time and procedure shall be ratified at the Opening Conference.

B - 3.3 All participating teams shall be entitled to a rest period of at least 90 minutes between matches.

The 90 minutes to be from the end of the previous match to the commencement of the team's next match.

B - 4. Game Protocols / Specific Rules / Results

B - 4.1 Match Protocol

B - 4.1.1 If the previous match finishes early, the minimum warm up time identified in B - 3.1 may be extended.

B - 4.1.2 **30 minutes** before the game the scoresheet, line up sheets and match balls must be on the score bench. Referee checks net height, court conditions and equipment.

B - 4.1.3 **20 minutes** before start time. Teams warm up with or without the ball - their choice. Spiking is not permitted until the toss is performed and the referee indicates the commencement of the spiking warm up. Captains and coaches are asked to sign the score sheet. If necessary, teams change ends according to the result of the toss.

B - 4.1.4 **14 minutes** before start time. Referee calls captains for the toss. The winner of the toss may elect to serve / receive or choose an end. The loser of the toss may choose one of the other two options.

- B - 4.1.5** **13 minutes** before start time. Spiking warm up commences. The team that has the first serve spikes first and has five minutes to use at their discretion. The other team then has the net and court for five minutes. Coaches may agree to spike together, in which case the combined time is 10 minutes. In such cases the timing will be 5 minutes spiking from position 4, 3 minutes from position 2, and 2 minutes serving. If there is no agreement to spike together, the default is 5 minutes separate.
- B - 4.1.6** **3 minutes** from start time. All warm up ceases and teams are cleared from the court. Referees check the net, antennae and balls, and that scorers are ready, scoresheets signed, line-up sheets in, rotations filled out etc.
- B - 4.1.7** **2 minutes** from start time. Teams line up on the baselines to come forward, shake hands and exchange gifts. (the gift exchange is usually the first round only)
- B - 4.1.8** **1 minute** from start time.
- B - 4.1.8.1** Starting 6 and liberos are introduced onto the court.
- B - 4.1.8.2** 2nd referee checks rotations. The liberos may then enter the court.
- B - 4.1.9** **Start time.** Referee whistles for first serve.
- B - 4.1.10** At the end of each set, players leave the court and proceed anti-clockwise to their bench at the other end, moving past the baseline-sideline corner of position 1 then crossing outside the posts. The bench players just cross over in front of the score bench.
- B - 4.1.11** At the end of the match all players shake hands at the net, both captains to check the scoresheet carefully, and then sign.
- B - 4.1.12** After the match, the completed scoresheet and match ball to be returned to the Championship office.
- B - 4.2** The twelve substitute rule shall be employed, i.e., 3 entries per player, 12 substitutes per set, multiple players allowed in one position.
- B - 4.3** The Libero
- B - 4.3.1** The libero rule shall allow 'libero per set'.
- B - 4.3.2** Replacement of an injured libero
- B - 4.3.2.1** With the prior approval of the first referee, the libero player can be replaced by any player who is not on the court at the moment of injury. The injured libero may

not re-enter to play for the remainder of the match, as either an ordinary or libero player.

B - 4.3.2.2 The player designated to replace an injured libero must remain the libero player for the duration of the set.

B - 4.4 International score sheets to be used for all matches. Copies of the score sheets to be made available immediately after matches.

B - 4.5 Match results to be posted daily.

B - 5. Points Allocation

B - 5.1 Points shall be awarded in each match as follows:

Win – 3 Loss - 1 Forfeit – 0

B - 6. Method of Determining a Winner

B - 6.1 After the conclusion of the round matches, where two or more teams are equal on competition points, the ladder shall decide by assessing sets.

$$\frac{\text{Sets Won}}{\text{Total Sets Played}} \times 100$$

B - 6.2 If two teams are still drawn then percentage of points won and lost will decide the placings.

Section C – Facilities / Equipment

C - 1. The Championship venue shall comply with the dimensions as set out in the National Secretary Organisation Manual. The National Volleyball Advisor is to be advised by host member body of venue dimensions.

C - 2. If a player in the action of playing the ball touches an object outside of the free zone before, during or after playing the ball, the ball will be deemed out. A diagram will be drawn for each venue to clarify the free zone.

C - 3. The net heights shall be in accordance with the current standards set by the AVF, that is:

Girls: 2.15m

Boys: 2.35m

C - 4. All match balls shall be provided by the host member body, on advice from the National Volleyball Advisor.

Section D – Uniform

- D - 1.** During the Volleyball Championship matches, players must wear the designated State / Territory uniform.

Section E – Injury Management

Refer to School Sport Australia Championship Protocols and Policy for the management of injuries. This policy will override any sport specific injury management Protocols.

[School-Sport-Australia-Injury-Management-Policy.pdf \(schoolsportaustralia.edu.au\)](https://schoolsportaustralia.edu.au/School-Sport-Australia-Injury-Management-Policy.pdf)

New Policy Dec 2023

Section F – Officials

- F - 1.** Chief Referee - The Chief Referee shall be appointed in consultation with Volleyball Australia's Referees Commission, where possible.
- F - 2.** Referees - The host member body shall invite or request visiting referees at least two (2) months prior to the Championships.
- F - 3.** Student Referees - Each participating team shall provide a suitably qualified student referee in addition to its registered players, where possible.
- F - 4.** A technical meeting shall be held immediately prior to the Championship beginning to discuss rules and interpretations. All referees should be present at this meeting.
- F - 5.** The member body shall endeavour to provide the following personnel for officiating duties in all round matches:
- F - 5.1** experienced scorers;
 - F - 5.2** competent lines people - senior students properly attired and experienced in the game of volleyball should be used;
 - F - 5.3** scoreboard operators;
 - F - 5.4** Players may be rostered to do scoring and linesperson duties during the preliminary rounds of the tournament. Suitably experienced students should be used during the finals series if available otherwise this shall be undertaken by the Jury attending the Championships.

Where possible, players should not be rostered on a match immediately preceding a match in which they are playing;
 - F - 5.5** any other duty personnel deemed necessary.
- F - 6.** The student referees should be recognised at the opening and closing ceremonies.

Section G – Protests

- G - 1.** All protests arising from matches (coach only) shall be resolved on court, by one member of the jury, after consultation with match and team officials. Players shall be permitted to continue ball work whilst the protest is being resolved. An unsuccessful protest the team will be sanctioned with a red card with the consequent loss of a point.
- G - 2.** The Jury shall deal with all complaints and protests on organisational and disciplinary matters as well as dealing with matters referred to by the Special Referees Committee for the Championships.
- G - 3.** The Jury shall have the power to resolve complaints and protests and take disciplinary action against players for any infringements of the Codes of Conduct by School Sport Australia. The Jury shall, if it deems necessary, report any misconduct by Officials to their State/Territory member bodies.

Section H – Tribunal / Judiciary

- H - 1.** The Jury shall be the highest disciplinary authority and shall be constituted only for the duration of the Championships. Its verdict shall be final during the Championships; however, appeals can be directed to the School Sport Australia National Programs Committee.
- H - 2.** The Jury shall consist of the National Volleyball Advisor (Chairperson), Chief Referee and Championship Convener.
- H - 3.** At least one (1) member of the Jury shall be present at each match.

Section I – Trophies / Awards / Medals

- I - 1.** A perpetual trophy is presented to the winners of both the Boys and Girls Championships.
- I - 2.** A perpetual 'Territories Trophy' (between ACT and NT) for boys and girls shall be awarded to the winning Territory after their first inter-Territory game. These trophies are to be returned at the next Opening Ceremony.
- I - 3.** All Australian Team (formally the Honorary Australian Team)
- I - 3.1** Selection Committees for each boys' and girls' sections to consist of coaches from the competing States / Territories and chaired by the National Volleyball Advisor and/or by his/her nominees.
 - I - 3.2** The National Volleyball Advisor shall schedule and chair the selection committee meetings and participate in discussion but shall not vote on selections.
 - I - 3.3** After day one (1) of competition, all State / Territory coaches may nominate to the chairperson, up to a maximum of six (6) players from their teams for selection consideration.

- I - 3.4** After day three (3) of competition State / Territory coaches may add and/or delete players from the selection list. With the consensus of all coaches, the total number nominated from one state/territory can exceed six (6) players if warranted.
 - I - 3.5** A selection meeting shall be held on the evening preceding the finals.
 - I - 3.6** Where possible, selections are to be derived by consensus. If such a consensus cannot be achieved, a ballot shall be held to determine the remaining positions.
 - I - 3.7** The Selection Committee shall name twelve (12) girls and twelve (12) boys with each being the All Australian Team. If the team is to tour, players are to be selected on the basis of a balanced playing unit. If not touring the twelve (12) best players from each section shall be selected and referred to as the All Australian Team.
 - I - 3.7.1** The All Australian Team will be selected in terms of their effectiveness in the following areas:
 - I - 3.7.1.1** individual skills;
 - I - 3.7.1.2** team skills;
 - I - 3.7.1.3** coachability;
 - I - 3.7.1.4** ability to act as a role model to peers;
 - I - 3.7.1.5** players may be considered if they are a front or back court specialist, only when such players demonstrate exceptional skill and knowledge in this facet of the game.
 - I - 3.8** All members of the All Australian Volleyball Teams will receive a School Sport Australia plaque supplied by the School Sport Australia office. The cost of the plaque needs to be included in the budget.
- I - 4.** An award shall be made to the best-performed student referee.
- I - 4.1** The best-performed student referee will be offered the appropriate final regardless of their state affiliation and the teams participating in the final.
 - I - 4.2** The award of Student Referee of the Championships shall be determined on the following criteria:
 - I - 4.2.1** Technical Knowledge: Knowledge of and application of the rules of the game:
 - I - 4.2.2** Service, Player positions
 - I - 4.2.3** Ball contact/control
 - I - 4.2.4** Play at net

I - 4.2.5 Appearance & personality

I - 4.2.6 Game Management

I - 4.2.7 Organisation

I - 4.2.8 Ability to work as part of a team of referees and tournament officials.

I - 4.2.9 Willingness to learn

Improvement throughout the tournament.

I - 4.3 The Student Referee of the Championship award shall be confirmed at the Post-Championship meeting.

I - 4.4 That the Student Referee will receive a trophy supplied by the SSA office and the name to be added to the perpetual trophy.

I - 5. An award shall be made to the best-performed teacher official (ie coach, manager) and awarded the Noel Drew Coaching Award for Commitment to Schools Volleyball.

I - 5.1 The best-performed teacher official will be decided by consensus of coaches, and where needed, by vote. Each team will be entitled to one vote.

I - 5.2 The award of best-performed teacher official shall be determined on the following criteria:

5.2.1 - Displays exemplar coaching performance throughout the Championship

5.2.2 - Displays outstanding commitment to the attributes of successful teaching and coaching leadership through school sport pathways

5.2.3 - Has gained the respect of players and their families; officials; and fellow coaches throughout the Championship in the year awarded

5.2.4 - That the awardee will receive a plaque supplied by the SSA Volleyball Advisor and their name to be added to the perpetual trophy.