



ONTARIO VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

2026 BEACH VOLLEYBALL

HANDBOOK

Contents

Chapter 1.....	2
1 Introduction.....	2
1.1 Welcome to 2026 OVA Beach Tour	2
1.2 What's New in 2026?	2
1.3 OVA Staff/Contact Information	3
1.4 Volleyball Canada Contact Information.....	5
Chapter 2.....	6
2.0 Technical Organization	6
2.1 Age Categories	6
2.2 Costs and Fees.....	7
2.3 Registration	8
2.4 Cancellation and Refund Policy	9
2.5 Beach Teams/Partners.....	10
2.6 Team Check-in and Player's Meeting.....	10
2.7 Medical Services	11
2.8 Referees	11
2.9 Coaching.....	12
Chapter 3.....	14
3.0 Competition Regulations.....	14
3.1 Ontario Championship Eligibility	14
3.2 National Eligibility.....	15
3.3 Sanctioned Silver Beach Tour Events	15
3.4 Competition Information	16
3.5 Rules of the Games.....	18
<i>3.5.4 Indoor Beach Ceiling Rule.....</i>	<i>19</i>
3.6 Points/Seeding/Rankings	19
3.7 Tie-Breaking Procedure.....	24
3.8 Weather Cancellation/Rain-Out	24
Chapter 4.....	26
4.0 Specific Regulations and Sanctions.....	26
4.1 Maternity Leave Policy	26
4.2 Concussion Policy and Protocol	26
4.3 Catastrophic Injury Policy.....	27
4.4 Code of Conduct	27
<i>4.4.2 Tents.....</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>4.4.3 Speaker Systems</i>	<i>32</i>
4.5 Disciplinary Actions and Sanctions.....	32
4.6 Safe Sport	33
4.7 OVA Awards	34
Appendices.....	36
Appendix I - Player Officiating Guide	36
Appendix II - Player's Meeting Notes	38
Appendix III - Wildcard Application Form.....	40

Chapter 1

1 Introduction

1.1 Welcome to 2026 OVA Beach Tour

Welcome to the 2026 OVA Beach Tour – We would like to welcome returning athletes and parents and introduce the Ontario Beach Program to new members. It’s great to have you all participating in one of the most successful beach programs in North America. Since 2010, the tour has increased in size by 122% and we look forward to more growth and greater opportunities for all athletes this season.

Please note that many parts of this document may be subject to change (e.g. dates and qualification process for Ontario Championships). For the most up to date version of our tentative schedule for the 2026 season, please visit our website [here](#). For a review of some of the new rules/policies for this season, please see below.

The OVA Beach Player’s Handbook is designed to provide essential information necessary for you to prepare yourself for the 2026 beach season. If at any time you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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

1.2 What’s New in 2026?

We’re excited and ramping up for another Beach season. There are some new changes for this summer!

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Online registration for all Beach Tour events will be taking place in MyTeam.Click (MTC) for all 2026 events. Registration will open based on the following staggered start dates to allow for teams to plan ahead and register in a timely manner:

Event Dates	Registration Opening
May - June 14, 2026	April 1 st , 2026 @ 9am
June 20 th – August 2026	April 8 th , 2026 @ 9am

ONTARIO CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dates for the 2026 Beach Ontario Championships have been announced! To accommodate the continued growth of the sport and the increasing number of teams participating in our year-end event, an additional championship event has been added this season.

As part of this expansion, the 12U Girls and 13U Boys and Girls divisions will now compete on weekdays, allowing us to better manage capacity while maintaining a high-quality championship experience for all participants.

Please review the dates and age divisions below for full details.

Date	Age Division	Location
August 1-2	Adult/18UB/17UG/16UB/15UG/14UB	Ashbridges Bay, Toronto

Date	Age Division	Location
August 6-7	12UG*, 13UB**, 13UG***	Ashbridges Bay, Toronto
August 8-9	Youth Open/18UG/17UB/16UG/15UB/14UG	Ashbridges Bay, Toronto

*12UG will be a one-day event on August 6.

**13UB will be a one-day event on August 7.

***13UG will be a two-day event on August 6 & 7th.

PLAY DOWN CRITERIA & PROTOCOLS

As in previous years, beach athletes are required to play according to their chronological age; however, play down exemptions can be provided for those born between September and December of the previous year based on the following criteria:

- **New to beach:** Athletes who are brand new to the Beach Tour this year are allowed to play down an age group if it better suits their development.
- **Returning exemption:** Athletes who received an exemption in the previous season may continue in the lower age group except in the following cases:
 - Girls – Finished in the Premier division at Beach Ontario Championships
 - Boys – Finished in the top half of Premier teams at Beach Ontario Championships
 - 900 points or higher for final ranking if the athlete did not play at Beach Ontario Championships

Athletes wishing to apply for a play down exemption must complete the exemption form within our registration system (MyTeam.Click – MTC) once the schedule is posted on March 2, 2026.

Players/parents may create their team in MTC at that time; the system will automatically flag a play down request based on the athlete's date of birth. Once the application is submitted, requests will be reviewed and a decision provided within two business days.

Teams are strongly encouraged to create their teams in the specific MTC events they intend to register for between March 2 and April 1. Doing so ensures that any play down requests are reviewed and confirmed or denied before registration opens on April 1 and/or April 8, allowing for a smoother registration process.

1.3 OVA Staff/Contact Information

Ontario Volleyball Association
111-60 Scarsdale Rd
Toronto, ON M3B 2R7

Tel: (416) 426-7316

Fax: (416) 426-7109

www.ontariovolleyball.org

1.3.1 OVA Beach Staff

Shunya Yamada, Operations Coordinator

Email: syamada@ontariovolleyball.org

Tel: (416) 426-7316 ext. 102

Kelvin Cheng, Manager of Operations

Email: kcheng@ontariovolleyball.org

Tel: (416) 426-7233

Mylene Andrade, Member Services Coordinator

Email: mandrade@ontariovolleyball.org

Tel: (416) 426-7132

Taylor Callow, Beach Events Program Coord.

Email: tcallow@ontariovolleyball.org

Tel: (416) 426-7316 ext. 106

Hayden Cavender, Program Coordinator

Email: hcavender@ontariovolleyball.org

Tel: (416) 426-7316 ext. 108

Suzanne Fogg, Manager of Beach Programs

Email: sfogg@ontariovolleyball.org

Tel: (416) 426-7396

Alishia Lidums, Director of Volleyball Operations

Email: alidums@ontariovolleyball.org

Tel: (416) 426-7431

1.3.2 OVA Beach Tour Crew

The Beach Crew members along with OVA referees will be introduced during the players meeting and will be easily found throughout the day. They are responsible for making sure that the tournament is operating on schedule (I.e. enforcing player warm-up times) and can sanction the athletes if warm-up time allotments are exceeded.

Event staff should be familiar with all event related information, such as round robin schedules, team draws, and playoff format and should be able to answer any questions the athletes might have about the 2026 Beach Tour season and Ontario Beach Championships. Furthermore, event staff are responsible for maintaining the courts and the surrounding area during the event. Including, but not limited to performing net-height checks, fixing of lines between matches, making sure any event signs are always visible, etc.

Event staff are vital in delivering a successful Beach Tour season and act as an ambassador for the sport of beach volleyball.

1.3.3 Beach Tournament Committee

Composition OVA Beach Tournament Committee

The beach tournament committee will consist of 3 individuals: the tournament director, the tournament Referee Supervisor and a player representative.

The Tournament Committee has the authority to make decisions:

- In all activities in conjunction with the tournament that affect playing conditions, format, structure, etc.
- To change the format of the tournament if conditions warrant it (e.g., games played to 15 points due to a rain delay)
- To settle all disputes related to the tournament format and completion of the tournament
- To determine appropriate actions if weather conditions warrant (suspension or cancellation of play)
- To deal with other conditions that may arise
- To make recommendations to the Disciplinary Committee or Beach Ad Hoc Committee if needed

The decision of the Tournament Committee is final; however, further review may take place by OVA staff at their discretion.

1.3.4 Beach Disciplinary Committee

Composition OVA Beach Disciplinary Committee

The standing OVA Beach Disciplinary Committee will consist of 3-4 members as outlined below:

- OVA Beach Program Manager or designate (Tournament Director)
- OVA Beach Ad Hoc Committee Chair or designate (i.e., member of the Executive, OVA Staff or Beach Ad Hoc Committee)
- OVA Beach ROC or designate (i.e., Head Referee, Court Supervisor, etc.)
- If an athlete is involved in the disciplinary action, then an OVA beach player representative or designate will be included on the Committee. Note: if the disciplinary action impacts a female player, a male player will be the representative AND if the disciplinary action impacts a male player, a female player will be the representative.

Authority of OVA Beach Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee has the authority over athletes, game referees and tournament participants, on and off the court at a tournament, where participant conduct is concerned. The Committee may impose on-site disciplinary measures against any individual(s) if deemed necessary as per the competition rules and the OVA Code of Conduct.

The Disciplinary Committee has the authority to make decisions:

- To enforce the competition regulations and the OVA Code of Conduct during an event
- To impose on-site disciplinary measures to participants
- The decision of the Disciplinary Committee is final.
- All decisions by the Disciplinary Committee are reviewed by the OVA Beach Ad Hoc Committee and/or OVA Executive.
- Any sanction(s) that extend beyond the date of the competition must be issued in accordance with the Misconduct Sanction Scale (section 4.4.1) and/or the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy

1.4 Volleyball Canada Contact Information

Volleyball Canada - National Office
1084 Kenaston St, Unit 1A Ottawa, ON K1B 3P5
Tel: (613) 748-5681
Fax: (613) 748-5727
General Email: info@volleyball.ca
beach@volleyball.ca
Website: www.volleyball.ca

Chapter 2

2.0 Technical Organization

2.1 Age Categories

Athletes are to participate in the age category associated to their chronological age class.

Ineligible athletes that play a younger age group will receive no participation credit nor points for that event.

The categories for 2026 beach season are:

Age Category	Chronological Age Class
12U	Born 2014 or later
13U	Born 2013 or later
14U	Born 2012 or later
15U	Born 2011 or later
16U	Born 2010 or later
17U	Born 2009 or later
18U	Born 2008 or later
Youth Open	Born 2006 or later
Adult	No age restriction

If an age division does not meet the minimum number of registered teams before an event, the OVA reserves the right to combine age groups into one division.

Those athletes who are new to the sport of beach volleyball and whose birthdate fall in the extended age category may be eligible to play down an age category.

Athletes born September to December wanting to play down an age class must apply for exemption each year by filling out the form on MTC when registering for an event.

Athletes that play in age group lower without an approved exemption will receive no points and no credit for participation towards Beach Ontario Championships.

Exemptions will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- **New to beach:** Athletes who are brand new to the Beach Tour this year are allowed to play down an age group if it better suits their development.
- **Returning exemption:** Athletes who received an exemption in the previous season may continue in the lower age group except in the following cases:
 - Girls – Finished in the Premier Division at Beach Ontario Championships
 - Boys – Finished in the top half of Premier teams at Beach Ontario Championships
 - 900 points or higher for final ranking if they athlete did not play at Beach Ontario Championships

- If the athlete played a tournament(s) in their true age group in a previous year, they will be denied an exemption to play down.
 - Example: Mark is born October 8, 2008 – he played 17U events in 2025. For the 2026 season, Mark would like to apply to play down in 17U again. This exemption request would be denied since Mark played at his true age group in the previous season. Mark would need to play 18U events for the 2026 season.

Extended age categories are as follows:

Age Category	Extended Age Class
12U	Born between September 1 st and December 31 st 2013
13U	Born between September 1 st and December 31 st 2012
14U	Born between September 1 st and December 31 st 2011
15U	Born between September 1 st and December 31 st 2010
16U	Born between September 1 st and December 31 st 2009
17U	Born between September 1 st and December 31 st 2008
18U	Born between September 1 st and December 31 st 2007
Youth Open (20U)	Born between September 1 st and December 31 st 2005

2.2 Costs and Fees

Athletes must purchase a Beach Recreational Player membership prior to participation in their first OVA Beach Tour event of the 2026 season. All fees must be paid online at <https://mrs.ontarivolleyball.org/>

If you need help logging into your account or are having MRS registration difficulties, please contact Mylene Andrade, Membership Service Coordinator at mandrade@ontarivolleyball.org or 416-426-7132.

Beach Recreational Player Membership Fee

- A one-time only fee of \$12.91 (tax included)
- This membership is intended for athletes who are not indoor members of the OVA but want to play on the OVA Beach Tour.
- If you have already purchased an Indoor Recreational Player Membership, you will be able to upgrade to the Beach Recreational Player membership at no additional cost.
- This membership level will not be eligible for Grand Slams, Beach Ontario Championships, or Volleyball Canada Beach Nationals.

Beach Player Competitive Membership Fee:

- A one-time only fee of \$100.41 (VC membership fee and tax included).
- Current indoor OVA members will be able to upgrade their current indoor membership to a Beach Competitive Membership at no cost.
- This membership allows athletes to be eligible for all OVA Beach Tour Events, including Grand Slams, Beach Ontario Championships, and Volleyball Canada Beach National Championships.

OVA Regular Tournament Fee:

- \$97.00 + HST per team per event
 - *NOTE:* registration fees hosted by third-parties may differ
- 2-day Youth Open (20U) and Adult Grand Slam tournaments June 21 & 22- \$152 + HST

Ontario Championship & Grand Slam Fees:

- 1-day event (12UG, 13UB, Adult Open) - \$102.00 (plus HST) per team
- 2-day event (13UG, 14U-18U, Youth Open) - \$152.00 (plus HST) per team
- 2-day event (Adult Elite) - \$152.00 (plus HST) per team

Beach Ontario Championships

Date	Age Division	Location
August 1-2	Adult/18UB/17UG/16UB/15UG/14UB	Ashbridges Bay, Toronto
August 6-7	12UG*, 13UB**, 13UG***	Ashbridges Bay, Toronto
August 8-9	Youth Open/18UG/17UB/16UG/15UB/14UG	Ashbridges Bay, Toronto

*12UG will be a one-day event on August 6.

**13UB will be a one-day event on August 7.

***13UG will be a two-day event on August 6 & 7th.

2.3 Registration

2.3.1 How To Register

Teams may register for all tournaments through [myteam.click \(MTC\)](#). Please ensure that you are using the OVA email address for your MRS account to log in as the email address is your unique identifier for each account.

We strongly encourage all teams to register early and to avoid last minute registrations so that the tournaments has the best chance of running and lowers the chances of them being cancelled. If there are no spots available, please register for the waitlist for a spot should one become available. Depending on when a team may or may not dropout, teams can receive notification of a spot becoming available up until the day before the tournament.

Please note that with the registration system, we can only transfer teams within an event and cannot transfer teams to different dates and/or locations anymore. A \$20 admin fee will be deducted for any cancellations should registration be for the wrong date or location and the team will have to separately re-register for the correct tournament.

Please see the [video here](#) on how to register in MTC.

2.3.2 Deadline

The registration deadline is the Monday 4:00 PM prior to the weekend's event, unless noted otherwise. A late fee of \$20 per team will be added to the registration fee on MTC once the deadline has passed. The OVA reserves the right to accept or refuse late entry teams based on whether adding the team is beneficial for the tournament draw and format.

The deadline for Youth Open and Adult Grand Slam events as well as Beach Ontario Championships will be two (2) Mondays before the event.

2.3.4 Wildcards (WC)

Wildcard spots in the main draw can be granted to those teams that will increase the level of competition or for youth development, or to those athletes competing on the provincial team or in the Youth World Championships. WC applications will be due Sunday at 11:59pm prior to the tournament.

The OVA reserve the right to not award a WC if the Beach Ad Hoc Committee does not see fit. The Committee will base their decision on the following criteria:

Open Wildcard

1. Improve quality/level of play of the tournament
 - This team should improve the quality of play at this event.
2. Support the National or Provincial Team Programs in athlete development
3. Promotion of the event
 - Will this team's involvement assist with the marketing/promotion of this event?

Youth Wildcard

- Improve quality/level of play of the tournament
 - This team should improve the quality of play at this event.
- Enhance development of the age division
 - This team should have the potential to compete at a National/International level and would benefit from competing at the Elite level. This team will be seeded one seed above the qualifying team or according to their current youth points.

For the Wildcard Application Form, please see Appendix III or the OVA website

www.ontariovolleyball.org

2.3.3 Respect in Sport (RIS)

One parent or guardian of every athlete must complete the mandatory online Respect in Sport Course prior to an athlete's participation in a Beach Tour event. This course empowers people to recognize and prevent abuse, bullying and harassment through interactive, online certification. The parent course is transferable between sports (I.e., if completed for Ontario Soccer Association, the parent can record that number in their OVA Respect in Sport profile at:

<https://ontvolleyballparent.respectgroupinc.com/start.jsp>).

If the parent/guardian has completed the RIS modules for the indoor season, they do not need to re-take the module. An individual certification number will be issued per person and tracked and verified by the OVA prior to Ontario Championships. The \$12 cost of the course is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Only one certificate number is required per household (i.e. if multiple siblings play with in the OVA the course only needs to be completed once).

Parents will be required to complete the modules by May 15, 2026. If you require an extension, please contact Suzanne Fogg at sfogg@ontariovolleyball.org. If certificate numbers are not on file for an athlete, they will not be allowed to play at Beach Ontario Championships 2026.

Parents/guardians are asked to enter their RIS number into the child's profile in the Membership Registration System (MRS) by logging into their child's Membership Registration System (MRS) account and updating the information.

2.4 Cancellation and Refund Policy

2.4.1 Cancellation

All cancellations before the Monday 4PM deadline can be completed in MTC by the registrant. The OVA will deduct a \$20 administration fee on all cancellations prior to the registration deadline. For any cancellation requests after the deadline, there will be no refund or credit issued for any reason except in the case injury accompanied by a medical note.

In the case of an injury, a refund will be made, less a \$20 administration fee. All injury cancellations and requests for refunds must be presented in writing by the person who registered to the OVA Operations Coordinator prior to the event and accompanied by a doctor's note within one week of the missed event.

Information that must be included in the cancellation/refund request:

1. Full name of both teammates
2. Division
3. Date of tournament to be withdrawn/cancelled
4. Full name on credit card
5. Doctor's note (only needed if past registration deadline)

Please note that we can only transfer teams within an event and cannot transfer teams to different dates and/or locations within MTC. A \$20 admin fee will be deducted for any cancellations should registration be for an incorrect date or location and the team will have to re-register for the correct tournament.

If an injury occurs during a tournament and the athlete is unable to continue, there is no refund provided. In addition, the remaining match(es) of the team will be forfeited and counted as a loss(es) and ranking points will be awarded based on where the forfeit occurs.

2.5 Beach Teams/Partners

Throughout the regular season, you may change partners as often as you wish in MTC. To learn how to update your team, please visit our MTC [How To Guide](#).

Looking for a beach partner? Visit our website [here](#).

2.6 Team Check-in and Player's Meeting

2.6.1 Check-in

Team check-in takes place between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Both partners must check-in together. If you AND your partner have not checked in by 9:00 a.m. SHARP, you and your partner will be removed from the tournament.

Please give yourself ample time to arrive early. It is the players' responsibility to check directions and road closures prior to the event.

A game ball will be given for each court during the tournament but volleyballs are not provided for warm-up before the start of the day. Athletes should bring their own ball for warm-up, if necessary.

2.6.2 Players' Meeting

The Players' Meeting begins shortly after check-in has closed. It is at this meeting where the Tournament Director will debrief the participants with the day's schedule and any new or relevant information. Please see Appendix II for typical player meeting notes.

It is the responsibility of all athletes to listen for any new and relevant information on the day of the event and to question anything that is not understood. Sanctions can be levied to teams who do not follow the format and the basic rules of the tournament. It is the athletes' responsibility to make sure they understand what is presented at the player's meeting.

2.6.3 No-Show or Forfeit

Teams are expected to begin their match on time and in accordance with the schedule provided. If a team fails to show up after 10 minutes of start time, their first set will automatically be forfeited. After a subsequent 10 minutes the entire match will be forfeited.

NOTE: Eliminated teams still have a responsibility to referee a match. If the team is not present for their duties, they will consequently be sanctioned \$100.00, payable prior to registration in the next OVA event. If a sanction fee has not been paid, team members are ineligible to register for an OVA event and are placed as members in bad standing until the fine is paid.

2.7 Medical Services

Throughout the 2026 Beach Tour, efforts will be made to have an athletic therapist on-site at every tournament. A first aid kit will be supplied at all venues for any small injuries that do occur.

All medical time outs need to be supervised by an athletic therapist (AT) or beach referee and the 5-minute medical time-out starts when the AT and referee get to the court. Players are not allowed to leave the court during a medical timeout. Instead, the refereeing team must notify the control tent as soon as possible that medical is required on their court.

If an athlete becomes injured or ill during the tournament and as a result cannot continue to compete, no refund will be issued. Points will be awarded up to the point of withdrawal from the tournament. If the injury or illness occurs before the tournament you may be eligible for a refund of the tournament fee, please see the *section 2.4.2* regarding refunds for further details.

For the Adult and Youth Open divisions only, athletes will only be allowed 1 medical timeout per day. If any athlete requires more than 1 medical per day, they will forfeit all of their matches for the rest of the day.

The OVA follows our Concussion Policy and Protocol. Please see Section 4.2 for more information.

2.8 Referees

2.8.1 *Player Referees*

All teams will be required to score and officiate matches in their pool. A schedule is posted for pool play detailing when you play and when you are expected to officiate. During playoffs, teams are assigned officiating duties in the first round of playoff matches and must score one match after they have been eliminated. Failure to complete officiating duties will result in a \$100.00 sanction from Ontario Volleyball and must be paid before registering in the next OVA event or players will be ineligible to participate in future events.

Player referees are extremely important to the operation of the OVA Beach Tour events. As a player referee, it is your duty and responsibility to officiate matches. You represent referees when acting as a player referee and you have the same role and responsibility as certified referees.

The following are important aspects of your responsibilities which must be enforced:

- The officiating person MUST be standing, the scorekeeper may sit on the opposite side of the court.
- NO umbrellas are allowed in-between courts.
- ONLY the scorekeeper and player referees are allowed between courts. Friends and family can spectate away from the refereeing team.
- If a player referee has an issue, please contact an OVA Beach Referee for assistance.

A detailed guide on player officiating for athletes can be found in Appendix I.

2.8.2 *Certified Referees*

There will be OVA referees on site who will answer any questions and address any concern the players may have about rules, regulations, etc. They will supervise the beach for pool play matches and will attempt to officiate all gold medal matches.

2.9 Coaching

The following coaching rules only apply to 12U to Youth Open (20U). Coaching is not allowed in the Adult divisions.

The OVA Beach Tour defines coaching as advice, instruction, or external assistance of any kind to a team/player.

All coaches must be OVA members in good standing, registered with the Beach Coach role in MRS, and complete the following items:

- A valid Enhanced Police Information Check (E-PIC) every three years. This check can be completed online through mybackcheck.com (MBC)
 - [Click here for instructions on how to complete an E-PIC via MBC](#)
- Complete the following coaching requirements:
 - [Volleyball Canada Foundations of Volleyball eLearning Modules](#)
 - [Making Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation](#)
 - [Making Head Way \(Generic Sport\)](#)
 - [Safe Sport Training](#)
 - [Anti-Racism In Coaching](#)

Deadline to meet the coaching eligibility listed above is the Wednesday prior to the weekend's event.

Coaches must check in and identify themselves at the main control tent at the start of the day. Each coach will be given a wristband for the day to identify them as a coach during the tournament and must be made visible for all participants including referees, coaches, athletes and spectators to see. Coaches must identify themselves to all parties participating in the match including the opposing team, the player referees, and the OVA referee supervisor in the area before the match begins. The coach's name must be included on the match score sheet in MTC in the notes section.

The coach must abide by the following set of rules:

1. Coaches CANNOT call time-outs for their athletes nor coach them to do so.
2. Coaches may only coach their athletes before the match begins, during time outs (including technical timeout) and between sets.
3. Coaches may NOT coach on side switches.
4. Coaches may NOT be on the court during the 10-minute warm-up period

Examples of Coaching Infractions

- The team/player receives coaching during or between a rally
- The coach gives signals during the match.
- The coach signals to their team/player to call a time out

Parents, family, friends, and spectators can cheer during matches. While cheering, no advice, instruction, or external assistance may be given to the team/players. Parents cannot be on the court of play during the 10-minute warm-up time.

If a coach, parent, family member, friend or spectator associated with a team is breaking the OVA Coaching rules, the following sanction process will be enforced.

Process for coaching infractions:

1. Verbal warning is given by OVA Referee, Tournament Director or OVA representative. This warning is recorded at the control tent.
2. If illegal coaching continues, the individual is removed from the court where their team is playing for that match.
3. If illegal coaching continues, the individual is fined \$200 and removed from the tournament and suspended for the next tournament. The fine must be paid before the coach participates at their next tournament.

This stepped sanction process will apply within events and will also carry on throughout the season. All sanctions will be tracked to the coach for the entire 2026 Season.

2.9.1 Person in Authority Code of Conduct

The OVA values the safety, rights and wellbeing of our athletes and their families. It is the responsibility of every OVA club, coach, volunteer, and staff member to participate in the effort to create a safe environment for all OVA participants.

Coaches play a vital role in shaping the youth of tomorrow through sport. The OVA relies on them and other persons in authority to be role models and to put young athletes on a path of success. The dynamic between coach and athlete gives rise to a power imbalance and a culture of unquestioned trust that can result in abuse. As such, it is imperative that all persons in positions of authority be held to a high standard of conduct. Abuse in sport, particularly sexual abuse and the grooming behavior that precedes it, destroys the positive impact of sport, and causes untold harm to victims and those around them. Consequently, the OVA has a strong obligation to establish and maintain systems that prevent abuse and respond to conduct that poses risk to OVA athletes.

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

Please see the [OVA website](#) for the Safe Sport Abuse Prevention Person in Authority Code of Conduct.

2.9.2 Photography and Video

Photography and video is only permitted by OVA staff, official event photographers or spectators attending the event with an athlete. All other individuals wishing to take photos or videos must check-in at the control tent to receive a wristband. This badge must be worn at all times and made visible to all parties including athletes, parents, referees and hosts.

Any individuals not wearing a wristband and that is not attending with an athlete taking photos or videos should be reported to the tournament host for immediate follow-up.

Teams and players are permitted to record their own matches during the tournament. However, please note;

- 1) Tripods are not permitted on the court
- 2) Cameras on tripod cannot be left unattended
- 3) OVA's not responsible for any damage related to the camera on any equipment
- 4) OVA reserves the right to restrict/deny the filming of any matches for safety and/or other reasons

Chapter 3

3.0 Competition Regulations

3.1 Ontario Championship Eligibility

To be eligible to compete in a single age division for the 2026 Beach Ontario Championships, each partner must meet the following eligibility:

- Participate in a minimum of 3 events, two (2) of which must be in the age group they wish to participate in at Ontario Championships.
 - The remaining tournament may be at any age group.
 - Examples:
 - If an athlete plays 3+ x 15U events, they will qualify for 15U.
 - If an athlete plays only 2 x 15U events and only 1 x 16U event, they will qualify for 15U only and not 16U.
 - If an athlete plays 2+ x 15U events and 2+ x 16U events, they will qualify for both 15U and 16U.
- *NOTE:* Ontario Championships does NOT count as an event played towards qualifying.

Exceptions are provided based on the following:

1. 12UG and 13UB - must play in at least one (1) OVA Beach Tour event of the respective age group
2. Team Ontario White, Team Ontario Red, Team Ontario Black – must play in at least two (2) OVA Beach Tour events of the same age group that they will register for.
3. Beach Provincial Team – must play in the minimum required tournaments as stated or played in other provincial team approved tournaments (proof required).
4. Indoor National team – must play in at least one (1) OVA Beach Tour events of the same age group that they will register for
5. Beach National Team – must play in at least two (2) OVA Beach Tour events of the same age group that they will register for
6. Region 1 athletes – there are NO provincial eligibility requirements.
7. Exceptional Circumstances: Athletes that do not qualify for an exemption based on any of the above criteria must present case to OVA Beach Ad Hoc Committee by Sunday, July 12th, 2026. Exemptions need to be emailed to Kelvin Cheng (kcheng@ontariovolleyball.org) stating why the athlete/team couldn't fulfill the required number of tournament and explain why the athlete/team should be accepted into Ontario Championships. Exemption requests for 16U or higher must be written and submitted directly by the athlete i.e. not the parent.

NOTE: a medical note does not count as participation in an event. If participation is not possible due to illness or injury, the case needs to be presented to the OVA Beach Ad Hoc Committee no later than July 12, 2026.

If the Beach Ad Hoc Committee grants an exception for entry into Ontario Beach Championships without the minimum criteria, the team may be required to pay an exemption fee of up to \$150.00 to the OVA before participation in the Ontario Championships in addition to any outstanding membership fees as well as the tournament registration fee. Decisions regarding exemptions cannot be appealed and all exemption fees are non-refundable once paid.

3.2 National Eligibility

To be eligible for the 2026 Beach National Championships:

- Both athletes must attend Ontario Championships and compete in the same age group they intend to play at Beach Nationals
 - Teams may choose to play up at Nationals but cannot play down unless granted a VC approved exemption.
- Exemptible reasons include:
 - Age class not offered by the Provincial/Territorial Association
 - National/Provincial Team commitments during their age-group PCs
 - Age-category being full at Provincials – team was waitlisted
- To support compliance VC may request help from PTA staff to provide Provincial Championship registration lists so VC can confirm eligibility.

If an athlete/team is unable to participate in Ontario Championships, please contact Volleyball Canada info@volleyball.ca directly for the possible exemption process.

3.3 Sanctioned Silver Beach Tour Events

A silver event is an event that is sanctioned by the OVA. Silver tournaments create more opportunities for players to participate in tournaments local to their area and ranking points are awarded at Silver events that will count towards a player's seeding and qualification for Ontario Championships. Please refer to the points matrices in sections 3.5.1 and 3.5.2.

Interested in hosting your own Silver Beach Tour event? Please see our website [here](#) for all the information!

3.4 Competition Information

	Youth Divisions: 12U – Youth Open (20U)	Adult Open (AA-A5)	Elite (AAA)												
Competition format	Pool play - Pools of 3, 4 or 5														
Elite Qualifier format	N/A	N/A	1 set to 21 points. Sides at 7, technical timeout at sum of 21 points.												
Match format for pool play (May change at the discretion of the OVA)	<p>Pools of 3 teams: <i>Match play</i> – best 2 out of 3, first 2 games to 21 points, third game (if necessary) to 15. No cap.</p> <p>Pools of 4 or 5 teams: 2 games to 15 points. No cap and no third set.</p>	<p>Pools of 3: <i>Match play</i> – best 2 out of 3, first 2 games to 21 points, third game (if necessary) to 15.</p> <p>Pools of 4 or 5: <i>Match play</i> – best 2 out of 3, first 2 games to 15 points, third game (if necessary) to 11.</p>													
Registration fee*	<p>Regular events: \$97+HST</p> <p>Ontario Championships: 12UG & 13UB: \$102 + HST (1-day) 13UG, 14U-Youth Open: \$152 + HST (2-day)</p>	<p>Regular events: \$97+HST</p> <p>Ontario Championships: \$102 + HST (1-day)</p>	<p>Regular events: \$97+HST</p> <p>Ontario Championships & Grand Slams: \$152 + HST (2-day)</p>												
Official Mikasa Ball	BV550C														
Court Dimensions	<p>12UG/13UB – 14m x 7m</p> <p>13UG, 14U-Youth Open – 16m x 8m</p>	16m x 8m													
Net Heights (m)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>12UG – 14U</td> <td>M</td> <td>W</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15U-16U</td> <td>2.20</td> <td>2.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17U - YO</td> <td>2.35</td> <td>2.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2.43</td> <td>2.24</td> </tr> </table>	12UG – 14U	M	W	15U-16U	2.20	2.15	17U - YO	2.35	2.20		2.43	2.24	M	W
12UG – 14U	M	W													
15U-16U	2.20	2.15													
17U - YO	2.35	2.20													
	2.43	2.24													
Uniforms	<p>Matching tops and bottoms are strongly recommended for OVA Grand Slams and Ontario Championship's Elite Adult Division. For all age groups at Ontario Championships, teams are strongly encouraged to wear tops of similar style and colour.</p>														

3.4.1 Draws and Schedules – Guidelines

Ontario Volleyball has developed a set of guidelines for use when creating draws and schedules. A minimum of four (4) teams per age division is required to run an age division.

For scheduling purposes and to ensure a smooth-run event, the preferred format for OVA tournaments is 9- or 12-team tournaments in pools of 3. The maximum number of teams for a 1-day tournament in a division is 14 teams, and two or more divisions will be created for total team numbers of 15 or higher. Teams do not get moved up a division if there is a dropout from a division higher.

For the adult division, if there are more than 14 teams, then a qualifier will be played in the morning to determine which teams will be in Premier. The elite qualifier will be held at 8:30AM sharp, the morning of each tournament and will be a one set game to 21. Teams that do not qualify will automatically be placed in the following divisions and ranked based on their current points. A maximum of 25% of the main draw can come from the qualifier. Two (2) teams per qualifying spot will be allowed entry into the qualifier based on points.

A number of variables may affect how tournament draws and schedules are created impacting our ability to adhere to some of these guidelines. As often as possible:

- teams will play a minimum of three (3) matches per day*
- teams will play a maximum of six (6) matches per day*
- teams of similar ability will compete against one another
- the outcome of a match will impact the team's final placement
- re-pools and playoffs will avoid re-matches
- higher seeded teams will receive more rest between playoff matches
- matches between closer seeded teams will be scheduled for the end of pool play

** Excluding extenuating circumstances such as team injury or defaults. Teams are not granted refunds for these cases.*

- Final decisions regarding tiers and pools in all divisions are made at the discretion of the OVA Beach Tournament Director and may change without notice.
- Schedules are subject to change and are not final until check-in has closed the day of the tournament.

3.4.2 Protest Protocol during a Match

The OVA Beach Tour Match Protest Procedures are similar to Volleyball Canada's Procedures. The protest should be settled immediately by the Head Official.

Any player may ONLY legally protest an error in applying a rule or rule interpretation.

The referees decisions regarding ballhandling faults are not open to protest.

- To lodge a protest, the protesting player must pay \$100 upfront. If the player refuses to do this, the protest will not be lodged. If the protest is won, the \$100 will be returned at a later date. If the protest is lost, no money will be refunded
 - To lodge a protest, please send an e-transfer to accounts@ontariovolleyball.org with the password 'volleyball'.
- The player must lodge the protest immediately to the first referee who will then indicate to the scorekeeper that a protest has been lodged and play must stop immediately.
- The protest is then referred to the appropriate higher authority (i.e., Head Officials) for acceptance or refusal.
 - Refusal means that the game or match continues, or result stands as played.

- Acceptance involves replaying of the point/set/match in whole or in part depending on the judgment and on the next available court allocated by the Beach Tournament Director.

3.4.3 *Complaint Protocol – Tournament/Playoff*

For questions regarding pre-event seeding, please see [section 3.6](#) in this handbook.

The playoff bracket will be announced after the completion of pool play. Any concerns with the playoff bracket must be declared during the playoff meeting. If any errors are found after playoff matches have begun, no changes will be made to the playoff draws.

For all Adult Elite Grand Slam and Beach Ontario Championship schedules, any concerns with pool play seeding or playoff structure must be sent in writing to kcheng@ontariovolleyball.org by 11:59 AM the Thursday before the event. No changes will be made to the draw once the tournament has started.

3.4.4 *Complaint Protocol – General*

Issues regarding the technical aspects of the tournament or OVA policy can be documented on an official [Complaint Form](#) and will be handled by the OVA Beach Ad Hoc Committee within the following week.

- The Tournament Directors CANNOT change the policies and will relay your concerns as well as the Complaint Form to the Beach Program Manager and Beach Ad Hoc Committee for review

3.5 Rules of the Games

FIVB Official Beach Volleyball Rules will be used for the 2026 OVA Beach Tour with the exception of the rule variations below and rules posted on the [VC website](#). Please see www.fivb.org for more details (Page 25, Rule 11.3).

3.5.1 *Beach First Contact Rule*

Volleyball Canada, 16U and younger competitions, receiving serve or a first contact with an overhand motion using the fingers (volleying/setting) is not permitted, regardless of the quality of the contact. The first referee will use the "double-contact" signal to indicate this infraction.

3.5.2 *16U and Younger Serve Reception*

For OVA & VC 16U and younger competitions - after a team loses service, the last player to serve for that team, at the moment of service by the opposing team, must be positioned closer to the right sideline than their teammate. This requirement must be followed until that team regains the right to serve. During the rally each athlete has the right to position him/herself anywhere on the court. Outcome for violation: 1. Official ends rally immediately upon contact by the server. 2. Point awarded to the serving team.

3.5.3 *Hand Setting Rules*

The following hand setting rule will be used for 16U and younger divisions:

A player may have a double contact on their second contact when completing a set to their teammate using an overhand pass provided the ball has a trajectory perpendicular to the line of the player's hands, shoulders, and hips (i.e. the player is being "square") and the double contact involves only the hands.

Overhanging Objects

Should there be an overhanging object i.e. tree branch over the playing area and if the balls hits the overhanging object, a re-serve will be indicated by the first referee for a replay of the point.

3.5.4 Indoor Beach Ceiling Rule

For indoor competitions, the OVA Beach Tour will follow the ceiling rule for OVA indoor competitions.

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

- A ball, other than a served ball, shall remain in play if it contacts the ceiling or other overhead objects 4.6 m (15') or more above the playing area. If benches, bleachers, low-hanging baskets or other floor obstructions are less than 2 m (6'6 3/4") from the court and interfere with play of the ball, the ball becomes out of play and a replay may be directed at the 1st referee's discretion.
- The ball is out of play when:
 - Rule 10.1.2 is not in effect, and the ball makes contact with the ceiling or obstruction above the opponent's playing area.
 - Rule 10.1.2 is in effect, and a ball that cannot be legally retrieved from the opponent's free zone contacts the ceiling or obstruction over the opponent's playing area.
 - The ball contacts the ceiling or obstruction above the team's playing area and crosses the plane of the net into the opponent's court.

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

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

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

3.6 Points/Seeding/Rankings

3.6.1 *Adult Point System - Points will be awarded to Adult divisions according to the following point system.*

Adult		OVA Beach Tour		
Rank	Elite	AA	A	
1	1000	900	800	
2	985	885	785	
3	970	870	770	
4	955	855	755	
5	940	840	740	
6	920	820	720	
7	900	800	700	
8	880	780	680	
9	860	760	660	
10	840	740	640	
11	820	720	620	
12	800	700	600	
13	780	680	580	

14	760	660	560
15	740	640	540
16	720	620	520

3.6.2 Adult Seeding

In 2026, adult teams will be seeded in tournaments based on current 2026 Beach Tour points as an average of each player's best three (3) available adult results. If you have not participated in the 2026 season, then your 2025 final adult ranking points will be used. Zeroes are not included if the athlete has not participated in a minimum of three (3) events.

Ontario Championships: Average of best three (3) available adult results from the current OVA Beach Tour. For the latest information, please visit our website [here](#).

All seedings posted on the OVA website prior to the tournament are tentative seedings that the OVA reserve the right to change without prior notice to the tournament. If a discrepancy regarding points is noticed, you must contact the OVA. This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it by Thursday 11:59AM to submit a request to review points.

NOTE: Due to time required to complete re-seeding, changes may not be posted on the website before the tournament.

3.6.3 Adult Rankings

Rankings will be determined by the points that participants/teams have received in the adult division.

Your year-end ranking will be based on your two (2) highest available results and Ontario Championships result. If the athlete does not participate in Ontario Championships, their final ranking will be based on their three (3) highest tournament results.

3.6.4 Adult Elite Prize Money

Athletes playing in the adult elite division must hold a competitive membership in order to be eligible for prize money. The prize money break down is per gender.

Adult Elite Prize Money Schedule					
Date	Location	Format *	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
May 16	Toronto	PP	\$500	\$300	\$200
May 23	Toronto	PP	\$500	\$300	\$200
May 30	Toronto	PP	\$500	\$300	\$200
June 6	Toronto	PP	\$500	\$300	\$200
June 20 & 21	Toronto	Grand Slam	Please see breakdown below		
June 27	Toronto	PP	\$500	\$300	\$200
July 4	Toronto	PP	\$500	\$300	\$200
July 18	Toronto	PP	\$500	\$300	\$200
July 25	Toronto	PP	\$500	\$300	\$200
August 1 & 2	Toronto	OCs - PP	Please see breakdown below		

*PP – Pool play followed by playoffs.

Total prize money at Beach Ontario Championships will be \$20,000 (\$10,000/gender) with the following prize breakdown per team:

- 1st - \$5,000

- 2nd - \$2,500
- 3rd - \$1,500
- 4th - \$1,000

Total prize money at Toronto Grand Slam will be \$15,000 (\$7,500/gender) with the following prize breakdown per team:

- 1st - \$4,000
- 2nd - \$2,000
- 3rd - \$1,000
- 4th - \$500

3.6.5 Youth Point System (4v4-Youth Open (20U))

Youth Age Division Point System - Points will be awarded to youth age divisions and tiers according to the following point system based on the level of competition venue.

Prizing

1st and 2nd place teams will receive OVA medals at all locations; OVA Beach Tour t-shirts will only be awarded at the Toronto Ashbridges and Cobourg locations as prizes.

For the full schedule of Gold and Silver dates, please visit the Dates & Registration page on our website here:

<https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/beach-tour-registration>

Gold Events

	Premier	Championship	Challenger	Trillium 1	Trillium 2	Trillium 3	Trillium 4
Rank							
1	1000	900	800	700	600	500	400
2	985	885	785	685	585	485	385
3	970	870	770	670	570	470	370
4	955	855	755	655	555	455	355
5	940	840	740	640	540	440	340
6	920	820	720	620	520	420	320
7	900	800	700	600	500	400	300
8	880	780	680	580	480	380	280
9	860	760	660	560	460	360	260
10	840	740	640	540	440	340	240
11	820	720	620	520	420	320	220
12	800	700	600	500	400	300	200
13	780	680	580	480	380	280	180
14	760	660	560	460	360	260	160
15	740	640	540	440	340	240	140
16	720	620	520	420	320	220	120

Silver Events

Rank	Premier	Championships	Challenge r	Trillium 1	Trillium 2	Trillium 3
1	900	800	700	600	500	400
2	885	785	685	585	485	385
3	870	770	670	570	470	370
4	855	755	655	555	455	355
5	840	740	640	540	440	340
6	820	720	620	520	420	320
7	800	700	600	500	400	300
8	780	680	580	480	380	280
9	760	660	560	460	360	260
10	740	640	540	440	340	240
11	720	620	520	420	320	220
12	700	600	500	400	300	200
13	780	680	580	480	380	180
14	660	560	460	360	260	160
15	640	540	440	340	240	140
16	620	520	420	320	220	120

3.6.6 Youth Seeding (12U-Youth Open (20U))

In 2026, teams will be seeded in tournaments based on current 2026 Beach Tour points as an average of each player's best three (3) available results in the specific age group they are registered to participate in.

Rankings will be determined by the points participants/teams have received in the specific age group they are registering to participate in (i.e. 15U participation give you points in 15U). If you play up an age division, your 16U points will only apply for ranking in 16U events. The 16U points will not be applied to your 15U ranking.

If you have not participated in the 2026 season, then your 2025 final ranking points will be used. Zeroes are not included if the athlete has not participated in a minimum of three (3) events.

If the athlete does not have 2026 Beach Tour points in the age group, then the higher of the following from 2025 final ranking points will be used:

- 2025 OVA Beach Tour Final Points in one age group lower **OR** in the age group you are currently participating in, whichever is higher:
 - **Example 1:** Stephen is registered for a 16U tournament but hasn't played 16U yet this summer. He got 1000 in 15U and 950 in 16U last year. He would be ranked with 1000 since it's higher.
 - **Example 2:** Mallory is registered for a 14U tournament but hasn't played 14U yet this summer. She got 900 in 13U last year and 925 in 14U. She would be ranked with 925 since it's higher.
 - Exception: 12UG will use 2025 12UG & 13UG points, whichever is higher
 - Exception: 13UB will use 2025 13UB & 14UB points, whichever is higher

Pre-Event Seeding

Ties between teams with the same seeding points going into an OVA Beach Tour event are broken by the following in priority order:

1. Most individual participations on the current OVA Beach Tour in the respective age division (combination of the team's individual participation).
2. Average of each highest individual finish per team on the current OVA Beach Tour in the respective age division
3. 2025 final point average of all events in the age group per team.
4. Coin toss.

Your year-end ranking will be based on your two (2) highest available results and Ontario Championship result. If the athlete does not participate in Ontario Championships, their final ranking will be based on their three (3) highest tournament results.

Top 4 teams from each age Division 1 Tier 1 for Ontario Championships will receive the top 4 spots for year-end rankings.

Beach Ontario Championships Seeding

Average of best three (3) available results in the age group from the current OVA Beach Tour.

For the latest information, please visit our website [here](#).

For Beach Ontario Championships Eligibility Exceptions: Please see [section 3.1](#) of the Beach Handbook.

All seedings posted prior to the tournament are tentative seedings that OVA reserves the right to change without notice prior to the tournament. If a discrepancy regarding points is noticed, you must contact syamada@ontariovolleyball.org by Thursday at 11:59AM to submit a request to review points.

NOTE: Due to time required to complete re-seeding, changes may not be posted on the website before the tournament.

3.6.7 Youth Rankings (12U-Youth Open (20U))

Rankings will be determined by the points participants/teams have received in the specific age group they are registering to participate in (i.e. 15U participation give you points in 15U). If you play up an age division, your 16U points will only apply for ranking in 16U events. The 16U points will not be applied to your 15U ranking.

3.6.8 Ontario Championships Points

All Age Division Point System for Ontario Championship - Points will be awarded to all age divisions and tiers according to the following point system.

Rank	Points										
1	1000	17	920	33	840	49	760	65	680	81	600
2	995	18	915	34	835	50	755	66	675	82	595
3	990	19	910	35	830	51	750	67	670	83	590
4	985	20	905	36	825	52	745	68	665	84	585
5	980	21	900	37	820	53	740	69	660	85	580
6	975	22	895	38	815	54	735	70	655	86	575
7	970	23	890	39	810	55	730	71	650	87	570
8	965	24	885	40	805	56	725	72	645	88	565
9	960	25	880	41	800	57	720	73	640	89	560
10	955	26	875	42	795	58	715	74	635	90	555

11	950	27	870	43	790	59	710	75	630	91	550
12	945	28	865	44	785	60	705	76	625	92	545
13	940	29	860	45	780	61	700	77	620	93	540
14	935	30	855	46	775	62	695	78	615	94	535
15	930	31	850	47	770	63	690	79	610	95	530
16	925	32	845	48	765	64	685	80	605	96	525

3.7 Tie-Breaking Procedure

3.7.1 End of Pool Play Rankings

At the end of each match and/or round, one player from each team, must report the score at the control tent.

Ties between teams within pool play going into playoffs are broken by the following procedure in priority order. ONLY tied teams will be taken into consideration.

1. Number of matches won – 2 points per match. (This step is only used when teams play full 2 out of 3 sets during pool play. For those in pools where only 2 sets are played, please skip to directly to #2)
2. Number of sets won – 1 point per game.
- 3a. Tie between 2 teams: Result of head-to-head match (for 2 out of 3 match) or point differential (for a match to 2 straight sets)
- 3b. Tie between 3 or more teams: point differential between tied teams
4. Point differential overall.
5. Pre-event seeding.

3.7.2 Pre-Event Seeding

Ties between teams with the same seeding points going into an OVA Beach Tour event are broken by the following in priority order:

1. Most individual participations on the current OVA Beach Tour in the respective age division (combination of the team’s individual participation).
2. Average of each highest individual finish per team on the current OVA Beach Tour in the respective age division
3. 2025 final point average (team).
4. Randomized order.

3.8 Weather Cancellation/Rain-Out

Teams are required to remain “on-call” and “on-site” until 4pm unless otherwise instructed. It is up until this time that a decision can be made as to whether the event can be played out. If the event is cancelled before playoffs, all teams will receive a refund less a \$20 administrative fee.

Delay caused before 1:00 p.m.: Can last up to three hours. After a three-hour delay or 4:00 P.M., the tournament will be cancelled.

Delay caused after 1:00 p.m.: Can last up to two hours. After a two-hour delay, or 4:00 p.m., the tournament will be cancelled.

A decision will be made by the Beach Ad Hoc Committee in the case of a cancelled event affecting minimum requirements for Ontario Championships eligibility

3.8.1 Suspended Play Policy

Safety concerns and play suspension are at the discretion of the collective Beach Tournament Committee (section 1.3.3), but ultimately the final judgment lies with the Tournament Director.

Play shall be suspended if the Tournament Director and/or Committee foresee:

- Inclement weather – lightning
- Extraordinary circumstances
- Safety concerns
- Other discretionary reasons to clear the beach (i.e. darkness)

Upon notification of suspended play:

- All athletes must immediately evacuate the beach and go to cars or indoor facilities and NOT UNDER TREES
- Athletes PLAYING are responsible for recording the score and court they are playing on
- Officiating teams are responsible for taking the clipboard and ball with them.

Notification to resume play:

- Play will resume 15 minutes following the horn sounding
- Athletes are responsible for being within a given distance to hear the horn
- Following a 10-minute warm-up, referees and athletes will continue to finish the game from where the score left off
- Modified play may ensue at the discretion of the Tournament Director and Beach Tournament Committee.

3.8.2 Cancellation Procedures

Tournaments will be cancelled due to inclement weather at the discretion of the Tournament Committee (head referee, tournament director & player representative).

The general guideline is once lightning hits, play is suspended for 30 minutes, and weather is re-evaluated at that time.

- Points – If the event is cancelled mid-way through playoffs, all teams who remain in the division will split the remaining points. If pool play has not been completed, then no points are awarded.
- Prizing – If there is no winner, prizes will not be awarded
- Refund – A full refund, less a \$20 administrative charge, will be granted if athletes did not finish pool play. If playoffs had already begun in a team's respective division no refund will be granted.

The following procedures shall be used when dispersing prize money for either a Grand Slam Adult Elite event, or Ontario Championships Adult division if a tournament is cancelled:

- Divide money equally between remaining teams if the quarterfinals have begun.
- Refund – A full refund, less a 10% administrative charge, will be granted if pool play or pre quarter matches have not been completed.

3.8.3 Extreme Heat & Air Quality Policy

An extreme heat and air quality policy may be activated based on the current weather conditions. In the event the humidex reaches or exceeds 40 degrees and Environment Canada indicates a humidex

warning, or if the air quality health index (AQHI) reaches a level identified as high risk or very high risk, OVA may implement the following accommodations for participating teams:

- Players may drink water while walking between side switches (without delaying the matches)
- Each team will be permitted one extra timeout per set

Weather and air quality conditions reported by Environment Canada will be used as the official reporting source for both temperature and air quality levels. Teams may only drink water as they switch sides, they may not stop on the sideline to drink water.

OVA will notify all competing players via the following channels should the Extreme Heat Policy be activated:

- Announcement on event speakers
- Notification via OVA social media channels (@ova_updates)

OVA reserves the right to modify the playing schedule and/or competition format if necessary to protect the health and safety of all athletes and participants.

Please note that the extreme heat and air quality policy can only be activated by OVA staff and/or tournament directors. If teams have not been notified via the above mentioned channels they will not be permitted to initiate the policy accommodations independently.

All players and spectators are encouraged to drink plenty of fluids, bring extra fluids to all matches, and seek shade whenever possible during breaks. Players may wish to bring umbrellas or other personal shade sources when natural shade is limited.

Chapter 4

4.0 Specific Regulations and Sanctions

4.1 Maternity Leave Policy

Athletes are not penalized for pregnancy. Athletes who miss or have missed some portion of the OVA Tour during the period of time extending from six (6) months before giving birth until six (6) months after, will retain all points from the last event that was played. The points will carry over for one year and will be used to seed teams at the first event upon return from Maternity Leave. The points from the result of the first event post-maternity leave will replace all points carried over from prior to the leave. The time period specified above might be altered by petition to the Beach Committee (section 1.3) if circumstance during or after the pregnancy warrant it.

To apply for Maternity Leave point retention, please email the OVA Manager of Operations kcheng@ontariovolleyball.org with information regarding the period of leave, when the last event was played and anticipated date of return.

4.2 Concussion Policy and Protocol

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

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

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

4.3 Catastrophic Injury Policy

Athletes are not penalized for catastrophic injuries (injuries that result in medical inability to compete for all or a substantial portion of a season). Athletes who miss some portion of the OVA Tour because of a catastrophic injury will retain points for one (1) year without competition, and those points will be used to seed teams at the first event upon return from injury. The points from the result of the first event post-injury will replace all points carried over from prior to the injury-induced absence. The time period specified above might be altered by petition to the Beach Ad Hoc Committee if the particular medical circumstances warrant it. All athletes who wish to invoke this catastrophic injury policy must provide full medical documentation (physicians' and therapists' notes, medical imaging reports, hospital or surgical summary notes, etc.) to the OVA Beach Ad Hoc Committee for consideration by a medical consultant, who will advise the Committee on whether this policy should apply on a case-by-case basis.

To apply for Catastrophic Injury Leave point retention, please email Manager of Operations kcheng@ontariovolleyball.org with the following information:

1. The exact nature of the injury.
2. Clinical evidence that shows you were functionally unable to play.
(MRI report/test results, surgery dates, therapist's or physician's chart notes, etc).
3. Any additional relevant information regarding the date of last event played, date of trauma and the anticipated date of return.
4. Clinical evidence that you are cleared to return to play.

4.4 Code of Conduct

All members and spectators are to uphold standards as outlined in the OVA Code of Conduct. For the official OVA Code of Conduct Policy, please see our website [here](#).

4.4.1 *Misconduct Sanction Scale*

Volleyball, because of its regulations and its traditions, offers a philosophy of competition guided by the highest standards of good sportsmanship.

For that reason, all participants (teams, players, coaches, referees, spectators, parents, managers and administrators) in tournaments and meetings under the authority of the OVA, have a duty to conduct themselves in a reasonable and acceptable manner. They must avoid all unsportsmanlike conduct, acts or practices which are, in the opinion of the OVA, detrimental to the sport. Whenever a penalty occurs, a fine will be given. Such acts include but are not limited to:

Violation	Fine	Sanctions
Teams skipping or not fulfilling their player refereeing duties	\$100.00 fine per occurrence	Teams cannot play in any OVA event until fine is paid in full.
Teams failing to arrive 10 minutes before match start for player officiating duties	\$100.00 fine per occurrence	Teams cannot play in any OVA event until fine is paid in full.
Teams failing to adhere to 10-minute warm-up on court	\$100.00 fine per occurrence	Teams cannot play in any OVA event until fine is paid in full.
Team misconduct at tournaments (damage, failure to abide by venue rules)	Minimum fine of \$100.00 and cost of damage to facility	Fine may vary based on the severity of the violation and cost of damage and suspension from one month up to one year may be applied
Team not showing up at a tournament without notification in writing to the OVA	Loss of Entry fee + \$100 fine	entry fee will not be refunded & \$100 fine
Individuals committing an act which is considered an offence under any duly promulgated law	Fines may be levied	Suspension for one year or more. Further penalties may be determined through the execution of the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy
Accepting money or other consideration for losing a match or winning by a particular margin; or being a party to any payment of money or other consideration to another person to lose a match or win by a particular margin.	Fines may be levied	Suspension for one year or more. Further penalties may be determined through the execution of the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy
Betting or action as a "bookmaker" on matches or tournaments.	Fines may be levied	Suspension from one month to one year. Further penalties may be determined through the execution of the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy
Defaulting a game or match in a competition except as a result of injuries or other valid reason;	Fine equal to the registration fee	Forfeit for the tournament, plus fine equal to registration fee and suspension from two weeks to one year for team or individual
Playing in a competition under an assumed name, or age, falsifying a team entry form, or giving false information to a tournament official;	\$100 fine	Forfeit for the tournament, plus \$100 fine and suspension from two weeks to one year for team or individual. Further penalties may be determined through the

		execution of the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy
Showing outward displays or temper, unsportsmanlike conduct, bullying (by player, coach, spectator, parent, etc)	Fines may be levied	1 st offense – verbal warning 2 nd offense - \$100 fine 3 rd offense - \$200 fine & suspension from Ontario Championships, Grand Slam events, and Nationals for current playing year. *fine will be applied to the team
Deliberately throwing, kicking or hitting a ball in the direction of a referee, spectator or opponent	Fines may be levied	Verbal warning and/or suspension from the current event/future events up to one year and/or fine. Further penalties may be determined through the execution of the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy
Threatening bodily injury to anyone	Minimum fine of \$100 (at discretion of OVA)	Fine, verbal warning and/or suspension from the current event/future events up to one year and/or fine. Further penalties may be determined through the execution of the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy
Swearing at a referee, line judge, scorekeeper, spectator, or opponent.	Fines may be levied	1 st offense – verbal warning 2 nd offense - \$100 fine 3 rd offense - \$200 fine & suspension from Ontario Championships, Grand Slam events, and Nationals for current playing year. *fine will be applied to the team
Using profanity or obscene language or gestures	Fines may be levied	1 st offense – verbal warning 2 nd offense - \$100 fine 3 rd offense - \$200 fine & suspension from Ontario Championships, Grand Slam events, and Nationals for current playing year. *fine will be applied to the team
Ineligible coach or failure to follow coaching rules	Fines may be levied	1 st offense – verbal warning 2 nd offense - \$100 fine & removed from the court where team is playing 3 rd offense - \$200 fine & suspension from current event and the next tournament. *fine will be applied to the team
Poor/uncooperative spectator behaviour	Fines may be levied	1 st offense – verbal warning 2 nd offense - \$100 fine & removal from the tournament

PENALTY CARDS Violations		
Yellow Card – 1 st offence issued during the season		Warning letter issued
Yellow Card – 2 nd offence issued during the season		Warning letter issued
Yellow Card – 3 rd offence issued during the season	\$50	Suspension from the remainder of the current tournament and/or next tournament. OVA review & possible further suspension
Red Card – 1 st offence issued during the season		Warning letting issued
Red Card – 2 nd offence issued during the season	\$200	Suspension from the remainder of the current tournament and next tournament OVA review & possible further suspension.
Three or more red cards issued during the season	\$250	Suspension from the remainder of the current tournament and next tournament Possible further suspension.
Two yellow cards and one red card issued during the season	\$200	Suspension from the remainder of the current tournament and next tournament OVA review & possible further suspension.
Any combination of four or more cards (yellow/red) issued during the season	\$250	Suspension from the remainder of the current tournament and next tournament OVA review & possible further suspension.
Expulsion from match: Yellow & Red card together – 1 st offence	\$200	Suspension from the remainder of the current tournament and next tournament. OVA review & possible further suspension.
Expulsion from match: Yellow & Red card together – 2 nd offence	\$400	Suspension from the remainder of the season OVA Review with Discipline and Complaints committee
Disqualification for unsportsmanlike conduct from match: Yellow & Red card separate – 1 st offence	\$300	Suspension for the remainder of current tournament and from the next tournament OVA review & possible further suspension

Disqualification for unsportsmanlike conduct from match: Yellow & Red card separate – 2 nd offence	\$500	Suspension from the remainder of the season OVA Review with Discipline and Complaints committee
A combination of two or more expulsions/disqualifications in the same season.	Fines may be levied.	Suspension for the remainder of the season OVA Review with Discipline and Complaints committee
Purple Card – 2 nd offence issued to a team during the season		Warning Letter to the Club and Team
Purple Card – 3 rd offence issued to a team during the season	\$250	OVA review & possible team sanctions
Purple Card Expulsion	\$500	OVA Review with Discipline and Complaints committee
Purple Card Disqualification	\$500	OVA Review with Discipline and Complaints committee

Note: The OVA reserve the right to sanction and fine teams for items above and beyond the infractions listed above.

4.4.2 Tents

Tents pose a hazard to OVA athletes during competitions as they can cause severe injury during inclement weather or if an athlete runs into them during a game. At their discretion, on-site staff will ask that any tents that are deemed too big for, or too close to, the competition courts to be relocated accordingly. Tents should be placed on the outskirts of the playing courts and never in between.

Please be advised that tents with metal framing (covered or uncovered) or that are deemed too big for the playing area are not permitted between the courts due to player safety. They can be placed around the perimeter of the venue but not interfering with any public courts. **At the OVA Beach Crew’s discretion**, you may be requested to move your tent, due to consideration of player safety so please oblige and move it to the perimeter as directed. If requests are refused, the Beach Crew may ask you to leave the tournament venue. Alternatively, we recommend using smaller pop-up canopies or camping chairs with umbrellas that have smaller footprints. Player safety is our number one priority, and we appreciate everyone’s cooperation in advance.

Examples of tents that are **NOT** allowed between courts (not exhaustive);



Examples of tents and coverings that are allowed between courts:



4.4.3 *Speaker Systems*

The speaker system is used each week at OVA tournaments to make announcements, ensure that the games are being played in a timely manner and to ensure that all participants are aware of any emergencies that might occur i.e. lightning stoppage. It is crucial that speaker systems face the courts and should not be moved or turned to ensure that athletes can hear all announcements as they pertain to the tournament. We are also at a risk of losing our permit if the speakers are turned towards the neighbouring areas and noise complaints are received and we appreciate everyone's cooperation ahead of time.

4.5 Disciplinary Actions and Sanctions

Membership in the Ontario Volleyball Association, as well as participation in its activities, brings many benefits and privileges. Members are expected to fulfill certain responsibilities and obligations including, but not limited to, complying with the OVA Constitution, bylaws, policies, procedures, rules and regulations, and Code of Conduct. Irresponsible behavior by members can result in severe damage to the

integrity of the OVA. Conduct that violates these values may be subject to sanctions pursuant to this Policy.

Please see the OVA website for the full [Discipline and Complaints Policy](#).

4.6 Safe Sport

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

Person in Authority Code of Conduct

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

The OVA relies on them and other persons in authority to be role models and to put young athletes on a path to success. The dynamic between coach and athlete gives rise to a power imbalance and a culture of unquestioned trust that can result in abuse. As such, it is imperative that all persons in positions of authority (PIA) be held to a high standard of conduct. A PIA is any person who holds a position of authority over a Vulnerable individual pursuant to the role assigned to them. Persons in Authority include, but are not limited to, Club Directors and Club staff, Coaches, Managers, Trainers, Referees, Chaperones and persons who manage finances.

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

Person in Authority Code of Conduct – Purpose

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

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

Policies

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

- Person in Authority (PIA) Code of Conduct
- Discipline and Complaints Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Screening Policy

A full list of Ontario Volleyball policies can be found [HERE](#)

Reporting a Complaint

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

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

If OVA receives a complaint directly it will be forwarded to Sport Dispute Management Inc, the appointed Discipline Chair. All complaints will be processed in accordance with the OVA Discipline & Complaints Policy.

Mental Health

Volleyball Canada believes the mental health and safety of athletes is vital to strong performances on the court. We encourage everyone to make mental health a priority by providing a mental health checklist, as well as sharing useful links.

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

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

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

4.7 OVA Awards

The OVA celebrates its athletes and members through annual recognition and awards. For a full list of awards, nominations dates and deadlines and more information, please visit our website here: <https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/awards>

Scarborough Solars Award

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

Download the document below for more information on the Scarborough Solars Award, including selection criteria, and to view the application form.

Jason Senechal Memorial Award

The Jason Senechal Memorial Award is presented annually to the Youth Beach Athlete that best demonstrates the qualities of honour, fair play, and sportsmanship.

This award is different from other OVA awards as the nominations are made by the athletes of the OVA Beach Tour, the peers of the individual.

In his time on the OVA Beach Tour, Jason Senechal managed to make a tremendous impact on all participants including athletes, parents, OVA Staff and Crew. With this award we aim to encourage all the values that Jason personified.

Jason's athleticism, skill and dedication to excellence helped him excel in volleyball throughout his high school career and beyond. Jason's talent also allowed him to excel in downhill skiing, badminton and table tennis. While playing on the OVA Beach Tour, Jason was able to capture a Provincial Championship and place 3rd at the National Championships.

Jason's accomplishments go beyond podium finishes. He was involved with Athletes In Action doing outreach volleyball camps. Jason also had the opportunity to compete in Thailand while teaching volleyball to children.

Unfortunately, Jason passed away due to a medical episode on court playing the sport he loved so much. A great representative of our sport lost, far too soon.

Since 2004, the OVA has honoured Jason by presenting an award in his name to help his spirit live on and in hopes for athletes to follow Jason's lead by encouraging the qualities of honour, fair play and good sportsmanship.

OVAtion Banquet

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

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

OVA Hall of Fame

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

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

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

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



Appendices

Appendix I - Player Officiating Guide

- It is your responsibility to know your officiating duties
- Sanctions can be given out for missing any part of your officiating duties
- Teams should check at the control tent if they are unsure of their officiating responsibilities
- Coaching is only permitted for 16U and younger divisions (except 18U championship, challenger & trillium divisions in the first four tournaments)
- Player officials are strongly encouraged to contact an OVA Beach Tour crew member or an OVA certified referee for assistance if there is any type of bullying occurring from athletes, parents, spectators or coaches

Responsibilities of Player Referees

- Pick up the ball and the clipboard, and bring a scoreboard to the assigned court at least 10 minutes before match time
- Make sure the correct teams are present on the court and ready to play, and make sure that the match starts on-time
- Referee the match, while filling out the scoresheet and flipping the scoreboards
- During playoffs, give the clipboard and ball to the losing team to bring back to the OVA control tent
- At least one member of the officiating team must be standing, and each player referee must be on opposite sides of the court
- If you are unsure of any rules, ask a referee or court supervisor for clarification – if none are available re-serve the point

Important Rules

- Matches will be played best-of-three games unless otherwise stated on pool play sheets
- Please check pool play sheets for instructions on scoring
- Playoffs will always be best-of-three games
- If a ball rolls onto your court during a rally, it is an automatic re-serve
- In games to 21, teams will switch every 7 points (cumulative).
- In games to 15, teams will switch every 5 points (cumulative).
- Each team is allowed one timeout of 30 seconds per team, per set (including third sets to 15)
- Medical timeouts
 - If there is an injury on court that requires assistance from the control tent or AT, is it the responsibility of the refereeing team to notify the host as all players active in the match must remain on the court.

Net Rules:

- Contact with the net by a player between the antennae, during the action of playing the ball, is a fault. The action of playing the ball includes (among others) take-off, hit (or attempt) and landing.
- Players may touch the post, ropes, or any other object outside the antennae, including the net itself, provided that it does not interfere with the play.
- When the ball is driven into the net, causing it to touch an opponent, no fault is committed.

Hand Setting Rule – 16U and younger divisions only.

- A player may have a double contact on their second contact when completing a set to their teammate using an overhand pass provided the ball has a trajectory perpendicular to the line of the player's hands, shoulders, and hips and the double contact involves only the hands.

Serve reception - 16U and younger

- For VC & OVA 16U and younger competitions - after a team loses service, the last player to serve for that team, at the moment of service by the opposing team, must be positioned closer to the right sideline than their teammate. This requirement must be followed until that team regains the right to serve. During the rally each athlete has the right to position him/herself anywhere on the court. Outcome for violation: 1. Official ends rally immediately upon contact by the server. 2. Point awarded to the serving team.

Beach First Contact Rule

- Volleyball Canada, 16U and younger competitions, receiving serve or a first contact with an overhand motion using the fingers (volleying/setting) is not permitted, regardless of the quality of the contact. The first referee will use the "double-contact" signal to indicate this infraction.

Appendix II - Player's Meeting Notes

- Welcome to the 2026 OVA Beach Tour
- Warm-up – There is 10-minute warm-up time between matches. It is the responsibility of all teams, including the refereeing team, to ensure that all matches start on time. If teams extend this warm up, they will be given a 30-second warning to begin their match and then \$100 sanctions per team thereafter. Teams can also warm up during their break away from their court.
- Schedule and Format – It is your responsibility to know your schedule of when you are playing AND refereeing. Please check myTeam.click for your playing and refereeing schedule and your results and pay attention to the PA announcements. Friendly reminder that rankings might have changed during check-in after accounting for no shows so please check your schedule again as teams can be bumped from one division to another. Pools of 3 will be playing 2 out of 3 (21, 21, 15). Pools of 4 or 5 will be playing 2 sets to 15 (no third set).
 - a. Very important: all matches will start 10 minutes after the previous match on that court and please ignore the times listed on myTeam.click. OVA Beach referees and the OVA Beach Crew will be monitoring all courts throughout the day to ensure that warm up times are adhered to and that all matches start promptly.

Referees – When you are a player referee, please ensure you are paying attention to the match. You will also be responsible for keeping score and reporting the scores to myTeam.click online.

Please note that scoresheets will no longer be provided for the games. All scores, times outs and sanctions i.e. delays, yellow cards and red cards are to be reported online. When refereeing, we expect one partner to stand and officiate the match while the other partner can sit on the opposite side of the court and keeps score. If you have any questions, please look for a referee supervisor and approach them right away. Do not wait for problems to occur on your court before you talk to a certified referee. If you do not complete your officiating duties as scheduled, your team will be sanctioned \$100.

NOTE: All sanctions (warm-up or missing/incomplete officiating duties) must be paid prior to playing in another OVA Beach Tour event.

- b. All age-specific rules will still apply for all matches 16U or lower:
 - The player that loses service must serve receive on the right of their partner.
 - No overhand passing on serve receive. No overhand passing during a rally unless it is a hard-driven ball.
 - Hand-setting rule – players can double the ball when setting their partner provided, they are square.
- Coaching – Coaching is allowed for all age groups from 12U – Youth Open. Coaching is not allowed for the adult divisions. Coaches must check in at the control tent where they will receive a wristband that needs to be worn, and visible at all times throughout the day. Coaches must introduce themselves to the opposing team, the refereeing team, and any area supervisor referee. Coaches' name must also be included in the notes section on MTC.
 - Game Balls – Each court receives one game ball for pool play matches is recorded on the tracking sheet. At the end of pool play, please bring the ball back to the control tent. The refereeing team is responsible for the game ball and will be accountable for replacing it should it be lost.
 - Garbage – Please pick up your garbage and do not leave anything behind.

- Swearing – This is a family event. Please watch your language and set a good example for the younger beach athletes around you. Failure to comply with proper behaviour on the beach will result in OVA sanctions.

Appendix III - Wildcard Application Form

Names:

Athlete 1: _____

Athlete 2: _____

Contact Info – Athlete 1:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

NOTE: All Wildcard applicants should register for the Elite Qualifier.

If you are not selected as the Wildcard recipient, you will be placed in the Qualifier or ranked according to points. Applicants will not be contacted prior to event.

Date of tournament for which you are applying: _____

Recent competition results: (e.g. Provincial, National, International...) _____

Reason for application: (check one) Quality Enhancement
 Youth Development

Please elaborate on your reason for application: _____

Applications are due in the OVA office by Sunday at 11:59 PM prior to the event.

NOTE: Incomplete applications will not be considered.
It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that the office has received your application
A confirmation e-mail will be sent out once received.
The team must be registered in the event before the application is considered.

Please submit your wildcard application to Kelvin Cheng, Manager of Operations
kcheng@ontariovolleyball.org

APPENDIX IV: Purple Card Policy

1. Purpose of Purple Card Policy

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

2. Prohibited Behavior:

- a. Prohibited behavior would include, but not limited to, any comment(s) made or action(s) displayed, deemed by others as rude, profane, disrespectful, disruptive or aggressive, which interferes with the normal progress of a tournament match.
- b. Any behavior prohibited by Volleyball Canada and the Ontario Volleyball Code of Conduct policies.
- c. Any misconduct deemed contrary to normally accepted behavior.

3. This policy applies to the following:

- a. Any Ontario Volleyball adult member, i.e. club directors, coaches, rostered adult(s) or chaperones NOT currently participating in the match. This policy also applies to these same individual(s) displaying misconduct BEFORE the start of a match, as well as AFTER a match has officially ended.
- b. Any Ontario Volleyball Youth player displaying misconduct BEFORE the start of a match, as well as AFTER the match has officially ended.
- c. Any Ontario Volleyball non-member, e.g. parent(s) or relative(s) of any Ontario Volleyball member.
- d. Any attendee or spectator of an Ontario Volleyball sanctioned tournament or match.

4. When this policy is applicable

- a. The use of yellow and red card sanctions will remain in force according to the policies and procedures set by the Volleyball Canada Rulebook.
- b. Use of the "Purple" Sanction card may be applied to any situation during a match, where spectator misbehavior occurs and the 1st Referee or the referee supervising the area deems it necessary to address the misbehavior.
- c. For misconduct by anyone before, during or after a match has ended, the Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct is in effect.

5. Application of the Purple Warning Card

- **Minor Conduct:** Minor misconduct offenses are not subject to sanctions. It is the duty of the 1st Referee to prevent spectators and parents from reaching the sanctioning level.

This can be done in two stages:

- Stage 1: Verbal Warning
- Stage 2: Issuance of Purple and Yellow Card Warning. This warning is issued to the team in which the offending spectator or parent is affiliated. The 1st Referee shall hold up the Purple and Yellow cards in one hand, initiating this issuance. Both team captains are then summoned to the referee stand. This is then followed by a notification of the team warning, through the game captains to their head coach, that a parent or spectator affiliated with their team has reached the sanctioning level. Once either head coach determines affiliation, that head coach must inform the offender of the warning. This formal warning is not in itself a sanction but a symbol that misconduct has reached the sanctioning level for the match.
 - i. In the event the offender refuses to identify their team affiliation or fails to comply with the 1st Referee's request for identification, that offender is subject to a more serious sanction, including expulsion from the playing facility for the remainder of the tournament day.
 - ii. Purple card warnings are assessed to the affiliated team and are enforced for the entire match. This means that each team may only receive one purple card warning before further sanctions are issued.
 - iii. Purple card warnings are recorded on the score sheet but have no immediate consequences.
- Misconduct Leading to Sanctions: Inappropriate conduct by a spectator or parent toward officials, playing teams, other parents or spectators is classified in three categories according to the seriousness of the offense.
 - Rude Conduct: actions contrary to good manners or moral principles.
 - Offensive Conduct: defamatory or insulting words or gestures or any action expressing contempt.
 - Aggression: actual physical attack or aggressive or threatening behavior.
- Sanction Scale: According to the judgment of the 1st Referee and depending upon the seriousness of the offense, the sanctions to be applied and recorded on the score sheet are **Penalty, Expulsion and Ejection/Ban**.
 - **Penalty:** Rude or minor offensive conduct in the match by any parent or spectator is penalized with a point and service to the opponent.
 - **Expulsion** from the facility: Serious offensive misconduct by any parent or spectator is expelled from the playing facility for the remainder of the tournament day with no other consequences.
 - **Ejection/Ban** from the facility: Aggressive misconduct, e.g. physical attack, implied or threatened aggression, by any parent or spectator is automatically ejected from the tournament facility and subject to further review and sanctions.

6. Application of Misconduct Sanctions:

- When Penalty sanctions are issued, it is displayed as Purple and Red cards held up jointly in one hand.
- When Expulsion sanctions are issued, it is displayed as Purple and Red cards held up separately.

- When Ejection/Bans are issued, no cards will be displayed. The 1st Referee immediately stops the match and secures the safety of those in the match. All Expulsions or Ejection/Bans require the notification and involvement of the Head Official and/or Host for the following purposes:
 - i. Documentation, e.g. Score sheet, Match Comment Form, Incident Reports, Facility forms, etc.
 - ii. Timely notification of the OVA Office.
 - iii. Secure the removal of the offender from the facility.
 - iv. All misconduct sanctions are individual sanctions and remain in force for the entire match and are recorded on the score sheet.
 - v. Repetition of misconduct by the same parent or spectator in the same match is sanctioned progressively, which means that a more severe sanction is given for each successive offense.
 - vi. Expulsions or Ejection/Bans, due to offensive or aggressive misconduct do not require a previous sanction. **NOTE: Upon the refusal of the offender to vacate the playing facility, local law enforcement will be notified immediately.**
 - Reinstatement: Parents or spectators sanctioned with an **Ejection/Ban** can only be reinstated by the OVA.

7. Application of Misconduct Warnings and Sanctions Against Youth Players:

In the event a participating youth player displays misconduct in an OVA tournament as a spectator during a match or before/after a match, the following sanction guidelines shall be applied:

- Any misconduct deserving a warning or sanction shall be directed by the Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct.
- If a youth player is charged with expulsion or ejection/ban, the player becomes the direct responsibility of the parent(s) or the head coach/club director.
 - i. Youth players are not to be expelled or ejected from any playing facility individually but fall under the direct supervision of parent(s) or the head coach/club director. No further participation by the player is allowed.
 - ii. An incident report must be completed by the host outlining the circumstances of the ejection or ban.

8. Recording Warnings and Sanctions on the Score Sheet:

- Issuance of Purple and Yellow Cards jointly (Misconduct Warning) – Record a PC in the match notes; record the team at fault, the set number, and the score.
- Issuance of Purple and Red Cards jointly (Misconduct Penalty) – Record a PC in the **match notes**, record the team at fault, the set number, and the score at the time of penalty.
 - If penalty is against the serving team, record the serving team's exit score.
 - Record the awarded penalty point.
- Issuance of Purple and Red Cards shown apart (Misconduct Expulsion):
 - Record a P in the match notes, record the team at fault, the set number, and the score at the time of expulsion.
 - No loss of service or penalty point awarded.
- For Purple Ejection, a note on the **REMARKS** Section will give the following information: Purple Ejection, Full Name (If available), team at fault, set number, and the score at the time of ejection (Score of team at fault is first).

9. Summary of Misconduct and Card Display

Warning (No Sanction):

Stage 1 – Verbal Warning

Stage 2 – symbol Purple and Yellow card held jointly

Warning recorded on score sheet

Penalty (Point and serve to opponent):

Symbol – Purple and Red card held jointly

Penalty recorded on score sheet

Expulsion (Expelled from playing facility for remainder of Tournament day):

Symbol - Purple and Red card held separately

Expulsion is recorded on Score sheet

(Note: Host incident report is required)

Ejection/Ban (Ejected from facility and/or removal/suspended from Ontario Volleyball tournaments for remainder of season):

NO card display - Stop match - Notify Head Official and Tournament Host

Ejection/Bans are recorded on score sheets

NOTE: Further sanctions may apply as per the OVA Fines and Sanctions chart.

