OVA Coaches' Pre-Season Kickoff Meeting

October 26, 2025

7PM

Teams

ONTARIO Volleyball

Purpose & Objectives

Build stronger connections with coaching community

Share exciting opportunities for coaches

Provide updates about the season

Answer your questions ahead before season starts

Agenda

- Introductions
- Rules & Protocols
- OVA Culture
- Referee Highlights
- VC LMS – Workshops Update
- OVA Coach Opportunities
- AGM Reminder

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Coach Opportunities

Coach Support and Networking Program

- Fully reviewed and updated after a successful launch last season and now under a new name, the *Coach Support & Networking Program* is a community-driven initiative for coaches to connect, share expertise, and support each other. Experienced coaches (coach advisors) offer their insights, while coaches looking to grow can find peers or more seasoned colleagues for guidance. The goal is fostering growth, collaboration, and stronger coaching across OVA.
- **Program Goals**
    - Build a space where experienced coaches can offer insights and best practices.
    - Help coaches who want support find someone whose experience aligns with their goals.
    - Strengthen coaching quality through shared knowledge and community.
    - Encourage peer learning, collaboration, and ongoing professional growth.

Coach Opportunities

Coach Development Subsidy Program

- The Coach Development Subsidy Program is funded by the Regional Council Fund and will be administered by the OVA staff. Clubs that organize and conduct coach development activities can apply for funding to offset their costs. The program is open to all OVA-affiliated clubs that meet the eligibility criteria, and funding will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis until all approved funds are exhausted.

Rules & Protocols

What is NEW in 2025-26

OVA Tournament Meetings

Referees will hold a meeting to review rules and protocols at the venue on the day of the tournament. Meeting will be 45 minutes before the start time of the first match i.e. 8:15AM for a 9:00AM start. All coaches are invited **(not mandatory)**.

Chance to clarify:

Fair play rules, age specific rules, court/facility rules (step-in, ceiling), etc.

Warm Up

WARM-UP PROTOCOL ADJUSTMENT FOR ALL CONVENTON CENTRE EVENTS

Teams are now required to warm-up baseline to net instead of sideline to sideline. This is to help cut down the number of rogue volleyballs affecting play in nearby courts.

- This rule is mandatory for convention centres but is also recommended for all regular season tournaments when there are tight courts side by side.

Lining & Scoring

LINING AND SCORING FOR OVA TOURNAMENTS

The 24/25 Lining and Scoring protocol will continue for the 25/26 season with one tweak for the TLS age group.

- TLS will now follow the same Lining & Scoring protocol as 4v4/6v6 Rallyball. The ECI age groups (4v4, 6v6 & TLS) will use parent/team volunteers as both scorers and lines persons.
- 15U – 18U will continue with athletes completing the lining duties along with parent/team volunteers at the score table.
- Clarification around roster size for 15U – 18U lining duties.
    - Each team will be required to provide one (1) volunteer athlete from their roster per game, to act in the role of line judge. Should a team not have sufficient athletes (roster of eight or fewer) to fill this role, the opposing team will be asked to supply an athlete volunteer from their roster to fill the second line judge role. If this is not possible, the referee may approve that no line judges will be used for that game/match.
    - If a team having nine (9) or more athletes on their roster chooses not to comply with the line judge requirements, they will receive a three (3) point penalty per set that they do not comply in addition to the $75 per set fine as per the OVA Fines and Sanctions Chart. This will be administered by providing the opposing team with three (3) points at the start of each set (i.e. the beginning score of the set will be 3-0 for the opposing team).

Side Switching

- NO SIDE SWTICHING BETWEEN SETS FOR ALL OVA EVENTS The 25/26 season will adopt and expand the 24/25 Convention Centre pilot to no side switching in-between sets for ALL regular season events in addition to the Convention Centre and Ontario Championship events.
- • If the head referee determines there is a clear advantage on one side, then a side switch will take place in between sets for that court. The head referee will make the decision at the start of the day as to which courts in the venue (if any) will require a side switch to maintain consistency throughout the day for all teams.
- o Any side switching decision must be made before the start of the match. A side switching request mid match will not be accepted unless there was a change to the venue's structure.

COACHES AND TEAM STAFF ATTIRE

- All Coaches and team staff should follow the dress guidelines below during all matches:
- Must be dressed to represent their team in a professional manner
- Secure shoes (including both covered toe and heel straps) are encouraged for any team personnel who are on the sport court for both warm up and match play
- Hats are permitted These guidelines are strongly recommended for anyone acting as a line judge or score keeper during OVA sanctioned events.

Rules

- TLS SERVE RECEIVE RULE
  The TLS stream (Boys & Girls) are now permitted to receive a serve with an overhead motion using the fingers. This change aligns with Volleyball Canada’s updated serve receive rule for the 2026 14U Nationals.

OVA Tournaments – Roster Verification

Roster Verification for all Regular Season Tournaments

Effective immediately, Head Coaches (HCs) are required to present a copy of their official MRS roster (printed or saved electronically on a phone) at the start of every match for all Regular Season Events.

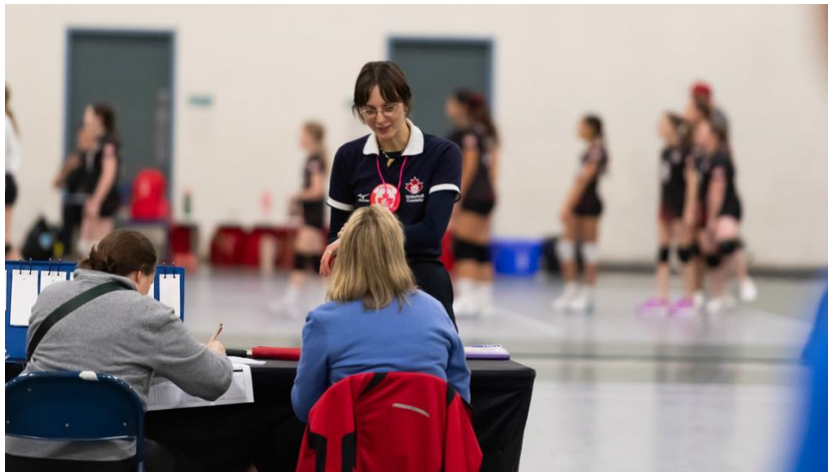
The referee will compare the team's MRS roster to their roster sticker or list of names on the game sheet to confirm that all athletes and coaches listed on the game sheet also appear on the official MRS roster the HC is presenting.

- It is acceptable for the MRS roster to include additional individuals who are not listed on the roster sticker.
- However, it is not permitted for the roster sticker to include individuals who are missing from the MRS roster.

Step-by-Step Process for Head Coaches

- The Head Coach role in MRS now can view, edit and print team rosters.
- Log in to MRS (mrs.volleyball.ca) at least one week prior to your event.
- Click on "My Teams" and then click on your team from the list.
- Review your team roster to ensure all athletes and coaches are correctly listed.
    - Only individuals on the MRS roster are eligible to appear on the bench.
    - HCs may add or remove athletes/coaches who are already approved members in MRS.
    - If an athlete or coach does not appear in MRS, they must register/create a profile.
- Once the roster is correct and includes all participants expected to appear on the game sheet, click the "Print Roster" button for a copy of the team roster. This can either be printed or saved as a pdf to a computer or a phone.
- At the start of each regular season match, present the MRS roster (paper or pdf) to the referee. The referee will verify that all participants on the roster sticker/game sheet are also included on the downloaded MRS roster.

OVA Tournaments – Roster Verification



For the first season of implementing these new Regular Season roster checks, there will be a “soft launch” applied to the 2025 Provincial Cups when it comes to athletes only.

- Referees will still check the MRS roster download presented by the HC prior to each match, and the full process outlined above will be followed.
- Any coach or team staff members that are not listed on the roster from MRS will not be permitted to sit on the bench at any OVA tournament (Including the Provincial Cup).
- However, for the Provincial Cup events, there will be leniency if an athlete is missing from the downloaded roster and will be allowed to play. However, they must be added immediately after the tournament to the team roster in MRS.
- All errors or omissions in MRS rosters must be corrected before the Challenge Cup events, where the process will be enforced without exception.
- Beginning with Challenge Cups and for the remainder of the season, any coach or athlete not listed on the official MRS roster will not be permitted on the bench until they have been added to the MRS roster by the HC.

OVA Tournaments – Roster Verification

What to do if there is a missing athlete or coach on the downloaded MRS roster:

- The start time of a match will not be delayed to fix an MRS roster issue.
  - Coach Missing on MRS Roster (All OVA Events)
    - HC to add the missing coach to the MRS roster if the Coach has already been approved by the OVA and is in MRS. The HC can then show the updated roster to the referee prior to the start of the match.
    - If the missing coach is not in MRS, this means they have either not created an MRS profile yet or have created a profile but are missing some requirements which is why they have not been approved by the OVA yet.
      - PLEASE NOTE – It takes the OVA 1-2 Business days to approve a coach once all their requirements have been met.
      - If the missing coach is not in MRS, then they are not eligible to be on the bench until they have created an MRS profile, completed all coaching requirements and been approved by the OVA. Once approved, the HC can then add the missing coach to the team's MRS roster.
  - Athlete Missing on MRS Roster (Provincial Cup ONLY)
    - "Soft roster check" in place for athletes only for all Provincial Cups
    - If any athlete is missing, they must be added to the MRS roster immediately after the tournament
  - Athlete Missing on MRS Roster (All Other Events)
    - HC to add the missing athlete to the MRS roster if there is still time before the start of the match. This should be possible if the athlete already has an active Competitive Athlete profile in MRS.
    - If the missing athlete is not in MRS, the athlete or parent will have to create a Competitive Athlete profile in MRS and once completed, the HC can then add the player to their MRS roster.
      - If the HC cannot add this athlete to their MRS roster prior to the start of the match, then the athlete will miss the match until they have been added to the roster.

OVA Tournaments – Roster Verification

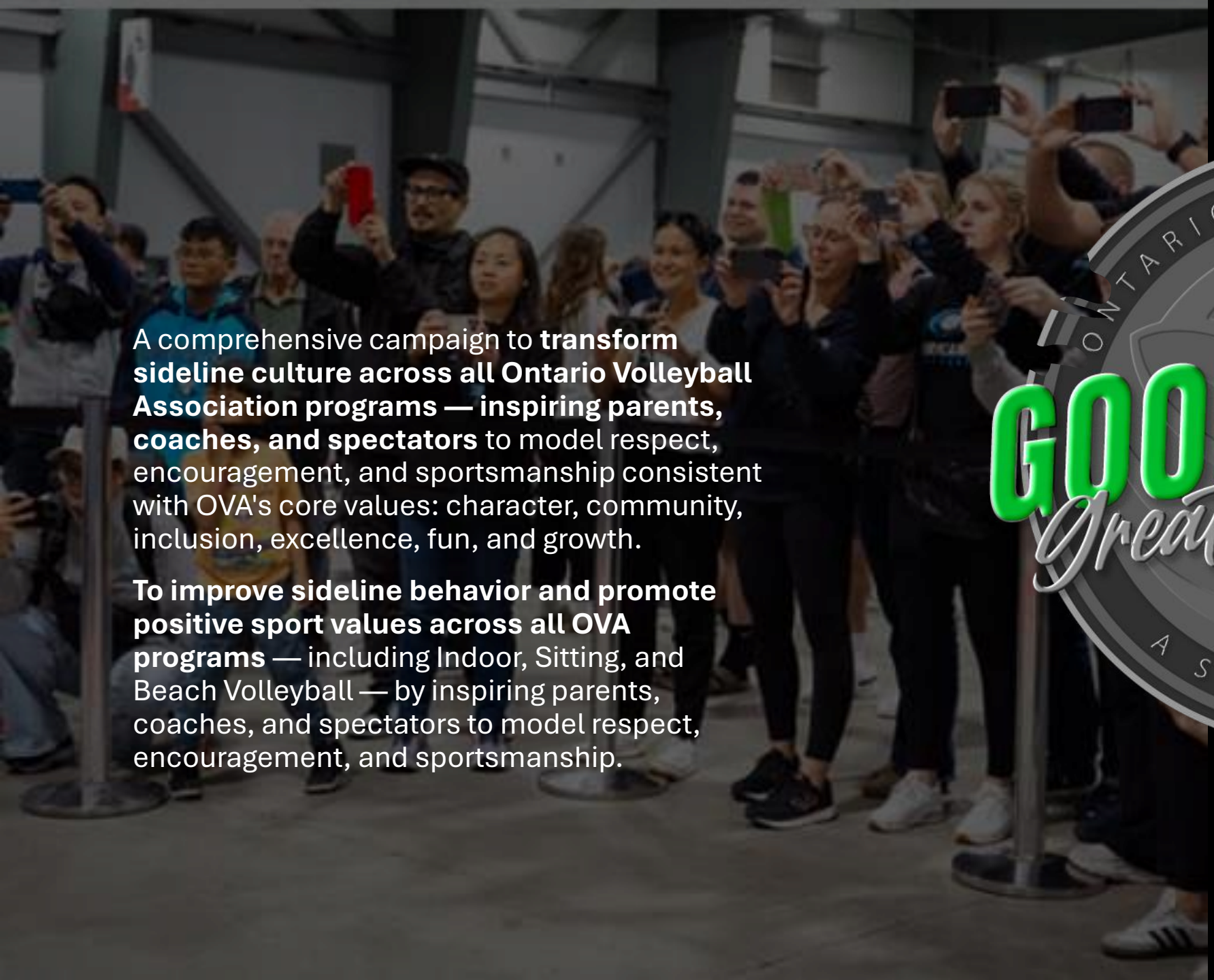
ASSISTANT COACHES ON TEAM BENCH

Assistant Coaches may stand between rallies (not during play) and move along the bench area or change seating positions. There is no restriction on the number of Assistant Coaches that can stand in between rallies.

STAFF PERMITTED ON TEAM BENCH

All individuals who sit on the bench at an OVA sanctioned event must have an approved Head Coach or Assistant Coach role in MRS.

- Individuals who do not have an approved coach role in MRS are not eligible to be listed on an OVA event scoresheet or sit on the bench. Ineligible individuals will be fined $150 per occurrence and match results may be forfeited.



A comprehensive campaign to **transform sideline culture across all Ontario Volleyball Association programs — inspiring parents, coaches, and spectators** to model respect, encouragement, and sportsmanship consistent with OVA's core values: character, community, inclusion, excellence, fun, and growth.

To improve sideline behavior and promote positive sport values across all OVA programs — including Indoor, Sitting, and Beach Volleyball — by inspiring parents, coaches, and spectators to model respect, encouragement, and sportsmanship.

ONTARIO VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

GOOD VIBES

Great Volleyball

This campaign recognizes that **the atmosphere surrounding our games** is just as important as what happens on the court. When **spectators** bring positive energy, athletes thrive. When **coaches** lead with encouragement, players develop confidence. When **referees** are respected, the game flows better for everyone.

Core Values

- **Respect -** For referees, opponents, and teammates
- **Encouragement -** Uplifting rather than criticizing
- **Sportsmanship -** In winning and losing moments

Referee Highlights

- Mentorship
  - Increased to 80 events this year across Ontario
  - Streamlining mentorship process
- Referee Development
  - Referee Symposium at Humber
  - Senior Referee Meeting
- Purple Card Policy Reminder
  - Rely on coaches/team cooperation

VC LMS

- A **new learning management system (LMS)** designed to transform the way coaches, referees, and athletes access education and development resources across the country.
- Volleyball Connect will serve as a **centralized hub** for learning, collaboration, and certification, offering a seamless and user-friendly experience. The platform **integrates National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) modules, e-learning opportunities, interactive resources, and performance development tools,** ensuring volleyball participants at every level can stay connected and continue their growth.
- The **VC Coach Centre (VCCC)** will remain active for the following provincial and territorial associations SK/ON/QC/NWT. The VC Coach Centre (VCCC) will eventually be phased out.

Youth Competitions Review

- **Moving Forward: A Phased and Collaborative Implementation**
- With the final recommendations now in hand, the OVA's working group has developed a **phased implementation plan** to guide the next steps. This approach will ensure that changes are introduced thoughtfully, with ongoing evaluation and flexibility.
- Central to the process will be **continued consultation and engagement** with the volleyball community. Over the coming year, the OVA will work closely with clubs, coaches, referees, and other stakeholders to design and refine the next stage of youth competition in Ontario.

AGM Reminder

- December 14, 2025 from 9:30 – 12:00PM
- Meeting will be held on Teams
- Election for Treasurer and 2 x Director at Large
  - Application will open this week and deadline is Nov 24
- More info to come!

ONTARIO Volleyball

THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR SEASON!