

What's New 2024-2025

FORMATS AND RULES OF THE GAME

6V6 RALLYBALL UPDATES AND CLARIFICATIONS

- 6v6 Girls Competition Structure
 - o The 6v6 Girls division will continue with the Self-Declaration method for all four tournaments.
 - Coaches can “self-declare” for the division they feel is the best fit for their team throughout the regular season.
 - This year, coaches will have the option of self-declaring for three tiers: **Tier 1 (Select, advanced level), Tier 2 (Championship, intermediate level), Tier 3 (Trillium, development level)**.
 - This decision was made due to the continuous growth of the 6v6 Girl’s age group and the need to create more competitively balanced matches that are fun and align with a team’s appropriate developmental stage.
 - o All four regular season events for the 6v6 Girls division will feature a standard single-day tournament format, with playoffs, points and medals included. However, the first event (Provincial Cup) will not count towards a team’s top 2 points average for their Ontario Championship seeding.
- 6v6 Boys Competition Structure
 - o All four regular season events for the 6v6 Boys division will feature a standard single-day tournament format, with playoffs, points and medals included. However, the first event (Provincial Cup) will not count towards a team’s top 2 points average for their Ontario Championship seeding.
 - o Realignments have been introduced at the 6v6 Boys level as there are not enough teams to warrant self-declare. There is also a wide range of skill level in this age group resulting in the need for a 9 team Championship division to ensure competitive balance stays in check throughout the season.
 - The first event (Provincial Cup) will feature only a Trillium Division.
 - The 2nd event (Challenge Cup) will feature one (1) Championship division (9 Teams) and approximately three (3) Trillium divisions (27 Teams) based on the results of the 1st event (Provincial Cup).
 - After event #2 (Challenge Cup) and event #3 (McGregor Cup), realignment will take place with the 7th – 9th place teams from Championship moving to Trillium and the first place Trillium teams moving to Championship.

TRADITIONAL LIMITED SPECIALIZED (TLS) UPDATES AND CLARIFICATIONS

- TLS Girls Competition Structure
 - o The TLS Girls division will continue with the Self-Declaration method for the first 2 tournaments.
 - Coaches will have the ability to “self-declare” for the division they feel is the best fit for their team.
 - This year, coaches will have the option of self-declaring for three tiers: **Tier 1 (Select, advanced level), Tier 2 (Championship, intermediate level), Tier 3 (Trillium, development level)**.
 - This decision was made due to the continuous growth of the TLS Girls age group and the need to create more competitively balanced matches that are fun and align with a team’s appropriate developmental stage.
 - o All four regular season events for the TLS Girls division will feature a standard single-day tournament format, with playoffs, points and medals included. However, the first event (Provincial Cup) will not count towards a team’s top two points average for their Ontario Championship seeding.

- Realignments after only the 3rd event (McGregor Cup) have been introduced at the TLS Girls level to help optimize the 4th event's (Bugarski Cup) competitive balance resulting in a more accurate Ontario Championship seeding for teams.
 - The first (Provincial Cup) and second (Challenge Cup) events will feature Select, Championship and Trillium divisions based on self-declare selections.
 - The 3rd event (McGregor Cup) will feature two (2) Premier (18 Teams), four (4) Select (36 Teams), six (6) Championship (54 Teams) and approximately nine (9) Trillium (81 Teams) divisions based on a team's average from the Provincial and Challenge Cups.
 - After event #3 (McGregor Cup), realignment will take place with the 7th – 9th place teams moving down and the 1st place teams moving up for the 4th event (Bugarski Cup).
- TLS Boys Competition Structure
 - The TLS Boys division will continue with the Self-Declaration method for the first two tournaments.
 - Coaches will have the ability to “self-declare” into Tier 1 (Championship) or Tier 2 (Trillium).
 - All four regular season events for the TLS Boys division will feature a standard, single day tournament format, with playoffs, points and medals included. However, the first event (Provincial Cup) will not count towards a team's top 2 points average for their Ontario Championship seeding.
 - Realignments after only the 3rd event (McGregor Cup) have been introduced at the TLS Boys level to help optimize the 4th events (Bugarski Cup) competitive balance resulting in a more accurate Ontario Championship seeding for teams as well.
 - The first (Provincial Cup) and second (Challenge Cup) events will feature Championship and Trillium divisions based on self-declare selections.
 - The 3rd event (McGregor Cup) will feature one (1) Premier (9 Teams), two (2) Championship (18 Teams) and approximately three (3) Trillium (27 Teams) divisions based on a team's average from the Provincial and Challenge Cups.
 - After event #3 (McGregor Cup), realignment will take place with the 7th – 9th place teams moving down and the 1st place teams moving up for the 4th event (Bugarski Cup).

18UG STRUCTURE UPDATE

- Due to the continued growth at the 18UG level, the Trillium division will now be split into Trillium White and Trillium Green just like the 15UG – 17UG age groups.

UPDATE TO WARM-UP PROTOCOLS FOR REGULAR SEASON EVENTS

Warm-up times for a team's first match of the day has been increased to 8-4-4 from 5-4-4 unless otherwise stated on the event schedule. There have been no changes to secondary warm-ups of the day.

New time protocols are as follows:

- Primary Warm-up Protocol – (8-4-4): For all teams first match of the day
 - Eight (8) minutes of shared court time for ballhandling
 - Four (4) minutes of exclusive time for the serving Team
 - Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for the receiving Team
 - No shared hitting and serving.
- Secondary Warm-up Protocol – (2-4-4): For all other Matches within the tournament
 - Two (2) minutes of shared court time for ball handling
 - Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for serving Team.
 - Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for the receiving Team
 - No shared hitting and serving.

Warm up protocols may change throughout the year depending on tournament format, permit restrictions and any other event variables.

LINING AND SCORING FOR OVA TOURNAMENTS

- After evaluation of the lining and scoring pilot, the OVA has chosen to move in a different direction to better accommodate the needs of all our tournament stakeholders. The lining and scoring for the 2024-25 season will reflect the Volleyball Canada system which was introduced two years ago and will be applied to all regular season events for the TLS to 18U divisions, including convention centre events and the Ontario Championships.
 - Each team will be required to provide one (1) athlete per game to act in the role of line judge. Should the team not have sufficient athletes to fill this role, the opposing team will be asked to supply a second athlete. If this is not possible, the referee will manage the match with no line judges.
 - The athlete line judge will call lines for their own team throughout the entirety of the match. Athlete line judges will be placed on opposite corners from each other.
 - If the athlete acting as line judge is to be subbed into the match, the referee will provide adequate time for this change.
 - Each team will be required to provide one (1) volunteer per match to act in the role of Scorer or Assistant Scorer. This role may be completed by a parent or any supporter of the team. This individual should not be changed once the match protocols have been started.
 - The Assistant Scorer will be responsible for the manual scoreboard while the Scorer will be responsible for the scoresheet.

**Please note, this system is only in effect for TLS-18U age groups! The 4v4 and 6v6 age groups will still use parent/team volunteers as both scorers and lines persons.*

SIDE SWITCHING IN-BETWEEN SETS

- A no side switching pilot will be implemented for all matches that take place at the Niagara Falls Convention Centre, Ey Centre and Ontario Championships for the 2024-2025 season.
 - If the head ref determines there is a clear advantage on one side, then a side switch will take place in between sets for that court.

POM POMS AT OVA EVENTS

- The use of Pom Poms will no longer be allowed on the team benches or the area where athletes stand at the end of their team bench at regular season or Ontario Championship events. This is due to the amount of tinsel that makes its way onto the court creating an unsafe playing surface for athletes.
- Spectators may still use Pom Poms to cheer on the athletes in the spectator seating area ONLY.

PURPLE CARD POLICY UPDATE

New for the 2024-2025 OVA season, in addition to the working referee, any event in which the OVA utilizes Referee Development Teams (RDT), the RDT members supervising the playing areas will have the ability to issue purple cards. Members of the RDT can include Head Referees, Area Supervisors and mentors.

ADMINISTRATION

OVA and VOLLEYBALL CANADA MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASES

Ontario Volleyball will be raising its membership fees for the 2024/2025 season as outlined in the Membership Policy. There will be no increase in membership fees for recreational athletes or referees. While your fees are increasing, please remember that your membership comes with a growing list of discounts on things like volleyball gear, insurance, awards and more. A full list can be found on our [Member Benefits](#) page.

Volleyball Canada will be increasing their membership fee to \$36, up \$1 from the 2023/2024 season. Volleyball Canada membership is included in your OVA membership fees. All Membership fees are plus HST.

- **Membership Fees \$100.41**
 - Volleyball Canada \$36.00
 - Ontario Volleyball \$57.00 + HST \$7.41 (Total \$64.41)

COACHING ELIGIBILITY POLICE - UPDATE

- As announced in the 2023-24 season, all coaches are required to complete the NCCP Anti-Racism in Coaching e-learning module in The Locker to be eligible in 2024-25. This is a free course.
- **All who sit on the bench at an OVA sanctioned event or are involved with youth athletes in an OVA club training environment must meet the OVA Coach Eligibility Policy before their registration as an OVA member**
- The requirements for Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches are the same.
- Please click [HERE](#) for the OVA's Coach Eligibility Policy
- Coaches who are only present in the training environment and do not sit on the bench at OVA events can register in the role of Practice Coach in MRS. The Practice Coach role in MRS requires Making Headway, CAC (Coaching Association of Canada) Safesport training and the NCCP Anti Racism in Coaching e-learning module. Practice Coaches are not required to complete Foundations of Volleyball or the Making Ethical Decisions online evaluation.
- Teams with the intention of attending Nationals should verify the Volleyball Canada Coach Eligibility policy as it has further requirements than the OVA policy.

REMINDER - ALL Athletes, Coaches and Club personnel must register in the OVA Membership Registration System (MRS) prior to participating in any OVA or Club activity (including tryouts). This is necessary to ensure compliance with provincial concussion legislation (Rowan's Law) and to sign off on the online waivers of liability prior to participating in any OVA related activities.

- A Tryout Player role of \$0 is in the system so that players are not required to pay for a membership prior to being selected to a team.
 - Players who are selected for the team will then have to upgrade to a paid membership prior to attending Club practices or if Clubs wish to pay for the full membership for the athlete, they can do so while creating their Club teams and adding players to those teams.
 - Clubs must ensure that athletes and/or parents/guardians show proof of MRS registration on the first night of tryouts for a club via smartphone screen or paper print out.
 - The Early Re-signed and Re-signed athletes will be responsible for registration prior to attending Club practices.
 - Club coaches must also be registered in MRS prior to running tryouts, practices, etc. All individuals must sign into MRS and register to sign off on Rowan's Law education and waivers. Once again, if Clubs wish to pay the full membership of their coaches and other club staff, Coaches and Club staff can register as a volunteer (\$0 fee) and then Club admins can pay Club staff membership fees when adding team staff to each team.

REGISTRATION FOR SELECT “WEEKENDS” WILL CONTINUE FOR THE 2024-2025 SEASON

- To accommodate our growing facility needs, we will continue to have a few weekends where teams will register for the weekend. Teams will be assigned to either the Saturday or Sunday once the event registration deadline closes and team splits are posted on the OVA website.
- These select “Weekend Registrations” are identified in the OVA Calendar. Please click [HERE](#) to view the OVA Calendar.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

TRAVEL EXPECTATIONS FOR OVA REGULAR SEASON TOURNAMENTS

- To create a competition stream that provides competitively balanced matches along with serving the entire province of Ontario, travel is required for events.
- The Youth Competitions team keeps track of all KMs travelled by each team for OVA sanctioned events throughout the season. This data comes into play as one of the criteria when creating the team splits (i.e. proximity to the venue along with past travel).
- All teams across the province should expect to make at least one 400+km (one-way) trip for a regular season event whether you are a Trillium or Premier team at each age group you are participating in. This means if you are a 15UB team playing in the 15UB and 16UB age groups, you can expect to make a big trip at 15UB and 16UB as each age group is treated separately. Greater Toronto Area (GTA) teams typically do not see more than one of these larger regular season trips per season in each age group. The OVA can take turns between GTA teams (when possible) filling in these satellite tournament locations due to KM tracking.

VC NATIONAL COMPETITIONS - UNIFORM REGULATIONS

- As per rule 4.3.3 of the Volleyball Canada Rulebook: *“Players' jerseys must be numbered from 1 to 99”*.
- Jerseys identifying players as “0” or “00” are not permitted at National Competitions.

FIRST AID KIT AND SUPPLIES

- Medical supplies or on-site medics are not provided for most regular season OVA events. Coaches/teams must have their own First Aid kits and/or supplies.
 - The only regular season events that provide this service are the EY Centre, Niagara Falls Convention Centre and Grand Prix events.