



What's New 2020-2021

Competition Calendar

- Due to COVID-19 and the prioritization of our members' health and safety, the start of the competition season has been delayed until January 2021.
 - This does not mean Club tryouts and practices cannot take place. It means that the first OVA tournament will be run in January 2021 vs November 2020.
 - If Government regulations continue to ease and gathering sizes are increased, the OVA staff will be working diligently to offer exhibition matches in late fall.
- All age divisions will be scheduled for 3 regular season events prior to the Ontario Championships.
- Full seasonal structures will be available in the Youth Competitions Manual.
- Major season adjustments are as follows:
 - Teams will still be required to participate in a minimum of 2 events to qualify for the Ontario Championships
 - The 12U Girls will begin the season in the Trillium division, however, will move directly into Tiers after this event
 - The 13U Boys and Girls will begin the season in Premier, Championships and Trillium divisions for girls and Premier and Championships for boys
 - 14U-17U Boys and Girls will begin the season with all applicable tiers
 - The first event for the 14U division will remain an all positions event
 - The 18U Boys and Girls will drop the Provincial Cup, as well as the Grand Prix Qualifier/Furlani Cup
 - All Grand Prix events will be composed of 12 teams

Underage Teams – Initial Placement

- If a team is competing in an older age category and has a pre-season rank in the older category, they will be placed according to that rank.
- If the team does not have a pre-season rank in the older age category, they will be automatically placed based on the percentages below. These percentages are only guaranteed for the Provincial Cup and will be used for placement in mid-season events ONLY IF vacancies in the draw are available.

Girls	
Age Division Rank	Initial Placement in One Age Division Higher
1-3%	Select
4-12%	Championship
13-30%	Trillium White
Boys	
Age Division Rank	Initial Placement in One Age Division Higher
1-7%	Championship

- Out of Province Teams will be considered to fill vacancies within the tournament draw. The protocol outlined above does not apply to out of province teams.

2020/2021 Pre-Season Rank

- A team's pre-season rank will be based on their top two 2019/2020 season finishes average, considering there are no official 2020 Ontario Championship results. Any ties will be broken using the following methods, which will be applied in order until all ties are broken:
 - A team's overall point average for the season
 - The number of OVA events the team has participated in their age division
 - A team's result in their most recent event and working backwards to the first event of the 2019/2020 season
 - A team's 2019/2020 pre-season rank (based on the 2019 Ontario Championships)
 - A team's seed going into the 2019 Ontario Championships as the tiebreaker
 - Coin toss

Notes:

- The 17U Girls/Boys pre-season rank is still based on the above criteria even though these teams only competed in three 2019/2020 OVA regular season events.
- The pre-season rankings do not consider *Initial placement adjustments* for underage teams or new clubs/teams. Approved initial placements teams receive an NR (no rank) and are placed at the bottom of the skill division they have been assigned to. I.e. Strikers have a pre-season rank of 18 but would not start in Select with the top 18 teams if an initial placement team was moved into Select with an NR.

Playing Rules and Regulations

- OVA Youth Competitions will begin using the following indoor balls for the 2020-2021 season to keep in line with Volleyball Canada. Please click here for a link to the OVA's announcement:
 - 11U/12U | MVALITE
 - 13U-15U Club | Mikasa VQ200W*
 - 16U-18U Club | Mikasa V200W
 - Team Ontario / High Performance | Mikasa V200
 - Please click here for a link to the OVA's announcement:
https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/news_article/show/1059959
 - To purchase the new volleyball's, please visit the OVA's partner CanuckStuff at:
<https://www.canuckstuff.com/store/volleyball/volleyballs/16>
- Clarifications on warm-up policy
 - Coaches are permitted to toss balls over the net during their on-court warm-up time, however, must do so within the 3-metre line.
 - Teams who are off court during pregame hitting are encouraged to shag balls for the opposing team, otherwise they should be on their side of the court by their assigned bench.

- The Purple Card will be rolled out for all age divisions in OVA Indoor Competitions. The purpose and intent of the Purple Card Sanction Policy (<https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/referees-resources-development>) is to effectively address and sanction any inappropriate or prohibited behavior exhibited by any NON-PARTICIPANT (e.g. parents, spectators, members of other teams, etc.) attending and observing any OVA sanctioned volleyball match. This policy is further intended to preserve order and help to maintain the safety and protection of all OVA members and spectators.
- As stated in the OVA's Youth Competition Manual all participants (teams, players, coaches, officials, managers, administrators and spectators) in OVA sanctioned events, 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 or sanction may be given. For these reasons we will be tracking all cards received during the OVA indoor season
 - All cards will be recorded at the scorers at the time of incident and lists will be forwarded to the OVA after each event. Coaches will be receiving an email acknowledging that a card was received.
 - Multiple cards in one tournament will be addressed immediately and fines or sanctions maybe levied depending on the nature of the cards.
 - Disqualifications or expulsion will be addressed immediately and sanctioned as per the YCM.
- Uniform Reminder – Use of compression tights. As per the Volleyball Canada (point 4.5.3.) the use of compression wear is permitted provided it is any single solid colour. Members of the same team are permitted to wear different single solid colours.

Ontario Championships (OC's) 2021

- Two host cities are confirmed for Ontario Championships 2021:
 - RIM Park, Waterloo
 - Paramount Fine Foods Centre, Mississauga
- As of August 2020, the plan is to host 7 events over the month of April 2021 to deliver Ontario Championships for all age groups, pending government regulations and gathering size limitations. A decision will be made by February 1st if a change to this plan needs to be made to create smaller events to limit size gatherings/to operate legally and safely.
- At this time, the tournament entry fees will remain unchanged from the 2020 rates.
- The hotel booking process through Hudson Travel Group will be released later in the fall as the province continues to progress through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Clubs who are located in the outlying areas of the province (minimum 350km, one way, away from the playing venue) will be given priority to book hotel accommodations for Ontario Championships. The Club's address used for registration will determine the distance from the playing venue. Any questionable changes to a club's address will be evaluated by a panel to determine their eligibility for early booking.

Administration

- The OVA will be launching an updated version of NRS for all registrations on September 1st. Be sure to check the OVA website and social media channels for updates.
- **Starting September 1st, 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 (\$0) has been added to the new MRS 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
 - 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.
- Due to the uncertainty regarding the start of the indoor season athletes will not be required to purchase a full OVA membership until just prior to the first competitive event. Athletes **will** be required to register as members in the MRS in one of the following categories prior to participating in any on-court activities:

Activity	Required Membership Level
Tryouts	Tryout Player or Recreational Player or Competitive Player
Club Practices	Recreational Player or Competitive Player
OVA Exhibition Event	Recreational Player or Competitive Player
OVA Competitive Event	Competitive Player

- Tournament Registration fees will be increased for the 2021 season. They are not approved by the Board of Directors at this time and will be published as soon as we are more certain of what the season will look like. Fee increases will help to cover COVID-19 PPE and staff hiring and training for event delivery.
- The following fees have been changed or re-introduced for the 2020-2021 season:
 - Increase of \$25 to Clubs Fees - \$200+hst
 - Introduction of House League ONLY Club Fee - \$100+hst
 - Introduction of Team Fee - \$10+hst

Volleyball Canada

- Safe Sport Training Modules will be mandatory for any participants attending Nationals in 2021.
 - Training is mandatory for anyone with direct or indirect contact with athletes

- Training does require a Locker account. There is no cost for the account creation or to take the training modules
- <https://safesport.coach.ca/>
- Volleyball Canada membership fees and categories for the 2020-2021 season
 - The following categories will have an increase of \$1.00 to \$31.00.
 - Youth Competitive Player
 - Adult Player o Post-Secondary Player
 - Leader – Club/Team Personnel, Referees
 - The following categories will maintain a participant fee of \$5.00
 - Youth Development Player (Community/Elementary)
 - Leader
 - Recreational Player
 - The following categories will maintain a participant fee of \$0
 - Volunteer
 - Elementary and High School Player

2020-2021 Coach Eligibility Policy

All athletes have the right to a safe, inclusive and responsible volleyball experience. As people in positions of authority, coaches have an important role to play in providing this type of environment. Coaches have the responsibility to:

- Complete the necessary training in order to provide an environment that is physically, mentally, emotionally and socially safe for all athletes and participants
- Complete the necessary training in order to provide a responsible learning environment that incorporates Volleyball Canada’s teaching methodologies, technical guidelines and long-term athlete development principles
- Ensure that all of their coach training is current so as to be able to provide a safe and responsible volleyball experience for all

MANDATORY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR OVA COACHES

All individuals involved with youth athletes must complete the following requirements prior to their registration as an OVA member in a **Coach or Club Technical Director role**. These requirements apply to **all individuals in those roles**, regardless of certification status, experience or years of involvement:

- Abide by the OVA Screening Policy
 - Submit a Vulnerable Sector Screen (completed within 3 years)
 - Submit a completed OVA Screening Disclosure Form annually
- Complete the following training
 - Making Head Way (Free) <https://thelocker.coach.ca/account/login?ReturnUrl=%2f>

- Coaches Association of Canada Safe Sports Training (Free)
<https://thelocker.coach.ca/account/login?ReturnUrl=%2f>

All individuals registering in a Head Coach or Club Technical Director role must also complete the following training prior to their registration as a member of the OVA.

- Foundations of Volleyball (\$89) <https://coach.volleyball.ca/>
- Making Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation (\$85 or free if course was completed)
<https://thelocker.coach.ca/account/login?ReturnUrl=%2f>

It is the responsibility of OVA Clubs to verify the eligibility of their coaches prior to registering them as members. Clubs will confirm the eligibility of their coaches in their Club Information Form at the start of the season.

Individuals who have not completed the above requirements are not eligible to be registered as an OVA member in the following roles: Assistant Coach, Head Coach and Club Technical Director.

Please click here for a link to the Eligibility requirements on the OVA website:

<https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/coaches-certification>