



## Spring 2023 Club Leader Survey Results

### FAQ Question and Answers

In the spring of 2023, the Regional Council sent out a Club Leader Survey looking for feedback on how the OVA can better support clubs' pre-season, during season and post season. This list of FAQ's below has been put together to address some of the trends in feedback and to help with the continuous feedback loop between members and the OVA staff.

In this FAQ, you will find information on:

1. [Club Administration](#)
2. [Indoor Competitions](#)
3. [Communications](#)
4. [Membership Registration System](#)
5. [Coaching](#)
6. [Team Ontario](#)

## CLUB ADMINISTRATION

**Question:** Can the OVA continue with detailed checklists for tryouts, registrations, and deadlines for Club Leaders?

**Answer:** Yes! A detailed checklist of dates for tryouts, regular season events and Ontario Championships information was emailed directly to Club Leaders in August. This checklist is also posted on the OVA website under Club Resources, which can be found at:

<https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/club-resources>

**Question:** Can the OVA create resources for best practices in operating a club?

**Answer:** The OVA currently has a repository of information and templates online for Club Governance, links to ONCA Non-Profit Bylaw builder tools, etc. We continue to strive to add additional information that Clubs are looking for. Please email Jessie at [jnairn@ontariovolleyball.org](mailto:jnairn@ontariovolleyball.org) with any other type of best practices, templates or resources that you would like to see available for OVA Clubs.

You can find all these documents online under [Club Resources](#). Be sure you are clicking on the various headers, green side bar items and on the main page to access everything.

**Question:** Can the OVA send out more reminders, education and do enforcement for Rowan's Law? There is a lack of consistency in how it is being applied by referees and clubs.

**Answer:** Great question! The OVA staff are going to add this on to a Club Town Hall presentation for leaders to help navigate Rowan's Law in Ontario and will provide more information forthcoming on Rowan's Law implementation at the Club level.

**Question:** Can the OVA post the competition manuals and dates of provincials and tournaments out sooner?

**Answer:** The age division splits for the 2023 Ontario Championships were delayed as this was our first full year out of COVID-19 recovery and it was such a tight fit at Enercare, the staff needed to see what regular season registration was for the first event of the year to properly split age groups. Now that we have made it through recovery year 1, the OVA staff are able to forecast and create age division splits much earlier for Ontario Championships. Thus, the 2023-24 calendar, with OC's 2024 dates was published in June 2023 and the staff will follow this timeline moving forward in future years.

For regular season tournaments, all regular season registration deadlines have been pushed back to 6 weeks prior vs 4 weeks as in years past. This will allow the staff to create splits and post locations earlier for teams if possible. However, it all depends on the previous tournament dates and if results are submitted in a timely fashion as this can push back when team splits are posted for each location. The staff continue to strive to post their event splits as soon as they can based on registration timelines and most recent results from the previous event.

**Question:** Can the OVA organize workshops/education for club management and best practices? I enjoyed the series that was shared this year and feel it is beneficial for clubs as we grow.

**Answer:** Most definitely. The OVA is working on a list of upcoming educational series for Club leaders. If you have specific topics you want covered, please email them to [jnairn@ontariovolleyball.org](mailto:jnairn@ontariovolleyball.org) and we will research options to assist clubs with topics they want more information on.

**Question:** Would it be possible to have someone that supports the Region and that can reach out to the clubs in the region to check in and offer support when needed.

**Answer:** Yes! Jessie Nairn is the OVA staff person that is currently working with the Regional Council and will be providing support to Clubs and the Regional Council. As this is a new position, we welcome any feedback on what support you would need from the OVA office! Please reach out to [jnairn@ontariovolleyball.org](mailto:jnairn@ontariovolleyball.org) with any suggestions you may have.

**Question:** Can the OVA help the Clubs become ONCA compliant or by providing a template and sample constitution?

**Answer:** On the OVA Club Resource page, you can access the CLEO's bylaw builder helps nonprofits develop a set of bylaws that comply with [Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act](#) (ONCA). The tool asks you questions, explains what your choices are, and includes information to help you decide. Then, based on your answers, it generates a set of bylaws for your nonprofit. The Bylaw Builder is free to use and all text has been legally reviewed. Access this tool online at: <https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/club-governance>

**Question:** Can the OVA create a checklist for the Club executive and outline roles and responsibilities. Who is the contact for each of the various areas.

**Answer:** Done! It was included in the OVA Club Leader Checklist that was distributed to all Club Leaders in August 2023. It is also posted online on the Club Resources Page.

## INDOOR COMPETITIONS

**Question:** Why is the tournament structure typically 9 teams on 3 courts? Why do all teams have to make playoffs?

**Answer:** The 9 team on 3 court format is the best structure from a venue/logistics perspective (most of our venues have a maximum of 3 courts that we can use. This format guarantees every single team 4 matches to a maximum 6 matches (this is only possible for one scenario, with most teams will play 5 matches). This format allows every team to get one match off during pool play so avoid back-to-back to back matches all day long. All teams make playoffs as we want similar value for all teams. It's not just about win or lose; our competitions are also grounds for development and participating in a playoff match is something athletes need to experience.

**Question:** Why do we not have a January start time?

**Answer:** Unfortunately, there are not enough resources to condense the competition season from January to March annually. These resources include lack of gyms, lack of referees and lack of coaches and OVA staff to manage 550+ regular season tournaments in Ontario to be able to run 4 (or 5 for 18U divisions) tournaments for each age group from January to March. The OVA's Regional Council is in the middle of selecting the new Indoor Volleyball Development Council members (which will be done by the end of September 2023). The OVA staff will be discussing the indoor competition structure and potential changes, which includes looking at season length and the creation of a five-year competition plan.

**Question: Why are we not aligned with the High School Season?**

**Answer:** This has been attempted since the early 2000's, however, there has been little success due to the many administrative issues high schools would face and the trickle down with teachers and other sport seasons. This would also restrict our traditional youth competitions calendar and call for an overhaul of the structure of the competition model. It should be noted that in the coming months, OVA staff will be working with the soon to be Indoor Volleyball Development Council, which is a subcommittee of the Regional Council on a further indoor competition structure review and fine tune plan.

**Question: I don't like the current format of the tryout window. Why is the Tryout Window the way it is?**

**Answer:** The OVA Tryout Window Policy is designed to alleviate stresses on clubs, athletes and families and to provide all clubs with an equal opportunity to select athletes. The tryout window is never easy to manage because of the stress that is placed on clubs, parents, and athletes. Even if there was no window in place this time of year would be full of tension, verbal agreements, and various forms of communications between all interested parties.

The tryout window survey goes out every season in the fall to seek feedback on the Tryout window period that has just completed from two user groups: Coaches/Club Admins and Parents/Guardians/Athletes. Once the survey closes, the results are sent to the Regional Council (and soon to be IVDC) who helps review the survey results and propose changes to the policy.

As we all know the window has changed almost every year. There is a lot of interest from the committee to keep these three concepts in mind with any proposed changes:

- Easy to understand policy.
- Police-ability
- Consistency

With these concepts in mind, it makes sense to maintain the same tryout window policy over the course of multiple seasons in order to maintain consistency that members will become comfortable with. This will also assist the OVA in finding common loopholes and how they can be appropriately policed to maintain as equitable of a process as possible for all Ontario Clubs and athletes.

**Question: In the Early Contact model, why is 6v6 so broad with 12–14-year-olds playing one another? Why are we not just going with their exact age group? This is unfair to younger athletes trying to start their volleyball careers.**

The main objective of the Early Contact Initiative is to have teams align themselves in the division that is the best fit for the development of their athletes. This includes not just

looking within your chronological age-group, but also above and below depending on your developmental stage as not all athletes enter the sport at the same stage. If a team is struggling with 6v6 in the Trillium division, we strongly encourage them to give the 4v4 division a try. This will increase their touches on a smaller court and help build confidence in their skills. If a team is doing very well in 6v6 and are struggling to find competition that is challenging enough for them, they are encouraged to move up to the TLS division so they can not only face a higher level of developed athletes, but also an increased focus on serve and serve receive can benefit their already advanced level of skill in the sport. We understand that this is a significant change in mentality for members and stakeholders and will take time to truly see the results, but it is important to give this system a strong effort over the course of many seasons to achieve the best possible results. Unless given a full effort by all stakeholders (clubs, OVA staff, coaches, athletes), we will never be able to draw accurate conclusions to any system.

Here is the data summary to show how many overage athletes played in each ECI division that were born between January 1st – August 30<sup>th</sup> (17 – 24-month window).

- 4v4 Boys/Coed - 10/112 (8.9%)
- 4v4 Girls - 20/189 (10.6%)
- 6v6 Boys - 34 of the 366 athletes (9.3%)
- 6v6 Girls - 63 of the 1331 athletes (4.7%)
- TLS Boys - 20 of the 453 athletes (4.4%)
- TLS Girls - 32 of the 1567 athletes (2%)

**Question:** Why are Ontario Championships being hosted in Ottawa? It is too far for the majority of teams, we should never host there.

**Answer:** The OVA has never hosted an Ontario Championships (OC's) east of Toronto since the inception of the festival-style OC's in 2008. It is due time that our major competition heads to Ottawa for a 2-year cycle before returning to Enercare Centre in 2026. As a Provincial Sport Body, we service all of Ontario, with Region 6 being the third largest region in Ontario. Additionally, there are clubs that are closer to Ottawa from Region 2 and 4 than the traditional RIM Park location. Therefore, it is our responsibility to be equitable to all Ontario teams, not just a specific region and area of the province. The OVA is working on a modified Travel Rebate program that helps with the costs of travelling great distances for not only Ontario Championships, but also during the regular season. Stay tuned for further information later this fall. Also be sure to check out the Ontario Championships pages that have links to airline booking discounts to add another option for teams travelling in and out of Ottawa in April 2024.

**Question:** Can the OVA provide Lineup Sheets in the OVA Championships Team bag for the coaches to ensure each coach has their own sheets / add the Triple Ball card to those teams playing Triple Ball to help with scoring?

**Answer:** This is a great idea; we can certainly do that for the 2024 Ontario Championships!

**Question:** Why can't the OVA Post tournaments schedules and locations sooner? And post results sooner?

**Answer.** Two items must take place for team splits to be posted:

- 1) Registration deadline which is set 6 weeks prior for all events
- 2) All previous tournament results emailed to OVA staff from tournament hosts.

Once those 2 items are complete, these next 3 steps can be completed.

- 1) Rankings posted
- 2) Promotion/relegation completed with the list of participating teams
- 3) Team splits created

Due to the restrictions above, team splits are typically posted 3-4 weeks prior to each event. Results are posted as they are received after each weekend. Please note, the youth competition staff post's locations of tournaments if event teams are yet to be assigned to the locations well in advance of deadlines closing. This is helpful for teams to guesstimate where they will be going based on the results from their previous event.

**Question:** Can the OVA post the dates for all competitions and rough estimate dates for Provincials earlier to ensure coaching staff is well prepared for Provincials and taking time off work to coach those dates?

**Answer:** As the 2022-23 season was the first year post recovery from COVID-19, the OVA staff did not have an accurate concept of how many teams would be registering in each age division. Thus, the staff needed to wait until the first registration deadline had past for all age divisions to announce the age division splits for Ontario Championships 2023. However, now that we all have the first full year of competition since 2019 under our belt, the staff have forecasted the growth and can go back to announcing Ontario Championships age division splits earlier. The 2024 age division splits were emailed to Club leaders in June 2023 and was posted to the website shortly thereafter. The OVA staff will continue to release the indoor competitions calendar, as well as OC's every June moving forward, barring any other world catastrophes.

**Question:** Can the OVA consider creating a schedule that is built on an annual plan in alignment with coaching principles as set out by NCCP?

**Answer:** The OVA does its best to align the competition schedule with the principles outlined in LTD 3.0. However, there are barriers to achieving total alignment. The first being the number of events in the current competition model. There is over 550+ OVA regular season tournaments in one competition season for all the age groups and divisions. Therefore, there is a lack of resources to be able to condense the season I e., facilities, coaches, hosts, referees, etc. The OVA is working towards creating seasonal plans for all age divisions that



will assist the coaches in building their annual training plans. These documents will be posted under [Coach Resources](#).

**Question:** Can the OVA provide a streaming service (i.e., OVATV) so all matches can be streamed during tournaments?

**Answer:** To address this issue effectively, we are excited to present an innovative solution that involves a partnership with CBC. This solution would allow clubs to stream and upload their matches, making them accessible through the CBC community sports website and app.

By collaborating with CBC, we can leverage their expertise and infrastructure, reducing the financial burden on clubs and the OVA as a whole. This approach aligns with our goal of providing members with access to high-quality content without overburdening them financially.

We have already piloted this solution during convention center tournaments and the Ontario Indoor and Beach Championships last season. The positive feedback and successful demonstrations encourage us to explore this avenue further.

Indeed, the financial implications of streaming, which encompass streaming costs, camera equipment, software, online hosting, and human resources, pose a significant challenge. We share your commitment to maintaining a reasonable solution for all our members, without an increase in membership fees.

**Question:** Can the OVA provide the OC's travel subsidy form electronically to each club rather than having us "find" it?

**Answer:** Yes. The OVA will send out a reminder to all club contacts in early May 2024 with a link to the form to fill out for the travel rebate.

**Question:** Is the OVA open to not allowing age up at Provincials except for 17U to ensure a better representation of the skills at each age category and a truer start in the upcoming season? During the tournament season age-up does help with skill development but depending on the number of hours that teams are training - teams may be pushing the number of tournaments that teams are playing.

**Answer:** Playing up has always been a controversial topic as strong cases can be made for both sides. Not all teams have the same needs. It may make sense for some teams to play up in many events but not for others. Four tournaments a year is not enough to meet the competition needs of athletes within LTD guidelines. If teams can't find competitive opportunities outside of OVA events, participating in over age tournaments is a good option. We trust clubs and coaches to make the decisions that are right for their teams. We have rules in place to make sure the competitive balance is maintained so everyone has meaningful matches.

This past 2022-2023 season, we saw 51% of teams playing up in at least one event during the year. This is done for a variety of reasons but typically stems from a team looking for additional competition and further development opportunities to experience playing up in the next LTD set up rules to challenge themselves.

The underage initial placement chart in section 4.12 of the Youth Competitions Manual was created in 2018 to help improve the competitive balance experience for all teams while still allowing underage teams to participate. Each season, every single underage initial placement is analyzed to determine if it was a successful or non-successful initial placement by looking at that team's results the rest of the year while playing up. The underage initial placement percentages are then adjusted to reflect any major trends.

There is a new playing up selection process for underage teams at the Ontario Championships for the 2023-2024 season. Please see section 7.1 of the Youth Competitions Manual for this process. In short, the OVA allows underage teams to participate in the Ontario Championships as there is interest from clubs, but the main reason is to help create perfect schedules/pools. It is important to note that the OVA will only let in underage teams if it helps improve the Ontario Championship schedule by making even pools.

The following year's first event is based on the Ontario Championship results in addition to initial placement policies 4.10, 4.11 and 4.12. If an underage team played up at OC's, then that result will be used for them when playing up the next regular season instead of section 4.12.

**Question:** Can the OVA explain why there are 5 tiers in Division 1 and only 2 Tiers in all other girl's divisions?

**Answer:** Competitive balance is the driving force behind many decisions at the OVA as this is important when it relates to a team's overall experience at an event. The goal is for every team to show up at an event feeling like they have a chance to win or at least finish near the top.

Division 1 playoffs are set up with brackets of 8 and Division 2-4's are set up with brackets of 16. Ontario Championship results were analyzed, and we found the difference between 16 positions in Division 1 is much different from 16 positions in Division 3. For example, the difference between the #1 team in the province vs the #16 team in the province is much greater than the difference between the #65 team and the #79 team even though both examples are 16 positions apart. In short, Division 1's are set up as brackets of 8 because if they were in brackets of 16, it would be very rare for a #16, #15, #14 or #13 seed to beat a #1, #2, #3 or #4 seed in the pre quarters. As mentioned above, the goal is for every team to arrive on Day 3 morning thinking they have a shot to win the match. However, when looking at Division 2 – 4, we would see a lot more upsets from the #16, #15, #14 or #13 seeds beating the #1, #2, #3, or #4 seeds in the pre-quarter as there is not as big of a skill



difference between 16 positions in those divisions.

## COMMUNICATIONS

**Question:** We feel that communication can be improved between the OVA and member clubs, specifically concerning upcoming deadlines and requirement updates. What is happening to improve this?

**Answer:** The OVA staff currently email club leaders directly with any administrative processes or competitions processes that affect them prior to it being published for anyone to see. Additionally, now that we are post COVID-19 and made it through our first true season back since 2019, the OVA was able to release information sooner than we have been able to the past 4 years due to the uncertainty of the pandemic.

Starting for the 2023-24 season, the What's New and Indoor Competition Calendar, including Ontario Championships dates were released in June 2023. This is the timeline that staff are sticking to now that we have regular seasons back in place.

Additionally, the OVA will be running Town Hall Sessions for Club Leaders each month throughout the indoor season to discuss everything from the MRS system to policy changes to new indoor competitions protocols. Additionally, to keep the feedback loop going, we ask that all Club Leaders take the time to fill out the OVA surveys that are emailed out after each season to provide valuable feedback to the staff that is taken into consideration for future programming changes.

To ensure you are receiving the newsletter and important messages from the OVA, you need to ensure you are subscribed to our Constant Contact mailing list. If you have unsubscribed from the OVA newsletter, you will not receive direct email blasts from youth competitions staff with vital information for the upcoming year. [Please click](#) here to sign up or visit <https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/about-ova> and click on "E-News Sign up".

Finally, please reach out to the staff with any questions that you may have! If you are uncomfortable with reaching out, do not hesitate to contact your Regional Council Representative who will be happy to talk and follow up with the OVA staff on information they do not have.

OVA Staff:

[Jacob Barker](#) – ECI to 15U

[Mark Wiersma](#) – 16U-18U and hosting.

[Carrie Campbell](#) – Manager of Indoor Competitions & Special Events

[Mylene Andrade](#) – MRS and Insurance

[Kelvin Cheng](#) – Coaching & Officials

[Jessie Nairn](#) – Eligibility compliance

Regional Council Members:

Region 1 – [Tony Curciarello](#)

Region 2 – [Bryan Welsh](#)  
Region 3 – [Tauri Caputo](#)  
Region 4 – [Dwayne Cochrane](#)  
Region 5 – [Katie Hutchinson](#)  
Region 6 – [Shaun Illingworth](#)

If you have any suggestion on other communications you would like to receive from the OVA, please let us know! You can email Kerish at [kmaharaj@ontariovolleyball.org](mailto:kmaharaj@ontariovolleyball.org).

**Question:** Can Club presidents get a 1 on 1 with an ova executive each season to discuss how the OVA can help them do more and provide more opportunity for players?

**Answer:** In short, yes. We believe that fostering direct communication with club presidents valuable, as it allows us to better understand their needs and aspirations. Therefore, we are committed to continuing one-on-one sessions each season, if requested. While the OVA works on developing what this could look like, if you have any club resource or support requests, please contact Jessie at [jnairn@ontariovolleyball.org](mailto:jnairn@ontariovolleyball.org).

**Question:** Can the OVA provide communications that will help club execs prepare for summer pre signing and tryout offer signings in September?

**Answer:** If you have any specific suggestions or expectations regarding the type of communication and resources you'd like to see, please feel free to share them with us. Your feedback is instrumental in shaping our efforts to better serve our community. You can contact Carrie at [ccampbell@ontariovolleyball.org](mailto:ccampbell@ontariovolleyball.org) with any support requests.

**Question:** Can the OVA create communications targeted to club directors, with upcoming season updates, critical dates, key changes and pricing schedule/changes?

**Answer:** Since the pandemic, the OVA staff have been committed to emailing Club Leader directly with administrative information that will affect clubs and we have continued this practice from 2020. All communications are sent through Constant Contact. If you have unsubscribed from receiving OVA communications through this tool, you will not be receiving the staff's direct email notifications on Club Administration, indoor competitions, etc. Please sign up for the OVA's mailing list through Constant Contact to ensure you are staying up to date with OVA Club communications.

**Question:** I felt a lot of confusion around deadlines for championships - didn't know about photo submissions etc, is there a checklist the OVA can provide us with that information?

**Answer:** Certainly! We appreciate your feedback and understand the importance of clarity when it comes to deadlines and requirements for championships. To address this concern, we are in the process of developing a comprehensive communications checklist, to add to

the Club Admin Checklist, that will outline all the essential information and steps needed for participation in our championships. This checklist will include details about deadlines, photo submissions, documentation, and any other relevant information that club executives and teams need to be aware of. Our goal is to make the championship preparation process as transparent and straightforward as possible, ensuring that everyone is well-informed and prepared for a successful experience.

**Question:** Can the OVA highlight all clubs? Not just those that are winning medals each weekend of the regular season? With social media being so big a shout out to teams at the competitive premier or selecting who have won their tournaments or even moved up from lower ranking should be acknowledged, to help clubs who do not have much exposure.

At the OVA, we are committed to fostering a sense of community and providing exposure to all our clubs, regardless of their size or reach. Your recommendation aligns perfectly with these objectives, and we are eager to implement this as part of our social media communication plan.

Your idea of giving recognition to teams that have secured victories in tournaments or have demonstrated exceptional progress is an excellent one. Indeed, social media provides a powerful platform for showcasing these accomplishments and celebrating the hard work and dedication of our members.

We will work on developing a structured approach to highlight and celebrate these achievements on our social media channels. By doing so, we aim to provide clubs with increased exposure and inspire others with the success stories within our volleyball community.

**Question:** During the competitive season, can the OVA send out a reminder of registration deadlines for upcoming tournaments?

**Answer:** Currently, we actively promote tournament deadlines on multiple platforms, including social media and our website, in addition to featuring them in the relevant competition manuals and our new Club Admin Indoor Checklist. We understand the importance of making this information readily available. However, your suggestion highlights the need to provide an additional resource for those who prefer a more structured calendar-based approach.

It will take some time but, we can create a downloadable ICS file that people could subscribe to with deadline dates for their calendars. We already promote the deadlines for every tournament on our social media, as well as list the deadlines on our website and the relevant competition manuals. It is upon club administrators to take ownership upon those deadline dates.

We are excited to take on this initiative, and our team will work diligently to create downloadable ICS files for easy calendar integration. We believe that by offering this option, we can empower club administrators and members to manage deadlines more effectively.

While we take steps to provide these resources, we also encourage club administrators to take ownership of staying informed about critical dates. This collaborative effort ensures that everyone remains well-informed and proactive in meeting their responsibilities.

**Question:** When roles within the ova change, can the OVA send out clear directions to clubs as to whom the contact is for different things? Example - insurance coverage - the contract for this position changed during the season and no update of whom took over was provided to club contacts.

**Answer:** We understand the importance of promptly communicating role changes to our valued club contacts. I would like to inform you that our current practice is to update all staff changes on our social media platforms and ensure that these updates are reflected on the staff listings available on our website.

However, your point about the need for more direct and accessible information is well taken. If you are unable to find the correct contact person for a specific matter, we encourage you to email us at [info@ontariovolleyball.org](mailto:info@ontariovolleyball.org). Our dedicated team will ensure that your inquiry is directed to the appropriate person for a swift response.

We believe that this approach will offer a more streamlined and efficient way for our clubs to obtain the assistance they need and will help prevent any gaps in communication when roles change within the OVA.

**Question:** Can the OVA provide surveys for Club Leaders to allow feedback on how this season went where we can write comments and suggestions?

**Answer:** Certainly! We understand the importance of gathering feedback from our club leaders to continually improve the Ontario Volleyball Association (OVA) experience. We currently have an existing annual Indoor Season Survey in place that serves as a valuable feedback mechanism. This survey allows you to provide detailed comments and suggestions regarding how the season went, areas of improvement, and any specific issues you encountered. Your input through this survey is highly valuable and helps us tailor our programs and services to better meet your needs and expectations.

We encourage all club leaders to actively participate in the annual Indoor Season Survey. It's a platform where you can share your insights, experiences, and suggestions, ultimately contributing to the ongoing enhancement of the OVA. Additionally, if you have any immediate feedback or suggestions outside the scope of the annual survey, please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly. We are committed to listening to our members and using your feedback to shape the future of the OVA positively.

**Question:** Can the OVA provide an open forum discussion on issues? Recruiting, Signing, etc. I realize it could turn into a complaining session but it's better to get things out in the open.

**Answer:** Your recommendation to host open forum discussions on topics such as recruiting and signing is certainly a valuable one. We believe that transparent and open communication is essential in addressing concerns and improving our services for all members of the OVA community.

While we share your concern about the potential for such discussions to become negative or unproductive, we also recognize the importance of providing a platform for constructive dialogue. We will carefully consider the best approach to facilitate these discussions, ensuring that they remain productive and solution oriented.

In the meantime, we encourage you to reach out to our staff members, Regional Council, committee members and board members regarding your issues, year-round, so that we can have a constructive discussion around them and work together to have the best solutions.

We highly encourage our members to consider joining one of our diverse committees, where you can actively engage in addressing concerns that impact our entire volleyball community. These committees offer a structured platform for both expressing concerns and collaboratively finding solutions that benefit all volleyball clubs, coaches, and athletes. Furthermore, we want you to know that our major events will have staff, board members, or committee representatives present, ensuring that your voices are heard, and your perspectives are valued. Your participation and feedback are essential in making the Ontario Volleyball Association an even better place for everyone involved in the sport.

We will review your recommendation with our team and explore ways to implement open forum discussions effectively. In the meantime, if you have any further thoughts or suggestions, please feel free to share them with us. Your feedback plays a vital role in shaping the future of the OVA.

**Question:** The OVA is doing a better job with communicating via Town Halls and in the media. However, the OVA website is hard to navigate and find information. Can the OVA use a better search engine on the website?

**Answer:** We are pleased to hear that you find our townhall sessions informative and that you've noticed our increased presence in the media. We are committed to continuously enhancing our services and visibility to benefit our valued members.

Regarding your concern about website navigation, we understand the importance of having a user-friendly platform for accessing information. We acknowledge that there is room for improvement in this area. Rest assured, your suggestion has not gone unnoticed, and we are actively working on implementing a more efficient website during this strategic cycle, including a more intuitive search engine on our website.

Our aim is to make the OVA website a seamless resource for all our members, ensuring that vital information is easily accessible. Your feedback guides us in this endeavor, and we thank you for your patience as we strive to enhance your online experience.

If you have any specific suggestions or ideas on how we can further improve our website or if you encounter any difficulties in the future, please do not hesitate to reach out. Your input is essential in helping us better serve our community.

## MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION SYSTEM (MRS)

**Question:** Can the OVA make changes to MRS which include the ability to reset a password, edit the player profile, and have two children on one email address?

**Answer:** Yes, you are able to reset a password and edit a profile. You just are not able to edit a name or Date of Birth. If you need either of these edited, please reach out to [mandrade@ontariovolleyball.org](mailto:mandrade@ontariovolleyball.org) and she will be happy to assist with this!

**Question:** Can the OVA update the MRS how-to document for registering, including how to upload docs like RIS and PoA?

**Answer:** You can find all the documents online at:  
<https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/become-a-member>

**Question:** Can the MRS allow for multiple tournament registration?

**Answer:** We have brought this up to our service provider and they do not recommend shopping cart functionality. This is because the refund/cancellation functionality within MRS would mean that any “purchases” you made together at the same time would be treated as one transaction. Meaning if you were to request a refund for a tournament registration, the system would refund all registrations that you made along with the one event you are requesting a refund for.

**Question:** Is there any way one person at each club could have access to RS as an Admin level to check things like RIS, correct document uploads, coaching credentials etc.?

**Answer:** While we understand the convenience of this would be great at the club level, we unfortunately are unable to do this as it is a privacy issue. We cannot give anyone outside of OVA Admin access to an individual’s account and their documents, therefore giving clubs an admin level of access would violate our privacy policy. We will continue to check coaching credentials and RIS and can always give the Club a report if requested.



## COACHING

**Question:** Can the OVA provide dates of upcoming Coaching Courses for the season to plan when we can send our coaches to courses?

**Answer:** The OVA workshops are planned throughout the year and the OVA aims to run Development Coach Workshops approximately once per month. Upcoming clinics are posted here: [Upcoming Clinics](#)

The OVA relies on its clubs to run the Advanced Development Coach Workshops as we require the clubs to field their teams for live demonstrations. They are planned as requests come in based on demand. Clubs can apply to host an Advanced Development Coach Workshop [here](#).

**Question:** Can the OVA host a Coaching webinar that covers off planning for the season? I.e. what coaches need to know when navigating the MRS., OVA website, etc.

**Answer:** Great suggestion. Our staff responsible for coaching will be working on a plan to do just this. Stay tuned.

**Question:** If there is a way to simplify the coaching certification process with clear communication and links for all coaches (with a cc to club Directors)? The coaching requirements are a challenging exercise.

**Answer:** Yes, all of the links and requirements are explained and provided in the [Coach Eligibility Policy](#). As clubs are responsible for ensuring that their coaches meet the certification requirements, we strongly encourage the club staff and the Technical Director to review and share this document with their coaches before the beginning of each season in preparation for registration.

**Question:** Can the OVA help coaches develop a seasonal plan and practice plans that are appropriate for early, mid and late season?

**Answer:** The OVA website already has [resources](#) for coaches in the ECI divisions. We will develop similar resources for older age groups and make them available on the OVA website. We are working on new initiatives that will give this type of support to club coaches.

**Question:** Why is there a coach eligibility policy? Coach requirements are excessive and limit clubs in being able to recruit - those online modules are not helpful at all.

**Answer:** The OVA strongly believes in (continuing) coach education but also recognizes that some of the requirements can place a burden on volunteer coaches. With that, the OVA changed its policy to no longer require full certification and all the requirements are now online and are much more accessible than in years past. Some of the requirements are broad and Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport requirements that are required by law and

others are included to provide a standard in the quality of coaching that our athletes receive. All athletes have the right to a safe, inclusive and responsible volleyball experience and as people in positions of authority, coaches have an important role to play in providing this type of environment.

**Question:** The OVA clubs rely on parents to coach that do not have formal training to ensure teams can run. What can OVA do to better support parent coaches?

**Answer:** The OVA has resources available on its website and has a [Youtube playlist](#) with some videos that could help coaches. For the [Early Contact Initiative](#) divisions, the OVA has seasonal plan templates and videos available. Parent coaches would also benefit greatly from taking the [Development Coach workshop](#). We will be working on specific tools to support parents coaches this year. Stay tuned.

**Question:** Why are the coaching courses offered online now? The new system is very hard for coaches to have the same night available for 5 weeks straight. The way it is now over zoom makes it very hard to get coaches certified.

**Answer:** The online course was adopted as part of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic when we weren't able to meet in person. This format is much more accessible than the in-person option as coaches from across the province can join the same clinic, it is less costly for coaches and clubs since they no longer have travel expenses as well as facility and clinician costs are less. In the past, coaches have said that they prefer the workshop to not be on weekends because they are coaching at practices and tournaments during the weekends, and this is a better option.

## TEAM ONTARIO

**Question:** Can the OVA clarify rules for OUA/OCAAA/NCAA coaches approaching players?

**Answer:** The recruiting rules can be found in the OVA [Recruiting Policy](#). Post-secondary coaches must receive the athlete's club coach's permission to contact the athlete and must not initiate contact during a competition.

**Question:** When are Team Ontario and athlete development programs run?

**Answer:** OVA clubs do a fantastic job at providing athletes with training opportunities. The purpose of the OVA Athlete Development programs is to complement the training athletes receive in their club to help them meet the Long Term Development (LTD) training standards. Team Ontario provides opportunities for top athletes to train and compete with the best in the province. It also gives athletes access to National Team staff and training experiences. These training opportunities take place mostly in the summer time. A few

camps are held during the indoor club season to help athletes get the LTD-recommended number of training hours. The OVA has a load management system that involves club coaches and that makes sure athletes are fit to participate in the camps.

**Question:** Why does the OVA allow competitive athletes to play school volleyball?

**Answer:** OVA does not have any authority over school volleyball. Athletes are free to participate in the sport activities of their choice. If some athletes choose to participate in school volleyball despite the level being lower than club, it is because it meets one of their needs. Coaches are encouraged to talk to their athletes about their choice to play school volleyball or not. Understanding the athlete's motivations to play school volleyball will help coaches guide them towards achieving their objectives.

**Question:** Why doesn't the OVA offer coaching courses over the summer?

**Answer:** Traditionally, OVA has not run coach development courses in the summer because our staff is busy delivering athlete development program and because club activities decrease. If membership expresses a desire to see coach development activities in July and August, the OVA will work on delivering a few courses.