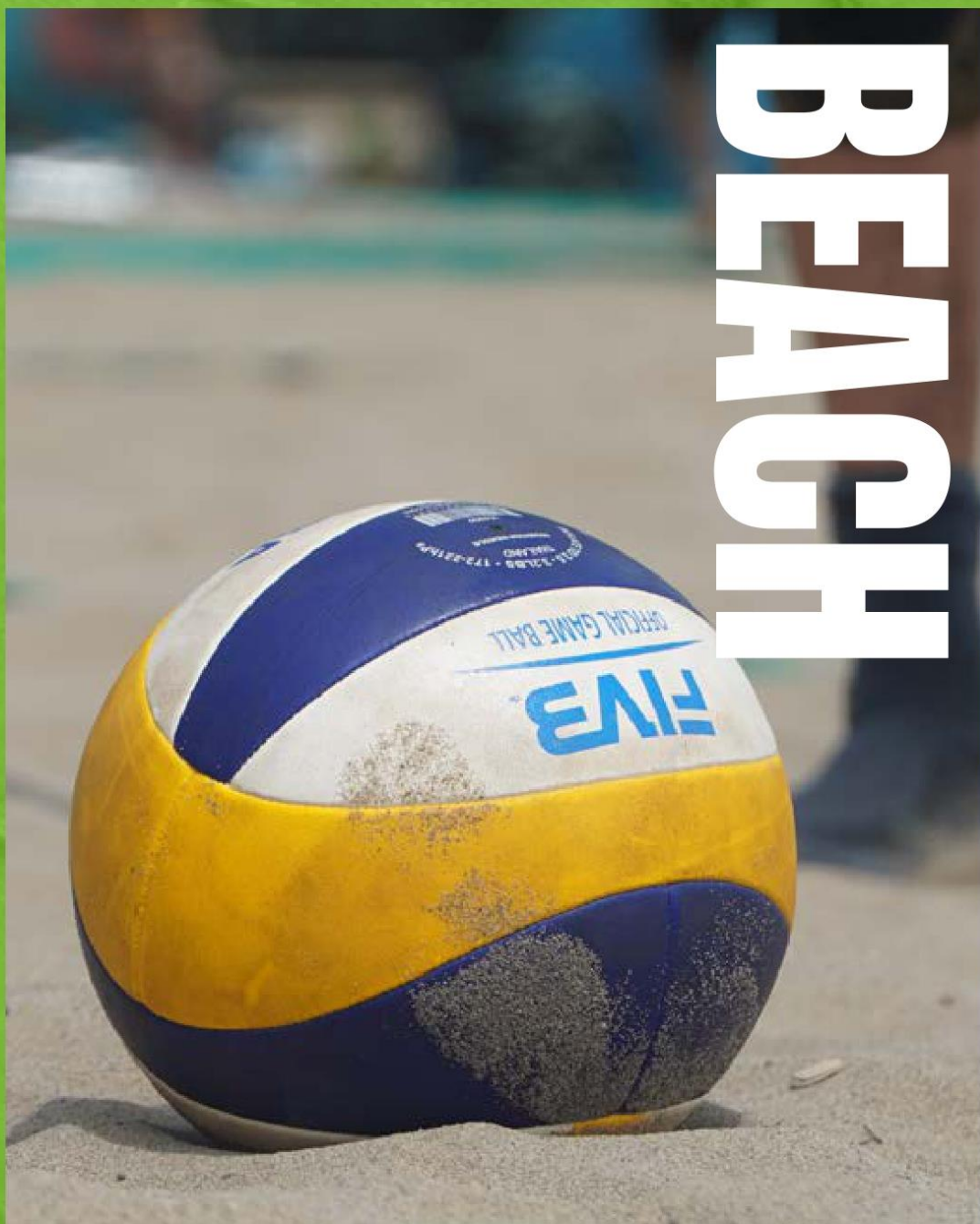


BEACH



Handbook

2023 Season



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Chapter 1

1 Introduction

1.1 Welcome to 2023 OVA Beach Tour

Welcome to the 2023 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 almost 20% and we look forward to more growth and greater opportunities for all athletes in the 2023 season.

We look forward to adding in a new division in 2023 for the Early Contact Initiative 4v4.

Please note that many parts of this document may be subject to change (eg. dates and qualification process for Ontario Championships). For the most up to date version of our tentative schedule for the 2023 season, please visit our website [here](#). For a review of some of the new rules/policies for the 2023 season, please see below.

The OVA Beach Player's Handbook is designed to provide essential information necessary for you to prepare yourself for the 2023 beach season. If at any time you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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

1.2 What's New in 2023?

2023 will see the implementation of the Early Contact Initiative (ECI) to introduce the game of beach volleyball to new players. We hope to replicate the success of the indoor ECI 4v4 model on the sand and welcome new players on the scene! Please see section 3.9 for more information!

For any additional questions regarding the OVA Beach Tour in 2023, please email Kelvin Cheng: kcheng@ontariovolleyball.org.

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

Beach Inquiries, Operations Lead: Kelvin Cheng
Email: kcheng@ontariovolleyball.org
Tel: (416) 426-7233

Operations Coordinator: Jessie Nairn
Email: jnairn@ontariovolleyball.org
Tel: (416-426-7316 ext. 102)

Manager of Beach Programs: Suzanne Wallace
Email: swallace@ontariovolleyball.org
Tel: (416) 426-7396

Member Services Coordinator: Mylene Andrade
Email: mandrade@ontariovolleyball.org
Tel: (416) 426-7132

Senior Beach Development Coach: Angie Shen
Email: ashen@ontariovolleyball.org
Tel: (647) 360-0221 ext 115

Director of Athlete Development (Indoor & Beach): Louis-Pierre Mainville
Email: lpmainville@ontariovolleyball.org
Tel: (416) 426-7047

Director of Volleyball Operations: Alishia Lidums
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 2023 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 Executive 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 disciplinary measures against any individual(s) if deemed necessary as per the OVA Code of Conduct.

The Disciplinary Committee has the authority to make decisions:

- To enforce the OVA Code of Conduct at an event or after/before and event and sanction appropriately.
- The decision of the Disciplinary Committee is final at an event.
- All decisions by the Disciplinary Committee are reviewed by the OVA Beach Ad Hoc Committee and/or OVA Executive.

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

Beach Program and Events Coordinator

Lia Diffin
 Tel: (613) 748-5681 ext 230 Email: ldiffin@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 2023 beach season are:

Age Category	Chronological Age Class
4v4	Born 2010 or later
12U	Born 2011 or later
13U	Born 2010 or later
14U	Born 2009 or later
15U	Born 2008 or later
16U	Born 2007 or later
17U	Born 2006 or later
18U	Born 2005 or later
Youth Open	Born 2003 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 from the OVA by filling out the form here:

https://ontariovolleyballassociation.formstack.com/forms/ova_beach_tour_playdown_exemption_application

Extended age categories are as follows:

Age Category	Extended Age Class
4v4	Born between September 1 st 2009 and December 31 st 2009
12U	Born between September 1 st 2010 and December 31 st 2010
13U	Born between September 1 st 2009 and December 31 st 2009
14U	Born between September 1 st 2008 and December 31 st 2008
15U	Born between September 1 st 2007 and December 31 st 2007
16U	Born between September 1 st 2006 and December 31 st 2006
17U	Born between September 1 st 2005 and December 31 st 2005
18U	Born between September 1 st 2004 and December 31 st 2004
Youth Open	Born between September 1 st 2002 and December 31 st 2002

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 2023 season. All fees must be paid online at <https://mrs.ontariovolleyball.org/>

Beach Recreational Player Membership Fee

- A one-time only fee of \$13.91 (tax included)
- This membership is intended for athletes who are not indoor members of the OVA but want to play in 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 \$91.76 (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:

- \$95.00 + HST per team per event
 - **NOTE:** registration fees hosted by third-parties may differ
- 2-day Youth Open and Adult tournament June 24 & 25 - \$150 + HST

Ontario Championship & Grand Slam Fees:

- 1-day event (12UG, 13UB, Adult Open) - \$100.00 (plus HST) per team
- 2-day event (13UG, 14U-18U, Youth Open) - \$150.00 (plus HST) per team
- 2-day event (Adult Elite) - \$150.00 (plus HST) per team
- Ontario Championships Dates

Date	Age Division	Location
August 5-6	12UG*/14U/16U/18U/Adult	Ashbridges Bay, Toronto
August 12-13	4v4**/13U**/15U/17U/Youth Open (20U)	Ashbridges Bay, Toronto

*12UG will be a one-day event on August 5.

**Early Contact 4v4 and 13UB will be a one-day event on August 13. The 13UG age division will span both August 12 & 13.

2.3 Registration

2.3.1 How To Register

Teams may register for all tournaments through the Membership Registration System (MRS). Please visit <https://mrs.ontariovolleyball.org/> to register.

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

2.3.2 Deadline

Registration deadline is the **Monday 4:00 PM prior to the weekend's event**, unless noted otherwise. A late fee of \$20/team will be added to the registration fee on MRS 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.

2.3.3 Registering for Elite (Adult)

Teams who wish to take part in the Elite divisions, should select the box indicating Elite qualifier. If the teams who registered in the Elite Qualifier have enough points for the Elite main draw, they will not be required to play in the qualifier and will be seeded accordingly.

The elite qualifier will be held at 8:30AM sharp, the morning of each tournament. This will be a one set game to 21. Teams that do not qualify will automatically be placed in the Open AA-A5 division 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.

2.3.4 Wildcards (WC)

Wildcard spots in the main draw will 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 11:59 pm prior to the tournament.

Teams should register into the Elite Qualifier division before the registration deadline.

Adult Open WCs will be seeded third in the tournament and Youth Open WCs will be seeded one seed above the qualifying teams.

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. This wildcard team will be seeded 3rd and therefore the Committee should feel that they can finish in the top 4 of the Elite Division.
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. This wildcard team will be seeded 3rd and therefore the Committee should feel that they can finish in the top 4.
- 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, 2023. If you require an extension, please contact Suzanne Wallace at swallace@ontariovolleyball.org. If certificate numbers are not on file for an athlete, they will not be allowed to play at Beach Ontario Championships 2023.

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

The OVA will deduct a \$20 administration fee on all cancellations prior to the registration deadline (Monday prior to the tournament at 4:00PM). 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 doctor's note.

In the case of an injury a refund will be made, less a \$20 administration fee. All cancellations and requests for refunds must be presented in writing by the person who registered to the OVA Operations Lead 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. Transaction number of registration confirmation email
5. Full name on credit card
6. Doctor's note (only needed if past registration deadline)

2.4.2 Refunds

All refunds are reimbursed to the player's credit card and must be requested by the person who registered. To receive a refund, all above mentioned information must be emailed to the OVA Operations Lead at kcheng@ontariovolleyball.org.

2.5 Beach Teams/Partners

Throughout the regular season, you may change partners as often as you wish, provided registration is completed prior to the Monday (4:00PM) deadline.

If a partner change is required **after** registration has closed, you must submit a written request to the OVA via email to kcheng@ontariovolleyball.org providing the following information **by Thursday (11:59AM) before the tournament** (NOTE: the new partner **must** be a current OVA member):

- **Original** team's full names
- Division of **original** team
- **New** team's full names
- Division of **new** team
- Updated seeding points with new partner will be applied

After Thursday (11:59am) until the beginning of the tournament, if a partner change is required or if a team arrives at the tournament with a different partner, a doctor's note for the player that was substituted out must be received the following week in order to count the new team's points and results from the event. Also, the "new" team may be seeded with no points (last) in their division.

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, as there is NO excuse for lateness.

2.6.2 Player's 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 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 within 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 2023 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 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 handed out for pool play detailing when you play and when you are expected to officiate. During playoffs, teams are assigned scoring/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.
- 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 16U - 2 vs. 2 competitions. Coaching is not allowed in the 17U, 18U, Youth Open or 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 and have a Beach Coach role on 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](#)

Deadline to meet the coaching eligibility listed above is the **Wednesday (by 11:59 PM) prior to the weekend's event.**

Coaches must first identify themselves at the main control tent at the start of the day. Each coach will be given an accreditation badge to identify them as a coach during the tournament day. The accreditation badge is to be returned at the end of the day. 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.

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 2023 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 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 press badge. 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 press badge 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 2023 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.
- **NOTE:** Ontario Championships does NOT count as an event played towards qualifying.

Exceptions:

1. ECI - there are NO provincial eligibility requirements.
2. 12UG and 13UB – must play in at least one (1) OVA Beach Tour event.
3. Team Ontario White, Team Ontario Red, Team Ontario Black – must play in at least two (2) OVA Beach Tour events.
4. Beach Provincial Team – must play in the minimum required tournaments as stated or played in other provincial team approved tournaments (proof required).
5. National Team athletes – must play in at least one (1) OVA Beach Tour event.
6. Region 1 athletes – there are NO provincial eligibility requirements.
7. Exceptional circumstances – Must present case to OVA Beach Ad Hoc Committee by **Monday July 16th, 2023**. Exemptions need to be emailed to Kelvin Cheng (kelcheng@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 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 Monday July 16, 2023.

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 a penalty fee of up to \$150.00 to the OVA before participation in the Ontario Championships. This is 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 2023 Beach National Championships, each player must participate in the 2023 Beach Ontario Championships. 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. Ranking points are awarded at Silver events that will count towards a player's seeding. 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 – 2 vs. 2

	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's, technical time out at sum of 21 points.																
Match format for pool play (May change at the discretion of the OVA)	<p>Pools of 3 teams:</p> <p><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:</p> <p>2 games to 15 points. No cap and no third set.</p>		<p>Pools of 3:</p> <p><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:</p> <p><i>Match play</i> – best 2 out of 3, first 2 games to 15 points, third game (if necessary) to 11.</p> <p>Pools of 5:</p> <p>2 games to 15 points</p>																
Registration fee*	Regular events: \$95+HST Ontario Championships: 12UG-13UB: \$100 + HST (1-day) 13UG, 14U-Youth Open: \$150 + HST (2-day)	Regular events: \$95+HST Ontario Championships: \$100 + HST (1-day)	Regular events: \$95+HST Ontario Championships & Grand Slams: \$150 + HST (2-day)																
Official Mikasa Ball	VLS300																		
Court Dimensions	12UG/13UB – 14m x 7m 13UG,14U-24U – 16m x 8m	16m x 8m																	
Net Heights (m)	<table><tr><td></td><td>M</td><td>W</td></tr><tr><td>12UG-14U</td><td>2.20</td><td>2.15</td></tr><tr><td>15U-16U</td><td>2.35</td><td>2.20</td></tr><tr><td>17U - YO</td><td>2.43</td><td>2.24</td></tr></table>		M	W	12UG-14U	2.20	2.15	15U-16U	2.35	2.20	17U - YO	2.43	2.24	<table><tr><td>M</td><td>W</td></tr><tr><td>2.43</td><td>2.24</td></tr></table>		M	W	2.43	2.24
	M	W																	
12UG-14U	2.20	2.15																	
15U-16U	2.35	2.20																	
17U - YO	2.43	2.24																	
M	W																		
2.43	2.24																		
Uniforms	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.																		

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.

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.*

NOTE:

- 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 2023 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 REFEREE'S 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 given back.
 - To pay, please send an etransfer 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.

Once all the games are finished in pool play, completed pool play sheets must be given to the control tent along with the clipboard. One member per team **MUST** initial the sheet upon completion ensuring its accuracy.

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 playoff draw once the first playoff match has begun.

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 2023 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 Contact with the net

- 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.

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.

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 2023, adult teams will be seeded in tournaments based on current 2023 Beach Tour points as an average of each player's **best three (3) available** adult results. If you have not participated in the 2023 season, then your 2022 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 Operations Lead at (416) 426-7233 or kcheng@ontariovolleyball.org 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 Grand Slam Event

Information on the 2023 Grand Slam will be available at a later date.

3.6.5 Adult Elite Prize Money

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

Elite Prize Money Schedule					
Date	Location	Format *	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
May 20	Toronto	PP	\$500	\$300	\$200
May 27	Toronto	PP	\$500	\$300	\$200
June 3	Toronto	PP	\$500	\$300	\$200
June 10	Toronto	PP	\$500	\$300	\$200
June 24 & 25	Toronto	PP	\$1000	\$600	\$400
July 15	Toronto	PP	\$500	\$300	\$200
July 22	Toronto	PP	\$500	\$300	\$200
July 29	Toronto	PP	\$500	\$300	\$200
August 5 & 6	Toronto	OCs - PP	Please see breakdown below		

*PP – Pool play followed by playoffs.

Total prize money at Beach Ontario Championships 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

3.6.6 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. 1st and 2nd place will also receive OVA medals at all locations and tshirts will only be awarded at the Toronto Ashbridges and Cobourg locations.

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	780	680	580	480	380	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

3.6.7 Youth Seeding (4v4-Youth Open (20U))

In 2023, teams will be seeded in tournaments based on current 2023 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. If you have not participated in the 2023 season, then your 2022 final ranking points will be used.

Zeroes are not included if the athlete has not participated in a minimum of three (3) events.

(i.e. 15U participation gives 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.

2022 final ranking points will be used in the following order of availability:

1. 2022 OVA Beach Tour Final Points in one age groups lower (i.e. 13U points used for first 14U event)
2. 2022 OVA Beach Tour Final Points in the age group you are currently participating in (i.e. 14U points used for first 14U event)
 - Exception: 12UG & 13UB – will look at 2021 12UG, 13UB first, then 13UG, 14UB
 - Exception: If point 2 ranking is higher than point 1 ranking, then point 2 ranking can be accepted. Athlete/parent needs to notify the OVA (kcheng@ontariovolleyball.org) if this is the case.
 - For example, last season Stephen finished with 875 points in 14U and 950 points in 15U. The default is to use his 875 points from the age group lower (14U, 875 points) but Stephen can request to use 950 for his first initial ranking in 15U instead.

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.

Teams may self-declare to play down a division (if desired & at OVA's discretion) by noon on the Thursday prior to the event. Teams may also request to stay in their current division if moving a team down a division bumps them up. Requests to play down will only be accepted after the ranking have been posted.

All seedings posted on the OVA website 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 the OVA Operations Lead at (416) 426-7233 or kcheng@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.

3.6.8 Youth Rankings (4v4-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.

3.6.9 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	Point s	Rank	Point s	Rank	Point s	Rank	Point s	Rank	Point s	Rank	Point s
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
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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. **Between 2 teams:** Result of head-to-head match or point differential
- 3b. **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.
3. 2022 final point average (team).
4. Coin toss.

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 10% administrative fee.

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 10% 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 Policy

An extreme heat 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, teams will be permitted the following:

- Drink water while walking between side switches (without delaying the matches)
- One extra timeout per set per team

Environment Canada will be used as the official reporting mechanism for current weather conditions. 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 format to ensure the health and safety of all athletes and participants.

Please note that the extreme heat policy can only be activated by OVA staff. If teams have not been notified via the above mentioned channels they will not be permitted to initiate the extreme heat policy permissions.

All players and spectators are encouraged to drink plenty of fluids, bring extra fluids to all matches, and seek shade during breaks. Players may wish to bring umbrellas to provide additional shade when not able to seek shade from nearby.

3.9 OVA Beach Early Contact Initiative – 4v4 Beach Rallyball

As part of the effort to get more young athletes comfortable with the beach and to better align with indoor competitions, the OVA is happy to announce that the Beach Tour will be piloting 4v4 Rallyball this summer!

This stage in the system is geared towards entry level teams and athletes as well as teams and athletes that just want more touches in order to be successful at the next level. These events are a great opportunity to learn the flow of the game, develop the fundamental skills and grow confidence.

All events will take place at Ashbridges Bay in Toronto, culminating at the Beach Ontario Championships at the end of the summer. Grab your teammates and come play on the beach!

Registration

Fee: \$120 + HST per team = \$135.60

To register:

- 1) **Payment:** Send an etransfer to accounts@ontariovolleyball.org set the password as 'volleyball' and note the date of the tournament and the name of the team in the message.
- 2) **Team Registration:** Please submit your roster here for each event:
<https://ontariovolleyballassociation.formstack.com/forms/beach4v4registration>
OVA staff will cross reference to ensure that all athletes are registered in MRS.

The registration deadline is the Monday before the tournament at 4:00PM.

Regular Season Schedule

This summer, we will offer four different dates for the 4v4 Rallyball, culminating in the Beach Ontario Championships August 13, 2023 at Toronto, Ashbridges.

- May 28
- June 25
- July 23
- Aug 13 (Beach Ontario Championships)

There is no qualification or minimum number of events required in order for a 4v4 team to play at Beach Ontario Championships. All they have to do is register and play!

The OVA full membership is not required for Beach Ontario Championships and athletes can register with the Beach Recreational Player membership instead.

Coaching

Each team will be required to have a Head Coach. All head coaches must be OVA members in good standing and have a Beach Coach role on 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](#)

Referees

Refereeing teams will be assigned throughout the tournament. Refereeing teams that do not complete their refereeing duties will be fined \$100.

Athletes will be required to score keep and referee the game.

Format

1st and 2nd tournaments will be exhibition round robin tournaments with no points awarded. However, any results accumulated will be considered for pre-event rankings for the rest of the season.

The 3rd tournament of the season will be the typical OVA beach tournament format with pool play followed by playoffs. Prizing and points will be awarded to the winners!

4v4 Rallyball Beach Ontario Championships will be a 1-day event on August 13 at Toronto, Ashbridges Bay. The tournament will also follow the OVA beach tournament format with pool play followed by playoffs. Prizing and points will be awarded to the winners!

Tossers

Teams will be required to have a team representative (coach or parent) toss free balls during Rallyball.

Rules and Regulations

The Beach 4v4 Rallyball rules will be the same as indoor competitions. Please refer to the OVA website for more information. <https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/early-contact>

The net height is 2.15m.

The court size is 7x14m.

Athlete Eligibility

4v4 Rallyball (follows VC Rules for Tripleball):

- Athletes born January 1st, 2010 and younger are eligible to participate in 4v4 Rallyball
- There will be 3 regular season events for 4v4 Rallyball and the Beach Ontario Championships.
- This stream will offer a coed division and teams can be composed of any ratio of male or female athletes.
 - This includes teams made up of one single gender i.e. all males or all females

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 Operations Lead 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

Please see the OVA website [here](#) for a full copy of the OVA Concussion Policy and Protocol.

As required by Rowan's Law, to complete OVA registration all individuals must acknowledge they have reviewed the Ministry approved concussion awareness resources and agree to follow the applicable Concussion Code of Conduct found in the OVA Concussion Policy and Protocol.

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 Operations Lead 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
Disqualification for aggressive conduct	\$300	Suspension from the rest of the tournament & next tournament & OVA Review
Expulsion for offensive conduct	\$200	Suspension from next tournament as determined by OVA

Team not showing up at a tournament without notification in writing to the OVA	Loss of Entry fee + possible fine	1 st offense: Entry fee will not be refunded 2 nd offense: 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
Two (2) red cards issued in one tournament	\$200	OVA Review
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 (as set out in Section 2.9 of Beach Handbook)	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

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

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](#).

5.0 Safe Sport

5.1 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 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 be held to a high standard of conduct. 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.

5.2 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 – [Click here](#)

Rule of Two Clarification: [Click here](#)

5.3 Volleyball Canada and Abuse Free Sport



Abuse-Free Sport is an independent program that is part of a growing national movement to rid Canadian sport of all forms of harassment, discrimination, and abuse. As a program signatory, Volleyball Canada is an active player in this movement.

Unlike the previous approach, where each national sport organization created its own system for dealing with complaints of maltreatment, this is a centralized “one-stop-shop.” It is independent and led by experts in their fields, using education and research to prevent maltreatment at all levels of sport.

The [Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner](#) (the Office) serves as the central hub. It operates independently to administer complaints about alleged violations of the [Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport \(UCCMS\)](#).

Where there are admissible allegations of abuse, harassment or discrimination, the Office conducts independent investigations and recommends sanctions against individuals who violate the UCCMS.

The Office will also maintain a national sanctions registry, which prevents individuals from evading sanctions by moving to different sports or to different jurisdictions.

For designated participants within our organization, there is access to a wide range of resources, including victim services and referrals to specialized mental health professionals and experienced lawyers – all of it available in English and French. You can access the website by clicking on the Abuse-Free Sport logo or by visiting <https://abuse-free-sport.ca/>.

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE

Volleyball Canada is committed to a sport environment free from abuse that is safe for all participants.

Volleyball Canada 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, or you've witnessed such an incident within our sport, you are encouraged to contact the Canadian Sport Helpline by phone or text at 1-888-83SPORT (77678), or by email to info@abuse-free-sport.ca, 12 hours a day, 7 days a week.

When the incidents recounted appear admissible, operators can assist you in filing a report through a confidential online platform, if desired.

5.4 Education

VC requires that all individuals involved with the sport across the country take the new safe sport training module, available via the [Coaching Association of Canada website](#).

As of April 1, 2020, anyone associated with a Sport Canada funded organization must be trained on conduct to prevent and address maltreatment. This includes coaches, referees, parents of youth athletes, high performance staff and contractors, officials and all administrative staff and volunteers whether they may have direct contact with athletes or not.

The Safe sport module is a free, 90-minute eLearning module that gives all participants the tools to recognize, address, and prevent maltreatment in sport. The module aligns with the principles of the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent Maltreatment in Sport and meets Sport Canada's requirements for Safe Sport education.

Visit the safe sport training site for more information: <https://safesport.coach.ca/>

To take the training, you must create an account in "The Locker", even if you are not a coach (it's free!) We suggest saving a screenshot of the final slide when completed for your records.

Other online resources (mainly for coaches) that can be completed from home include the following (please note fees may be required).

<https://sportforlife-sportpouirlavie.ca/catalog.php>

<https://www.respectgroupinc.com/keeping-girls-in-sport/>

<https://coach.ca/nccp-multi-sport-training-modules>

For more info on coaching resources, contact: coaching@volleyball.ca

5.5 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
- Code of Conduct
- Screening Policy

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

5.6 Mental Health

Volleyball Canada believes the mental health and safety of athletes is vital to strong performances on the court. We are encouraging 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

[Click here](#) to learn more. **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.

If you are starting to feel anxious and are worried about your mental health, here is a checklist that may help you feel better.

1. Fueling your body with nutritious food
2. Journaling
3. Nature Breaks (walks in the park)
4. Listening to uplifting music
5. Taking a Digital Detox
6. Move your body (any type of activity is great)
7. Deep breathing and grounding techniques
8. Stretching
9. Taking bubble baths (also great for injury prevention)
10. Focus on what you can control
11. Spending time with people who build you up
12. Spending time alone if needed
13. Talking to someone when you need it
14. Getting lots of sleep

5.7 Concussion Policy and Safety Protocols

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 OVA Concussion Policy and information on Rowan's Law [here](#):

Each year, all OVA members must review and sign off on the OVA Concussion Code of Conduct for Athletes and Parents/Guardians and the Concussion Code of Conduct and Review of Concussion Awareness Resource Acknowledgment Form during the registration process in the Membership Registration System (MRS) prior to participating in any volleyball activity. This includes tryouts.

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

Appendices

Appendix I - Player Officiating Guide (2 vs. 2)

- 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.

Appendix II - Player's Meeting Notes

1. Welcome to the 2023 OVA Beach Tour
2. Warm-up – There is **10-minute warm-up time** already added to the schedule between matches. 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.
3. Schedule and Format – It is your responsibility to know your schedule of when you are playing AND refereeing. Please check your pool play sheets for the schedule and during playoffs, pay attention to the announcements. Pools of 3 will be playing 2 out of 3 (21, 21, 15). Pools of 4 will be playing 2 sets to 15 (no third set).
4. Referees – When you are a player referee, please ensure you are paying attention to the match. You will also be responsible for keeping score as well. We expect one partner to stand and officiates the match while the other partner sits on the opposite side of the court and keeps score. If you have questions, 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 officiating duties) must be paid prior to playing in another OVA Beach Tour event.
 - a. 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.
5. Coaching – Coaching is only allowed at the 16U and younger age group. Coaches must check in at the control tent where they will receive a coaching badge that needs to be worn, and visible at all times. Coaches must introduce themselves to the opposing team, the refereeing team, and any area supervisor referee. Coaches' name must also be included on the scoresheet.
6. Game Balls – Each court receives one game ball that is sanitized between matches by an event staff.
7. Garbage – Please pick up your garbage and do not leave anything behind.
8. 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.

Email: kcheng@ontariovolleyball.org



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