



# Stay to Play Policy

## Frequently Asked Questions

The following FAQ addresses indoor National Championships.

### **01 What is Stay to Play?**

Stay to Play is the Volleyball Canada (VC) accommodations policy for all Indoor National Championships. Participating travelling teams are required to book hotel rooms through their event's housing provider in order to be accepted into the tournament.

### **02 Who are the Accommodations Management Providers (AMP)?**

AMP's are hired by VC or the local event organizers to manage the accommodation needs for all of the teams participating in the event. They are private businesses with established connections in the hotel industry with the ability to negotiate the best rates and to accept large volume room bookings.

### **03 How do I book via the Accommodations Management Providers (AMP)?**

Links to the AMP's booking portal will be provided to teams in the event registration confirmation email. Once registration is complete, the person who registered the team will automatically be sent an email with the link and pertinent booking process information. To give registered teams priority, the live link will not be posted on the event website until two weeks after the booking portal has opened.

### **04 Will the list of approved hotels be released prior to the Accommodation portal opening date?**

VC will post the list of approved hotels for each National Championship in the weeks leading up to the opening of the accommodation and registration portals. This will provide teams with the time to research the available hotels prior to booking.

We recommend each team pick 3-4 suitable hotel options prior to the portal opening date. You will be required to select your first, second and third choices in the booking process.

**Please note that bookings may not be completed until the official accommodation portal opens; teams who book prior to this time will be asked to cancel and rebook their rooms once the portal opens.**

### **05 I live within the event specific distance from the competition venue, does the Stay to Play policy apply?**

No, teams who reside within the distance specified for their specific event (posted on the event website) are not bound by the Stay to Play policy. However, we do ask that local teams fill out an Exemption Request to confirm Stay to Play compliance.

### **06 Are there exemptions from the Stay to Play policy?**

Volleyball Canada will consider requests under the two following categories:



**Proximity Exemption Request:** If your team is based within the specified driving distance from the competition venue OR you are planning on staying with family or friends that resides within the specified driving distance from the competition venue, you may be eligible for an exemption from the policy.

**Special Exemption Request:** For exemption requests that do not fall under the above category, please fill out this Special Exemption Request.

Please note, previous booking exemptions will not be considered. Teams who book a hotel room outside of our Stay to Play policy will be required to cancel their hotel bookings and book through the designated hotel provider.

Exemption forms are available on each event website.

In order to receive a proximity exemption, the team may be required to provide the full name, address and contacts of the friends and/or family they will be staying with. Volleyball Canada reserves the right to contact the friends/family in order to confirm that the team is staying with them. Volleyball Canada will ensure all information remains private and will only be used for Stay to Play compliance purposes.

#### **07 Are friends and family required to stay in hotels identified by the AMP?**

No, friends and family are not required to stay in the hotels identified by the AMP but are welcome to book as a part of the team reservation.

#### **08 Do I need the Team Code in order to book my team's hotel?**

A Team Code will be required for all teams to book accommodation. Team Code's will be provided to teams in the event registration confirmation email. It is required for VC to confirm that your team has successfully registered for the tournament, have booked with an approved hotel and is compliant with the Stay to Play policy.

#### **09 Will the AMP contact us about Stay to Play?**

In their role of managing hotel reservations for National Championships, the AMP may contact teams directly.

#### **10 Why is Volleyball Canada using a Stay to Play policy?**

The Stay to Play policy ensures that all teams looking for accommodations for National Championships will be able to find suitable accommodations. In addition, the Stay to Play policy also ensures that:

- A competitive rate is provided to participating teams
- The Stay to Play Policy supports overall competition costs. Being able to prove the high economic impact that our competitions have on a host city and tourism boards offers more grant opportunity and increases host city interest in future year.
- Hotels are able to service youth sports teams

#### **11 Who determines the rules for Stay to Play?**

VC determines the guidelines and procedures for the VC National Championships Stay to Play policy. The AMP then implements the policy for their respective event on behalf of VC.



## **12 Why isn't the hotel I want on the Approved List?**

The AMP consider proposals from any hotel that want to be on the Approved List. However, hotels cannot be forced to offer a room block for an event; it is a business decision made by the hotel. In addition:

- Hotels must be members of their local tourism program to be considered as host hotels.
- Sometimes hotels have other business booked and they do not have any or enough rooms available to provide a block.
- Some hotels offer rooms at rates that are too high.
- Some hotels are just not suitable for youth sports teams or prefer not to do business with sports teams.

## **13 How does Stay to Play help my team?**

Benefits for teams from Stay to Play include:

### Fixed group room rates for the Tournament dates

- Stay to Play leverage allows us, through the AMP, to negotiate fixed room rates for our blocks. Without Stay to Play, a significant number of hotels in the best locations would be available only at significantly higher rates than they are now.
- Stay to Play allows us to hold hotels to "Rate Integrity," teams are guaranteed one price for their booking. Prices cannot increase closer to the tournament dates or vary by night.
- The AMP and the hotels make every effort to block each team together in the hotel.
- Prices are based on 4 person per room occupancy, therefore teams will not be paying additional fees for 'extra guests'.

## **14 I can get a better price for one of the approved hotels using an online discount website, can I book via this alternate site?**

Teams are not permitted to book their hotels outside of the accommodations portal, even for approved hotels. When booking outside of the AMP, VC is not able to track your booking, therefore your team will not be compliant with the Stay to Play policy and may not accepted into the tournament.

## **15 Why do I have to wait to book my hotel room until after I have registered my team?**

This is done to ensure that teams have successfully registered before confirming accommodations. Some hotels require a non-refundable deposit which cannot be returned if the team doesn't get accepted into the tournament.