

2022 Volleyball Canada Youth Nationals Competition Guide



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2022 Nationals Overview

Volleyball Canada (VC) will host four (4) 14U events in order to provide regional access to teams while the 15 – 18U categories will be held under one roof in Edmonton, AB in two (2) back-to-back events.

Date	City	Age/Gender	Facility
May 5 – 8	Ottawa	14U B & G	Carleton University
May 12 - 15	Burnaby	14UB	Harry Jerome Sports Centre
May 12 - 15	Richmond	14UG	Richmond Oval
May 12 - 15	Halifax	14U B & G	Canada Games Centre
May 18 - 21	Edmonton	15U & 17U	Edmonton Expo Centre
May 21 – 24	Edmonton	16U & 18U	Edmonton Expo Centre

**Competition dates include coach check-in*

Nationals' COVID-19 Considerations

The health and safety of Volleyball Canada's athletes, staff, and community is our priority. Volleyball Canada supports the use of Health Canada approved vaccines as a key tool in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and its associated health impacts.

In requiring proof of vaccine status, Volleyball Canada will follow the guidance of local authorities as well as our partner facilities, which may be more stringent than regional guidelines. We understand that this may vary across the country, and we ask our participants to be respectful of COVID mitigation strategies in their respective regions and facilities, and when travelling outside their local area.

As has been the case during the pandemic, Volleyball Canada will continue to evaluate its guidelines on a regular basis.

How to keep informed

Official COVID-19 notices will be posted on our website and relayed via our Nationals newsletter. Team contacts, coaches, players, and parents are also encouraged to follow our social media platforms for related updates.

The Nationals newsletter provides relevant information directly to your inbox. [Sign up here](#)

Event Hosting Considerations

In an effort to successfully host Nationals amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, VC may be required to make adjustments to the hosting cities and locations. Teams will be notified of any changes made to the hosting schedule.

VC will release a participation survey in November to identify how many teams plan to attend Nationals in 2022. Information from this survey may be used to adjust the current hosting schedule.



Competition Considerations

VC may be required to alter the regulations throughout this document to meet the local/provincial/federal government health policies. Changes may include but are not limited to:

- Team Roster size
- Match operations
- Spectator participation
- Check-In

Should any changes be implemented, all registered teams will be notified directly.

Travel Planning considerations

Whereas there will be many unknowns leading up to Nationals, teams are encouraged to book all travel via a certified travel agent to ensure proper support may be provided in case of cancellations or changes to events.

Please keep the following in mind when planning travel for Nationals:

- Ensure you fully understand the cancellation policy on all travel bookings
- Book via our preferred partner, Absolute Travel Specialists
 - They have a strong understanding of plans for air carriers accessing various cities
 - They have the ability to negotiate better cancellation policies should Nationals be cancelled
 - They will contact air carriers directly regarding any major changes which in turn saves teams time and effort

Hotel planning considerations

All teams will be required to book accommodations as per the Stay to Play policy. Should Nationals be cancelled for COVID-19 reasons, teams will not be responsible for any hotel room costs from bookings through HTG or Event Connect. Any booking/service fees may be returned in the form of a credit towards future travel. All room cancellations will be managed directly by HTG or Event Connect; teams will not be required to follow up on hotel cancellations.

Any rooms booked outside of the Stay to Play policy will be subject to the hotel's cancellation policy.

Refund Policy

Should Nationals be cancelled by VC for COVID-19 reasons, teams will receive a full refund for registration and event passes minus an administration fee. Further details will be provided at a later date.



Eligibility & Registration

This section deals with the registration, certification, and eligibility requirements for all Nationals. These requirements are in place to ensure an equal competitive structure.

01

Team Registration

1.1 Players: A team in any age category must have a minimum of 8 players and a maximum of 15 players registered on their official roster. A maximum of 15 players can be in uniform, participate in the warm-up, and sit on the bench. However, only 12 players are allowed to be on the score sheet for any given match. These 12 players listed on the score sheet (excluding those crossed out for the match) are the only ones eligible to participate in the match; the 12 listed players on the score sheet may vary from match to match. (see 4.1.1 of the Rulebook).

In order to be eligible to participate in a Nationals, each athlete on the official roster must be registered as a Youth Competitive Player with their respective PTA and with VC. **Important Reminder!** Players can only appear on one roster (one age category) per event. Edmonton 2022 is considered one event, therefore players cannot play in both Tournament 1 and Tournament 2.

1.2 Team Personnel/Person(s) in Authority: These are the individuals responsible for the coaching and management of the team; all team personnel must have the appropriate Leader membership with VC.

- The official roster for Nationals may include a maximum of four (4) team personnel.
- Only those listed on the official roster are eligible to be on the score sheet and/or bench for any given match.

The following is a list of the team personnel roles that are recognized at Nationals and who may be listed on the Official Roster:

- **Head Coach:** The person who is primarily responsible for coaching the team. This individual must be NCCP certified in accordance to the VC requirements (See Section 3). Each team must have one (1) Head Coach listed on their official roster.

Important Reminder! An individual is not permitted to be designated as Head Coach for two teams in the same tournament.

Please note that Edmonton 2022 includes two (2) tournaments within one event; therefore, a coach cannot be the Head Coach of two teams in the same tournament (ie – a 17U and a 15U team as both are Tournament 1. However, a Head Coach can appear on the roster for a 17UG and a 16UB team (Tournament 1 and Tournament 2), or they may be listed as a Head Coach of a 17U girls and Assistant Coach for a 15U boys team (within the same tournament but in a different role).

- **Assistant Coach:** The person(s) responsible for assisting in the coaching of the team. The assistant coach may only act in the role of Head Coach in extenuating circumstances and with prior approval of VC. Each team may have a maximum of three (3) assistant coaches on their official roster.
- **Team Trainer:** The person(s) responsible for assisting the team with any medical issues.



- **Team Manager:** The person(s) responsible for pre-event and on-site administrative duties for the team and who acts as a liaison between the team and other parties (ex. VC, hotels, restaurants, etc).

1.3 Team Contact: Each team must list a team contact during the registration process. This person will be responsible for ensuring communication between the team, their club, and VC. The Team Contact will not be listed on the Official Roster nor will they be provided with an accreditation unless they have a dual role as a member of the team personnel and they are listed on the official roster.

1.4 Annual Membership: All participants (athletes and team personnel) must complete their membership registration process with their respective PTA. By registering with their PTA, these participants will automatically become registered members with VC. Only individuals that are properly registered and in good standing are eligible to take part in competitions sanctioned or hosted by a PTA or VC.

1.5 Province/Territory of Residence: A player/team must purchase their annual membership(s) within the province/territory in which they reside. No player/team is allowed to register with a PTA outside their province of residence without the prior approval of VC and the two (2) PTAs involved. In addition, no player/team is permitted to register with more than one PTA at the same time; players who wish to change PTAs mid-season must receive approval from VC and the PTAs involved.

1.6 Official Roster: All players and team staff participating at Nationals MUST be the same as those listed on the roster for their PTA Championship.

All team rosters will be provided directly to VC via the PTA following the PTA roster lock and/or Championships therefore teams will not be required to upload their roster into the Volleyball Registration System (VRS). Any players or team personnel not participating at the VC National Championships must be removed from the roster at check-in.

Important Reminder! The roster lock date for teams from New Brunswick who are attending Nationals will be April 7th 2022 (registration closing date).

1.7 Roster Exemption Requests: Changes made to the official roster (Nationals roster) following the PTA roster lock will only be considered under exceptional circumstances. All changes must be submitted via the online exemption form (available on the event webpage) and will be subject to the following fees:

- \$50 for team personnel change
- \$100 for player change

All team personnel changes must fall within the guidelines listed in the Coach Certification Policy in Section 3.0. Player changes should fall within the following guidelines:

- Teams must have only 7 or fewer players remaining for their Nationals roster
- Incoming player(s) must have played the current season with the same club
- Incoming player(s) could not have played on a team who was declared at an older age category during the current season (16U player who played on a 17U team during the same season)

1.8 Minimum Age: All athletes, coaches and team personnel members that are on the official roster for Nationals must be a minimum of 11 years of age.

1.9 Age Categories: The age category of a team is defined by the age category that the team declares with their PTA at the start of the season (See Section 4 for more information on age categories).

1.10 Registration Dates: *updated Feb 2 2022*



Age Category	City	Registration Date	Registration Time
17U	Edmonton (girls/boys)	February 22 nd	12:00pm EST (noon)
15U	Edmonton (girls/boys)	February 23 rd	12:00pm EST (noon)
18U	Edmonton (girls/boys)	February 24 th	12:00pm EST (noon)
16U	Edmonton (girls/boys)	February 25 th	12:00pm EST (noon)
14U	Ottawa, Halifax, Richmond and Burnaby (girls & boys)	February 28 th	12:00pm EST (noon)

Registration is on a first come, first serve basis. The registration closing date is April 7th at 11:59pm EST. Registration is limited therefore teams are encouraged to register early.

1.11 Registration Fee

Registration fees are charged on a per team basis, taxes are not charged on the registration fee. Fees may vary per event, please be sure to review the Nationals webpage for current fees.

1.12 Registration for teams playing up:

A team “playing up” is defined as a team who is registering to play in an age group that is older than the one they declared for with their PTA during the club season. For example, a team who declares and plays primarily as a 15UB team with their PTA who wants to play in the 16UB Nationals.

Teams who wish to play up an age group at Nationals will be permitted to register beginning Wednesday February 23rd 2022 at 12pm (noon) EST pending available space in the event. If an event is full, the team will be permitted to add their team to the waitlist as of this date. Any teams playing up who register before this date will be removed from the event.

1.13 Waitlist: If an age/gender category for a Nationals is full at the time of registration, it is strongly encouraged that you register your team onto the waitlist. If additional spots become available in that age/gender category or if a team cancels, waitlisted teams will be notified based on their position on the waitlist. Only those on the waitlist will have an opportunity to participate in the event.

There is no cost to register onto the waitlist for an event. You will only be charged once you accept your invitation to join the event.

1.14 Withdrawal Policy:

Teams who withdraw from Nationals will be eligible for a refund as per the following timelines:

Date	Refund
Prior to registration closing date	Registration fee less \$350 admin fee
Post registration closing date – team is replaced by a waitlisted team	Registration fee less \$350 admin fee
Post registration closing date – team is NOT replaced by a waitlisted team	No refund
Within 2 weeks of check-in	No refund

1.15 Participation Restrictions: For Nationals, only club teams are permitted to register. Provincial/territorial teams or foreign teams must be approved by the National Indoor Committee in order to participate.

1.16 Unsanctioned Events: Any teams who participate in an unsanctioned event outside of Canada could be deemed ineligible to compete at Nationals.



1.17 Participation Eligibility: All teams (including each individual on the official roster) must meet the following minimum criteria in order to be eligible to attend Nationals:

- Be a registered member, and in good standing, with their respective PTA and with VC.
- Any foreign team looking to participate in an event must be registered and in good standing with their own National Federation (See Section 2).
- Participate in a Provincial/Territorial Championship.
- Comply with the “Stay to Play” housing policy; all team hotel bookings must be completed through the event’s hotel booking provider and not directly with the hotel. Please review the [Stay to Play Policy](#) for more details.
- Meet all additional registration requirements of their PTA and VC.

2.0

Foreign Participation

2.1 Participation Restrictions: A foreign team that wants to participate in Nationals must receive approval from their National Federation in order to participate. Each foreign team must provide VC with an official letter from their National Federation that states that the team is registered and in good standing. Each Foreign Team’s participants must purchase health and travel insurance and comply with VC’s registration protocols.

2.2. Registration: Foreign teams will be required to register for the event in which they wish to participate via the VC website. The registration process will only be complete once VC provides final confirmation of the foreign team’s acceptance into the event. Confirmation will be provided in writing within thirty (30) days of registration.

**VC reserves the right to deny the registration of a foreign team based on the registration capacity of the competition.*

For further information regarding provincial registration for foreign teams please consult the [Foreign Team and Foreign Player guide](#).

2.3 Seeding: All foreign teams are encouraged to play in a Provincial or Territorial event the same year that they plan to participate in a Nationals in order to assist with the seeding process. Final results will be used to seed the foreign team in order to ensure meaningful matches for all teams participating in the Nationals.



3.0

Coach Certification Policy

New for 2022!

Volleyball Canada's Youth National Championships Coach Eligibility Requirements are to ensure that all coaches participating in a Nationals have the knowledge and training necessary to provide every athlete with a safe, inclusive and responsible sport experience.

Guiding Principles:

All athletes have the right to a NCCP Certified coach.

All coaches have the responsibility to:

- Have the required training to provide an environment that is physically, mentally, emotionally and socially safe for all athletes and participants.
- Have the required training to be able to provide a responsible learning environment that incorporates VC's teaching methodologies, technical guidelines and long-term athlete development principles.
- Ensure that all training is current and updated as required, to be able to provide a safe and responsible sport experience for all.

Mandatory Eligibility Requirements for Head Coaches in 2022 and 2023:

Head Coaches listed on any Nationals roster must complete the requirements in Section A (below) to be eligible to participate. These requirements are mandatory for all Head Coaches regardless of certification status. PTA's will verify requirements for all Head Coaches through their registration system.

DEADLINE: Pending provincial and territorial membership approval and Nationals registration deadlines.

SANCTIONS: Head Coaches who are missing any or all of the requirements in Section A (below) will be ineligible to participate with their team in a Head Coach capacity at a Nationals for that year and will not be listed on the final team roster.

A	Enhanced Police Information Check (EPIC) & Screening Process	Cost varies	EPIC completed within the last 3 years Screening Process completed annually
	Coaches Association of Canada (CAC) Safe Sport Training	Free	Credit will also be given for equivalent programs recognized by Sport Canada, ie Respect in Sport, Activity Leader.
	Making Head Way in Sport eLearning	Free	The Making Head Way eLearning provides coaches with the latest information specific to Concussion Management
	Make Ethical Decisions (MED) Online Evaluation	\$85 or Free	Credit for the Make Ethical Decisions (MED) Online Evaluation is required. Coaches can choose to take the MED NCCP Multi Sport Module and then complete the MED Online Evaluation for free or they can proceed directly to the MED Online Evaluation (without taking the module) for \$85.
	Foundations of Volleyball eLearning	\$89	Foundations of Volleyball eLearning introduces coaches to VC's teaching methodologies and long-term athlete development principles.



Mandatory Eligibility Requirements for all Additional Persons in Authority (PIA) in 2022 and 2023:

All additional Persons in Authority listed on any Nationals roster must complete the requirements in Section B (below) to be eligible. In addition to the Head Coach, a Person in Authority includes, but is not limited to, all assistant coaches, team trainers and team managers who are listed on the Nationals roster. These requirements are mandatory for all Persons in Authority regardless of certification status.

DEADLINE: Pending provincial and territorial membership approval and National's registration deadlines.

SANCTIONS: Any Persons in Authority who are missing any or all of the requirements in Section B (below) will be ineligible to participate with their team as a Persons in Authority at a Nationals for that year and will not be listed on the final team roster.

B	Enhanced Police Information Check (EPIC) & Screening Process	Cost varies	EPIC completed within the last 3 years Screening Process completed annually
	Coaches Association of Canada (CAC) Safe Sport Training	Free	Credit will also be given for equivalent programs recognized by the CAC, including Respect in Sport, Activity Leader

Minimum Certification Requirements for Head Coaches:

All Head Coaches listed on any Nationals roster must meet the requirements below for the age category that they are coaching.

DEADLINE: March 30 of the respective year.

SANCTIONS: Head Coaches who do not meet the requirements for that year (outlined below) will be subject to a \$250 CAD fine, payable prior to participation in that year's Nationals.

	2022	2023
	TRAINED DEVELOPMENT COACH	
14U 15U 16U	All Head Coaches listed on a 14U, 15U or 16U Nationals roster in 2022 must have Trained Development Coach status prior to participation.	All coaches participating as a Head Coach at a 14U, 15U or 16U Nationals for the first time since 2017 are required to have TRAINED DEVELOPMENT COACH status. All coaches participating as a Head Coach at a 14U, 15U or 16U Nationals for the second time or more since 2017 (does not need to be consecutive years) are required to have CERTIFIED DEVELOPMENT COACH status.
	TRAINED ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT COACH	
17U 18U	All Head Coaches listed on a 17U or 18U Nationals roster in 2022 must have Trained Advanced Development Coach status prior to participation.	All coaches participating as a Head Coach at a 17U or 18U Nationals for the first time since 2017 are required to have TRAINED ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT COACH status. All coaches participating as a Head Coach at a 17U or 18U Nationals for the second time or more since 2017 (does not need to be consecutive years) are required to have CERTIFIED ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT COACH status.
IMPORTANT NOTE: Head Coaches who have achieved Certified status in their appropriate context are still required to complete the mandatory requirements in Section A (above) and maintain Active status in the NCCP Locker. Please refer to Volleyball Canada's NCCP Certification Maintenance Guide on how to remain Active.		



4.0

Age Categories

Volleyball Canada recognizes the following age categories for competitions in the 2021-2022 season:

	18U*	17U	16U	15U	14U
Sept	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Oct	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Nov	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Dec	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Jan	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Feb	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Mar	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Apr	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
May	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
June	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
July	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Aug	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Sept	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Oct	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Nov	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Dec	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008

*For 2022 Nationals, 18U Age Category ONLY:

A team roster for the 18U category can include 2 athletes born from Jan 1-August 31, 2003, with the following restriction:

- Athletes are NOT permitted to be part of any USport, CCAA or other post-Secondary volleyball program for the current season (Sept 2021-May 2022)
- **Definition of Post-Secondary:** Part of a Post-Secondary Volleyball program is defined as training in whole or part with team members of the post-secondary institution that they are attending. This would include any athlete regardless of their post-secondary eligibility, including those commonly referred to as red-shirts. This does not include intramural programs or club programs within a post-secondary institute. If an athlete is attending a post-secondary institution, verification shall be confirmed by the Head Coach of the program.

Exemptions:

The number of athletes on a team, regardless of age within the appropriate age category (16 month window) is not restricted. The Head Coach/Team Manager may request [an exemption](#) to allow an athlete born prior to the 16 month window to play with that specific age group.

For more information please, see the full document in our [Policy Section](#).



Competition Regulations & Participation Information

This section outlines the rules and regulations which govern Nationals beyond the Indoor Rulebook. In addition, general information and guidelines for participants and spectators is covered here.

5.0

Hosting Guidelines

5.1 For an event to be recognized as a Nationals, VC requires the participation from a minimum of 8 teams from 3 PTAs for 15U – 18U events and 8 teams from 2 PTAs for 14U events.

5.2 If an event does not meet the format event criteria listed above, VC reserves the right to cancel or alter the event.

5.3. 15U – 18U will be officiated by two referees. 14U will be officiated by 1 referee for pool play, Championship Tier matches will be officiated by 2 referees.

6.0

Rules of the Game

Please consult the [2021-2022 Indoor Rulebook](#) for a complete list of rules or the 2021-2022 Indoor Rules & Policies Updates document for a list of [this year's major rule changes/updates](#).

6.1 Warm-Up Protocol:

a) Team warm-ups will be conducted using the 2-4-4 format, which is as follows:

- 2 minutes for players to warm-up on their respective side of the court,
- 4 minutes to use the full court (traditionally used for spiking and serving practice), and
- 4 minutes on the baseline or off the court. See item 'c' below for warm up recommendations.

b) **New!** In an effort to reduce the incidence of injuries and concussions during match play, VC has developed the following warm-up protocol. This protocol is to be followed by all teams during the designated on court warm-up time;

(article 7.2.4 of the Indoor Rulebook)

1. Athletes must remain on their side of the net immediately following an attack and only move to the opposite side of the net from outside of the court. Athletes are not permitted into the receiving court.
2. Any ball from the receiving side of the court, entered to the attacking side, must be entered from outside of the court.
3. Retrieved balls must be returned along the sidelines of the court and not through the receiving court.
4. If the team is using both sides of the court, i.e. full court game type activity - only one ball can be in play at any given time.



5. Opposing teams are not permitted to use volleyballs in the free zone during the other teams allocated court time.

Teams who do not follow the protocol will be notified by the referee that they must follow the above stated regulation. Teams must adjust their warm-up accordingly or may choose not to continue their hitting warm-up. Time for the hitting warm-up will not stop during the notification and adjustment period. The referee will note on the scoresheet any teams who do not follow the warm-up protocol. Teams may be eligible for further review and / or disciplinary action if multiple infractions are noted on the scoresheet.

c) Warm Up recommendations:

- Hitting should be directed away from courts with active games and from spectator seating areas whenever possible.

6.2 Sport Court Rule:

Each team must play within its own playing area. The area beyond the edge of the sport court is designated as a non-playing zone. Therefore, the last point of contact prior to contact with the ball must be on the sport court and the player must always play the ball on the sport court.

Examples:

- One foot on the sport court, one foot on the cement while playing the ball = play is whistled dead;
- Play the ball on the sport court, momentum of athlete carries them off the court = play continues;
- Jump in the air off the sport court, play the ball, and land fully off the sport court = play is whistled dead;
- Leave the playing surface and step on a chair and play the ball = play is whistled dead

Any service action must be initiated with at least one foot in contact with the Sport Court.

6.3 Fair Play

The Fair Play rules will be applicable for all teams competing in the 14U age category. Please see article 15.1 of the Rulebook for full regulation details.

6.4 Cameras and Tripods

Teams are permitted to record matches throughout the Nationals tournament however please note:

- Tripods are not permitted on the sport court
- Cameras on tripods cannot be left unattended
- VC is not responsible for any damage to the camera or related equipment
- VC reserves the right to restrict/deny the filming of any matches for safety and/or other reasons

6.5 Handshake Rule

New for 2022! Handshakes will be removed from both the pre- and post-match protocol. Upon completion of the match, players will be signaled to line up on the attack line and wave at or clap for the opposing team.

6.6 Line Judge and score keeper

New for 2022! Each team will be required to provide one (1) volunteer athlete per game to act in the role of line judge. Should the team not have sufficient athletes to fill this role, the opposing team will be asked to supply an athlete volunteer. If this is not possible, a parent may be asked to fill in this role or no line judge will be used for that game/match.



Each team will be required to provide one (1) volunteer per match to act in the role of score keeper. Each team will be provided with one additional accreditation at coach check-in to support this requirement.

7.0

Coach Check-In

10.1. Coach Check-In will take place one day prior to Day 1 of competition.

Coach Check-In Date	Competition Dates	City	Age/Gender
May 5 th	May 6 th – 8 th	Ottawa	14U
May 12 th	May 13 th – 15 th	Richmond	14U girls
May 12 th	May 13 th – 15 th	Burnaby	14U boys
May 12 th	May 13 th – 15 th	Halifax	14U
May 18 th	May 19 th – 21 st	Edmonton Tournament #1	15U & 17U
May 21 st	May 22 nd – 24 th	Edmonton Tournament #2	16U & 18U

10.2 All teams must check-in during the above listed date. Late check-in should be requested no later than one week prior to the check-in date of the event and a fee of \$50 is to be paid via the late check-in request form.

10.3 Only Team Personnel on the official team roster can check-in their team (Example: Head Coach, Assistant Coach). Players are not required at check-in. If a member of team staff is not able to attend Coach Check-In, another team representative may do so in their place however they must provide written consent from a member of the Team Personnel.

10.4 **New for 2022!** The Head Coach/Team representative completing check-in will be required to perform the following duties at check-in:

- Remove all team personnel and players from the official roster who are not participating in the event.
- Sign off on the roster confirming its accuracy for the duration of the competition.
- Provide local contact information and hotel details (if applicable)
- Provide written acknowledgement that the team understands and must compete at Nationals as per the following (visit our [Policies section](#) for more details):
 - 2022 VC Indoor Competition Guide
 - 2021-2022 Indoor Rule Book
 - VC Code of Conduct
 - VC Concussion Guidelines
 - VC Nationals warm-up protocol
 - Safe Sport training requirements
 - COVID-19 related event protocols



Although the proof of age check has been removed from the Coach Check-in process, VC reserves the right to verify the age of any players on the official roster at any time during the event. Therefore, coaches must carry proof of age of all players throughout the entirety of the event.

10.5 The Head Coach/Team representative will receive an approved roster upon the completion of check-in. The Head Coach must carry this at all times for verification by tournament officials. **New!** If the coach loses the roster sheet, a new roster sheet will be provided at a cost of \$5.00.

8.0

Practice Times

Teams will be provided with the opportunity to book a practice time at the event facility for the day prior to Day 1 of competition (the same day as Coach Check-in). Practice times will be available for booking as of March 17th, 2022. Please visit the event webpage for further details.

Please note the following details regarding practice times:

- Practice times are not guaranteed for all teams
- Practice times are booked on a first come first serve basis
- Practice time schedules will be posted on the event webpage and updated weekly
- Walk-ins may be available depending on availability
- Practice time availability will differ per event

9.0

Accreditation

All team personnel and athletes listed on the official roster will be provided with a full tournament accreditation. Accreditation must be worn when entering the competition area and must be shown to the access control staff upon entry.

Each team will be provided with one tournament accreditation to provide to the team scorekeeper.

Accreditation may not be shared or passed on from accredited individuals to non-accredited individuals.

Lost accreditation must be reported to the competition office; photo id must be provided to confirm that the individual is on the official roster.

10.0

Event Passes

All spectators attending Nationals will be required to purchase an event pass. Event passes must be worn at all times and must be shown to the access control staff upon entry to the competition area. Spectators may re-enter the facility throughout the day.

Event passes are available under the following categories, please visit the Nationals webpage for pricing as cost may vary per event.

- Pre-Sale Tournament Pass



- Day Pass
- (65+) Day Pass
- Tournament Pass
- (65+) Tournament Pass
- 18 and under (FREE)

Important Reminder! Edmonton 2022 is one event with two (2) tournaments. Therefore, spectators must purchase a separate tournament pass for both Tournament 1 and Tournament 2 if attending both events.

Tournament Passes will be available for pre-purchase via the Nationals webpage as of March 15th 2022.

Please note that athletes and accredited team staff are not required to purchase an event pass, please see Section # 9 for further details on accreditation.

Refunds for pre-sale tournament passes may be requested by emailing nationals@volleyball.ca. Proof of purchase must be provided. Refunds for passes purchased on site must be requested at the on-site ticketing office. Refunds will only be provided for event passes which have not clasped/worn by the spectator.

11.0

Competition Ball & Uniforms

11.1 Official Game Ball

The official supplier for the Nationals game ball is Mikasa. Please note that two separate balls will be used for Nationals in 2022.

New for 2022!

- 17U – 18U will use the Mikasa V200W
- 14U – 16U will use the Mikasa VQ200w-CAN

Game balls will be supplied for all teams however teams are required to provide their own warm up balls.

11.2 Net Heights

Girls/Women

14U: 2.15m
15: 2.20m
16, 17, 18U, Senior: 2.24m

Boys/Men

14U: 2.20m
15 and 16U: 2.35m
17, 18U, Senior: 2.43m

11.3 Athlete Uniforms

- A player's equipment consists of a jersey and shorts.
- The colour and the design for the jerseys and shorts must be uniform for the team (except for the Libero). The Libero player(s) must wear a uniform which clearly contrast with the rest of the team. (Please refer to the Uniform Guidelines).
- All jerseys must be uniquely numbered (1 to 99).



- The captain must have a stripe of 8 x 2 cm underlining the number on the chest of the jersey.
- Shoes must be non-marking.
- For more information on athlete uniforms please review section 4.3 and 19.2 of the Indoor Rulebook and the Uniform Guidelines.

New for 2022!

Teams will not be required to have their uniforms approved by VC. Teams are still welcome to submit their uniform for approval, they can do so via the [submission form](#) by February 28th 2022. Please note that uniform approvals will most likely be reinstated for 2023 Nationals.

11.4 Coaches and Team Staff Attire

All coaches and team staff should follow the dress guideline below during all of their matches:

- Must be dressed to represent their team in a professional manner.
- Secure shoes are required.
- Hats are not permitted.

These guidelines are strongly recommended for anyone acting as a line judge or score keeper during Nationals.

12.0

Competition Management

Updated Feb 2 2022

All competition schedules and results will be available on ISET at iset.net

All matches will be scored via paper scoresheets.

13.0

Schedules & Seeding

13.1 Draw

Each Nationals varies based on location, age category, venues, and number of courts. These variables may affect how the tournament will be organized. VC has developed a set of principles for governing how the draws will be structured.

VC strives to provide a minimum of 7 matches at Nationals. Due to unforeseen circumstances, VC may not always be able to provide 7 matches per team.

- All matches are best-of-three.
- Maximum number of four matches per day.
- Maximum of two back-to-back matches per day.



13.2 Wave Times

Each National schedule is broken into two waves per day:

- A morning wave which runs from approximately 7:30am to 2:15pm
- An afternoon wave which runs from approximately 2:30pm to 8:30pm

Each team will only play in one wave per day. Division allocations per wave are posted approximately 1-2 months prior to the competition.

*VC reserves the right to not schedule an event with waves

13.3 Division Size

The following information refers only to age categories playing with a division-based schedule. See section 13.5 for further details on schedules being used at Nationals.

- Each division will ideally include 32 teams
- The minimum size for a division is 8 teams.
- The maximum size for a division is 48 teams.

New for 2022! Only teams participating in 15U, 17U & 18U will be placed into divisions for their competition schedules.

13.4 Seeding

The seeding for Nationals will be based on the results from PTA Championships. A draft of the seeding will be shared with team contacts and teams will be permitted to provide feedback. After this time, the final seeding will be posted on the event webpage. Please see the 2022 VC Nationals Divisional Play and Seeding document for full details regarding seeding for each age category.

Requests to play in a lower position than the anticipated seed must be made no later than 2 weeks prior to Coach Check-in for the specific age/gender category. Teams may not request a higher seeded position. All requests are subject to approval by VC and the PTA.

13.5 Competition Schedule

New for 2022! VC will be piloting a new 'Tier based' schedule for the 14U and 16U age categories.

The purpose of this schedule is to allow for more meaningful competition between teams participating at Nationals. This will be achieved by removing the divisions of 32 teams and having teams compete in groups of 16. Movement between the groups will allow teams to play closer to their own caliber throughout the entire tournament and the opportunity for lower seeded teams to move up the rankings.

The "Division based" schedule will be used for the 15U, 17U and 18U age categories.

VC strives to release draft schedules one month prior to the event start date. Final schedules are posted on [AES](#) once all teams have checked-in the evening prior to the competition start date. Please note that draft schedules are subject to change and teams are required to verify the final schedule to ensure they are on time for matches.



14.0

Medical

Medical services will be provided to all participating teams free of charge via certified athletic therapists. Services for athletes includes first aid response, concussion management, as well as athletic taping.

Concussion Management

All teams participating at Nationals are required to follow the VC Concussion Protocol. Further details on the protocol can be found in the [Policy section](#) of the VC website.

Any athlete who has a suspected concussion is strongly encouraged to visit the onsite medical team to complete a concussion assessment via the Sport Concussion Assessment Tool (SCAT 5). Should an athlete fail the assessment they will be removed from play.

Athletes are permitted to follow-up their initial assessment with a medical professional. If the athlete is deemed as safe to return to immediate sport participation, they may do so with submission of the Medical Assessment Letter to the on-site medical team and/or competition staff.

If there is a medical professional on site designated to manage concussion assessments, athletes are not permitted to seek an assessment from an off-site medical professional.

15.0

Awards

15.1 All Nationals will distribute the following awards:

- Medals
 - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place medals for the Championship Tier and each Division's top tier
 - 1st and 2nd place medals for all other tiers
- MVP & All Stars for the Championship Tier, excluding 14U
- Player of the Wave
- Fair Play Award (14U only)

All National Champions will be presented with the following:

- Medals
- Trophy
- Banner
- Championship Hats
- Sponsor prizing (if available)

15.2 Awards Ceremony – Championship Tier:

Teams in the Championship Tier (formally knowns as Div 1, Tier 1) will be presented their medals, prizes, and any additional awards associated with the Championship Tier during the awards ceremony. Award ceremonies will be held on the last day of competition following the completion of their final match or shortly thereafter. Teams should refer to the Nationals webpage for ceremony times and locations.

New for 2022! All other medalist teams will collect their medals at a designated pick-up area. No formal ceremony will be held for medalists outside of the Championship Tier.

15.3 Most Valuable Player (MVP) & All Stars:

These awards are presented to the Most Valuable Player and All-Stars as voted by the coaches of the four



(4) semi-finalist teams in the Championship Tier. The top six (6) identified players from each 15U – 18U age/gender category will be selected as All-Stars, while one (1) MVP is selected by the coaching staff of the 1st place team. MVP & All Star awards are presented during the awards ceremony for each age/gender category.

15.4 Player of the Wave (POW):

This award allows each participating team to recognize one (1) deserving player for each wave of competition for a total of two (2) nominations per team per event. Each nominated player will receive a certificate and will be entered into a draw for prizes (based on availability). The POW is awarded on Days 1 and Day 2 of competition at Nationals.

15.5 Fair Play Award:

The Fair Play Award will be awarded to one (1) male and one (1) female 14U team participating at Nationals who have embodied the spirit of VC's Fair Play Rule and have displayed support and consideration for their teammates as well as other participants. Fair Play awards will be presented to the winners on the final day of competition.

16.0

Sanctions

16.1 A team or an individual may be sanctioned, including fines, if any of the following infractions occur while the team is participating at a Nationals:

- The accommodation facilities or tournament facilities are deliberately damaged by a member of their team.
- The tournament equipment is deliberately damaged by any member of their team.
- The Volleyball Canada Code of Conduct is violated in any way.
- The 2021 - 2022 Volleyball Canada Indoor Rulebook is violated in any way.
- A team does not fulfill its competitive obligations to an event. If for some reason your team is unable to attend an event that they have registered for or is unable to attend a game that they are scheduled for, it is the team's responsibility to notify a VC representative as soon as possible.
- If a team does not abide by the Stay to Play policy
- Any other infraction that the competition officials deem to be detrimental to the event and/or its participants.

16.2 In addition to performance bond related sanctions listed above, VC also has the following sanctions/payments in place for all Nationals:

- \$50.00 for Late Check-In (must be requested by no later than 1 week before check-in)
- \$350.00 for Withdrawal prior to the registration deadline, see section 1.13 for a full list of withdrawal fees;
- \$100.00 cash for assembling the Competition Jury to assess an official protest
- Roster change request fee of \$50 for team personnel and \$100 for players
- **New for 2022!** \$5.00 for a new roster sheet



16.3 A team or club that is sanctioned in any way because of an infraction related to a Nationals will be placed in bad standing with VC and their respective PTA. The team or club will remain in bad standing until the sanction has been removed or paid in full to VC. While a team or club is in bad standing they will not be able to register for any events sanctioned by their PTA or VC.

17.0

Protest & Appeal Process

17.1 Any protest or appeal at a Nationals will be overseen by a Competition Jury, composed of the following:

- A member of the NIC or an approved designate.
- A representative of the Host Committee.
- A member of the Referee Development Team or approved designate.

A Competition Jury member or an approved designate will be present at all venues.

17.2 The Competition Jury has the highest level of authority at Nationals and its decisions take precedence and cannot be appealed. They are in place to evaluate complaints and render decisions regarding issues that arise about the event organization and all technical matters. The Competition Jury may be called upon to make decisions on, but not limited to, any of the following matters:

- Competition Protests
- Player Eligibility
- Uniforms
- Spectators
- Playing surface/area
- Schedules and Draws

17.3 The following types of issues can be protested or appealed:

- An improper decision by the referee who did not apply the rules or regulations.
- An improper decision of the scorer who made a mistake on the rotational order or on the score.
- Please note that judgement calls cannot be protested. A referee's decision regarding a playing action (ie. ball handling or misconduct) cannot be protested.
- The protest will be accepted or rejected prior to the resumption of play by the tournament jury.

17.4 To officially protest or appeal a decision, the captain must launch the protest immediately to the first referee who will then indicate to the scorekeeper that a protest has been lodged.

A fee of \$100 must be provided in cash immediately in order to assemble the Competition Jury to assess the protest. The funds will be returned if the protest is upheld; however, if it is overturned, the funds will go towards referee development.

17.5 In case of an incident during a match, the protest has to be requested at the moment the incident occurs, before play resumes. Please remember that NO match will be replayed, as protests have to be placed at the moment of the incident. For further explanation, please refer to Protest Procedures in Section IV of the Indoor Rulebook.



In the event of a protest, the following will occur:

- The referee will notify both teams that there is a protest
- The coach of the protesting team will be asked to provide the \$100 cash protest fee and to record the protest.
- Both teams will be asked to stay in the gym until the final decision is rendered.
- The chairperson of jury will convene the jury.
- The jury will interview the coach of the protesting team.
- The jury will interview all involved parties, as they see fit (e.g.: opposing coach, officials, captains, athletes, etc.)
- The jury will deliberate and render a decision.
- The chairperson of the jury will inform all parties involved of the decision made.

18.0

Scouting & Recruiting

VC requires that recruiters attending Nationals purchase an event pass at the on-site ticketing booth. It is important to note that VC does not police recruiters onsite and that it is expected that recruiters will abide by the regulations set out by [USport](#), CCAA, or any other University or Collegiate organization. VC bears the right to ask a recruiter to leave the facility if the recruiting policies are not respected.

19.0

Code of Conduct & Competition Policies

The [2021-2022 Volleyball Canada Indoor Rulebook](#) details the Code of Ethics for Referees, the Code of Conduct for all participants, Anti-Doping Policy and Disciplinary Action. Any breach of these policies are subject to fines and/or sanctions as outlined on in the [Volleyball Canada's Discipline and Complaints Policy](#).

20.0

Safe Sport

VC is committed to a sport environment free from abuse that is safe for all participants. For more information, our policies, and resources, [please click here](#).

Safe Sport Reporting

VC has zero tolerance for any type of abuse. Individuals are required to report abuse or suspected abuse to VC or to a Provincial/Territorial Association so that those matters can be addressed in an expeditious manner.

For more information, please see the Safe Sport [Complaint Process Overview](#). Reports can be made to VC's Independent third-party Safe Sport Officer at lise@wiserworkplaces.ca or (519) 900-6813, or by contacting the Canadian Sport Helpline:



Education

VC is requiring 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 and Address Maltreatment in Sport and meets Sport Canada requirements for Safe Sport education.

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

Background Screening

All coaches, staff members, volunteers, referees, team staff members and Integrated Support Team (IST) members involved in VC domestic competitions are required to have completed a criminal record/police check issued within 36 months of the activity being attended. These requirements apply to all disciplines.

To provide further clarification, we have compiled the following [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

