

Changes to the 2024 VC Youth Nationals Competition Guide

As of November 2023

This document outlines the major changes that have been made to the Youth Nationals Competition Guide. Each change will be indicated by the current year's event rule, and the reason for change. Please see the [2024 Competition Guide](#) for full details regarding each of the regulations listed below.

1.

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. For 14U: 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 and may participate in any given match.; the 12 listed players on the score sheet may vary from match to match. (see 4.1.1 of the Rulebook).

New for 2024! For 15U – 18U events, A maximum of 15 players can be in uniform, participate in the warm-up, sit on the bench, and participate in any given match.

Reasoning

In an effort to be more inclusive, 15U – 18U teams will be permitted to play with all fifteen (15) players who are permitted on the roster. 14U teams are excluded from this rule as it conflicts with the Fair Play rule.

2.

1.14 Annual Membership

New for 2024! All Person-In-Authority (PIA) must be fully compliant with Safe Sport requirements before their membership status is approved. PIAs may not participate in volleyball activities until they have met the Safe Sport requirements.

Reasoning

This rule has been implemented for all members registering with Volleyball Canada to ensure that all individuals involved with the team have been trained and meet the Abuse Free Sport requirements prior to the start of the competition season.

3.

1.6 Official Roster

New for 2024! Teams will submit their official roster directly to VC via Sportlomo. All rosters must be submitted by March 28th 2024.

New for 2024! Teams who submit a roster that does not match their PTA Championship roster will be subject to the following penalties:

- The team will receive a fine of \$1500

- The Head Coach and/or club may be placed on the National not in good standing list,
- The team and/or club may be ineligible to participate in the following year's Nationals

Reasoning

In an effort to ensure accuracy of rosters at check-in, VC will be collecting rosters directly from the team and not from the Provincial/Territorial Association. Rosters will not be printed on the scoresheet for 2024 Nationals. Therefore the coach must present their official roster for verification.

4.

1.10 Pre Registration

New for 2024! Provincial/Territory Champions (Gold Medalists) from 2023 will now also receive Pre-Registration for 2024 Nationals.

Reasoning

This has been added to expand the assurance of top teams participating in Nationals.

5.

1.10 Expression of Interest

Nationals' registration will be done via a lottery draw. Teams will have the opportunity to fill out an expression of interest for attending Nationals. All interested teams will be placed into a lottery and will be drawn to determine the teams who will be invited to register.

Reasoning

The registration format has been changed in an effort to provide an equitable process for all teams while removing all technological aspects which may affect a team's ability to register. The new format also allows for a faster registration process for teams and allows VC the opportunity to adjust registration capacities based on interest.

6.

1.14 Withdrawal Policy

New for 2024!

****Teams who do not submit a withdrawal form and who do not attend Nationals will be subject to the following penalties**

- No refund for registration fees
- A fine in the amount of \$1500
- The head coach and/or club may receive further sanctioning

Reasoning

This fine structure has been implemented to ensure that teams communicate their withdrawal therefore allowing VC to invite waitlisted teams to fill the draw in a timely manner prior to the competition.

7.

1.18 14U Events

New for 2024! To ensure access to as many teams as possible, priority will be given to those teams who are only registered/waitlisted to attend one event. Teams who wish to play in 2 or more 14U events will be placed at the bottom of the waitlist for the initial registration period.

Reasoning

This rule allows VC to ensure that all teams who are interested in attending have an opportunity to do so prior to allowing teams to participate in multiple events.

8.

6.2 Playing Area

Sport Court:

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 with at least one foot on the sport court.

Examples:

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

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

New for 2024! A Player may not cross the centre line inside or outside the net post at any time to pursue the ball beyond the antenna.

Reasoning

This change was implemented to provide more consistency in the current sport court rule. The additional rule ensures the safety of all players for the reason that there is not sufficient room for players to safely navigate movement across the centreline when playing on sport court.

9.

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 nor can they be placed in any team or player areas (Team bench, warm up zone, serving zone).
- Tripods cannot be placed in areas not permitted for spectators,
- Cameras on tripods cannot be left unattended, VC and/or event staff reserve the right to remove any tripods 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

Reasoning

This rule has been expanded to ensure the safety of all players.

10.

6.5 Line Judge and Score Keeper

New for 2024!

VC will not tolerate spectators making negative comments on the calls made by athlete line judges. Any spectator who is identified as making derogatory comments towards the line judge will be subject to any or all of the following penalties:

- Removed from the facility for the remainder of the day and/or the remainder of the tournament
- Placed on the national not in good standing list
- The team of the affiliated spectator may receive a 5-point penalty for their next match
- The team and club of the affiliated spectator may receive a fine and/or be ineligible to compete at the following year's Nationals.

Reasoning

The implementation of this rule is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all players.

11.

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 (including both toe and heel straps) are encouraged for any team personnel who are on the sport court for both warm up and match play.
- Hats are permitted.

Reasoning

This rule has been adjusted to ensure the safety of all team personnel and to also remove restrictions which do not affect the integrity of the game.

12.

12.3 Seeding

New for 2024! The seeding for all age/gender categories at Nationals will be based on a point system. VC will collect three data points throughout the year; an individual tournament result, Provincial Championship Seeding and Provincial Championship results.

Reasoning

The seeding has been adjusted following the 2023 pilot with the 15U boys. The pilot provided a seeding vs final ranking comparison which led to more consistency in team rankings and therefore a better competition experience for all teams.

13.

15.0 Sanctions

- A team does not fulfill its competitive obligations to an event. If for some reason a 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 VC as soon as possible.

New for 2024! A team who withdraws without notification directly to VC will be subject to any or all of the following penalties:

- No refund for registration fees
- A fine in the amount of \$1500
- The head coach and/or club may receive further sanctioning

New for 2024! A team who misses a match without notification, or who leaves the tournament early on Day 3 for travel purposes, will be subject to any or all of the following penalties:

- A fine in the amount of \$1500
- The team or club may receive further sanctioning

Reasoning

These sanctions have been implemented to ensure that all participating teams may compete in a complete tournament; ensuring full match participation from day one through the final medal rounds.