

Changes to the 2025 VC Youth Nationals Competition Guide

As of October 2024

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 2025 Competition Guide for full details regarding each of the regulations listed below.

1.

1.10 Expression of Interest

- 14U teams may only submit one (1) expression of interest per event, however they may submit additional expressions of interest if they wish to attend multiple 14U events. These teams will be waitlisted for any/all events after their first event invitation to ensure that all interested teams have an opportunity to participate before a second invitation is offered to the same team.

New for 2025! 14U teams may only submit one (1) expression of interest. 14U teams will have the opportunity to list a 2nd event in their Expression of Interest should they be willing to attend an alternate event. Teams will be automatically invited to the alternate event should they be waitlisted for their preferred event.

Reasoning

In an effort to improve the overall registration process, 14U teams must declare interest to attend additional 14U events in one Expression of Interest. This limits the number of submissions and downpayments required per team.

2.

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:

- Participate in a Provincial/Territorial Championship

New for 2025! Teams are encouraged to participate in one PTA event prior to provincials to provide appropriate ranking information for Nationals seeding.

Reasoning

Nationals seeding is based off of a pre-rank going into provincials as well as the provincials final rank. By participating in PTA regular season event teams will have a more accurate pre-provincials rank, therefore ensuring a better seed at Nationals.

3.

6.5 Line Judge and Score Keeper

New for 2025! If a team having 9 or more athletes on their roster chooses not to comply with the line judge requirements, they will receive a 3-point penalty for the match. This will be administered by providing the

opposing team with three (3) points at the start of the match (ie the beginning score of the match will be 3-0 for the opposing team).

Reasoning

The addition of this rule is to establish fair implementation of the line judge role by all teams.

4.

6.6 Noisemakers

New for 2025! VC acknowledges that competition venues may be loud and encourages spectators to take precautions, as needed, to protect hearing, especially that of young children/infants. VC does not limit the use of noisemakers, aside from the use of airhorns, but asks that all spectators are respectful of those around them. VC reserves the right, on a case-by-case basis, to require the discontinued use of or the removal of noisemakers used by athletes or spectators if they determine, in their sole discretion that the noisemakers cause significant issues to the enjoyment and/or safe and sportsman like operation of the

Reasoning

Reminder for all event participants and spectators that VC wishes to celebrate sport but also encourages safe and respectful use of noisemakers due to the overall noise levels in the event facilities.

5.

6.8 Uniforms for Warm-up

At VC Nationals, rule 7.2 will not be enforced and players will not be required to wear their uniform during the official warm-up however teams are encouraged to do so.

Reasoning

Clarification that VC will not enforce the rule in an effort to encourage team engagement during Nationals. This rule was not previously listed in the Competition Guide.

6.

6.9 Pom Poms

The use of Pom Poms on the playing area (team benches) is not permitted.

Reasoning

Pieces that fall from the pompom create an unsafe playing surface for athletes. Spectators may still use pom poms in the spectator seating area.

7.

11.3 Athlete Uniforms

New for 2025! The Captain is not required to have a stripe on their jersey

Reasoning

This requirement has been removed as the captain is identified during the pre-game coin toss.

8.

12.3 Seeding

VC will collect three data points from each PTA: a mid-season event, the Provincial Championship Seeding and Provincial Championship results.

New for 2025! VC will collect two data points from each PTA, the Provincial Championship Seeding and Provincial Championship results.

Reasoning

VC has removed the mid-season result submission in an effort to decrease the amount of work for teams leading up to Nationals, and to create a fair and even event for all participants

9.

19.0 Zero Tolerance Policy

New for 2025! Addition of the policy to the Competition Guide

Reasoning

After implementation during the 2024 Nationals the policy has been updated and formally added to the Competition Guide. The addition offers easy reference and clarity to teams.

10.

Appendix 1 - Sanctions

New for 2025! An appendix was added to list all sanctions

Reasoning

In an effort to offer an easier reference to all possible sanctions and appendix was created. All sanctions listed throughout the Comp Guide have been moved to this section.