



Stay to Play Policy - FAQ

The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) addresses Indoor National Championships.

General Information

01. What is Stay to Play?

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

02. Why is Volleyball Canada using a Stay to Play policy?

The Stay to Play policy ensures that all teams looking for accommodation for Nationals will be able to find suitable accommodation. In addition, the Stay to Play policy helps ensure that:

- A competitive rate is provided to participating teams.
- That overall competition costs are well supported. Demonstrating the significant economic impact of our competitions on host cities enhances Volleyball Canada's ability to secure grants from these cities
- Selected hotels are able to service youth sports teams.

03. Who is the Accommodations Management Provider (AMP)?

The Accommodations Management Provider is hired by Volleyball Canada to manage the accommodation needs for all teams participating at Nationals. They are a private business with established connections in the hotel industry with the ability to negotiate the best rates and manage large volume room bookings.

04. Who determines the rules for Stay to Play?

Volleyball Canada determines the guidelines and procedures for the VC National Championships Stay to Play policy. The Accommodations Management Provider (AMP), Hudson Travel Group (HTG), then implements the policy for their respective event on behalf of VC.

05. How does Stay to Play help my team?

Benefits for teams from Stay to Play include:

1. Fixed group room rates for the tournament dates. Stay to Play leverage allows Volleyball Canada, through HTG, to negotiate fixed room rates for blocks. Without Stay to Play, a significant number of hotels in the best locations would be available at significantly higher rates.
2. Stay to Play allows Volleyball Canada to hold hotels to "Rate Integrity," meaning teams are guaranteed one price for their booking. Prices cannot increase closer to the tournament dates or vary by night.
3. HTG and the hotels make every effort to keep each team together in the hotel.
4. Prices are negotiated based on four (4) person per room occupancy.

06. Are friends and family required to stay in hotels identified by HTG?

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



Booking Accommodations

07. When can our team book accommodations?

Please refer to your event's webpage for the date and time your event's booking portal opens. Each event will have its own opening date. All booking portals will open after the event's registration opening date.

08. Who can book our team's accommodations?

At the time of registration for the event, each team will be asked to identify their team's Accommodation's Manager. The contact identified will be sent all accommodations instructions.

09. How does our Accommodations Manager book rooms for our team?

The Accommodations Manager will book rooms via HTG's booking portal. A complete step-by-step guide of the booking process is available on each event's webpage.

Volleyball Canada recommends that teams review the guides annually, as changes to the booking process may occur from year to year.

10. How does my club qualify for access to the Large Club Booking?

If your club has four (4) or more teams attending the same tournament, your club qualifies for Large Club booking. Volleyball Canada will contact the Accommodations Managers of all the teams within the same club to confirm eligibility and provide next steps.

11. Will a list of approved hotels be released prior to the booking portal opening dates?

Volleyball Canada will post the hotel preview links for each event at least one (1) month prior to the opening of the accommodation and registration portals. This will provide teams with the ability to review the available hotels prior to booking.

Volleyball Canada recommends each team pick a minimum of five (5) suitable hotel options prior to their booking portal opening date, as top hotel options may sell out quickly.

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

HTG considers proposals from any hotel that wants to be included on the list of approved host hotels. It is the sole discretion of each hotel to offer a room block for an event. In addition:

- Hotels must be members of their local tourism program to be considered as host hotels.
- Sometimes hotels have other businesses booked, and they do not have sufficient inventory to provide a block.
- Some hotels are not suitable for youth sports teams or prefer not to do business with sports teams.

13. My team has already booked rooms directly with the hotel. Can we still use these?

No. Teams who book a hotel room outside of our Stay to Play policy will be required to cancel their hotel bookings and re-book through HTG's booking portal. Failure to book through the appropriate channels may result in fines, sanctions, and/or removal from the event.



14. How does my team access the HTG booking portal?

The live booking link will be sent to the listed Accommodations Manager for each team.

15. Why do I have to wait to book my hotel room until after my team is registered for Nationals?

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 does not get accepted into the tournament.

16. Will HTG contact us about Stay to Play?

Yes, in their role of managing hotel reservations for the National Championships, HTG will facilitate communications between the team and hotel and may contact teams directly.

17. I can get a better price for one of the approved hotels through the hotel directly or through an online discount website. Can I book directly with the hotel or via the alternate site?

Approved hotels are not permitted to offer teams a rate lower than what is publicized on HTG's portal. If a hotel communicates a lower rate, this is considered an error and should be brought to Volleyball Canada's attention to follow-up on. Volleyball Canada has agreements with the hotels that teams are to be presented with the lowest rates.

In addition, teams are not permitted to book their hotels outside of HTG's portal, even for approved hotels. When booking outside of HTG, VC is not able to track your booking, therefore your team will not be compliant with the Stay to Play policy and could face sanctions such as removal from the event.

Exemptions

18. I reside within the event's proximity distance, but my team's training facility is outside the designated area, do I still need stay in one of the approved hotels?

No, athletes who reside within the event's proximity distance are not required to stay at the event hotels. However, to be officially exempted from the Stay to Play Policy, and to ensure your team remains compliant, you must submit a [Stay to Play Exemption Request Form](#).

19. My club is local but is not on the Approved Local Clubs List?

If your club is located within the event proximity distance but is not listed on the approved list, please have a Club Administrator complete the [Stay to Play Exemption Request Form](#) found on the event website. Volleyball Canada will review submissions with the applicable Provincial or Territorial Association for inclusion on the list.

20. Are there exemptions from the Stay to Play policy?

Volleyball Canada will consider requests under the following two (2) categories:



1. Proximity Exemption:

- a) Your team is based within the specified proximity distance from the competition venue and did not receive the automatic exemption from Volleyball Canada, **OR**
- b) You reside within the specified proximity distance from the competition venue, **OR**
- c) You are planning on staying with family or friends that reside within the specified proximity distance from the competition venue.

2. Special Exemption: For exemption requests that do not fall under the proximity exemption category.

[Stay to Play Exemption Request Forms](#) are available on the event website. Previous booking exemptions will not be considered.

21. What are examples of ineligible special requests?

- The team did not get their preferred hotel.
 - Hotel preferences are not guaranteed. Sufficient hotels have been contracted to accommodate all teams attending the event. It is suggested that teams identify a minimum of five hotels prior to booking opening as top choices do sell out quickly.
- Requests stating, 'Nationals is too expensive'.
 - When a team registers for Nationals, it is expected that stakeholders understand and are committed to all the costs associated with the event, including accommodation. Hotel preview links are posted well in advance of the EOI and registration opening to provide transparency on potential costs.
- A full team requests an exemption when the extenuating circumstance only affects a few athletes on the team.
 - The team accommodations manager will need to submit individual exemption requests for each athlete affected by the extenuating circumstances.
- A family has children attending multiple tournaments and would like to avoid switching hotels in-between.
 - HTG is happy to work with families attending multiple tournaments and can help them secure one single hotel for all events. Families in this situation can contact HTG directly for support.