



**Volleyball
Canada**

Athlete and Coach Pathways Committee

January 22, 2025

MINUTES

- (1) VC Updates
 - (a) Strategic Plan - Pathway Planning
 - (i) Throughout December and January, the Pathway team has been working on a vision for Pathways through to 2032. This work includes feedback from the TD meetings, incorporating new initiatives while balancing ongoing projects to move forward.
 - (b) Learning Management System
 - (i) The LMS (Volleyball Connect) is launched across Canada and supporting coach education. Coaches are engaging with the platform. Moving forward, the development of new content will support coaches and athletes. A significant number of resources are supporting PTAs onboarding and functionality of the system. The LMS will remain a key component to the development of the pathways vision for 2032.
 - (c) Canada Cup 2026 & 2027
 - (i) The Canada Cup event will be held in Regina in 2026 and Montreal in 2027.
 - (d) COC Grant – Smashball Festivals
 - (i) Volleyball Canada has received a grant through the Canadian Olympic Committee to engage new participants at the grassroots level. This project will be over 4 years and include Smashball Festivals throughout Canada.
 - (ii) Pathways is considering incorporating Smashball as an extension of the current age class model, i.e. 8u, 10u as an example.
- (2) Canada Games Update
 - (a) Participation Age
 - (i) The TD's discussed the age as likely appropriate at 17U given the consistency of the Youth National Team Program offerings, however there was not consensus amongst the group.
 1. Dawna to prepare a survey to the PTAs to gather feedback for the ACPC.
- (3) Working groups –
 - (a) Coach Working Group
 - (i) The draft outline is supported by the committee, and the working group will proceed including a representative from high performance.
 - (ii) The working group will provide support for a coach development pathway including both nccp and non-nccp learning, including the support from the PTAs.
 - (iii) The PTAs will play a valuable role in the coach working group including representation but also to assist in measuring where coaches are in their educational path.
 - (b) Rule of the Game
 - (i) The ROG working group will be considering the 2nd contact double hit as well as positional rotations on serving and receiving. However, it should be noted that these rule adaptations are only in pilots within the FIVB and would not be



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confirmed until the FIVB Congress in the fall of 2026. Early feedback notes not all the proposed changes are doing what the FIVB would like to see for the sport, and therefore they may be altered or not approved before the congress.

- (ii) Pilots for libero at 15U are currently ongoing in partnership with Alberta Volleyball.

(4) Indoor Updates

(i) Coach Eligibility Process

- 1. The coach working group will support the development of eligibility in conjunction with the coach pathway development, not as a single entity.

(ii) Participation Ages (overage policy)

- 1. Age eligibility exemption requests are continuing to be processed through the committee. The number of requests isn't significant although the 18U category is under consideration. The rationale of the extended age categories (16 months) continues to be supported through peer group participation and relative birth age effect. During recent years, there has been an increase in the number of players extending beyond the 16th month window.
- 2. Data will be extracted from 18U to gauge the impact of the additional extended age athletes. This information will be brought back to the committee for discussion.

(5) Sitting Resource Update

(i) Development

- 1. Resources including coaching module are currently being development.

(6) Next Meeting: April 2026