



COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Match Fees

A team or individual match fee, as determined by the Committee at the start of each season, must be paid prior to the commencement of play each night via the nominated payment platform(s).

Team Captains are responsible for ensuring all team members have paid and can provide evidence to the Competition Manager or duty team (on request) prior to the match so it can be recorded on the scoresheet.

Failure to pay match fees prior to play in successive weeks will result in the deduction of match points at the discretion of the committee

2. Player Registrations

All players participating in Volleyball Ballarat competition must register with Volleyball Victoria online to be considered a member and eligible to participate after April 1 each year.

This annual fee varies (adult/U18 rates apply) and is required as part of Volleyball Ballarat's affiliation.

Registrations can be completed via the link on our website.

3. Uniform

A Grade & Premiership:

- Matching, numbered uniforms required for accurate score sheet completion

B Grade & Women's Divisions:

- Uniform encouraged but not required. Matching coloured top strongly encouraged

3.1 Safe Sports Attire

All players must wear safe, appropriate sportswear, including non-marking athletic footwear.

Not permitted:

- Any attire that poses a safety risk to themselves or any other player
- Oversized clothing that may cause a tripping hazard
- Denim or leather clothing
- Earbuds/headphones during play
- Caps / beanies

4. Game Rules

All players must follow the official FIVB rules: www.fivb.com/volleyball/the-game/official-volleyball-rules/

- Each team must have a team captain appointed for each match
- Referee decisions must be accepted respectfully and without dispute
- Only the captain may approach the referee for clarification

4.1 Captain Responsibilities:

- Complete and sign scoresheet pre-match with player attendance recorded
- Confirm all player fees are paid prior to commencement of match
- Attend the toss
- Check the scoresheet at the conclusion of the match and sign once satisfied with the recorded score.

4.2 Protests:

Resolved immediately by an independent Committee member present and all decisions are final.

5. Match Format

- Matches are played best of 5 sets, within a **60-minute time limit**, with a 2-minute changeover between sets.
- Team captains must ensure all player names are recorded on the scoresheet and that all participants have paid their match fees prior to the commencement of play.
- The match clock will start at the scheduled time regardless of team readiness.
- No Time outs in the final 2 minutes of the 60-minute timed match

5.1 Set Structure:

- Sets 1–4: First to 25 points, win by 2
- 5th Set: First to 15 points, win by 2

If time expires:

- Sets 1–4: Awarded to the team reaching 13 points with a 2-point lead
- 5th set: Awarded at 8 points with a 2-point lead

6. Number of Players

6.1 Minimum Players

At the commencement of each match teams must have a minimum number of players on the court.

- Prens, A & B Grade: Minimum **5 players**
- Womens: Minimum of **4 players**

All players must be listed on the scoresheet before play begins

6.2 Insufficient Players Penalty

Prens, A & B Grade (minimum 5):

- Start: less than 5 players - Set 1 forfeited (25–0)
- After 10 mins: less than 5 players - Set 2 forfeited
- After 20 mins: less than 5 players - Match forfeited

Women's (minimum 4):

- Same structure applies (with min. 4 players) as above

6.3 Substitutions

Teams in A Grade, B Grade and Women's divisions may choose either substitution option.

Premiership players **MUST** follow the standard substitution (12 sub rule)

- **Rolling substitutions**
 - Players remain in rotation, moving through court positions via Position 1, and/or Position 4 when 7 or more players are on court
- **Standard substitutions (12-sub rule)**
 - Players may be substituted directly during the set (Max 12 subs/set), each player can only interchange with their designated substitute for that set.
 - Referee must be notified at the time of the substitution, and players must enter and exit the court through the designated substitution zone

6.4 Gap Rule (Prens Only)

Teams may play with 5 players using a “gap” in rotation. Players must maintain normal rotation positions as if a full team of 6 is on court, keeping their designated front and back court positions. Each time the gap rotates into the service position, the serve is lost and a point is awarded to the opposition.

7. Fill-In Players

7.1 Appropriate fill ins

- Players cannot fill in for a **lower division** team
- Once registered for a team in the same division, players cannot play for another team without opposition approval.
- Players registered in a lower division can fill in for a team in a higher division without opposition approval.
- Any questions or disagreement between teams in regard to this will be resolved by an independent committee member present and all decisions are final

Fill-ins:

- Only allowed if team has fewer than 6 players
- Cannot be used to increase team size
- Unregistered players: May play a maximum of 3 **matches** before they are required to register with Volleyball Victoria

7.2 Changing Teams

If a player wishes to change teams after registering, a request to do so is to be given to the Association Committee for approval.

Players Cannot change teams until approved

8. Premiership Points

- Win = 3 points
- Draw = 2 points
- Loss = 1 point
- Forfeit = 0 points

Forfeits or loss of premiership points may result from rule breaches, including:

- Insufficient players (point 8)
- Ineligible players
- Failure of team participants to make match payment for >2 matches (point 1)
- Misconduct or major rule violations
- Not providing any/enough players to compete duty requirements

5.1 Ladder Positions

Positions of all teams on the premiership ladder will be determined in the following order:

1. Premiership points
2. Sets %
3. Points %

9. Finals

Finals structure is determined by the Committee each season based on team numbers and standard.

Qualifying / Semi / Preliminary Finals:

- Best of 3 sets, win by 2 (to 25, including decider)
- 60-minute time limit

Grand Final:

- Best of 5 sets
- No time limit
- 5th set to 15, win by 2

4.1 Eligibility for Finals:

- Player must be a registered member
- Player must have played **at least 4 matches** with that team during the current season

Final eligibility decisions rest with the Committee.

Finals structure between seasons may be adjusted at the Committee's discretion.

10. Officials

- Duty for Women's, B Grade and A Grade teams must provide a minimum of 2 match officials: a First Referee and a Scorer.
- Premier Division teams must provide a minimum of 3 match officials, which includes a First Referee, a Scorer, and a Second Referee (Net Referee)
- Teams are encouraged (not required) to provide two linesmen

Finals referees are appointed by the Committee.

The Association reserves the right to amend fixtures and duty allocations.

10.1 Official expectations

- Individuals undertaking duty responsibilities (including first referee, second referee, scorer and line judge duties) are expected to give their full attention to the match at all times.
- The use of mobile phones during sets is not permitted while completing duty responsibilities.
- Earphones or headphones are not to be worn while undertaking duty responsibilities.

11. Referee Signals

After each rally, referees must signal:

- 1st – point to the team who won the rally and will serve next
- 2nd – indicate the nature of the fault (eg in / out / carry / net touch etc)
- 3rd – point to the player at fault (only if unclear)