



COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS

1. 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.

2. 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.

If a registered player is playing in a second match for the night as a fill-in for another team (see point 7) they will be charged a reduced fee.

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 or refereeing duty
- 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

- 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 or substitutions in the final 2 minutes of the timed match

Prem's Division

- 75 minutes of play
- 2 minutes changeover between sets
- At the completion of 75 minutes, the team that has won the most completed sets is awarded the premiership points.

A Grade, B Grade & Women's Divisions

- 60 Minutes of play
- 2-minute changeover between sets
- Matches are played as best of 5 sets

5.1 Set Structure:

Prem's Division

- All sets are played to 25 points, win by 2.

- If time expires during an incomplete set, the set will be considered completed if one team has reached at least 13 points and holds a minimum 2-point lead.
 - If neither team meets these requirements when time expires, the set is not counted towards the match result.
- The team that wins the most completed sets wins the match. If both teams win an equal number of completed sets, the match is a draw

A Grade, B Grade & Women's Divisions

- Sets 1–4: First to 25 points, win by 2.
- 5th Set: First to 15 points, win by 2.
- If time expires during an incomplete set:
 - Sets 1–4: The set is awarded if one team has reached at least 13 points and holds a minimum 2-point lead.
 - 5th Set: The set is awarded if one team has reached at least 8 points and holds a minimum 2-point lead.
 - If neither team meets these requirements, the incomplete set is not counted towards the match result.

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.

- Prems, 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

Prem, A & B Grade Divisions

A minimum of 5 players is required to play.

- Scheduled start time: Fewer than 5 players – Set 1 forfeited 25–0.
- 10 minutes after scheduled start: Fewer than 5 players – Set 2 forfeited 25–0.
- 20 minutes after scheduled start: Fewer than 5 players – match forfeited.

Women's Division

A minimum of 4 players is required to play.

- Scheduled start time: Fewer than 4 players – Set 1 forfeited 25–0.
- 10 minutes after scheduled start: Fewer than 4 players – Set 2 forfeited 25–0.

- 20 minutes after scheduled start: Fewer than 4 players – match forfeited

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

No Substitutions in any division in the last 2 minutes of a 60-minute timed match

6.4 Gap Rule (Prem's 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 to a team within a division, a player may not play for another team in the same division without approval from the opposing team.
- 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

Requirements of fill in players:

- Fill-in players are only permitted when a team has fewer than 6 available players.
- Unregistered players may play a maximum of 3 matches before they are required to register with Volleyball Ballarat.
- All fill-in players must have their name recorded on the scoresheet.
- All fill-in players must have their name recorded on the payment / attendance sheet.
- All fill-in players must pay the applicable match fee prior to the commencement of the match.

7.1 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

8.1 Premiership points allocation

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

8.2 Forfeits and Loss of Premiership Points

Forfeiture of a match or loss of premiership points may result from breaches of competition rules, including:

- Insufficient players (refer Point 6).
- Inappropriate fill-in players (Refer Point 7)
- Use of an ineligible player for finals (refer point 9.1)
- Failure of team participants to pay match fees for more than two matches (refer Point 1).
- Misconduct or serious breaches of competition rules. (See code of conduct)
- Failure of the team to provide the required number of players for allocated duty responsibilities. (Refer point 10)
- Failure of the allocated duty team to correctly and completely fill out the scoresheet.

Final decisions regarding the loss of premiership points will be at the discretion of the Committee.

8.3 Team Withdrawal from a match

- Teams unable to participate in a scheduled match must notify the Tournament Director on 0480 443 734 as soon as possible to discuss possible fill-in options or, if necessary, withdrawal from the match.
- Teams should make reasonable efforts to source their own fill-in players before withdrawing from a scheduled match.
- A team withdrawing from a scheduled match will be recorded as having forfeited the match.
- A team withdrawing after 12:00 pm (midday) on the day of competition will incur a \$70 late withdrawal fee to assist in covering court hire costs.
- Repeated withdrawals or failure to provide reasonable notice may result in additional penalties at the discretion of the Committee

8.4 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

Final's structure is determined by the Committee each season based on team numbers and standard.

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

Qualifying / Semi / Preliminary Finals:

Prem's Division

- Best of 5 sets, win by 2 (to 25, including decider)
- 75-minute time limit
- If teams are tied on sets won at the end of the allocated match time, the winner will be determined by the team with the highest total points scored across all sets

A Grade, B Grade & Women's Division

- Best of 5 sets, win by 2 (to 25, including decider)
- 60-minute time limit
- If teams are tied on sets won at the end of the allocated match time, the winner will be determined by the team with the highest total points scored across all sets.

Grand Final All Divisions:

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

9.1 Player Eligibility for Finals:

- Player must be a registered member of Volleyball Ballarat
- Players must have participated in a minimum of one-third of the scheduled round matches for the team they are seeking to represent in Finals during the current season.
- Player must have played a minimum of one third of round matches with team they are asking to play finals with during the current season.
 - These appearances must be recorded on the relevant match scoresheets and payment sheets to count towards Finals eligibility
- Final eligibility decisions rest with the Committee.

10. Duty Requirements

Round Matches

- Women's, B Grade and A Grade duty teams must provide a minimum of 2 match officials: a First Referee and a Scorer.
- Premier Division duty teams must provide a minimum of 3 match officials: a First Referee, a Second Referee (Net Referee), and a Scorer.
- Duty teams are encouraged, but not required, to provide 2 Lines people.

Finals Matches

- Duty teams for all Finals matches will be appointed by the Committee.
- Appointed duty teams must provide the required match officials and 2 Lines people.
- The Committee may appoint additional or alternative match officials where required.

The Association reserves the right to amend fixtures and duty allocations as required

10.1 Official Expectations

- All Individuals undertaking duty responsibilities are expected to always give their full attention to the match.
 - Mobile phone use is not permitted while undertaking duty responsibilities during a set.
 - Earphones or headphones must not be worn while undertaking duty responsibilities.
- Prior to the commencement of the match, the duty team must ensure that team captains have confirmed their playing lists and that all players have paid the applicable match fee.
- Scorers must ensure all required sections of the scoresheet are completed correctly and in full.
- The duty team must ensure that team captains check and sign the completed scoresheet at the conclusion of the match

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)