INDOOR CLUB VOLLEYBALL HANDBOOK 2026/2027 SEASON

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Welcome to the 2026/2027 Volleyball Manitoba (VM) Club Volleyball Season!
We are thrilled to kick off another exciting season of Club Volleyball, one of the premier development programs for our sport in Manitoba. Volleyball Manitoba is proud to facilitate this season, organize tournaments, host the Club Volleyball Provincial Championships, and support teams representing our province at the Volleyball Canada National Championships.

Questions and Contact Information

Volleyball Manitoba Contacts:

1. Visit our website: www.volleyballmanitoba.ca -- Your primary resource for information, rules, and updates.
2. Contact us directly:
    - Address: Suite 412, 145 Pacific Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R3B 2Z6
    - Phone: (204) 925-5783
    - Email: info@volleyballmanitoba.ca
3. Reach out to our staff for specific inquiries:
    - Coralee Dolyniuk – Executive Director
        - Phone: (204) 925-5791 | Email: coralee@volleyballmanitoba.ca
    - Liam Markesteyn – Technical Director & Performance Coach
        - Phone: (204) 925-5784 | Email: liam@volleyballmanitoba.ca
    - Sadie Taylor-Parks – Membership Manager
        - Phone: (204) 925-5912 | Email: sadie@volleyballmanitoba.ca
    - Alyssa Buternowsky – Competition Manager
        - Phone: (204) 925-5787 | Email: alyssa@volleyballmanitoba.ca
    - Allen De Ocampo – Program Manager
        - Phone: (204) 925-5785 | Email: allen@volleyballmanitoba.ca

Context for This Handbook

This handbook outlines the rules and guidelines that help ensure fairness, safety, and a positive experience for all participants.

Why so many rules?
They exist to create a consistent and equitable environment for athletes, coaches, and clubs.

Why do rules change?
Adjustments reflect evolving best practices and the needs of our volleyball community.

Our guiding principles:
Volleyball Manitoba strives to:

- Prioritize athletes' best interests.
- Promote volleyball participation and skill development across Manitoba.
- Align with school programs, beach volleyball, and provincial initiatives.
- Implement Long-Term Development (LTD) principles.
- Prepare athletes for higher levels of competition.
- Balance affordability with high-quality experiences.
- Foster transparency and accountability.

Encouragement and Responsibility
We rely on the integrity of athletes, coaches, clubs, and parents to uphold these standards. Most participants demonstrate great sportsmanship and contribute to a fair, competitive environment.

If formal complaints arise, Volleyball Manitoba will follow its Discipline and Complaints Policy. Parents are encouraged to research clubs and teams to find the best fit for their child(ren) and to learn about the Age Class Club Volleyball system.

Safe Sport

- The Protecting Youth in Sports Act- The Protecting Youth in Sports Act came into force on April 1st, 2026, requiring Sport Manitoba, Provincial Sport Organizations, such as Volleyball Manitoba, and Prescribed Organizations to establish comprehensive standards and oversight to protect young athletes, those 21 years of age or younger.
- Safe Sport Line- **1-833-656-SAFE (7233)** If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, harassment, bullying or hazing in sport, and you need someone to talk to, call the safe sport line. In Manitoba, it is everyone's legal obligation to report suspected child abuse. If, in your honest judgment, you believe that a child may not be safe, you are legally required to report it. The experts at the Safe Sport Line can help you make that report.
- SafeZone- **Volleyball Manitoba** is committed to fostering a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for everyone involved in volleyball across the province. To support this commitment, Volleyball Manitoba is proud to introduce **SafeZone**, a resource designed to assist participants, clubs, and district representatives in navigating concerns, conflicts, and the complaint process.
    - **What SafeZone Offers**
        - A confidential and non-judgmental space to share concerns and ask questions.
        - Emotional support and an opportunity to talk through challenges you have experienced or witnessed.
        - Guidance on available options and support in understanding possible next steps.
        - Information on Volleyball Manitoba's complaint processes, jurisdiction, and additional resources.
    - Learn more, and how to contact SafeZone, on our website HERE.

Looking Ahead
We look forward to another exciting club volleyball season filled with fun, friendships, skill development, and great competition.

Thank you for your continued dedication — enjoy the season!



Important Dates and Deadlines

Date	Activity	Details
June 1st- August 3rd, 2026	Recruitment blackout period for all age classes	
August 4th, 2026	Early Signing Period begins, please reference Early Signing Section for more details. Direct Communication is permitted.	Please see more information including Best Practices in the Scouting & Recruiting Guidelines (P.13)
September 5th- October 31st	16U and younger athletes, Recruitment Blackout, Direct Communication permitted. 17U&18U athletes, Direct Recruitment permitted.	
Oct 31st, 2026- End of athlete's school season	Recruitment blackout period for all age classes.	
November 19th, 2026	Club Registration Deadline	Coaches encouraged to initiate Criminal Record and Child Abuse Registry Check screening.
November 19th, 2026	Club Information Meeting	6pm online. Details will be sent to sanctioned clubs.
November 29th, 2026	13U&14U Tryouts Open	Offers out on Sunday December 6th at 6pm
December 1st, 2026	Premier Registration Opens	Premier attendance is mandatory. Please see more information on P.20.
December 1st, 2026	Provincial Championship Registration Opens	
December 5th, 2026	15U&16U Tryouts Open	Offers out on Saturday Dec 12th at 6pm.
December 7th- 16th	National Championship Pre-Registration	More information and dates on P.23 in Competition Guide.
December 8th, 2026	13U&14U signed teams may begin training.	
December 12th, 2026	17U&18U Tryouts Open	Offers out Thurs Dec 17 at 6pm. **Blackout-no 18U tryouts Dec 13 (Grad All-Star)**
December 12th, 2026	17U&18U Early Signed teams may begin training.	**Blackout-no 18U training Dec 13 (Grad All-Star)**
December 13th, 2026	Graduating All-Star Banquet	
December 14th, 2026	15U&16U signed teams may begin training.	
December 18th, 2026	17U& 18U Non-Early Signed teams may begin training.	
December 24th, 2026- January 1st, 2027	Holiday Break- Training, Recruitment & Competition Blackout	
January 7th, 2027	Coach Registration Deadline	All coaches must complete Screening and Mandatory Eligibility Requirements

January 19th, 2027	Premier Registration Deadline	
January 28th, 2027	Coach Screening Requirements Deadline	Additional coach registrations after this date must be requested in writing, at a charge of $100/coach.
February 11th, 2027	Club Registration Final Deadline	Clubs registering after January must have all coaches registered and screening requirements completed before approval.
February 25th, 2027	Club Approval Deadline	
February 25th, 2027	Coach Mandatory Eligibility Requirements Deadline	All coaches must have Mandatory Eligibility Requirements completed and submitted. Non-compliance will result in a $300 fine per coach.
March 15th, 2027	Coach Ineligibility Affective Date & Head Coach Requirement Deadline	All coaches must have their Mandatory Eligibility Requirements completed and fines paid. All Head Coaches must have completed their respective Head Coach requirements. Non-compliance will result in ineligibility for the season.
March 23rd, 2027	Provincial Championship Registration & Withdrawal Deadline	
March 23rd, 2027	Teams Declare Provincial Division	Age Classes with more than 16 teams will be asked to declare what division they would like to enter at Provincials. More information will be sent at this time.
March 24th, 2027	Provincial Roster Lock Date	Roster changes for Provincial Championships after this date must be requested in writing, at a charge of $50/change.
March 24th, 2027	National Roster Lock Date	Roster changes for National Championships after this date must be completed through Volleyball Canada.

VM Competition Regulations

Net Heights, Libero, Set on Serve Receive, and Official Ball:

Competition Category	Net Height (metres)	Libero	Set on Serve Receive	Official Ball
13U Boys	2.2	No	Yes	Mikasa VQ200W-CAN
13U Girls	2.15	No	Yes	Mikasa VQ200W-CAN
14U Boys	2.2	No	Yes	Mikasa VQ200W-CAN
14U Girls	2.15	No	Yes	Mikasa VQ200W-CAN
15U Boys	2.35	Yes*	Yes	Mikasa VQ200W-CAN
15U Girls	2.2	Yes*	Yes	Mikasa VQ200W-CAN
16U Boys	2.35	Yes	Yes	Mikasa VQ200W-CAN
16U Girls	2.24	Yes	Yes	Mikasa VQ200W-CAN
17U Boys	2.43	Yes	Yes	Mikasa V200W
17U Girls	2.24	Yes	Yes	Mikasa V200W
18U Boys	2.43	Yes- two**	Yes	Mikasa V200W
18U Girls	2.24	Yes-two**	Yes	Mikasa V200W

*New this season, Volleyball Manitoba and Volleyball Canada will be piloting a libero at the 15U age classifications.
**New this season, Volleyball Canada rules are in effect, 2 liberos are permitted for 18U age classifications.

Note: 13U player in position 6 can set tossed ball.

2026/2027 Volleyball Manitoba Age Classes

Volleyball Manitoba follows Volleyball Canada's age categories for competitions:

- Age groups run 13U–18U, based on birth month, not just birth year.
- Volleyball Manitoba uses a 16-month eligibility window, giving athletes flexibility to play at the most appropriate level.
- Volleyball Manitoba is stricter than Volleyball Canada:
    - Only athletes within the 16-month window can play 18U.
    - No athletes involved in USport/CCAA/post-secondary volleyball during Sept 2026–May 2027 can be on 18U rosters.
- Exemptions are rare and only approved under extraordinary circumstances.
- All exemption requests must go through Volleyball Manitoba first.

Birth Month	18U*	17U	16U	15U	14U	13U
September to December	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
January to December	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014

Note: Age categories are listed as 13U–18U (not U13–U18). Please use this format consistently, especially during online registration.

Guiding Principles

- Long-Term Development (LTD): The 16-month age window helps athletes compete at the right level for their development instead of being restricted by birth year.
- Athletes, parents, and coaches should weigh both short-term and long-term benefits when choosing an age category.
- Clubs may set their own policies for "playing up" or "playing down."

***18U Exceptions (Volleyball Canada vs. Volleyball Manitoba)**

- VC Policy: 18U Rosters: Two (2) athletes born from Jan 1-August 31, 2008 will be permitted.
    - VM Policy 18U Rosters:
        - Athletes in the 16-month window may participate (September 1st, 2008-December 31st, 2009).
        - Two (2) athletes born from Jan 1-August 31, 2008 will be permitted.
            - Contact sadie@volleyballmanitoba.ca for final approval of overage player.
- VC Policy: Allows two current USport, CCAA, or other post-secondary athletes born Sept 1 – Dec 31, 2008 to play 18U.
    - VM Policy: Not allowed.
- VM Roster Rule: Athletes may not participate on VM rosters if they are part of any USport, CCAA, or other post-secondary volleyball program during Sept 2026 – May 2027.

Definition of Post-Secondary Participation:

- Training with a post-secondary volleyball program (in whole or part) starting Oct 1, 2026.
- Athletes may try out/train with a post-secondary team in September 2026.
- Applies to all athletes (including redshirts).
- Does not apply to intramural or recreational club programs.
- Head Coaches must confirm verification.

Overage Exemptions

- **Goal:** To provide athletes an opportunity to participate in club volleyball while creating a fair and safe environment for all involved.
- **Exemptions:**
    - Under extraordinary circumstances only, an exemption request for athletes born prior to the 16-month window to play in a specific age group may be considered. The Head Coach/Team Manager must make a request. Initial requests must go to Volleyball Manitoba. If granted and a team is planning on attending Nationals, acknowledgement of Volleyball Manitoba's decision must be provided in the submission to Volleyball Canada.
- **Submit Age Exemption Requests using the form HERE.**
    - Requests will then be reviewed by Volleyball Manitoba.

Roster Size

All teams may have up to 15 players on their roster.

- 15U–18U: maximum of 15 players may be listed on the game sheet
- 13U–14U: maximum of 12 players may be listed on the game sheet
    - 14U and younger teams must roster a minimum of 12 players.

VM 15U – 18U (Unlimited Substitutions)

- 12 substitutions unlimited
- Starter can re-enter only their original position.
- Substitutes can only replace the same starter.
- **Goal:** increase playing opportunities.

13U–14U (Fair Play)

- Minimum 9 players must be on the score sheet.
- Players may play in max 2 of 3 sets.
- No substitutions in sets 1 & 2 (except for *exceptional substitutions).
- 3rd set allows 12 unlimited substitutions for eligible players.
- Exemptions must be requested from VM if fewer than 9 players are available (not permitted at Provincials). Please contact sadie@volleyballmanitoba.ca with your request.

***Exceptional Substitutions (Fair Play):**

- Allowed for injured/ill athletes.
- (For VM only) Allowed for athletes in significant emotional or mental distress.
- In the event of an injury, illness, or athlete distress, the match would be stopped and a substitution declared at that time (Tripleball-regardless of what point in the three-ball sequence it occurs).
- The athlete removed may not return to the same set but may return to play in subsequent sets.

Serving Space Rule:

- Courts with less than 3m serving space: one step on the end line allowed.
- Stepping into the court = fault.
- If only one side has <3m, rule applies to that side only.

Curtain Rule:

- Players may not push curtains to create serving space or prevent a ball hitting the curtain.
- Contacting the curtain after a legal play = no fault.
- Violations: ball called "out," point to opponent.

Ceiling or Overhead Object(s) Rule:

APPLIES TO ALL VENUES

- A ball shall remain in play if it contacts the ceiling or overhead object(s) directly above the playing area on the team's own side of the court.
- A ball, coming from the first hit of the team, that has crossed the net plane to the opponent's free zone totally or partly through the external space, may be played back within the team hits, provided:
    - A ball contacting the ceiling or overhead object(s) directly above the opponent's free zone is retrieved from within the opponent's free zone.
    - A ball contacting the ceiling or overhead object(s) directly above the opponent's free zone may not return to the team's own side of the court. The ball will be deemed 'out'.
- A ball is deemed 'out' if it contacts the ceiling or overhead object(s) beyond the limitations of the playing area.
- A ball is deemed 'out' if it contacts the ceiling or overhead object(s) directly above the playing area on the team's own side of the court and immediately thereafter crosses the plane of the net.

- A ball is deemed 'out' if it crosses the plane of the net and immediately thereafter contacts the ceiling or overhead objects above the opposition's side of the court.
- A ball is deemed 'out' if it contacts the ceiling or overhead objects on the opponent's side of the court immediately following a completed block.

Standing Coach:
VM follows VC rules and only the Head Coach, as designated on the roster, is allowed to stand during the match. All other on-bench staff must be seated.

Court Crowding:
VM follows VC rules and does not allow players to leave the bench or warm-up area during a set. The warm-up area is approximately 3x3m and in line with, or behind the team bench. Players may not enter the free zone, the space between the warm-up area and the court, between points unless entering the Libero replacement zone or the Substitution zone. Please see diagram 1b in the VC rulebook HERE for more information.

New Rules and Interpretations this Season
Line Judges:
Volleyball Manitoba will be following Volleyball Canada's rules for Line Judges at Premiers and Provincials. Please see the information below:

- Each team will be required to provide one (1) volunteer athlete from their roster, per game, to act in the role of line judge.
    - Should a team not have sufficient athletes (roster of 8 or fewer) to fill this role, the opposing team will be asked to supply an athlete volunteer from their roster to fill the second line judge role. If this is not possible, the referee may approve that no line judges will be used for that game/match.
    - The athletes acting as line judge are permitted to be substituted into the match.
    - 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 per set that they do not comply. This will be administered by providing the opposing team with three (3) points at the start of each set (ie the beginning score of the set will be 3-0 for the opposing team).

Coaches with Infants or Children

- Team personnel who are parents of an infant (under the age of 1) will be supported by Volleyball Manitoba and Volleyball Canada in having the infant on the bench during matches.
- The infant must be appropriately secured in a hands-free baby carrier or in a stroller directly behind the bench. The team must notify VM of this occurrence prior to the event to ensure that competition officials are aware. Please reach out to alyssa@volleyballmanitoba.ca.
- Team personnel who are parents of children under the age of 11, and do not have additional parental support on site, will be supported by Volleyball Manitoba and Volleyball Canada in having the child on the bench during matches. The child may not participate in warm up and must remain on the bench throughout the entirety of the match.
- The team must complete a Risk Acknowledgement form as they are exposing the infant or child to a higher risk environment.
- Team personnel who are the parent/caregiver to any young children may leave the bench to attend to them during the match provided the referee has been informed in advance. If the parent is the Head Coach, the Assistant Coach would be permitted to temporarily act as head coach during this time.

Double Contact:

- A double contact will be permitted on the **second team contact**, provided the ball does not cross the net.

Second Libero:

- **18U:** Teams may designate **two liberos per set**, with the option to change liberos between sets.

'**Push-Carry-Catch-Throw' Tip Attack:**

- The ball must not be caught and/or thrown. It can rebound in any direction.

Two (2) Handed Attacks:

- For any two-handed action sending the ball over the net, which is NOT a blocking action:
  - A deliberate two-handed attack hit, and
  - A two-handed overhead pass (setting action) that sends the ball over the net.
- The first action is a FAULT. The second action is a legal playing action, and only results in a fault based on the quality of the contact.

Volleyball Canada Rule Change Summary

Volleyball Canada New Rules Video

Volleyball Canada 2026-2027 Rule Book

Uniform approvals:
All teams are encouraged to have their uniforms approved by VC prior to January 31st, 2027. This approval can be requested through a form that will be posted once available. This is to ensure that teams do not encounter any uniform issues upon arrival at Nationals.

For more information on uniform regulations please see item 4.3 in the Indoor Rulebook and the Uniform Guidelines which is available in the Policies section of the website.

Club Coaching Requirements
All requirements are detailed on our website, including screening requirements, mandatory eligibility requirements, and head coaching requirements. These outlines clearly identify who must complete each item, how long each certification remains valid, and the steps needed to fulfill them. Please go HERE for all information.

New this season, Head Coaches do not need to complete the Development Coach Workshop until their 2nd year as Head Coach. The workshop is strongly encouraged for 1st year Head Coaches. Club Directors must keep track of 2nd and 3rd year Development Coach requirements.



Code of Conduct & Ethics Policy

All of our members, especially coaches, are expected to fully understand and adhere to the Code of Conduct & Ethics Policy. Failure to abide by these standards may result to penalties and/or sanctions.

Membership Fees

	VM Fee	Team MB Support Fee	VC Fee	Total (+ additional taxes and fees)
Youth Competitive Player	$60	$5	$38	$103
Leaders- Club/Team Personnel	$60	$5	$38	$103
Youth Developmental Player	$40	$5	$5	$50
Leaders- Club Director	$10	$0	$5	$15

Notes:



1. Competitive Memberships required by those teams participating in Provincial Championships and Volleyball Canada Championships. If your team is participating in Volleyball Canada Championships, each member on your roster will need a competitive membership regardless of their participation at the event.
2. Development Membership are required by those teams participating in VM sanctioned events/tournaments, and Provincials, but not registering for Volleyball Canada Championships.
3. Coaches, managers, and team contacts participating in other VM programs (ie. senior men's, referee, beach) will only pay the difference in VM fees. The difference will be reflected when the second program is registered for (ie. if registering as a club volleyball coach after registering as a senior men's player, they will only pay the difference in membership fees).
4. No membership refunds will be offered if an athlete/coach has participated in club activity. If an athlete/coach has not participated, they are eligible to receive a refund if they withdraw prior to the deadline of Tuesday, March 24, 2026.



Benefits of a Volleyball Manitoba and Volleyball Canada Membership include:

- Insurance (Generally Liability and accident coverage) at sanctioned VM / VC events and programs.
- Access into VM / VC sanctioned events including tournaments, Provincial Championships and National Championships (Competitive Members), both indoor and beach.
- Access into VM / VC sanctioned programs including regional teams (MB Games), provincial teams, national teams (senior, B and junior), camps and clinics.
- Access through the VM office to meeting rooms for respective club or league meetings.
- Letters of Good Standing for International Play
- Provincial e-newsletter (12 per year) – regular communications on volleyball events, activities and news.

Membership fees support the overall facilitation, development and delivery of volleyball in Manitoba including: Provincial Team programs, Club Volleyball, MB Games Programs, Coach Development, Referee Development, Beach Volleyball, Communications among many other areas.

Pre-Season Activity and Regulations

Scouting & Recruiting

Scouting and Recruiting Guidelines document HERE, which present the rules and requirements for the current season. Please be aware of the restrictions as it pertains to recruiting and communication with athletes during the summer and school seasons.

Summer Camps & Clinics

Camps and Clinics hosted by Clubs may be sanctioned through Volleyball Manitoba and are often listed on our website. These camps are not allowed to be used as early tryouts for Club Season.

Club Approval

For the 2026/27 Club Volleyball season, all Clubs will be required to complete an online Club Approval form through SportLomo. This is an annual requirement that will need to be completed before any club activity takes place, including utilizing the Early-Signing Period or running any fall camps. The annual fee for Club Approval is $100.

Club Directors/Presidents will first be required to login to their account or create a new account and purchase the 2026/27 Club Director Membership. Then they will be able to complete the Club Approval form. If a Club Director is also a Coach, when they purchase their Coach membership,

they will only pay the difference in membership fees. **Please note, Club Directors need to be 21 years or older at the time their Club Approval form is submitted.**

Instructions on how to complete the Club Approval form are posted HERE.

In addition to the Club Approval form, it will need to be verified (by VM staff) that the Club Director has completed all of the screening requirements before the club gets approved.

Early Signing Period

Athletes who are interested in joining a Club Volleyball team for the 2026/27 season can do so in two ways, depending on their age category.



The Early Signing Period is only open for athletes playing in the 17U and 18U age categories. The Early Signing Period will be in effect this year from August 31st- September 3rd and allows clubs to offer spots to players and formally receive commitments for the 2026/27 season. 17U-18U athletes who are not signed during the Early Signing Period will have the opportunity to try out for a team during the December Tryout Period. A maximum of 12 players can be signed to a team during Early Signing, but teams may roster up to 15 players following tryouts in December.

For athletes who will be playing 13U, 14U, 15U or 16U, the first formal opportunity to commit to a team begins in November/December during the tryout period. Athletes at the 13U, 14U, 15U or 16U age category should not be expected to make commitments to club teams during the Early Signing Window, or at any point earlier than the November/December tryout period.

A list of Early Signing Approved Clubs is available on our website on the Early Signing and Tryout Page HERE.

Clubs and athletes are not obligated to use the Early Signing Period and may continue to use the tryout period in December to explore all options.

The following outlines the process to follow if clubs and athletes/families would like to formally offer and accept club roster spots (for 17U and 18U):

- The Offer and Agreement Form is available on the Volleyball Manitoba website under Youth Club Forms and HERE in early September.
- Any Club planning on utilizing the early signing window must be an Approved Club for the 2026-27 season.

Clubs planning to utilize the Early-Signing Period will need to:

- Have their Head Coaches Individually register
- Ensure that those coaches have their PIA requirements completed and uploaded in SportLomo; No later than July 31st, 2026

Only teams that have met the above requirements will be permitted to utilize the Early Signing window.

Additionally, please note that athletes must be signed to a specific team within a club, they can not be signed to a club with the team to-be-determined later.

- Clubs may offer open gyms for 17U/18U teams for identification purposes from August 24th-30th.
- The open signing window for any eligible athletes is August 31st- September 3rd. All signed athletes need to be submitted to VM by September 3rd, and they will be posted online September 4th. Early-signed athletes must be registered in SportLomo September 4th-30th.
- Offers must be made via email starting at 12pm noon on Aug 31st and athletes have 30 hours to decide. The final offer can be made Sept 3rd at 12pm noon and allow until Sept 4th at 6pm to decide.
- Once signed, athletes are committed for the season and cannot be recruited by other clubs.
- **Please note that teams with Early Signed Players need a Head Coach assigned to the team at time of registration.**
- Clubs who have signed players will have team and player lists published on the Volleyball Manitoba website. This is in place to help provide unsigned athletes with some direction during the December Tryout Window, letting them know which Clubs/Teams have which roster positions filled already.
- Athletes choosing not to sign an offer during the Early Signing Period may then enter the December Tryout Period. These athletes can try out for other club teams during this time.
- No further communication or contact from other clubs can be made with an athlete once they have signed an offer.
- Clubs that have signed athletes through the Early Signing Period can maintain contact throughout the school season, however, clubs are still not allowed to train as a team during this season and athletes are not required to attend any club activity such as camps.
- **Clubs should avoid conflict with School programs and encourage athletes to prioritize their School Season.**

When a club makes an offer to an athlete and the athlete accepts and commits during the early signing period in August/September, it is intended as a commitment by both parties for the club season, just as if the offer and commitment were made during the try-out period in December. Once they have signed and committed to an offer, athletes are considered signed until the end of the Club Season and any signed athlete may not be recruited by any other club (no further communication or contact from other clubs can be made).

Athletes who have committed to a team during the Early Signing Window are posted on our website HERE. Please note that if an Athlete is not listed there, they are not considered signed and are free to be recruited according to our regulations and/or attend tryouts in December. If a Team is not listed HERE, they have not early signed any players.

Volleyball Manitoba will continue to review the Early Signing Process moving forward to ensure it is meeting its intended purpose for the best interests of athletes and clubs.

Fall Camps & Clinics
Camps run by Clubs during the school season (after the early-signing period) are allowed. If a club is running a camp, it must be neither mandatory for club members to attend nor exclusive to club members, and they can register it with VM HERE.

Camps must be registered as early as possible, but no less than 2 weeks in advance of the beginning of the camp. Camps will be posted on our website HERE. Club organized strength & conditioning programs (or any other off-court training) offered as a part of a camp or as a program in itself would be considered a camp and should be registered as such. During the school season, club teams (even those with early-signed athletes) can not:

- Train (on or off the court) as a team
- Train in exclusive small groups of team members
- Train individually with their club coach(es)
- Use Camps as a disguise for team training activities

A good rule of thumb for any camp (regardless of size) to avoid the perception that they are engaging in team training would be to ensure that fewer than half of the participants on a court are from any single club team.

Parents should not organize club-centric activities as a means to circumvent these regulations. This includes "Open Gyms", whether coaching is taking place or not. Coaches not registered with VM who are operating outside of these regulations would be risking the opportunity to become approved members in the future.

This list is not exhaustive, if you are unsure whether an activity/situation is allowed, please contact us to confirm. These regulations will be reviewed following this season and may be adjusted for the 2027/28 season.



Tryouts

There are no geographic, regional or other criteria for the creation of teams. The sole criteria for creation of teams are gender and age.

- 14U and younger tryouts can begin Sunday November 29th
  - Offers: Can be sent Sunday December 6th at 6pm noon and athletes have 24 hours to decide.
- 15U and 16U tryouts can begin Saturday December 5th
  - Offers: Can be sent Saturday December 12th at 6pm noon and athletes have 24 hours to decide.
- 17U and 18U Tryouts can begin Saturday December 12th
  - **Blackout- 18U tryouts can not take place Sunday December 13th (Grad All-Star Game)**
  - Offers: Can be sent Thursday December 17th at 6pm and have 24 hours to decide.

We strongly encourage Clubs/Teams to allow athletes to attend tryouts for multiple Clubs/Teams (if they wish).

If a 17U/18U team has utilized the Early Signing period and are also having December tryouts, their rosters will be posted on the VM site HERE and they must disclose the number of available spots on their team.

Each member (players/coaches/managers) must complete an Individual Registration Form, available at the VM website on December 6th (14U and younger), 12th (15U/16U), or 17th (17U/18U). Coaches are asked to keep all original Individual Registration Forms for members on their team in a binder, available for presentation/review on request at VM sanctioned events, by VM staff or officials. The Individual Registration Form is important for the following reasons:

- A signed form, after December 7th (14U and younger), 13th (15U/16U), or 18th (17U/18U), shall commit an athlete to that club.
- VM may request to see the original registration forms at any time throughout the season. Failure to provide documentation may deem an individual ineligible for the age class event season.

A player can register with only one club and play only with that club during the playing season.

Athletes are free to try out for multiple teams and are NOT obligated to commit or sign Individual Registration forms until December 6th (14U and younger), 12th (15U/16U), or 17th (17U/18U), after which clubs can require a decision or move on.

A player is only committed once they have registered with a team (by signing a VM Individual Registration Form), on or after the applicable signing date.

- Once an athlete has signed with a Club, they are considered committed to that club for the season.

Releases & Transfers
Though it is strongly discouraged, if a release is requested from either the athlete or club at any time after a commitment is signed the following process is in place:

- a written statement must be submitted to Volleyball Manitoba describing reason(s) for the release request (including whether they are planning on joining a different team or in the case of the club indicating whether they are planning on signing additional athlete(s)) and either:
    - in the case of the athlete, obtaining a written release from the club the player wishes to leave – noting that the Club shall determine by its own criteria whether to release the athlete.
    - in the case of the club provide contact information for the athlete and parents for VM to follow up with them as necessary.
- Submit Release & Transfers HERE.

Registering your club, team, and coaches/players
NEW THIS SEASON- Volleyball Manitoba has switched from a Group Registration system to an Individual Registration system. This means each athlete will register and pay in SportLomo individually instead of their Club Director registering and paying for them. Benefits include:

- Lessens the admin workload of Club Directors.
- Removes the upfront financial burden of a club paying each athletes registration fees. Please note, club fees may need to be adjusted.
- Ensures all athletes complete waivers and update their information during registration process.

Please see the VM website HERE on how to register.

Roster Lock and Roster Change Guidelines
Players will not be able to be added to a roster until they are Active, so assisting them in registering and completing the activation process early is important!

Until the "Roster Lock Deadline" (next paragraph) Clubs may choose to form and re-form teams during the club season (within the same club, age and tier class) – having different team composition at tournaments during the season. For a single tournament, a team should not be re-formed during a single sanctioned event. The roster that starts a sanctioned tournament must remain consistent throughout the event.

The Roster Lock Deadline is March 24th, 2027. After this date no changes can be made to the roster (barring exceptional circumstances). **Team rosters will be printed on March 25th from SportLomo, and only those coaches and athletes listed can be included on Provincial and National Championship scoresheets**. Printed rosters will be brought to the 2027 Club Provincial Championships and will represent a team's official roster. Any player or personnel not on the printed roster at Provincial Championships will under no circumstances be permitted to play or sit on a team's bench. **Please ensure that your SportLomo rosters are final by March 24th.**

During the season, in advance of the Roster Lock Deadline:

- Players can play on multiple teams within their club. Many clubs do this with younger teams, shuffling rosters between events and using the early part of the season to determine the best way to assemble their rosters before the deadline.
- Players can play on multiple teams within the same age category during the season, as long as that player ONLY switches teams between events, not during events. After the roster lock deadline, that player must be placed on only one roster within that age category.

- Players can play on multiple teams in different age categories during the season, as long as they are age eligible and that player ONLY switches teams between events, not during events. The player could be eligible to remain on multiple rosters in different age categories and compete in Provincials/Nationals in multiple age categories, see below for details.

Following the Roster Lock Deadline, players and coaches must submit a request through VM to be added to their Provincial and National roster. There is a $50 fee per player and coach request. The fee must be paid before your request will be considered. The guidelines for athletes are:

- **Roster Size**- if the roster size is at eight (8) or fewer players.
- **Same Club**- Incoming player(s) must have played the current season with the same club.
- **Playing Up**- Incoming player(s) could not have played on a team who was declared at an older age category during the current season (16U player who played on a 17U team during the same season).
- **Provincials Competition Weekend**- Players can only appear on one roster per weekend.
- **Nationals Competition Weekend**- Players can only appear on one roster (one age category) per tournament/three-day event. Should a player wish to be on a roster for a 2nd event, there must be a minimum of 4 days between competition days of each event. If an athlete can not be added to a National roster because of this rule, they can also not be added to a Provincial roster.

The guidelines for coaches are:

- **Complete Coaching Requirements**- The coach has completed their Screening Disclosure Form, Child Abuse Registry Check, Criminal Record Check, Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders, Safe Sport Training, Making Headway in Sport, Making Ethical Decisions, Foundations of Volleyball, and Development Coach Workshop/Evaluation (If Applicable).

Submit Roster Change Requests to: sadie@volleyballmanitoba.ca

In-Season Competitions and Championships

Club Hosted Tournaments

Club hosted tournaments are only covered by Volleyball Canada insurance if the tournament is sanctioned. A tournament is considered sanctioned when an application is submitted online, the $50.00 sanctioning fee is paid, and your tournament is reviewed and confirmed by VM Staff. All sanctioned tournaments will be considered for Provincial rankings except for tournaments happening the week before the respective age class Provincial Championships.

Sanctioned tournaments:

- Can have a round robin with only two sets but best two out of three game structure is encouraged. All playoff matches must be best two out of three.
- Can include multiple age classes, but a single age class is encouraged.
- Encouraged to avoid ties for final placement where possible (i.e. completing all playoff games).
- All sanctioned 13U tournaments must be Tripleball.
- An application form needs to be completed for each tournament.
- Results need to be submitted to Volleyball Manitoba by end-of-day Tuesday, following the tournament weekend. Otherwise, a fee of $50 will be invoiced to your club for failing to meet the deadline.

To apply, submit results, and view all sanctioned tournaments, please go HERE.

Volleyball Manitoba Premier Tournaments

Date	Event	Location	Price (+ additional taxes and fees)
February 12th-13th	13U Boys	Niverville CRRC	$725
February 13th-14th	15U Boys	Niverville CRRC	$775
February 19th- 20th	17U Boys	Sport Manitoba	$775
February 19th- 20th	17U Girls	Dakota Community Centre & College Jean-Sauve	$775
February 26th- 27th	16U Boys	Niverville CRRC	$775
February 26th- 27th	16U Girls	Dakota Community Centre & Sport Manitoba	$775
March 5th- 6th	18U Girls	Dakota Community Centre & Sport Manitoba	$775
March 6th – 7th	18U Boys	Niverville CRRC	$775
March 12th- 13th	14U Boys	TBD	$725
March 12th- 13th	14U Girls	Dakota Community Centre	$725
March 19th- 21st	13U Girls	Dakota Community Centre & Sport Manitoba	$725
March 19th- 21st	15U Girls	Dakota Community Centre & Sport Manitoba	$775

Volleyball Manitoba reserves the right to amend tournament locations for Premier Tournaments due to facility availability or the volume of registrations. Registered teams will be notified of any changes in a timely manner.

NEW THIS SEASON- It is mandatory for teams to attend the one VM Premier in their age class. If you are unable to attend the Premier, you must apply for an exemption.

- **Submit Premier Exemption Requests using the form HERE.**

Volleyball Manitoba Provincial Ranking Procedure

An expression of interest in joining the Ranking Committee and a coaches poll will be sent to all Head Coaches. Two Head Coaches will join three Indoor Competitions Committee members in the Ranking Committee to determine Provincial Rankings. This meeting will happen the Sunday prior to the Provincial weekend with the preliminary rankings sent out Monday. Teams will then have the opportunity to challenge their ranking, at a cost of $50, before the final schedule is sent Wednesday.

*Your ranking for Provincials, and final Provincial placement, will affect your National Championship ranking.

Volleyball Manitoba Provincial Championships

NEW THIS SEASON- Volleyball Manitoba will offer Divisions for age classes with more than 16 teams. Teams will have the ability to declare what Division they would like to enter. There must be 8 or more teams per Division.

- Further information will be sent to eligible age classes in March.

NEW THIS SEASON! The 18U Provincial Championship Gold and Bronze Medal Matches will be featured as standalone showcase events on a dedicated championship court during a special evening session the week following Provincials. Location, date, and time details will be announced soon.

The dates for the 2027 VM Provincial Championships are as follows:

Date	Event	Location	Price (+ additional taxes and fees)
April 16th-18th	14U Boys	TBD	$800
April 16th-18th	14U Girls	Dakota Community Centre, College Jean-Sauve & TBD	$800
April 16th-18th	15U Boys	Sport Manitoba	$850
April 23rd-25th	15U Girls	Dakota Community Centre & UofM IGAC	$850
April 23rd-25th	16U Boys	Niverville CRRC	$900
April 23rd-25th	17U Boys	UofW Duckworth Centre	$900
April 30th-May 2nd	13U Boys	Sport Manitoba	$750
April 30th-May 2nd	16U Girls	Dakota Community Centre & Niverville CRRC	$900
April 30th-May 2nd	18U Boys	Healthy Living Centre & Henry Champ	$900
May 7th- 9th	13U Girls	Dakota Community Centre & UofM IGAC	$750
May 7th- 9th	17U Girls	Healthy Living Centre, Henry Champ & Brandon High Schools	$900
May 7th- 9th	18U Girls	UofW Duckworth Centre & Niverville CRRC	$900

Volleyball Manitoba reserves the right to amend tournament locations for Provincial Championships due to facility availability or the volume of registrations. Registered teams will be notified of any changes in a timely manner.

Volleyball Manitoba will not be charging Spectator Admission at Provincial Championship Events.

*All Provincial Championship Registration Fees are subject to GST and SportLomo fees.

Registration



- Registration of teams for Provincial Championships will open on December 1st, 2026, at noon in SportLomo.
- The deadline to register for ALL Provincial Championships is March 23rd, 2027.
- Voluntary Withdrawal:
    - Teams withdrawing from the Provincial Championships must do so prior to the voluntary withdrawal deadline of March 23rd, 2027. Withdrawing on or before this date will receive a refund of their entry fee, less a $50.00 administrative fee.
- No refund will be given to teams dropping out after the withdrawal date.
- Teams will not be eligible to "play up" at Provincial Championships unless they are also playing up at Nationals.
- All teams are encouraged to participate in the Provincial Championships, which serve as one of the highlights and benchmarks for teams and their development.
- Teams that do not meet VM requirements (i.e. submitted premier exemption request or another extraordinary circumstance) but still wish to participate in provincial championships will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If such a team is granted permission to participate in provincials, they may be ranked at or near the bottom of the rankings for the event in question since they will not have accumulated enough results to be ranked accurately. For extraordinary circumstances, please contact sadie@volleyballmanitoba.ca.
- Coaches and on—bench staff of teams participating in Provincial Championships must meet certification and requirements as outlined in this Handbook.
- All teams that wish to attend National Championships must participate in the Provincial Championships. NOTE: Teams must participate in the same age category at Provincial Championship that they intend to participate at National Championships (ex. A 15U team must participate in 15U Provincials to be eligible for 15U Nationals).



Volleyball Canada National Championships

Dates are as follows:

Event Venue	Age(s)	Check-In	Dates
Moncton, NB Moncton Coliseum	**14U**	**April 29** 2027	**April 30 - May 2** 2027
Ottawa, ON Cohere Centre (formerly EY)	**14UB & 15UB**	**April 29** 2027	**April 30 - May 2** 2027
Regina, SK REAL District	**14UG**	**May 13** 2027	**May 14 - 16** 2027
Richmond, BC Richmond Olympic Oval	**14UB**	**May 13** 2027	**May 14 - 16** 2027
Mississauga, ON The International Centre	**14UG** Tournament 1	**May 15** 2027	**May 16 - 18** 2027
Mississauga, ON The International Centre	**16UB** Tournament 2	**May 19** 2027	**May 20 - 22** 2027
Edmonton, AB Edmonton EXPO Centre	**17UB** Tournament 1	**May 6** 2027	**May 7 - 9** 2027
Edmonton, AB Edmonton EXPO Centre	**15UG** Tournament 2	**May 12** 2027	**May 13 - 15** 2027
Edmonton, AB Edmonton EXPO Centre	**16UG** Tournament 3	**May 16** 2027	**May 17 - 19** 2027
Edmonton, AB Edmonton EXPO Centre	**18U** Tournament 4	**May 20** 2027	**May 21 - 23** 2027
Edmonton, AB Edmonton EXPO Centre & Saville Community Sports Centre	**17UG** Tournament 5	**May 24** 2027	**May 25 - 27** 2027

Please find all National Competition information in the 2027 Volleyball Canada Youth Nationals Competition Guide and the Nationals Planning Checklist. Changes to the 2027 Youth Nationals Competitions Guide can be found HERE.

Note: Provincial Championship **ranking and results** will affect placement into Tiers and rankings for National Championships.

Manitoba Volleyball Officials Association (MVOA)

General Information
Volleyball Manitoba strongly encourages that all Sanctioned Tournaments utilize Certified Referees. It is important for both Coaches and Athletes to have in-game interactions with certified Referees in order to understand how to appropriately communicate with match officials at Provincials and Nationals.

For information on MVOA Fees or if you are interested in having referees assigned to your match/event please contact:
Azad Hosein: assignor@mvoa.ca

** Please note you must provide sufficient notice in order for officials to be assigned (preferably 3 weeks). There may be instances where available officials are limited.



Provincial / National Championship Scorekeeping
At Volleyball Manitoba Premier Tournaments and Provincial Championships, we will be implementing the same system used at VC National events where teams are required to provide one scorekeeper for each of their matches.

Dispute Resolution

Process Guide for Addressing Conduct and Ethics Complaints for Club Teams

Step 1: Internal Resolution

- **Responsibility:** Handled at the Club level.
- **Process:** Complaints related to general club operations, such as scheduling or minor conduct concerns, should be addressed internally. Coaches, athletes, parents, and team officials are encouraged to collaborate in resolving issues to foster a respectful and supportive environment. Each team should communicate with the designated third-party liaison for conflict resolution. Please ensure your club handbook has information addressing Conduct and Ethics Complaints.

Step 2: Safe Sport Concerns

- **Responsibility:** Escalated to ITP Sport (Independent Third Party).
- **Process:** VM has committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all participants. ITP Sport provides a neutral and impartial service for reporting concerns related to conduct and safety within our programs. Harassment or discrimination, Abuse or maltreatment, Breaches of the Safe Sport policy or Code of Conduct and more can all be reported. Learn more and access ITP Sport HERE.

Other

VM Awards and Hall of Fame Banquet

To conclude the Club Volleyball season, VM organizes an Annual Awards Banquet, recognizing current season and legacy excellence within its membership. The award banquet includes:

- Acknowledging team and individual award winners at Provincial & National Championships;
- Recognizing distinction amongst the volleyball community for a number of individual and team awards, as follows:
    - Age Class Players of the Year: Awarded to male and female players of the year, for each age class from 15U-18U.
    - Mark Tennant Award: Awarded annually to a VM Junior (20U) Male Player of the Year – participating in school, university, provincial, national and/or club programs. The award is named for Mark Tennant, who was the typical player who was told he was too small to play, but due to hard-work and dedication to the sport, he went on to play at the University level in Manitoba. Mark went on to become the Head Coach of the University of Saskatchewan Women's volleyball program and who recently retired but continues to stay involved as a Technical Delegate with the FISU World University Program and with the FIVB. This award is presented annually to the outstanding Junior Male Player whose dedication, enthusiasm and ability are an inspiration to others.
    - Cheryl Cable Award: Awarded annually to a VM Junior (20U) Female Player of the Year – participating in school, university, provincial, national and/or club programs. The award is named for Cheryl Cable, a hardworking volleyball player from Manitoba who regrettably died at a young age in a car accident while traveling to a volleyball clinic. This award is presented in memory of Cheryl's dedication and love for the game to the outstanding Junior Female Player whose dedication, enthusiasm and ability are an inspiration to others.
    - Nikki Redekop Memorial Scholarship: The Nikki Redekop Volleyball Scholarships are available to graduating high school students pursuing academics and volleyball excellence at post-secondary levels. Up to two scholarships will be awarded annually. During her lifetime, Nikki Redekop was inspiration to all who knew her because of her strength and determination both on and off the volleyball court. She loved life and lived by the motto "Life is a highway, I want to ride it all night long." This scholarship is in memory of Nikki and her vibrant spirit that was epitomized in her life. Nikki played on the University of Winnipeg Wesmen Women's Volleyball Team for two years and on a Senior Women's Team prior to her passing.
    - Mary Jean England Coach's Award: Awarded to both a Developmental & Elite Coach for specific contributions and/or achievements. Mary Jean England was a distinguished coach in Manitoba who tragically was lost to our community as she was involved in a fatal crash driving to a volleyball event.
    - Volunteer of the Year Award: Awarded annually to honor an individual who dedicated their time and energy to the development of the sport of volleyball –and specifically for an individual who has worked in a variety of areas within the organization bas of VM.

- Wezer Bridle Golden Whistle Award: Awarded to recognize the outstanding performance by an official in areas of performance and dedication to the sport of volleyball.
- Teams of the Year: An award that recognizes outstanding commitment and/or achievement of a current VM Club Team and/or Provincial Team from the past season.

These above noted awards are given out annually to athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers, based on nominations from VM membership, and evaluated by the Awards Committee of VM. Members are encouraged to submit nominations by using the nomination form(s). These forms can be found in April or May on the VM website, VM social media, and sent out in the VM Newsletter.

- The Manitoba Volleyball Hall of Fame recognizes one or more individual/team inductees in one of three categories:
  - Athlete: Have represented the sport of volleyball with distinction, have compiled an outstanding record in volleyball which extends over a period of years, and is either Manitoba born or a Manitoba resident during the period which outstanding performance is claimed.
  - Builder: Open to an individual serving as a coach, administrator, trainer, manager etc. Demonstrated outstanding service to Volleyball, demonstrated leadership in the Volleyball Community, and Manitoba born or resident during the period for which outstanding contribution is claimed.
  - Team: Same requirements as the athlete.



VM Community Youth Volleyball Program

The Community Youth Volleyball program has been continuously expanding since it's establishment in 2023. Targeting youth ages 10-16, the program is currently present in 15 communities in the province through the Fall and Winter.

Participants engage in age-appropriate skill sessions following the Volleyball Canada Long-Term Development Model. Balancing sessions and seasons with skill development and in-house competition, participants can apply newly learned skills in game-like settings. At the end of each Winter Season, a friendly tournament "Volley Blast" is open to 12U-16U participants from all communities. Volley Blast is intended to provide competition outside the community and wrap up the program.

Not only is this program intended to develop participants, but also coaches. Volleyball Manitoba relies on community members to deliver this program. Since there is no previous experience needed to be a coach in this program, Volleyball Manitoba is dedicated to supporting those who are coaching by providing a manual with weekly objectives, session plans, skill descriptions, and drill examples.

VM is actively looking to build partnerships with groups and communities who are interested in delivering this program. VM is prepared to support interested community leaders and recreation centers to book facilities, provide equipment, and run registration.



VM Provincial Team Program

Manitoba has a strong history of developing some of Canada's most successful volleyball players, both indoor and on the beach. Many of our Team Manitoba athletes have gone on to play at the University and College levels with some continuing on to play for Canada's National Team and professionally overseas. The high level of coaching, training, and competition that our athletes receive in Manitoba at the club and school levels plays a key part in this.
Each summer, Volleyball Manitoba contributes to the development of our athletes by running Team Manitoba programs for 13U – 18U athletes. The goal of the programs is to provide athletes with a high-level development opportunity. They work with some of Manitoba's best coaches, train with athletes from across Manitoba, and build life skills and friendships that will last beyond sport.

With competitions like the Canada Summer Games, Canada Cup and National Beach Volleyball Championships, athletes have the opportunity to participate in some of Canada's top competitions and multi-sport events which allow athletes to travel across the country and experience the nature of sport at an elite level.

We encourage all coaches to become actively involved in the programs, either through applying for a coaching position or by helping to identify potential athletes and encouraging their participation.

More information on the 2027 Team Manitoba Indoor and Beach summer programs will be announced in the new year.

VM Summer Series Beach Volleyball Programs

Volleyball Manitoba provides competitive opportunities for youth athletes on the sand in the form of our Summer Series Beach Volleyball Youth League and Beach Provincial Championships. We offer 13U/14U, 15U/16U and 17U/18U Age Categories in both Girls and Boys Divisions at the League and Championship levels. The Youth League traditionally runs from early June to late July. Volleyball Canada Nationals are set to be hosted in Mid-August.