

UniSport Australia Guideline

Volleyball

Men and Women

UniSport Australia (UniSport) Volleyball competitions are conducted in accordance within the official rules of [FIVB](#) as varied by [Volleyball Australia](#) to conduct the Australian Youth Volleyball Championships except where these differ from UniSport competition guidelines; in which case the latter shall take precedence. Reference should also be made to UniSport *Breach of Competition Requirements* guideline for penalties related to breaches.

1. Team/squad size

- Minimum registered players – 7
- Maximum registered players – 12
- Maximum cross registrations – 3
- Minimum number of players that can take the court without incurring a forfeit – 6

2. Competition format

2.1. Players

- a) The 12 substitution rule will be used in all matches.
- b) A team may designate a libero according to the following rules:
 - Teams consisting of eight (8) or less players may designate 1 libero per match.
 - Teams consisting of nine (9) to twelve (12) players may designate up to 2 liberos per match.
- c) Any designated libero player shall be the libero player for the duration of the match.

2.2. Match duration

- a) All preliminary pool matches will be untimed, with a compulsory three set (Co3) rule in place. All matches will see all three sets played out, with no draws possible.
- b) Progression matches will be untimed, Best-of-3-Sets (Bo3) format.
- c) Semi-finals and medal matches will be untimed, Best-of-5-Sets (Bo5) format.
- d) If a team has won the match by winning three sets for a Bo5 set match or two sets for a Bo3 set match, no additional sets will be played
- e) Matches will be rally point;
 - If three sets (Co3 or Bo3), the first two sets to 25 and the third set to 15
 - If five sets, the first four sets to 25 and the fifth set to 15
 - A set is won by the team;
 - For a 25 point set the team which first scores 25 points with a minimum lead of two points.
 - For a 15 point set the team which first scores 15 points with a minimum lead of two points.
- f) All matches will be played under the GEST (Guaranteed Earliest Starting Time) system;
 - If matches run over the scheduled start time of the next match, the upcoming match does not start until 10 minutes after the previous match concludes.
 - If the match finishes more than 10 minutes before the next scheduled match, that match will not commence until the scheduled starting time.
 - If a team due to play has performed duty on the previous match, that team will be given 15 minutes warm up after the conclusion of the previous match instead of 10 minutes.
 - The allocated time incorporates the official court warm up, including spiking and serving which will take six minutes.

2.3. Pool points scoring

- a) Ladder points for each match shall be awarded as follows;
 - Winning team: 3 points

- Losing team: 1 point
 - Forfeited team: 0 points
- b) If in the event that two or more teams have the same number of ladder points at the completion of the preliminary rounds, the higher placed team(s) will be decided when the first of the following in order, favours the team:
- With the higher percentage of sets won divided by total sets played during the competition;
 - With the higher percentage of points won divided by total points played during the competition;
 - If two teams are tied, the winner of the match played between the relevant teams during the preliminary competition;
 - If more than two teams are tied after the application of the above criteria, then the higher placed team shall be decided upon by:
 - The higher percentage of sets won divided by total sets played in matches only between the tied teams;
 - The higher percentage of points won divided by total points played in matches only between the tied teams.

3. Team duties

3.1. Team duty requirements for volleyball are:

- Each team will be rostered to provide a duty team for a number of matches over the duration of the championships
- Duty teams will consist of five people from one team to fill the roles of linesperson (standing) x 2, 2nd referee x 1, scorer x 1 and manual scoreboard operator x 1

3.2. The persons fulfilling the team duty requirements can be any competent person, competent in the sport of volleyball, associated with that team or university and does not necessarily have to be a player e.g. team manager.

4. Uniform requirements

4.1. In addition to the requirements outlined by the [FIVB Official Volleyball Rules](#) (4.3 & 19.2 Libero), the following items are required:

- Numbers are compulsory on the back of the shirt (20cm high) and the front of the shirt (15cm high), with numbers preferably between 1-20.

4.2 Captains are not required to have the captain's bar under their number.

5. Forfeits

5.1. Any team not ready to start at the official match time, forfeits the first set. If the team is still not ready to play five minutes after the official match time, the second set is forfeited. If the match is best of three sets, the match is then forfeited. For three compulsory sets or best of five set match if the team is still not ready to play 10 minutes after the official match time, the match is forfeited.

5.2. The score in a forfeited set when the match proceeds is 25 points to 0 (nil).

5.3. The scores in a forfeited match are;

5.3.1. A compulsory (Co3) three set match is three sets to nil, 25-0, 25-0, 15-0,

5.3.2. A Bo3 set match two sets to nil, 25-0, 25-0,

5.3.3. A Bo5 set match is three sets to nil, 25-0, 25-0, 25-0.

5.4. When neither team is ready to start at the official match time, both teams forfeit the first set. If neither team is ready to start after five minutes, both forfeit the second set and a double match forfeit will be recorded once a further five minutes has elapsed.

5.5. Where both teams have forfeited the first set but are then ready to play at the start of the second set, the match shall be played as a Bo3 sets. For three set matches, the result is recorded as a forfeit by both teams.

- 5.6. Should the commencement of a match be delayed due to no fault of either team (as determined by competition management or UniSport), the match shall be played in its full duration if possible. If full match duration is not possible, the revised match duration will need to be agreed upon by both teams. If resolution between the teams is not possible then the competition manager (or their delegate) will make the final decision regarding match format, which will not be subject to appeal.

Previous amendments

August 2000 | July 2004 | August 2005 | March 2010 | May 2012 | May 2013 | June 2015 | April 2017 | June 2017 | October 2017 | March 2018 | May 2019 | April 2021 | July 2023 | February 2024 | February 2025 | November 2025

*All competitions will be held in accordance with the UniSport competition guidelines.

