



VOLLEYBALL
WORLD
RANKING
FOR SENIOR
NATIONAL
TEAMS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

WHAT HAS IMPROVED?

The World Ranking system aims to more accurately reflect the true sporting strength of senior national teams. This dynamic system is consistently and automatically updated after each match played in official competitions.

Key Improvements:

- **Inclusivity:** The World Ranking system encompasses all 222 senior national teams for both genders, providing a comprehensive representation of each team's strength.
- **Accuracy:** By considering every match played in a broader range of official competitions, the ranking offers a more precise measurement of team performance.
- **Modernization:** The previous system excluded many national teams, relied on the final standings of a limited number of events, and used an outdated points attribution method. The updated system addresses these issues, offering a more realistic and current reflection of the sport's competitive landscape.

WHO BENEFITS?

The World Ranking system benefits all senior national teams for both women and men. By factoring in all official matches and sets played in official competitions, this system ensures that every match is relevant to fans, media, and volleyball stakeholders. It considers both the match result and the set scores.

Key Benefits:

- **Relevance:** Every match played by a senior national team becomes significant, contributing to a more engaging and transparent ranking system.
- **Fairness:** The process of seeding teams for official competitions ensures that pool placements are fair and accurate, reflecting the current performance strength of the teams at the time of the drawing of lots.
- **Accuracy:** The ranking provides a precise indication of teams' performance levels, making the sport more competitive and exciting for everyone involved.

WHAT COMPETITIONS' MATCHES ARE ELIGIBLE IN THE WORLD RANKING SYSTEM?

The table below lists the official competitions eligible for World Ranking, along with the Match Weight Factor attributed to each match in the respective competition.

Organizer	Event	Match Weight Factor
IOC	Olympic Games	50
FIVB	World Championship	50
FIVB	Volleyball Nations League	40
Continental Confederations	Continental Championship	40
Continental Confederations	Annual Continental Events	30
Zonal Associations	Annual Zonal Events	30

Eligibility for World Ranking Points:

- Official competitions must feature a minimum of 4 senior national teams to be eligible for WR points. In an event where a Zonal Association is unable to secure participation of 4 teams, inter-zonal events would be considered, including across 2 continental confederations.
- Matches played in multi-sport events, friendly matches, or unofficial competitions are not eligible for WR points.
- To be registered in the WR, match results must be inserted live in the FIVB VIS.

Annual Continental Events:

- Each Continental Confederation may include up to 2 Annual Continental Events in the WR.

Annual Zonal Events:

- Each Zonal Association may include 1 Annual Zonal Event in the WR.

WHAT WAS THE STARTING POINT OF THE WORLD RANKING?

On January 1, 2019, the WR scores from the previous World Ranking system for all national teams were taken. An additional +100 WR points were added to each national team's score to establish the starting WR score in the new World Ranking system.

WHAT IS THE STANDARD SCALING FACTOR OF 8 IN THE FORMULA?

The standard scaling factor of 8 was introduced on January 1, 2019, to calibrate the starting WR score for the new World Ranking system. A linear regression was used to find the best fit between the previous and the new starting WR scores, resulting in the factor of 8.

The standard scaling factor ensures that the WR points won and lost in each match are within an appropriate range, preventing the system from attributing too many or too few WR points to the teams. This scaling factor does not alter the mechanics of the World Ranking system; it simply maintains the balance and functionality of the ranking process.

DO ALL MATCHES HAVE THE SAME VALUE IN THE WORLD RANKING?

No, not all matches have the same value in the World Ranking. Match Weight Factors are assigned to different competitions to reflect the prestige of the tournaments. The highest Match Weight Factor is given to the most prestigious matches, with other matches assigned values progressively lower according to their importance. Consequently, a team can win or lose more WR points in a match played at a more important event.

IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HOME AND AWAY MATCHES?

The World Ranking does not differentiate between Home and Away matches in official competitions. Historical match data shows little evidence that a Home team has a significant advantage over the visiting team. As a result, the World Ranking system does not assign additional factors to WR points for an Away team's win. Every match is considered neutral in the calculation of WR points. This factor is consistently tracked and monitored.

WHAT HAPPENS TO INACTIVE TEAMS?

Starting 1st January 2025, national teams that have not played any matches counting towards the World Ranking in the previous two years will lose 50 WR points.

Example:

A team plays its last WR-counting match in June 2025. It will lose 50 points on 1st January 2028 (after two years of inactivity).

An inactive team with a WR score falling below 20 points will be removed from the ranking list. If a team that has been removed from the ranking plays a match counting towards the World Ranking, it will be reinstated with its previous WR score from before being removed.

Example:

A team has a WR score of 25 points. After two full years of inactivity, the team loses 50 points. Since its score falls below 20 points, the team is removed from the ranking list. If the removed team plays a WR-counting match again, it will be reinstated with its last WR score before removal (25 points).

DOES A TEAM BENEFIT FROM PLAYING MORE MATCHES THAN A TEAM THAT PLAYS SIGNIFICANTLY FEWER MATCHES?

Not necessarily. While playing more matches provides more opportunities to win or lose WR points, the World Ranking system rewards teams based on their performance relative to their strength. A highly skilled team winning many matches may earn a similar number of WR points as a less skilled team achieving an upset victory against a stronger opponent. Additionally, as a team accumulates more wins, it becomes expected to continue winning, which can limit the number of WR points it can gain from future victories.

DOES A TEAM BENEFIT FROM PLAYING MORE MATCHES AGAINST STRONG TEAMS THAN A TEAM THAT PLAYS FEWER MATCHES AGAINST STRONG TEAMS?

Yes, it can be beneficial for a team to over-perform and win against stronger teams, as this provides more opportunities to earn a significant number of WR points. However, playing against stronger opponents also increases the risk of losing matches and WR points.

A team can also improve its World Ranking by winning many matches against weaker opponents. The system rewards both strong performances against high-level teams and consistent victories against lower-level teams.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN VNL TEAMS PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL CONTINENTAL AND ZONAL EVENTS IN THE SAME YEAR?

Matches from Annual Continental and Zonal Events will not be considered for the World Ranking if they involve teams that are also participating in the VNL in the same year.

However, for clarity, matches within the same tournament that do not involve VNL-participating teams remain eligible for World Ranking points.

WHAT HAPPENS TO EVENTS TAKING PLACE OUTSIDE OF THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL TEAM SEASON CALENDAR DATES?

As of the official implementation of the new World Ranking on February 1, 2020, events that do not align with the Volleyball Calendar principles will not be counted towards the World Ranking.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TWO EVENTS COUNTING TOWARDS THE WORLD RANKING AND INVOLVING THE SAME TEAM OVERLAP?

Since the official implementation of the new World Ranking on February 1, 2020, if two overlapping events involve the same team, the event with the higher Match Weight Factor and a higher position on the table of events counting towards the World Ranking will take precedence. The event with the lower Match Weight Factor and a lower position on the table will not count towards the World Ranking.