



COMPETITION REGULATIONS

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Introduction of Event

These Competition Regulations outline the obligations and guidelines for Team Delegations, FIVB, and Volleyball World (VW) Delegations regarding participation in and the technical staging of the Event, including any associated side events.

The following rules of interpretation apply to these Competition Regulations:

- a. The FIVB reserves the right to update these Competition Regulations at any time before the Event. Any changes will be promptly communicated to stakeholders, along with the updated version.
- b. In case of any conflict or ambiguity between the provisions of these Competition Regulations and the [FIVB Event Regulations](#), the FIVB Event Regulations shall take precedence.
- c. Unless otherwise specified, a reference to the "Event" refers to the Volleyball Nations League Men and Women 2026, including all related side events.
- d. References to "FIVB Event Regulations, Chapter(s)" refer to specific Chapters of the FIVB Event Regulations.
- e. References to "Appendix(ices)" or "Annex" refer to those within these Competition Regulations.
- f. A reference to one gender shall include references to all genders, unless the context indicates otherwise.

1.2. Event Concept

The Volleyball Nations League (VNL) features a competition formula with 18 teams per gender. This annual league for men's and women's national volleyball teams brings together the world's best teams to compete for the title of VNL Champion.

The format optimizes the match schedule, travel logistics, and competitive balance, ensuring high-performance standards and global event promotion. The Preliminary Phase includes a two-week break after the first two weeks to prevent teams from extended periods on the road.

With a total of 116 matches per gender across the Preliminary and Final Phases, each team plays a minimum of 12 matches against evenly matched opponents. The competition formula is structured as follows:

1. HOSTS — Definition of host teams and venues for each week.
2. TEAM RANKING — Teams are ranked based on the FIVB Volleyball World Ranking following the previous VNL edition.
3. SPORTING STRENGTH — Teams are divided into three categories of six teams each, based on their World Ranking.
4. TECHNICAL BALANCE & FAIRNESS — Each team plays 12 matches, facing exactly four teams from each category, ensuring a balanced and fair level of competition for all teams.

| WOMEN | |
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| 1 | ITALY |
| 2 | BRAZIL |
| 3 | POLAND |
| 4 | CHINA |
| 5 | JAPAN |
| 6 | TÜRKIYE |
| 7 | USA |
| 8 | NETHERLANDS |
| 9 | SERBIA |
| 10 | GERMANY |
| 11 | DOMINICAN REPUBLIC |
| 12 | CANADA |
| 13 | CZECHIA |
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| 18 | THAILAND |

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| 17 | BELGIUM |
| 18 | CHINA |

2. COMPETITION FORMULA

2.1. Pools Distribution

WATCH LIVE ON VBTV

WOMEN'S 2026 POOL OVERVIEW

FINALS
July 22nd – 26th
MACAO, CHINA

| WEEK 1 | WEEK 2 | WEEK 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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WATCH LIVE ON VBTV

MEN'S 2026 POOL OVERVIEW

FINALS
July 29th – August 2nd
NINGBO BEILUN, CHINA

| WEEK 1 | WEEK 2 | WEEK 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| CANADA | CUBA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

2.2. Competition Formula – Preliminary Phase

- 18 teams
- Preliminary Phase played over 3 weeks
- 12 matches per team

d. 108 matches in total per gender

2.3. Qualification to the Final Phase

a. The top eight teams as per the Teams Ranking System at the end of the Preliminary Phase advance to the Final Phase (quarterfinals). The national team of the hosting territory of the event will have a guaranteed berth to the Final Phase.

2.4. Competition Formula – Final Phase

Final Phase will be played in a Final 8 direct elimination formula:

- a. The 1st ranked team will play a quarterfinal match against the 8th ranked team, the 2nd ranked team will play a quarterfinal match against the 7th ranked team, the 3rd ranked team will play a quarterfinal match against the 6th ranked team, the 4th ranked team will play a quarterfinal match against the 5th ranked team:
- b. The Host Team will keep its natural seeding if the team is among the top eight (8) teams in the Final Standing after the VNL Preliminary Phase:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Quarterfinal 1 | 1 st Ranked Team vs 8 th Ranked Team |
| Quarterfinal 2 | 2 nd Ranked Team vs 7 th Ranked Team |
| Quarterfinal 3 | 3 rd Ranked Team vs 6 th Ranked Team |
| Quarterfinal 4 | 4 th Ranked Team vs 5 th Ranked Team |

- c. The Host Team is placed in 8th position if the team is not among the top eight (8) teams in the Final Standing after the VNL Preliminary Phase:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Quarterfinal 1 | 1 st Ranked Team vs Host Team |
| Quarterfinal 2 | 2 nd Ranked Team vs 7 th Ranked Team |
| Quarterfinal 3 | 3 rd Ranked Team vs 6 th Ranked Team |
| Quarterfinal 4 | 4 th Ranked Team vs 5 th Ranked Team |

* Order of the quarterfinals can be changed based on the request of the Media Rights Holders.

- d. Teams that do not win the quarterfinals will be ranked 5th to 8th in the Final Standing of the VNL 2026 as per the Teams Ranking System (including result of the Preliminary Phase) (see clause 2.6 of these Competition Regulations);
- e. The winner of the quarterfinal 1 will play a semi-final match against the winner of the quarterfinal 4 and the winner of the quarterfinal 2 will play a semi-final match against the winner of the quarterfinal 3:

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Semi-final 1 | Winner QF1 vs Winner QF4 |
| Semi-final 2 | Winner QF2 vs Winner QF3 |

* Order of the semi-finals can be changed based on the request of the Media Rights Holders.

- f. Winners of the semi-finals will play for the VNL Champion title whilst the teams that do not win the semi-finals will play for 3rd place in the competition:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Final for Bronze | Loser SF1 vs Loser SF2 |
| Final for Gold | Winner SF1 vs Winner SF2 |

2.5. Team Ranking System

To establish the ranking of the teams 1. After the Preliminary Phase and 2. After the quarterfinals, the following criteria apply:

- a. Total number of victories (matches won, matches lost)
- b. In the event of a tie, the following first tiebreaker will apply:

Most points gained = the team will be ranked by the most points gained per match as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Match won 3-0; 3-1 | 3 points |
| Match won 3-2 | 2 points |
| Match lost 2-3 | 1 point |
| Match lost 0-3; 1-3 | 0 points |
| Match forfeited | 0 points (25-0, 25-0, 25-0) |

c. If teams are still tied after examining the number of victories and points gained, then the FIVB will examine the results to break the tie in the following order:

I. Set ratio = If two or more teams are tied on the number of points gained, they will be ranked by the ratio resulting from the division of the number of all sets won by the number of all sets lost.

II. Points ratio = If the tie persists based on the set ratio, the teams will be ranked by the ratio resulting from the division of all points scored by the total of points lost during all sets.

III. If the tie continues to persist based on the point ratio, the tie will be broken based on the team that won the match of the Preliminary Phase between the tied teams. When the tie in point ratio is between three or more teams, these teams will be ranked taking into consideration only the matches involving the teams in question.

IV. If two or more teams did not play against each other, the tie will be broken based on the highest ranked team in the World Ranking.

2.6. Final Standing

At the end of the VNL 2026, all participating teams will be ranked from 18th to 1st place as per the following regulations:

- a. After the Preliminary Phase, eliminated teams will be ranked as per the Teams Ranking System from 18th to 9th place.
- b. After the quarterfinals, eliminated teams will be ranked as per the Teams Ranking System from 8th to 5th place, including all matches played so far in the Preliminary Phase and the Final Phase.
- c. During the Final Phase, the teams that do not win the semi-finals will compete for 4th and 3rd place and the winners of the semi-finals will compete for 2nd and 1st place.

2.7. Promotion-Relegation Process

- a. The lowest-ranked team in the Final Standings shall be automatically relegated.
- b. The highest-ranked team in the FIVB Volleyball World Ranking as of the end of the relevant VNL edition that did not participate in the event shall be promoted to compete in the following edition of the event. For the avoidance of doubt, the relegated team will not qualify to retain its position in the event as a promoted team.

3. TEAM ENTRY

3.1. Players Eligibility

- a. A player is eligible to play for the National Team of a National Federation if he / she has:
 1. the nationality of the country he / she represents, proving this by means of a passport or other valid, government issued document confirming his / her nationality; and
 2. the National Federation as his / her Federation of Origin; and
 3. Sex eligibility confirmation through a valid SRY test, in accordance with Article 3.2.3 of the FIVB Sports Regulations — for players registered in the women’s category only;
 4. an Anti-Doping Certificate demonstrating that he / she has successfully completed the [FIVB Play Clean Program](#); and
 5. an E-Learning Course on Prevention of Competition Manipulation Certificate demonstrating that he / she has successfully completed the [FIVB E-Learning Course on Prevention of Competition Manipulation](#); and
 6. an E-Learning Course on Safeguarding demonstrating that she/he has successfully completed the FIVB Safeguarding Course.
- b. The nationality of a player shall be proved by means of a passport or other authentic document issued by the authorities of the country of the National Federation. The Federation of Origin is verified using VIS (the FIVB shall verify the player’s Federation of Origin by conducting an eligibility check upon receipt of the Long List and O-2 Form of the relevant team).
- c. In accordance with Article 2.2.1 of the FIVB Sports Regulations, **only two (2) players** who have changed Federation of Origin can be listed on the final roster for a given event.
- d. For players registered in the Women’s VNL, the relevant National Federation shall be responsible for ensuring that a valid SRY test result issued by a laboratory approved by the FIVB is uploaded to the player’s VIS profile, together with any related consent/privacy form required by the FIVB, no later than **17 May 2026**. If the required SRY test result is not uploaded by 17 May 2026, the player runs the risk of being declared ineligible to participate in the Women’s VNL if her eligibility cannot be verified before the Preliminary Inquiry.
- e. Once the passports or other legal documents have been checked and accepted by the FIVB Technical Delegate during the Preliminary Inquiry, the OC will provide the accreditations for each team delegation. Before each match, the accreditations must be presented to the Technical Delegate, and each Team Manager must keep the players’ passports ready in the event that the player is subject to doping control.
- f. In the event that a player is subject to a sanction disqualifying her/him from participating in volleyball competitions by the FIVB after her/his registration on the O-2 Form, the concerned player shall not be allowed to be registered on the O-2bis Form for the relevant week(s) covering the sanction or to be replaced on the O-2 Form. In the event that a player is subject to a sanction disqualifying her/him from participating in volleyball competitions by the FIVB after her/his registration on the O-2bis Form, the concerned player shall not be allowed to be replaced on the O-2bis Form for the week in which the sanction is issued. The sanction of the concerned player will be reflected on the score sheet with the player’s name and the note “suspended” for the matches covered by the sanction.
- g. Each Team must have **a minimum of twelve (12) players** for the Event.

3.2. Visa

- a. The arrangement of the physical visa required for Team Delegation members for the Event is the complete responsibility of each team NF.
- b. The respective National Federation is responsible for any costs associated with the passport or entry Visa administration process for the Event for their Team Delegation as well as making the necessary arrangements to get the visa process started on time.
- c. The OC shall provide the appropriate invitation letters to the participating team NFs.

3.3. Team Registration

NFs are responsible for registering their Team Delegation through the [VIS](#). Login details are provided by the FIVB to each NF.

A. Key Milestones

The following milestones apply regarding the team registration:



B. National Team Season Long List (Long List)

By **12 April 2026**, each National Federation must submit their National Team Season Long List of players for the season (as per FIVB Event Regulations, art. 4.6) to the FIVB via VIS.

Each National Federation may submit as many names on its Long List as it wishes and the players on the Long List shall be prevented from obtaining International Transfer Certificates (ITCs) during this time unless otherwise released from the Long List by the National Federation.

Once the Long List has been submitted, a National Federation may add **up to six (6) players in total per sex/gender category** to the Long List prior to the O-2 deadline of the respective event.

Once a player is released from the Long List, he/she **may not be selected or added back** to the Long List for the same National Team season.

Together with the Long List, the NF must submit/upload through the VIS the following for each player:

- Valid passport/national ID copy
- Individual player's photo (passport format)

C. O-2 Form — 3 weeks prior

1. No later than **three (3) weeks** before the start of the Event, the team shall generate, electronically sign and remit to the FIVB in VIS, its O-2 Form. O-2 Form should comprise of a **maximum of thirty (30) players** selected from players previously registered on the National Team Season Long List, including all Team Officials (Team Staff, Team Media, Team Delegate) and indicating the team Captain.
2. After the deadline and submission of the signed O-2 Form, the participating NF **cannot** make any changes in the players roster on that Form.
3. All players and Team Officials registered on O-2 Form must have previously obtained the Anti-Doping, E-Learning Course on Prevention of Competition Manipulation and Safeguarding certificates by completing the respective online courses on the [FIVB E-Learning platform](#).
4. For participation in the Event, Annex 1 and Annex 2 (both only for players) of the Code of Conduct shall be signed individually by each player registered on O-2 Form and be uploaded on the VIS profile of the concerned player under the documentation tab, before O-2 Form submission.
5. For participation in the Event, the FIVB Health Certificate (M-3 Form) shall be signed individually by each player registered on O-2 Form and by the medical doctor trained in sports medicine, and be uploaded on the VIS profile of the concerned player under the documentation tab, before O-2 Form submission.
6. Together with the O-2 Form, the NF must submit/ upload through the VIS the following:
 - a. **For each player:**
 - Photos as per [Team Registration Guideline](#)
 - Personal data (birth date, weight and height, highest reach at spiking and blocking, etc.)
 - Valid personal email address and phone number
 - Players' names pronunciation as per [Team Registration Guideline](#)
 - Signed Code of Conduct Annexes 1 & 2
 - Health Certificate (M-3 Form)
 - b. **For the team:**
 - Team photo as per [Team Registration Guideline](#)
 - c. **For each Team Official:**
 - Photos as per [Team Registration Guideline](#)
 - Team Officials' names pronunciation as per [Team Registration Guideline](#)

For the step-by-step registration procedure, please refer to the [Team Registration Guideline](#).

D. Weekly Roster (O-2bis Form) — 1 day before each VNL Pool

The O-2bis Form shall consist of Team Officials, **12-14 players** and **up to four (4) reserve players** (if any) from the 30 players previously registered on the O-2 Form, without changing the individual players' T-shirt numbers and names, and shall indicate the Team Officials going to the respective VNL Phase (Pool/Finals).

The O-2bis Form must be electronically signed by all members registered on it, as well as by the team's NF, and submitted through VIS before the Preliminary Inquiry meeting.

| | Women VNL | Men VNL |
|--------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Preliminary Inquiry | Preliminary Inquiry |
| Week 1 | 2 June 2026 | 9 June 2026 |
| Week 2 | 16 June 2026 | 23 June 2026 |
| Week 3 | 7 July 2026 | 14 July 2026 |
| Finals | 21 July 2026 | 28 July 2026 |

By individually signing the O-2bis Form, players and Team Officials agree and accept the terms of the Code of Conduct in its integrity.

3.4. Replacement Players

Prior to the Preliminary Inquiry (-1 day before each VNL Pool and VNL Finals) participating teams have the possibility to register in VIS up to four (4) reserve players on the Weekly Roster (O-2bis Form) in addition to the 12-14 compulsory players. Reserve players must be selected from the 30 players previously registered on the O-2 Form.

At the Preliminary Inquiry, the Technical Delegate shall verify the reserve player(s): passport(s) (if on site) or passport(s)' copy(ies) (if not on site yet), and that the mandatory M-3 Form(s), E-learning Certificates together with the Annexes 1 & 2 to the Code of Conduct are duly confirmed in the reserve players' VIS Profiles.

During the relevant VNL Pool, the respective NF shall submit a written replacement request to the Technical Delegate **before the publication of the Daily Bulletin** (no later than 15 minutes after last match of the day) related to the upcoming match in which the replacement should take place, indicating:

- a. the reserve player(s) registered for the VNL Pool.
- b. the player(s) to be replaced on the Weekly Roster (O-2bis).
- c. the actual passport(s) of the reserve player(s) must be presented to the FIVB Technical Delegate on site.
- d. After the abovesaid conditions are fulfilled and in the event that the replacement is granted, the Technical Delegate shall proceed with the replacement(s) in the Weekly Roster (O-2bis).
- e. the updated Weekly Roster (O-2bis) shall be circulated in the Daily Bulletin.
- f. the replacement player(s) shall be allowed to compete as of the following match starting from the day after the publication of the Daily Bulletin in which the updated Weekly Roster (O-2bis) featuring the replacement player(s) was circulated.
- g. any player that has been replaced is allowed to be included again in the relevant Weekly Roster (O-2 bis).

The respective NF shall be responsible for making all of the necessary travel arrangements at its own cost to bring the replacement player(s) to the host city of the specific VNL Pool or Finals, coordinate all local arrangements with the LOC and bear all extra costs.

For the avoidance of doubt, medical replacement(s) on the Weekly Roster (O-2bis Form) with player(s) from the O-2 Form is applicable upon the presentation of a medical certificate and following the same procedure as described above.

At the VNL Finals, only the 14 players registered on the Weekly Roster (O-2bis) of the last match shall be awarded with medals. Awarded teams shall receive 20 medals and the respective NFs always have the possibility to order more at their own expense.

3.5. Team Composition

A. Libero

- a. The Head Coach of a Team can change the Libero(s) between each match through the Weekly Roster (O-2bis Form). The Team Manager/Head Coach must inform the Technical Delegate no later than one (1) hour before a match if a Team wishes to change the Libero(s) from that selected for the previous match.
- b. For further details regarding libero nomination, please refer to point 6.3. Rule Tests – Team Roster.

B. Team Delegation Members

- a. The official Team Delegation is comprised of twelve (12) to fourteen (14) players and six (6) Team Officials.
- b. For accreditation purposes, all Team Officials are divided into three categories:
 - **Team Staff** (operational roles: Head Coach, Assistant Coach(es), Team Manager, Doctor, Physiotherapist, Statistician, Physical Trainer, etc.)
 - **Team Media** (Journalist, Photographer, Videographer – see Section H)
 - **Team Delegate** (General Manager and other non-operational NF representatives)
- c. The following Team Staff roles must be fulfilled:
 - Team Manager
 - Head Coach
 - One (1) Doctor (FIVB accredited) or one (1) Physiotherapist (FIVB accredited)
- d. Each Team Delegation shall comprise a minimum of one (1) medical staff member at any time as described above & e.g. In the event that the official Team Delegation includes only one (1) medical staff member position out of the two (2) possible, the vacant position can be used to register another Team Staff.
- e. The LOC covers the board and lodging for up to fourteen (14) players and six (6) Team Officials.
- f. Extra Team Officials (2nd Assistant Coach, Physical Trainer, Statistician, General Manager, Team Interpreter, etc.) and reserve players (if any) may be added to a Team Delegation but may be accredited only when their local travel and accommodation and other necessary expenses are paid in advance by the respective NF to the Organizer.
- g. Teams are required to submit their travel details and confirm any additional delegation members **by 13 MAY 2026 (Women) and 20 MAY 2026 (Men)** through the [Team Travel Information Form](#). This allows the local hosts to secure the rooms for the team.
- h. If a team brings more members than initially confirmed, the local host will make every effort to accommodate them. However, if additional rooms are unavailable, it will be the team's responsibility to find suitable lodging.
- i. If a team arrives with fewer members than confirmed, the cost of the reserved rooms will still be charged to the team.
- j. Team Delegates may access the team bench / technical area / FoP only from ten (10) minutes after the end of the match. Immediate post-match access to team bench / technical area may be granted only if escorted by FIVB or VW staff upon request.

C. Team Officials on the Bench

- a. The Head Coach and a maximum of four (4) Team Staff (i.e. five (5) persons in total) registered on the Weekly Roster (O-2bis Form) may be seated on the team bench.
- b. The Team Manager, Team Media and Team Delegates are not allowed to sit on the team bench.
- c. Extra Team Officials who are not seated on the team bench shall be seated in a designated area in the Competition Hall.
- d. As per their relevant role in the medical emergency protocol, at least one accredited medical personnel of the Team is strongly recommended to be on the team bench.

D. Female Coach Requirement for Women’s Teams

- a. For Women’s VNL teams, it is mandatory to include at least one (1) female coach within the Team Staff, either as Head Coach or Assistant Coach.
- b. The inclusion of a female coach (Head Coach or Assistant Coach) entitles the Team to the following incentives:
 - One (1) additional Team Staff member allowed on the team bench (i.e. a maximum of six (6) Team Staff instead of five (5)), provided the female coach is included among the bench personnel.
 - A financial incentive of USD 3,000 per VNL week (Weeks 1, 2 and 3 of the Preliminary Phase) and USD 3,000 for the Final Phase.
- c. To be eligible for the financial incentive, the female coach must be included on the match scoresheet and present on the team bench for all matches of the respective VNL Pool or Final Phase.
- d. Exceptions to point (c) may be granted by the FIVB in cases of illness, injury or force majeure, subject to official justification and approval.

E. Team Doctor and Physiotherapist

- a. Only Doctors/Physiotherapists having the FIVB Team Doctor’s/Physiotherapist’s Accreditation (pdf file) will be authorized to sit on the team bench.
- b. New Doctors/ Physiotherapists with no FIVB registration number must be accredited by the FIVB Medical Department no later than **six (6) weeks prior to the Event**, according to Section H of the [FIVB Medical and Anti-Doping Regulations](#).

F. Team Manager

The Team Manager is expected to have experience in team management at international competitions and **must speak English**. His/her main duties are:

- a. Coordination and responsibility of the Team Delegation. This includes flight confirmation and adjustments, visa matters, preparation and attendance at the Preliminary Inquiry with all required documents, certificates, team equipment and accessories.
- b. Coordination between media and players. This is the responsibility of the Team Manager to make sure that the Captain and Head Coach attend all the Media Activities associated with the Event.
- c. Communication with other National Teams, the LOC and the Officials and Service Providers.

G. Team Statisticians

- a. A dedicated access to the technical video service with two (2) camera angles behind each service line will be provided to all participating Teams (exclusive access for matches analysis purposes only and not to be shared). The technical videos of all matches will be available live and/or for download:
 - At the competition hall two (2) cabled access (USB 3.0) to the live feed will be available to Team Statisticians (one (1) cable per Team) in the allocated area behind the service line.
 - Low-latency streaming access to all Team Statisticians connected to the Internet. Teams will receive an RTMP link to access the camera.
 - Two spare SDI ports (per camera) for non-playing Team Statisticians. Team Statisticians can use their devices to connect locally to the cameras.
 - Access to matches storage on Google Drive.
- b. Each Team is allowed a maximum of two (2) Team Statisticians to be seated in the allocated area behind the service line during that Team’s respective match with one (1) cabled access to the live feed.

- c. Each Team is allowed a maximum of one (1) Team Statistician to be seated in the allocated area behind the service line during other Teams' matches.

H. Team Media

- a. A maximum of three (3) Team Media members per VNL Pool/Finals (one (1) per role: Team Journalist, Team Videographer, Team Photographer) may be accredited for the Event, provided that they:
 - 1. Are registered on the O-2 and O-2bis Forms;
 - 2. Have applied for and obtained Volleyball World (VW) Media Accreditation via the official platform: <https://en.volleyballworld.com/volleyball/competitions/volleyball-nations-league/competition/media-accreditation>
- b. Team Media members are subject to VW Media Guidelines and must comply with all applicable access rules, including the use of the appropriate bibs (photo/video) to access designated working areas.

4. MEDICAL & ANTI-DOPING

4.1. Participating Teams' Medical Obligations

- a. Each Team NF / Team Delegation shall ensure its players and (where appropriate the Team Delegation) comply with the medical eligibility requirements.
- b. FIVB medical accreditations (printed pdf files) for Team Doctors and Physiotherapists are mandatory and must be presented at the Preliminary Inquiry. Team NFs must request validation (if not done prior) from the FIVB Medical Department no later than six (6) weeks before the Event.
- c. With reference to the [FIVB Event Regulations – Chapter 17](#), Article 95.2 of the FIVB Event Regulations, all NFs are strongly encouraged to take out their own third-party liability and medical insurance in respect of their Team Delegation for all national team activities and off days during the Event.
- d. The FIVB undertakes to provide medical coverage for all athletes, coaches and NF officials from two days before the start of each pool of the Event until one day after the end of each pool of the Event (including VNL Finals) in accordance with an insurance policy paid for by the FIVB. This insurance policy is limited to the scope of coverage provided in the insurance policy and supplemental to any insurance provided by NFs for their national teams. The insurance coverage will be limited to medical issues occurring during the Event period described above. Any pre-existing medical conditions existing prior to the match days should be disclosed immediately and shall not be covered unless it falls under the scope of coverage defined in the FIVB's insurance policy.
- e. All Team NFs waive any claims against the LOC, Volleyball World and the FIVB for sport injuries sustained during the Event (as defined in the FIVB Medical & Anti-Doping Regulations).

4.2. Participating Teams' Anti-Doping Obligations

- a. If a player has taken any prohibited substances, he/she must request a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) at least twenty-one (21) days before the Event using the M-8 Form, except in the case of a medical emergency, and it must be granted by the FIVB, through ITA, before the Event. In the event of a medical emergency, the team and player involved may reach out to the FIVB to obtain additional information about the possibility of obtaining a retroactive TUE.

- b. Members of Team Delegations who wish to participate in the Event must acquire an Anti-Doping Certificate first, at the latest, by the deadline for the O-2bis Form. The FIVB Anti-Doping education program can be accessed at [FIVB E-Learning](#).
- c. Each Team Delegation shall ensure that its players are aware of their anti-doping rights and obligations.

5. UNIFORM REGULATIONS

5.1. Players' Uniform

- a. The playing uniform must comply with the [FIVB Event Regulations – Article 4.9, Chapter 6 and Annex A](#) (incorporating uniform standards) previously circulated, where the location of the Country and Last (Family) Name and the size of the numbers are clearly indicated.
- b. Each Team must have available three (3) sets of playing uniforms each one of a different color. The players' numbers and shirt names must be the same on the O-2 and O-2bis Forms and uniforms.
- c. The playing uniforms of the Team Captain and the Libero (if different), along with the Team Staff uniforms must be presented during the Preliminary Inquiry.
- d. Any accessories used by the players during the Event (e.g., knee protectors (knee pads), elbow protectors (elbow pads), player's hand towels, head bands, wrist bands etc.) cannot display any advertising. Any manufacturer's logo displayed on these accessories cannot be greater than 6 cm².
- e. Undergarments must not be visible under the uniform (shorts or jersey) and in any event must be of the same color as the uniform.
- f. Compression pads are approved but are required to be of the same color design as the uniform. No padding is allowed in the forearm compression pads, as it provides advantages to the players' performances. Neutral colors, black or white, are acceptable. Teams using compression pads must be uniform in color/design for all players.
- g. The VNL Winners Badge shall be worn by the current champion team on the players' jerseys, positioned in accordance with the guidelines provided by FIVB/VW. The badge must be applied and clearly visible for the official photoshoot, all media activities, and all matches. Each team is responsible for ensuring that the badge is correctly placed and properly maintained throughout the Event.

5.2. Special Uniforms

- a. A player may request to wear a special uniform to the extent that any religions and cultural norms and/or customs are impacted by the standard uniform options available. National Federations shall submit a written request to the FIVB Volleyball Department prior to the respective event. The FIVB reserves the right to decline an application if there is no evidence that the standard uniform options limit the religions cultural norms and/or customs.

5.3. Team Officials' Uniform

- a. The Team Staff on the bench (as approved in the Preliminary Inquiry) must conform to the following dress code options:
 - All must wear the official warm up suit and polo shirt of their Team Delegation, **or**
 - All must wear the polo shirt and dress trousers of their Team Delegation, **or**
 - All must wear dress jacket, collared dress shirt, tie and formal slacks of the same colour and style.

Each Team Staff on the bench may choose, based on individual preference, between wearing a warm-up jacket or polo shirt / between wearing a dress jacket or collared dress shirt, as long as the items are part of the team’s uniform apparel previously approved by the FIVB.

- b. However, any Team Staff wearing dress jacket, collared dress shirt, tie and formal slacks will **not** be allowed on the Field of Play during the official pre-match protocol.
- c. Extra Team Officials (if any) must wear the official warm-up suit and polo shirt of their Team Delegation, previously approved by the FIVB.
- d. The penalty for non-compliance of the dress code for Team Officials on the bench will be that the Team Staff concerned will not be allowed to sit on the team bench, must leave the Field of Play.

5.4. Advertising on Team Uniform

- a. Advertising on uniforms shall be in accordance with the [FIVB Event Regulations, Chapter 6 and Annex A](#); and, subject to prior FIVB approval, should avoid conflict with any FIVB/Volleyball World Commercial Affiliate category for the Event.
- b. FIVB/VW reserves the right to display the VW, or VW’s products/services, or FIVB COMMERCIAL AFFILIATE logo on the back of the players’ jerseys (below the number, 300cm² maximum), if deemed necessary. The participating NFs/teams will be informed in advance if this applies.
- c. **By no later than four (4) weeks prior** to the Event, each NF/team must submit to the FIVB the following:
 - Players and Team Officials’ uniform graphic layouts with detailed information, such as sizes of logos, letters, advertising, manufacturer, etc., and the Advertisement Form (if applicable) in [VIS](#). Detailed process is described in the guideline: [HERE](#)
 - Three (3) sets of Captain’s (and Libero’s (if different) playing uniforms, each one of a different color (also applicable in the event that there is no advertisement on the uniforms) — submission required only once per season, not for each event. Uniform samples’ photos – in case of new samples, which are different from the submitted ones or upon the FIVB request.
- d. With reference to the [FIVB Financial Regulations, Article 1](#), in case of application of advertising on team uniform/equipment, each Team must pay an Advertisement on Team Uniform Fee to the FIVB. Upon approval of the applied advertisement, FIVB shall issue an invoice addressed to the respective Team NF and specifically for VNL the amount will be deducted from the Team’s prize money after the Event.
- e. Upon uniform approval by the FIVB, an Approval Certificate will be issued automatically in [VIS](#), under team’s profile, and it must be presented at the Preliminary Inquiry by the Team Manager.
- f. Each NF/team is responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable national laws on publicity and advertising, both in their home country and in the host country, particularly in relation to betting and gambling. In case of any conflict, national laws shall take precedence.

5.5. FIVB Officials and Referees

- a. Mizuno will be the official supplier for FIVB Officials and Referees for the 2026 volleyball season.
- b. FIVB Officials and Referees who have already received Mizuno uniforms from previous season are required to bring their official uniform to all VNL assignments.
- c. FIVB Officials and Referees who have not yet received their official Mizuno uniform will be provided with one upon their arrival on site for their first assigned Pool/Phase of the Event.

- d. All Officials and Referees must keep and use their official uniform for all subsequent assignments during the season.

6. COMPETITION REGULATIONS

6.1. Conducting the Competition

- a. The Event is governed by the FIVB and will be conducted by the FIVB Technical Delegates.
- b. FIVB Referees appointed by the FIVB will officiate at the Event.
- c. The Event must be conducted in accordance with:
 - These Competition Regulations;
 - [Official Volleyball Rules](#);
 - [FIVB Event Regulations](#);
 - [FIVB Sports Regulations](#);
 - [Video Challenge System Regulations](#) (coming soon) & [Team Tablet Regulations](#) (coming soon);
 - FIVB [General Regulations](#);
 - FIVB [Disciplinary Regulations](#);
 - FIVB [Medical and Anti-Doping Regulations](#);
 - and
 - [FIVB framework for safeguarding players and other participants from harassment and abuse in sport](#).

6.2. FoP Layout & Set Up

- a. To enhance the focus on players, capture team reactions, and create engaging content for fans worldwide, the VNL 2026 edition will feature an adapted Field of Play (FoP) orientation. The team benches and warm-up areas will be positioned opposite the main TV camera to maximize visibility and storytelling.
- b. A 3rd Referee will be located at the scorer's table to handle administrative responsibilities, replacing the traditional role of the 2nd Referee in these duties.

For reference, please click on the following link to view the [Volleyball Field of Play Layout \(VNL\)](#) & [Volleyball Venue Layout \(VNL\)](#).

6.3. Rule Tests

The FIVB is continuously seeking to improve the game of volleyball. As part of this effort, official rule tests may be implemented during the event to enhance the pace of the game and increase fan engagement.

The rule tests for 2026 season are outlined below. A detailed description, including video examples, is available in the PPT at the following link: [Rule Tests 2026](#)

- a. **Double Contact Interpretation**
To continue interpretation adopted for 2025 in all Volleyball Competitions in 2026 (to allow double contact during the setting action (second contact) providing the ball stays on the same side of the court).
- b. **Out of Rotation Error – free positioning receiving team rule test MODIFICATION**

The receiving team must be in-rotation order at the whistle but the players may move from the correct rotation/lineup position **the moment the servers motion begins** (serving action is initiated) – such as a step, movement of the arms and legs etc. in the first motion to serve. It aims to prevent athletes from faking the serve.

c. **Substitutions**

FIVB Volleyball Rules, 15.1 NUMBER OF REGULAR GAME INTERRUPTIONS

Each team may request a maximum of two time-outs and **EIGHT (8)** substitutions per set.

d. **Team Roster**

In FIVB World and Official competitions, a team may register up to 14 players and minimum 12 players. A team roster must have listed a minimum of one (1) Libero.

Any team may choose to use two (2) Liberos from within the team roster informing this 1 hour before the match.

Teams are permitted to reduce the number of Liberos once declared (from 2 to 1) up to 1 hour before the match.

e. **Ball Contacting the Ceiling**

If the first or second ball contacts/ touches the venue infrastructure (i.e. cube/ jumbotron/ rafters/ ceiling joists/ rigging) and remains available for continuation of the rally allowing a second or third contact for the same team, the rally is legal, and the play is permitted to continue.

In the case where the ball touches/ contacts the ceiling (i.e. cube/ jumbotron/ rafters/ ceiling joists/ rigging) and rebounds into the opponent's court this is ruled a "fault".

Spider cam/ crane cam inside the FoP is still considered as a replay.

f. **"Push – Carry – Catch – Throw" Attack**

Strictly apply the current **VB rule 9.2.2** to prevent allowing the catch at all and sanctioning the fault strictly.

VB RULE 9.2.2 The ball must not be caught and/or thrown. It can rebound in any direction.

- ✓ **NO PUSH/ NO LIFT/ NO CARRY**
- ✓ The tip must be executed with **ONE HAND**
- ✓ The tip must be executed with a **SHORT CONTACT**
- ✓ The tip must be directed in a **STRAIGHT LINE**

g. **Reduce Breaks**

Included in challenge regulations:

After the result of the Challenge has been transmitted, the match continues, with the score adjusted as necessary. **THE TEAM THAT REQUESTED THE CHALLENGE MAY NOT** request time out after the challenge before the next completed rally.

Applies to both end-rally and mid-rally challenges.

h. **Use of Referees' Whistle**

The use of the referee's whistle at the end of each rally is not always necessary. To avoid this, the referee should blow his/her whistle only to interrupt the action when a fault is committed, thus preventing the game from continuing after the fault.

Proposal starting to apply immediately **NO WHISTLE** for:

- ball IN/OUT (ball landing in/out directly)
- serve ball not passing the net
- Clear/ obvious block touch (i.e. out of FoP)

i. **Coach to Speak to R1**

Head coach can approach and talk to the first referee, asking for clarifying or confirming the type of challenge requested, or for quick questions on confusion situations.

Complaints and protest are not permitted and are subject to sanctions.

j. **Warm-Up Protocol**

Separate warm up for serve:

90sec per team — the opponent team to remain outside the court

| | |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| -10:00 | Warm up at the net |
| -3:00 | Team A service warm up |
| -1:30 | Team B service warm up |
| -0:00 | End of warm up – Teams go to bench |

k. **Mid-Rally Challenge Bookmark**

To expedite the review process, the team can mark **ANY ACTION** that could potentially be challenged at the end of the rally. These “bookmarks” will help to locate quickly the specific action during the video review. At the end of the rally, if the team loses the rally, they may choose **ONLY ONE** challenge to pursue.

Tablet must be used for bookmark. A challenge of the mid-rally action **cannot be requested without a bookmark.**

Possible cases:

- Regardless of how many bookmarks are recorded, only ONE challenge must be permitted in a single interruption for mid-rally actions (team choice)
- If BOTH teams bookmark in the same rally for actions which happened during the rally, the sequence in the timeline will be reviewed and the first fault observed, if any, will prevail.
- VolleyStation should link the bookmarking to the start rally button, that way video rewind and review in the timeline can be much quicker (e.g. 4.6 secs and 7.24 secs)

l. **Touches In Defense**

To include touches in defense & serve receive in the challenge regulations

Possible cases:

Ball rotation can be modified after a touch in defense, suggesting a contact. However, WE MUST SHOW a clear and visible contact.

In the case where there is no video evidence available, the original decision stands.

6.4. Sport Equipment

- a. With reference to the [FIVB Event Regulations – Chapter 4](#), the Event will be played with the FIVB homologated equipment only:
- Official ball (and rubber-wheeled trolleys): **Mikasa, V200W.**
 - Net system (net posts, post pads, net antennas, net side bands, nets and referee chairs): **Senoh.**
 - Synthetic flooring: **VNL Gerflor Taraflex.**
 - Sub-floor: **Connor Sports Quicklock** (recommended).

6.5. Pre-match Protocol

All players must enter the FoP wearing the official approved Team uniform, including the match jersey, in accordance with the Uniform Regulations. This requirement is mandatory for all pre-match activities, including warm-up and the official pre-match protocol.

|  | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Countdown to 1st serve | TEAM & OFFICIAL | E&E / SPORT PRESENTATION | LIGHTING |
| | Gates Open / Fan Ingress | | Walk-in Lighting |
| -60:00 | | | |
| -60:00 | Warmup on Competition Court; Entire team to enter the court at the same time; balls permitted | Match Countdown Clock Starts | |
| -45:00 | | | Competition Lighting (1 minute gradual phase to 2000 lux) |
| -32:00 | Both teams required on court by this time | MC Welcomes fans, gives the match schedule for the day, etc. on in-venue camera at the court | |
| -30:45 | Referees request captains at the tech table | | |
| -30:30 | Coin toss for service at technical table / Ref mic check | MC announces the coin toss first then Referee takes over Special Guest can participate | Follow spots on Technical Table |
| -30:00 | | After coin toss ends - back to music | |
| -28:00 | | MC announces Side V team roster- Position, number, name - numerical order, coach last MC includes player accolades from previous week and star players | |
| -26:15 | | Quick reset for MC and DJ | |
| -26:00 | | MC announces Side L or Host team roster Position, number, name - numerical order, coach last MC includes player accolades from previous week and star players | |
| -25:00 | | | |
| -24:00 | | Marketing Videos (both VW & Local content) | |
| -19:00 | | MC / content messaging: Watch out for balls, courtside seat move away from the ball, etc. | |
| -18:00 | Referees Introduction (by the technical table) | MC does Referee Introductions 1st Referee then 2nd Referee | Follow spots on Technical Table |
| -17:30 | Warm-up at the net | | |
| -15:00 | | MC teaches Big Moments to crowd, explains where to watch the serve speed | Specific Big Moment light cues |
| -15:00 | | | |
| | | Broadcast live intro with commentators on the court | |
| -10:30 | Individual team warmup - 90 sec each | | |
| -7:30 | End of warm up - Teams go to bench | MC announces end of warmup | Competition lights out |
| -7:15 | Teams head to the serve line for anthems | | House lights dim |
| -6:45 | Teams ready in position on the serve line | MC welcomes fans to the match and asks spectators to stand for national anthems | |
| -6:30 | Side V National Anthem | MC introduce Side V national anthem | Low Houselights Accentuating side V |
| -5:15 | Side L or Host team - National Anthem | MC asks spectators to remain standing for Side L or Host Team national anthem | Low Houselights Accentuating side L or Host |
| -4:00 | Team shake hands at the net | | Low Houselights Accentuating court |
| -3:45 | Teams go to bench | MC ask spectator get their phones out and turn on flash light | |
| -3:35 | | All lights, including competition lights off | Competition lights out |
| -3:30 | Light Show Begins | Pre-match "Be Part of the Game" light show & sizzle reel | Light show cues |
| -2:45 | Side V - Starting Lineup Intros/ Coach - players can celebrate however they want | MC Announce side V starting line up | Follow Spots on Side V |
| -1:45 | Side L or Host - Starting Lineup Intros / Coach - players can celebrate however they want | MC Announce side L / Host starting line up | Follow Spots on Side L or Host Team |
| -0:45 | Teams get into rotation & Referees check lineups When completed 3rd referee passes ball to server | | Build up to Competition Lighting |
| -0:15 | | LED board Count down clock is removed | |
| -0:10 | | 10 second countdown to first serve on Giant Screen | Match mode |
| 0:00 | First serve | | |

6.6. VCS Regulations

Please click on the following link to view the [Video Challenge System Regulations](#). (coming soon).

6.7. Team Tablet Regulations

Please click on the following link to view the [Team Tablet Regulations](#) (coming soon).

6.8. Serve Clock

Please click on the following link to view the [Serve Clock Manual](#).

6.9. Technical Timeouts, Team Timeouts, Intervals and Change of Sides

- a. No Technical Timeouts.
- b. Two (2) 30-second Team Timeouts are available per team per set.
- c. All Intervals between sets last 3 minutes, except after the 2nd set where a 5-minute interval is applied. *
- d. Teams change sides between sets 2 and 3 only. The court side will be decided only once at the coin toss before the match.

*Intervals between sets can be extended to 5 minutes based on the request of the Media Rights Holders.

6.10. Other Competition Matters

- a. No Line Judges will assist the match, Video Challenge System equipment shall be used instead.
- b. 1st, 2nd, 3rd Referee and a Challenge Referee will assist each match.
- c. Serve Clock will be operated by the assistant scorer.
- d. Four (4) ball retrievers will ensure the flow of each match.
- e. Two (2) to four (4) quick moppers will ensure the flow of each match.

6.11. Towels for Trainings and Matches

- a. Players should take towels from their hotel room to be used during training sessions and matches.
- b. It is the team's responsibility to return the towels to the hotel.

6.12. Collection of Starting Lineup

- a. Teams are required to confirm through the Team Tablet the starting six Players + Libero and positions of each match a minimum of -25 minutes before the match starts.
- b. In case of a proven valid injury during the official warm up, the starting lineup may be exceptionally changed.

7. LEGAL MATTERS

7.1. Complaints

- a. All official complaints relating to a match must be presented in writing via email to the FIVB Technical Delegate(s) within one hour after the end of the match concerned. The complaints procedure to be followed can be found in the [FIVB Event Regulations – Chapter 2](#).
- b. Once the scoresheet for a match is checked and signed by all relevant participants without protest, no further team protest on technical aspects can be accepted (e.g., substitutions, scorer’s error, referee’s error, etc.).
- c. Complaints about the result of a match must be worded in English and accompanied by a deposit of CHF 300 cash (or the equivalent in local currency) for each such match result complaint.

7.2. Sanctions

All disciplinary matters shall be decided in accordance with the [FIVB Disciplinary Regulations](#) as well as all other relevant FIVB Regulations. Teams are strongly advised to review the FIVB Regulations before the VNL. The FIVB Regulations can be found at the following link: <https://www.fivb.com/inside-fivb/legal/constitution-and-regulations/>.

The competence to impose sanctions for simple and major offences, except anti-doping rule violations, arising on the occasion of a competition is on the FIVB Disciplinary Panel Sub-Committee. Mr. Rouzbeh Vosough Ahmadi is assigned as Disciplinary Panel Sub-Committee Member for the VNL 2026. Sanctions imposed by the Disciplinary Panel Sub-Committee are final and limited to period of the VNL 2026. The FIVB Disciplinary Panel Sub-Committee may refer cases involving potential sanctions beyond the competition to the competent FIVB body.

For purposes of disciplinary offences falling under the [FIVB Disciplinary Regulations](#) or these Specific Competition Regulations, the period of the VNL shall be deemed to start on the scheduled arrival date of the teams for the first round of the Preliminary Phase until the end of the awarding ceremony at the VNL Finals 2026.

The procedure for the proceedings for the FIVB Disciplinary Panel Sub-Committee is governed by Articles 14.4 and 16 of the [FIVB Disciplinary Regulations](#), except for Article 16.6 governing appeals, as all decisions issued by the FIVB Disciplinary Panel Sub-Committee are final. The procedure shall be conducted in an expedited manner with short deadlines in order to allow for a timely decision as required for in-competition offences while, at the same time, guaranteeing the rights of the concerned person defined in Article 16.2 of the [FIVB Disciplinary Regulations](#).

Below are relevant provisions and sanctions related to participation, control of the athletes’ list, failure to arrive with the mandatory number of athletes, uniforms, non-participation in mandatory team activities and other disciplinary matters.

Sanctions relating to non-participation/withdrawal

If a National Federation declares the non-participation of its duly qualified team or simply does not send its team to participate in the VNL 2026, it will be sanctioned in accordance with [FIVB Disciplinary Regulations](#) as National Federations have an obligation to participate in competitions in which they have entered a team (Article 12.4.1 of the [FIVB Disciplinary Regulations](#)).

In the event that the National Federation takes the decision not to allow its team to participate in the Event, the FIVB will consider this during the proceedings before the FIVB Disciplinary Panel Sub-Committee.

Withdrawal of the team before the tournament will be sanctioned according to the [FIVB Disciplinary Regulations](#) (Article 12.3) depending on the date of withdrawal. Particularly, withdrawal during the

course of the Competition or non-appearance at the beginning of the Competition by a National Team, the National Federation shall be sanctioned as follows in accordance with Article 12.3.6 of the [FIVB Disciplinary Regulations](#):

- a. in all cases, compulsory reimbursement to the Organizing Committee and the FIVB of the expenses made on behalf of the withdrawing delegation and team, plus damages for loss of income and other financial consequences; and
- b. fine of up to CHF 50.000; and/or
- c. suspension from international competitions for up to two (2) years.
All matches will be declared forfeited 0–3 (0–25, 0–25, 0–25).

Sanctions relating to obstruction to the control of the players' entry list

The National Federation will incur a CHF 1'000.- fine in the case of non- (or incomplete) delivery of team players' entry list and documents (including, but not restricted to the O–2 Form, team and players photographs, etc.), in accordance with Article 12.8.1 of the [FIVB Disciplinary Regulations](#).

The National Federation will incur a CHF 5'000.- fine if it fails to deliver the final list of twelve (12) to fourteen (14) players duly signed to the FIVB by the deadline defined in the Team Registration section of current Competition Regulations (above) and required documents duly signed to the FIVB Technical Officials during the Preliminary Inquiry in accordance with Article 12.8.2 of the [FIVB Disciplinary Regulations](#).

Sanctions relating to uniforms

Teams not presenting the samples of their uniforms during the Preliminary Inquiry as required in the Team Registration and Uniform Regulations sections of current Competition Regulations (above) will have to present uniforms or obtain new uniforms within 24 hours and the National Federation will incur a fine of CHF 5'000.- (or the equivalent in local currency).

The National Federation will be subject to a fine of up to CHF 5'000.- (or the equivalent in local currency) where their National Team presents uniforms that do not comply with the Uniform Regulations section of current Competition Regulations (above).

Where teams do not respect the colour of uniforms as indicated in the O–1 Form as distributed following the Preliminary Inquiry, their respective National Federation will be subject to a fine of CHF 1'000.- (or the equivalent in local currency).

Sanctions relating to non-participation in mandatory team activities

In each case, the National Federation will incur a fine of CHF 1'000.- (or the equivalent in local currency) where Team Managers or Doctors (or Physiotherapist in case a team does not have a Doctor) fail to attend official meetings including the Preliminary Inquiry.

Breach of official protocol may be subject to fines and suspension during the competition or for future activities as determined by the FIVB.

Sanctions relating to misconduct

All players shall conduct themselves in accordance with the principles and values of sportsmanship and fair play reflected in the [FIVB Disciplinary Regulations](#). Any rude, offensive or aggressive misconduct conducted by an athlete, a coach or a duly accredited member of a team delegation shall be subject to sanction in accordance with Articles 2.1 and 8 of the [FIVB Disciplinary Regulations](#).

Sanctions relating to media activities

Players and Head Coaches failing to comply with the media obligations defined in Article 11 of these Competition Regulations will be subject to a fine of a minimum of CHF1,000. Multiple offences shall be subject to Article 2.9 of the FIVB Disciplinary Regulations.

Sanctions relating to other violations of the FIVB Disciplinary Regulations

Sanctions may also be imposed for violations of the [FIVB Disciplinary Regulations](#) and other [FIVB Regulations](#) in accordance with the [FIVB Disciplinary Regulations](#).

All sanctions mentioned above may be applied cumulatively.

7.3. Forfeits

- a. If a team is unable to produce six (6) players for a match due to a valid medical reason, the match(es) will be automatically forfeited (3-0).
- b. Forfeit of a team with more than six (6) players shall be subject to sanctions as per the [FIVB Disciplinary Regulations](#).

8. TRAINING & MATCH SCHEDULE

8.1. Match Schedule

Detailed Match Schedule is available on volleyballworld.com [VNL Match Schedule 2026](#)

Please consult the link regularly for any updates.

8.2. Pre-match Warm Up

- a. Teams shall warm up on the competition court at least -32 minutes prior to the start of each match.
- b. Teams are permitted, but not obliged, to access the FoP from -60 minutes prior to the start of the match, provided the court is ready and available.
- c. The minimum guaranteed access time to the FoP for teams shall be -50 minutes prior to the start of the match. Prior to this time, the LOC may use the FoP for performances or activations.
- d. Any team requesting access to the FoP earlier than sixty -60 minutes prior to the start of the match must submit a request to the FIVB Technical Delegate. Approval shall be coordinated with FIVB/VW and confirmed by the Technical Delegate before access is granted.
- e. Teams shall be allowed to warm up with balls once on the competition court.

8.3. Training Facilities

- a. One (1) training court and one (1) fitness gym shall be made available to the participating Teams.

8.4. Training/Fitness Schedule Regulations

- a. **OFF DAYS:** Each team is guaranteed:

- 3 hours of total training time, which can be distributed between volleyball training and fitness gym as preferred.
 - No single training type (volleyball or fitness) can exceed 2 hours in duration.
 - If the volleyball training court and fitness gym are in different facilities, teams must schedule their sessions separately (e.g., 2h volleyball + 1h fitness).
 - If both facilities are within the same venue, teams are strongly encouraged to use the 3-hour allocation as a single training block, choosing how to divide the time (e.g., 1h30 volleyball + 1h30 fitness, 2h volleyball + 1h fitness, or 1h30 of both volleyball and fitness at the same time).
- b. **FAMILIARIZATION (MD-1):**
- 1x 1h30 familiarization session on the competition court the day before the first match.
 - The familiarization session is the only training teams can have on the competition court.
 - Teams may also request 1x 1-hour fitness session on MD-1.
- c. **MATCH DAYS:** Each team is guaranteed:
- 1x 1-hour volleyball training session.
 - Teams may also request 1x 1-hour fitness session, subject to availability.
 - If both facilities are within the same venue, teams must schedule their volleyball and fitness times consecutively, or at the same time.
- d. **Match-Day Training Scheduling:**
- A minimum 5-hour interval must be maintained between the end of the morning training and the start of a team's match.
 - Training for competing teams shall be scheduled in the morning if the 5-hour interval before the match can be maintained. If morning training is not possible, it will be scheduled in the evening.
- e. **Training Timings:**
- Earliest morning training starts at 08:00.
 - Latest evening training starts at 21:00.
- f. **Fairness & Equal Conditions:**
- All teams shall receive equal training opportunities in terms of number of sessions, balance of morning/evening slots, and total training time, adjusted according to the match schedule.
- g. **Additional Training Requests:**
- If a team requests additional training, it is at the discretion of the LOC to facilitate, with prior approval from the FIVB Technical Delegate.
- h. **Competition Day Training Allocation:**
- Training schedules are determined based on the team matchup sequence.
- i. **Closed Training Sessions:**
- All training sessions are closed to other event participants and must not be accessible to non-team personnel, unless pre-approved by the team in advance.
- j. **Training Confirmation & Changes:**
- Teams must confirm, cancel, or request changes to their scheduled training sessions no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the last match of the day, by informing the LOC accordingly.
 - If a team fails to notify the LOC within this deadline, the training schedule for the following day shall be considered final and no changes will be permitted.

8.5. Training Court Equipment

- a. Gerflor taraflex floor, net, telescopic posts and pads for the training court (FIVB homologated).
- b. 2 x Mikasa ball carriers and 40 x Mikasa V200W balls for training court.

- c. Adequate lighting (min 500 lux), A/C, ventilation and/or heating (if needed).

8.6. Fitness Training Equipment

- a. Squat racks w/ Olympic barbell at each rack 4x
- b. Weights to accompany squat racks (4x25kg/rack, 4x20kg/rack, 2x10kg/rack, 2x5kg/rack, 2x2.5kg/rack) 2x
- c. Barbell collars (2/rack, 2/platform) 1x
- d. Dumbbells ranging from 2.5kg/5lbs –45kg/90lbs in 2.5kg/5lb increments 1x
- e. Bench press w/ barbell 2x
- f. Adjustable benches 2x
- g. Medicine balls ranging from 3kg–10kg (in 1 kg increments) 1x
- h. Adjustable height cable/pulley system 2x
- i. Lat pulldown machine 2x
- j. Seated row machine 2x
- k. Leg press 2x
- l. Prone leg curl machine 2x
- m. Seated leg extension machine 2x
- n. Spin bike 5x
- o. Treadmills 2x
- p. Elliptical machines 2x
- q. Smith machine 2x
- r. Pull-up bar 2x
- s. Box jump 4x
- t. Floor mats 20x
- u. Swiss ball 4x
- v. Kettlebell ranging from 6kg –20 kg 1x
- w. Pvcor wood stick 1m50cm long 5x
- x. Trap bar 2x

9. EVENT SCHEDULE

9.1. Event Schedule

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| -4 days (Saturday) | Arrival of the FIVB Technical Delegate |
| -2 days (Monday) | Arrival of the participating Teams |
| -1 day (Tuesday) | Preliminary Inquiry |
| +1 day (Monday) | Departure |

A detailed Event Schedule will be available in the Playbook provided by the LOC two (2) weeks prior to the respective VNL Pool and VNL Finals.

9.2. Meetings & Team Briefings

A. Preliminary Inquiry

Preliminary Inquiry shall take place the day before the start of the VNL Pool and VNL Finals at the Team’s hotel or competition venue. Location date and time shall be confirmed in the Event Schedule.

B. Compulsory Attendance

- a. FIVB
 - Technical Delegate
 - Medical Delegate
- b. TEAMS
 - Team Manager
 - Doctor and / or Physiotherapist
- c. LOC
 - LOC representative (local team services)

C. Team Delegation Requirements

- a. O-2bis Form to be electronically signed and submitted in VIS
- b. Passports of all players
- c. Doctor's and/or Physiotherapist's FIVB ID-cards
- d. Team Media Accreditation for Journalist/Photographer/Videographer (if applicable)
- e. Samples of Captain's, Libero's uniforms (if different) (3 colors) and team officials' uniforms
- f. Team Officials' uniform samples (Training Jacket, Pants and Polo)
- g. Any "injury prevention devices" that the athletes will be using
- h. Advertising on Team Uniform Approval Certificate (electronic version in VIS)

D. Organizer Requirements

- a. Meeting area for 10 people at teams' hotel or competition venue
- b. Accreditation Cards for Team Delegations
- c. Ruler
- d. Printer / Photocopier
- e. TV screen or projector with HDMI cable

E. Technical Delegates' obligations:

- a. Team Compositions Lists (O-2bis forms, taken from VIS)
- b. Preliminary Inquiry form (O-7, taken from VIS)
- c. Choice of Uniform Colours Form with match schedule (O-1 Form, taken from VIS)
- d. Match schedule for the Bulletin (taken from the VIS)
- e. Cover of the Daily Bulletin
- f. Daily Bulletin distribution list
- g. Training schedule

F. Daily Bulletin

1st Daily Bulletin — Distributed after the Preliminary Inquiries

- a. Official communication (if any)
- b. Weekly Rosters (O-2bis)
- c. Match Schedule
- d. Choice of Uniform Colors (O-1)
- e. Training Schedule

Daily Bulletins — Distributed at the end of each match day

- a. Official communication (if any)
- b. Competition Standing (P-4)
- c. Match Result (P-2)

Final Bulletin — Distributed after the gold medal match

- a. Official communication (if any)
- b. Best Players Selection (Preliminary Phase) and MVP (Final Phase).
- c. Competition Standing (P-4)
- d. Match Result (P-2)

10. TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION & LOCAL SERVICES

10.1. Team Delegation Information

- a. To facilitate the logistics and accommodation plan, each participating NF shall communicate to the respective LOC as soon as possible:
 - Earlier arrival and later departure.
 - Exact number of Team Delegation members.
 - Rooming list.
 - Training needs during off days/weeks.
- a. And each participating NF shall complete the following:
 - [Team Contact List Form](#) — 28 JANUARY 2026
 - [Team Travel Information Form](#) — 13 MAY 2026 (Women) & 20 MAY 2026 (Men)

10.2. Local Transportation

- a. The LOC shall provide dedicated bus transportation.

10.3. Accommodation

- a. The LOC shall arrange for and bear all of the living and accommodation costs for all the Team Delegations from 2 days prior to the start of the VNL Pool (Monday) to 1 day after the end of the VNL Pool (Monday).
- b. The LOC shall arrange for and bear all of the living and accommodation costs for all the Team Delegations from 2 days prior to the start of the VNL Finals (Monday) to 1 day after the Team is eliminated. Teams eliminated at quarterfinals can decide to stay longer but must cover their own living and accommodation costs for any extra nights.
- c. The LOC's responsibility to accommodate event participants starts on the day of arrival at standard hotel check in time (around 2pm) with lunch, and ends on the day of departure at standard hotel check out time (around 11am) with breakfast.
- d. Players to be accommodated in double occupancy rooms with twin beds (2 separate beds). All other rooms are single occupancy.

10.4. Catering

- a. Team Delegations catering shall include three (3) buffet style meals and one snack for each Team Delegation member per day.
- b. Catering will be provided in the hotel based on the schedule of each Team Delegation.

10.5. Local Services

- a. Hotel laundry service within 24 hours.

- b. Event will need daily access to a laundry (wash and fold) service for each Team Delegation and FIVB/VW Officials, Staff and Representatives as follows:
 - For each Team Delegation per day/per person including Players and Team Staff: 6 sports equipment/items on training and match days.
 - FIVB/VW Officials, Staff and Representatives: 4 items per day/per person
- b. Any personal laundry can be included but will be paid for by individual.
- c. Minimum 30kg of ice per day/per Team available.
- d. Large amount of water will be available both at hotel and venue.

10.6. Rate Card

- a. The LOC shall provide a Rate Card including full board accommodation (3 daily meals and snack, daily laundry, ground transportation, access to the competition and training venues) in case the participating teams have extra members in their delegation or arrive earlier/depart later than the designated arrival/departure day.

10.7. Team Accreditation

Team accreditations shall be produced by the LOC and distributed during each team's Preliminary Inquiry.

Each accredited participant must wear their accreditation at all times and is personally responsible for its safekeeping.

10.8. Playbook

A playbook with all necessary local information will be sent by the LOC to all participating Teams, Officials and Service Providers two (2) weeks prior to the respective VNL Pool and VNL Finals. The following information will be provided:

- a. Pool Composition & Match Schedule
- b. LOC Chart & Contacts
- c. Team Liaison Contacts
- d. FIVB/VW Chart & Contacts
- e. Pre-match Protocol
- f. Training Principles & Schedule
- g. Preliminary Inquiry Requirements & Schedule
- h. Event Practical Info
- i. Competition Venue
- j. Venue Zoning Map & Flows
- k. Team Seating
- l. Team Video Area
- m. Mixed Zone and Press Conferences
- n. Venue Transport
- o. Training Venue
- p. Fitness Gym
- q. Accommodation
- r. Catering
- s. Meeting Rooms
- t. Laundry
- u. Rate Card
- v. Medical Services and procedures to be followed
- w. During Competition & Training
- x. Out of Competition & Training
- y. Event Schedule for Officials and Service Providers

10.9. Team Tickets

For each team's match, 14 regular complimentary tickets shall be reserved for the Participating Team.

The LOC will confirm each team's final ticketing needs no later than seven (7) days before the start of the Event. Any unused tickets will be returned to the LOC.

11. TEAMS PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES OBLIGATIONS

11.1. Mixed Zone, Flash Interviews, Media Conferences

- a. All players and Head Coach departing from the FoP must exit through the Mixed Zone, allowing brief interactions with the media.
- b. Team Delegations shall be notified in due time regarding selected or all member mandatory attendance at Media Conferences or any official Event Media Activities, including schedule and required attire.
- c. During the Preliminary Inquiry, each Team shall identify players available for flash interviews. Selected players must be fluent in English or notify in advance if a translator is required.

11.2. Official Media Day (MD-1)

- a. All players and the Head Coach must participate in the Official Media Day, including individual and team photo and video sessions in full match uniform.
- b. Participation shall follow the schedule communicated by FIVB/VW and is mandatory for all Teams.

11.3. Competition Phase Media & Content Activities

During the Event, selected players and/or Team Staff shall participate in the following activities, as scheduled and coordinated by FIVB/VW:

- a. Flash Interviews and World Feed Interviews
 - Pre-match: interviews conducted with players from both teams, or alternatively with the Head Coaches or Assistant Coaches.
 - Between the second and third sets: interviews conducted with the Head Coaches from both teams, or alternatively with Assistant Coaches or players.
 - Post-match: interviews conducted with players and the Head Coaches (or Assistant Coaches) from both teams.
- b. Short-Form Interviews and Social Media Content
 - Quick interviews, reactions, and digital content captured around matches (typically 5–10 minutes)
- c. Training and Skills Content
 - Filming of selected players or coaches during training sessions (non-disruptive)
- d. Mic'd-up and Behind-the-Scenes Content
 - Audio capture or POV/"day-in-the-life" content with selected participants
- e. Hotel-Based and Off-Court Content
 - Social media features filmed during approved downtime, coordinated with Team Staff
- f. Post-Match Content and Fan Engagement Activities
 - On-court or mixed zone interviews and fan engagement activities (e.g. autograph sessions, mini activations)

All such activities shall be conducted in a controlled manner and coordinated with the Team Manager.

11.4. Special and One-Off Activities

- a. Captains' Photoshoot (City Content)
 - Team Captains shall participate in official photoshoots in designated locations as scheduled by FIVB/VW.
- b. Community / Legacy Activities (where applicable)
 - Selected players may be required to participate in community engagement or legacy initiatives organized by FIVB/VW and the LOC.
- c. Fan Engagement Activities
 - Players may be required to participate in fan-facing activations, including Fan Zone interactions and official engagement sessions.

11.5. Finals-Specific Activities

- a. Sit-down Interviews
 - Extended interviews with selected players and/or coaches.
- b. Locker Room Access (Controlled)
 - Filming access for content purposes prior to key matches, conducted without disruption to team preparation
- c. Finals Fan Engagement Activities
 - Full team participation in official autograph sessions or fan engagement events.

11.6. Fan Zone

- a. A Fan Zone shall be organized at each VNL stop.
- b. Players are highly encouraged to engage with fans in designated Fan Zone areas following matches.

11.7. Awarding Ceremony

- a. The details of the Awarding Ceremony shall be communicated to the teams qualified for the Finals during the Preliminary Inquiry and through the Daily Bulletin.
- b. All awarded players and Head Coaches must attend the Awarding Ceremony immediately following the gold medal match.

12. AWARDS & PRIZE MONEY

12.1. Prize Money

A. Match Prize Money

Teams' prize money per team per match to be paid to the NFs participating in the Preliminary Phase as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Winning team | \$9,500 |
| Losing team | \$4,250 |
| TOTAL per match | \$13,750 |

B. Final Placement Prize Money

Total prize money of USD 2,300,000 to be paid to the NFs participating in the Final Phase per gender as follows:

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1st PLACE | \$1,000,000 |
| 2nd PLACE | \$500,000 |
| 3rd PLACE | \$300,000 |
| 4th PLACE | \$180,000 |
| 5th PLACE | \$130,000 |
| 6th PLACE | \$85,000 |
| 7th PLACE | \$65,000 |
| 8th PLACE | \$40,000 |
| TOTAL | \$2,300,000 |

12.2. Individual Awards

Total prize money of USD 100,000 to be paid per gender as follows:

A. Preliminary Phase — Best Players Selection

At the end of the Preliminary Phase, individual awards shall be granted based on [official statistics](#), as follows:

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| BEST SCORER | \$10,000 |
| BEST ATTACKER | \$10,000 |
| BEST BLOCKER | \$10,000 |
| BEST SERVER | \$10,000 |
| BEST SETTER | \$10,000 |
| BEST DIGGER | \$10,000 |
| BEST RECEIVER | \$10,000 |
| TOTAL | \$70,000 |

B. Final Phase — MVP

The MVP shall be selected from the players participating in the Gold Medal Match based on a combined voting process involving fans and designated volleyball experts.

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| MVP | \$30,000 |
| TOTAL | \$30,000 |

