



VOLLEYBALL
WORLD
RANKING
FOR SENIOR
NATIONAL
TEAMS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

WHAT HAS IMPROVED?

The WR 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previous system excluded many national teams, relied on the final standings of a limited number of events, and used an outdated points attribution method.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 WR 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 WR SYSTEM?

The table below lists the official competitions eligible for WR, along with the MWF attributed to each match in the respective competition.

Organizer	Event	Match Weight Factor
IOC	Olympic Games	50
FIVB	World Cup	50
FIVB	Volleyball Nations League	40
Continental Confederations	Continental Championship	40
Continental Confederations	Annual Continental Events	30
Zonal & Recognized Volleyball Associations	Annual Zonal & Recognized Volleyball Associations Events	20

Eligibility for WR 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.
- Continental Confederations oversee Annual Zonal Events within their confederation, including participating teams.
- 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 and Recognized Volleyball Associations Events:

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

WHAT WAS THE STARTING POINT OF THE WR?

On January 1, 2019, the WR scores from the previous WR 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 WR 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 WR 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 WR system; it simply maintains the balance and functionality of the ranking process.

DO ALL MATCHES HAVE THE SAME VALUE IN THE WR?

No, not all matches have the same value in the WR. MWFs are assigned to different competitions to reflect the prestige of the tournaments. The highest MWF 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 WR 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 WR 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?

As of February 27, 2026, the inactivity sanction (–50 WR points) has been removed.

WR points are only won or lost through matches played. A team's WR score no longer decreases due to inactivity.

Re-entry into the WR:

A team re-enters the WR when it plays a match counting towards the WR.

The WR score at re-entry depends on the team's previous history:

- Teams with no WR match history enter with 0 WR points.
- Teams that previously had a WR score re-enter with the score they held prior to removal under the former inactivity rule.

Example 1 – New Team:

A team with no previous WR matches plays for the first time. It enters the WR with 0 points and begins earning points through competition.

Example 2 – Returning Team:

A team previously had 36 WR points before being removed under the former inactivity rule. When it competes again, it re-enters the WR with 36 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 WR 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 WR 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, ZONAL OR RECOGNIZED ASSOCIATIONS EVENTS IN THE SAME YEAR?

Matches from Annual Continental and Zonal Events will not be considered for the WR 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 WR points.

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

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

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TWO EVENTS COUNTING TOWARDS THE WR AND INVOLVING THE SAME TEAM(S) OVERLAP?

If two overlapping events involve the same team(s) from the same country or territory, both events may be included in the WR.

However, the WR score of the overlapping team(s) will only count from the event with the highest MWF and highest position on the WR event table.

Matches involving the overlapping team(s) in the lower MWF/event table competition will not be awarded WR points. All other teams in either event will have their results counted as normal.