



Grand Prix Competition By-Laws



Preamble

The Grand Prix will be offered annually with a single division for both Men and Women. These By-Laws address arrangements associated with the eligibility of players, requirements of participant teams, and conduct of the competition. Unless otherwise listed in these by-laws the Metro competition are conducted in accordance within the official rules of FIVB as varied by Volleyball Australia. Each tournament's date of occurrence, location, divisions offered and entry process will be available through the Volleyball Queensland website: www.vq.org.au.

1. COMPETITION FORMAT

- 1.1. The Competition will be played across **three (3)** weekend rounds. Each team will play between 3 and 5 matches per round, with results from all matches in all rounds aggregated into a single points table to determine final positions.
- 1.2. Teams who have not paid their match fees by the scheduled date will not receive competition points until the amount is paid. Teams may also be excluded from the competition due to outstanding debts to VQ.
- 1.3. All Clubs participating in the competition, including officials, Coaches and Team Captains are deemed to have agreed to these By-Laws.

2. TEAMS

- 2.1. Clubs/associations may have more than one (1) team in a division subject to competition capacity and at the discretion of Volleyball Queensland.
- 2.2. Entry is restricted to teams from Clubs/Associations who have submitted and paid their affiliation to Volleyball Queensland for the year of competition.
- 2.3. The number of teams allowed to enter may be restricted depending on venue and time availability. The basis of priority for teams entering will be given to clubs fielding the most teams in the competition. VQ reserves the right to refuse entry to any team.



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3. PLAYERS

- 3.1. For players to be eligible, they must hold a current recreational membership (or higher) with VQ, and either be currently registered members of the association they represent, or have a competition clearance from their association. There will be “Zero Tolerance” regarding unregistered players at any stage of the season. Registrations must be received by VQ prior to 11:59 pm on the Wednesday before that weekends round.
- 3.2. Volleyball Queensland will allow the player “Clearance” system. This will allow players to compete in GPV for another association without transferring from their home affiliate. A Clearance will only be granted if the player in question has not taken the court in a GPV match for any other club. The usual deadline of 11.59pm on Wednesday prior to playing will apply for any Clearance to be granted.
- 3.3. Male registered players cannot play in the women’s competition matches. Female registered players cannot play in the Men’s competition matches.
- 3.4. Any team fielding an unregistered player or one listed under a false name will forfeit that match.
- 3.5. Only those players named on the scoresheet at the end of the match, and having entered the court during the match will be regarded as having played.
- 3.6. If a Club has more than one team in a particular grade, players may only participate in one team **all season**.

4. MATCH REGULATIONS

- 4.1. All matches will be played as best of five (5) sets.
- 4.2. The 12 Substitution Rule will be used in all matches.
- 4.3. The games will be played under the GEST (Guaranteed Earliest Starting Time) system. This means that if matches run over the scheduled finishing time, the next match does not start until 15 minutes after the final whistle of the previous match. If one match finishes more than 15 minutes before the next scheduled match, that match will not commence until the scheduled starting time, unless agreed by both competing teams, the duty team and the Competition Manager.
- 4.4. The official match ball for the competition is the Mikasa “MVA 200”.



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5. FORFEITS AND LATE STARTS

- 5.1. If a team is not ready to start at the advised time, it forfeits the first set. If, after ten (10) minutes, the team is still not ready to commence, it forfeits the second set. Once a further ten (10) minutes has elapsed, a match forfeit will be recorded. Teams will incur fines for the sets forfeited.
- 5.2. If a team due to play has performed duty on the previous match, that team will be given a maximum of 20 minutes warm up after the conclusion of the previous match. This includes the 6 minutes combined spiking and serving warm up.
- 5.3. When neither team is ready to commence at the advised starting time, both teams forfeit the first set. If neither team is ready to start after ten (10) minutes, both forfeit the second set and a double match forfeit will be recorded once a further ten (10) minutes has elapsed.
- 5.4. 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 best of three (3) sets.
- 5.5. Where both teams have forfeited the first and second sets but are then ready to play at the start of the next set, the match will consist of one (1) set to 15 points.
- 5.6. The Venue Manager reserves the right to permit matches to commence late without penalty, due to unforeseen problems e.g. Traffic accidents, major events.

6. UNIFORMS

- 6.1. All players must wear a uniform, complete in the following details:
 - a) The shirt must have – permanently fixed to the front and back – a number between 1 and 99. Numbers on the front right hand side of the shorts are also encouraged.
 - b) The colour and design of the shirt must be consistent throughout the team.
 - c) Male players must wear shorts consistent in colour, trim and style.
 - d) Women's teams are allowed to wear shorts, sports briefs or bike pants, providing the uniform is consistent throughout the team in terms of colour.

7. OFFICIALS

- 7.1. Duty teams must provide a First Referee, a Second Referee, two (2) standing Lines persons and one (1) Scorer. The First Referee provided by the Club/Association must hold an NCAS accreditation. Fines may apply if the referee provided is not deemed to be of appropriate standard by the Chief Referee.
- 7.2. VQ will roster a Chief Referee for all Rounds. The Chief Referee will be available to complete Referee assessments and upgrades.
- 7.3. Duty teams without a minimum of 5 players reporting at the Scorer's bench at the coin toss will incur a penalty of one competition point.
- 7.4. Duty teams must ensure that the scoresheet is completed in accordance with the 'checklist' on the Scorer's bench. The 'checklist' is also available from the Venue Manager.
- 7.5. All Scorers and Lines people are prohibited from using mobile phones and other electronic devices during the match.



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8. PLAYER / COACH BEHAVIOUR

- 8.1. Athletes or coaches may be given a written warning by the Competition Management in regards to their conduct during competition. This will be emailed to the Club contact no later than 5.00pm on the Tuesday following the match in question.
- 8.2. Any athlete or coach who receives two written warnings during the season will be;
 - a) suspended from being involved in the same team's next match.
 - b) cannot be involved in any other matches or divisions until after Part A above is completed.
- 8.3. The Chief Referee and Venue Manager have the power to issue sanctions to Players, Coaches and Spectators as they deem appropriate.
- 8.4. Any athlete or coach who receives two penalties (Red Cards or higher sanctions) during the season, will be:
 - a) suspended immediately after the match in which they incurred the second sanction.
 - b) suspended from being involved in the same team's next match.
 - c) ineligible to be involved in any other matches or divisions until after Part B above is completed.
- 8.5. Any athlete or coach who is sanctioned with expulsion (Red & Yellow together) will be:
 - a) suspended immediately at the end of the match in which they incurred the sanction.
 - b) suspended from being involved in the same team's next match.
 - c) ineligible to be involved in any other matches or divisions until after Part b) above is completed.
- 8.6. Players or Coaches, who are sanctioned with disqualification (Red & Yellow apart) will be cited to appear before the VQ Judiciary Committee at the discretion of the Competition Manager and Chief Referee.

9. COMPETITION STANDING

- 9.1. Premiership points will be awarded as follows:
 - a) 3 points for a win
 - b) 1 point for a loss
 - c) 1 point for each set won
 - d) -2 points for a forfeit
- 9.2. The position of teams on the premiership points table is determined by the following order:
 - a) The most premiership points.
 - b) The highest percentage of points won to points played (three decimal places)
 - c) The highest percentage of sets won to sets played (three decimal places)
 - d) Result of the last match between the two (2) teams.

The set/point percentage equation is as follows:
$$\frac{\text{Points Won}}{(\text{Points Won} + \text{Points Lost})} \times 100$$



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10. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

10.1. Championship will be awarded to the club with the most Club Championship points at the end of the season. Club Championship points will be allocated as per the table below:

Place	Pts
1st	20
2nd	15
3rd	12
4th	10
5th	9
6th	8
7th	7
8th	6
9th	5
10th	4
11 th	3
12 th	2

10.2. Totals are calculated at the end of all matches.

10.3. Clubs with more than one team entered in a division will only receive "Championship Points" for their highest finishing club team in that division. The points corresponding with the second club team's position are "sterilised" and lower-placed teams do not move up the "Championship Points" table.



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11. AWARDS

- 11.1. An annual trophy and Gold Medals for each division's champion team, as well as the overall Club Champion will be presented at VQ's State Championships or the VQ Indoor Awards Evening.
- 11.2. A "Most Valuable Player" award will be awarded to a player in each division who has accumulated the most points during the competition. The 1st referee will award points on a 3 points and 1-point basis per match, with the 3 points going to a player on the winning team and 1 point going to the player on the losing team.

12. MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPETITION

- 12.1. The Competition Manager is responsible for the efficient running of the competition at each round. They are also responsible for recording the premiership points table and the fines and penalties register.
- 12.2. The Chief Referee is responsible for the supervision of all referees, and implementing the "on-the-spot Protest Resolution" procedure.
- 12.3. The Grand Prix Volleyball Control Committee comprises of the VQ Events Coordinator, Chief Referee and VQ General Manager. The Control Committee's role is to operate the competition within the terms of these By-Laws, the VQ Constitution and the rules of the game.
- 12.4. All formal written complaints concerning management of the competition should be marked to the attention of the VQ General Manager and will be dealt with as quickly as possible.

13. PROTESTS, APPEALS & REFERRALS

- 13.1. All match protests will be resolved using the "on the spot protest resolution" guidelines.
- 13.2. Matters concerning discipline will be referred to the VQ Judiciary Committee for action as outlined in VQ's "Complaints Handling Procedure".
- 13.3. Appeals against a decision of the GPV Control Committee must be lodged to the VQ Board via VQ's General Manager in accordance with VQ's "Complaints Handling Procedure".