

1. GENERAL

Teams representing their registered school shall contest the Volleyball Queensland Schools Cup, consisting of the Intermediate Schools Cup (May), Senior Schools Cup (August) and the Junior Schools Cup (October). The tournament shall be run in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of Volleyball Queensland (VQ). These By-Laws have been developed to provide an event that is professionally delivered and fair to all who participate and should be read in conjunction with the Schools Cup Nomination Information Kit and other information as issued in relation to these events.

Regrettably, penalties for non-compliance have become necessary, but are set at reasonable levels considering the impact on the event, the event staff, and other teams.

There will be multiple divisions available in six year levels with the Honours divisions, where necessary, being the qualifier for the Australian Schools' Volleyball Cup.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS

2.1 Player Eligibility

- 2.1.1 Each player must be enrolled as a full-time student at the school for which they are nominated.
- 2.1.2 Each player must be a current financial registered member of VQ.
- 2.1.3 Each player must conform to the age and gender requirements of the team for which they have nominated, except where applications have been approved by VQ.
- 2.1.4 A player may play for no team other than the team they have nominated with throughout the tournament. Under exceptional circumstances (injury or illness) a team may make a written application to the Tournament Director requesting to move a player from a team in a lower division to a team in a higher division. Once a player has moved they can no longer play for their original team.
- 2.1.5 Players must play at least one (1) game for a team throughout the tournament for that person to be eligible to play in a final.
- 2.1.6 Males are not eligible to play in female competition matches and females are not allowed to play in men's matches.

2.1.7 Only those players taking the court during play and named on the scoresheet at the start of the match will be regarded as having played in that match. However, in the event of a forfeit, the starting line-up of the winning team will be regarded as having played in that match.

2.2 Teams

2.2.1 A school may only enter one honours team per division except if the honours division is the only division offered for that age group.

2.2.2 A school may enter more than one team in all other divisions offered.

2.2.3 Up to 12 players can be nominated per team.

2.2.4 A minimum of six (6) players must be nominated per team and available to take the court for each match. If at any time a team cannot field six (6) players on court, they will forfeit that match.

2.3 Age/Year Level Limit

2.3.1 Only players eligible under paragraph 2.1 can participate in the tournament.

2.3.2 Honours and non-Honours divisions have different criteria as outlined below.

Honours – These have been re-named to yr7, yr8, yr9, yr10, U17 and U20.

- For year-based divisions - All team members must be in that year of school or a younger year.
- For age-based divisions - All team members must be under the age listed on the 31st December in the year of the event.

Non-Honours – All team members must be in that year of school or younger.

2.3.3 Ineligible players (over-age or higher school year)

If a team is found during the tournament to have played an ineligible player, the offending team will lose all their competition points at the end of pool play.

If discovered post- pool play:

- a) Before or during any match – the match will cease immediately.
 - i) If available, a replacement team (ie the next eligible team) will take the place of the offending team and a new match commence.
 - ii) If a replacement team is not available, the match will be cease and be declared a full forfeit
- b) After a match – the match will be declared a forfeit

If a breach is discovered after the tournament, the team will be disqualified and receive zero points towards the Champion School Trophy. All teams finishing below the disqualified team's place at the end of the tournament will move up the placings to fill this vacancy.

In the case of all breaches, the Principle of the school involved will be written to within one week advising them of the breach.

	Honours		Non-Honours Divisions	
Junior	Year 7	-	Year 7	all team members must be in Yr7 or lower
	Year 8	-	Year 8	all team members must be in Yr8 or lower
Intermediate	Year 9		Year 9	all team members must be in Yr9 or lower
	Year 10		Year 10	all team members must be in Yr10 or lower
Senior	U17	16 [†]	Year 11	all team members must be in Yr11 or lower
	U20	19 [†]	Year 12	all team members must be in Yr12 or lower

[†] Max. age at 31 Dec in year of the event

3. PARTICIPATION

- 3.1 All nominations must be completed via the VQ online system by the prescribed date on the VQ Schools Cup web page unless previous written arrangements have been made with VQ.
- 3.2 All teams must supply a team list with the player's full names and date of birth by the prescribed date, also via the VQ online system.
- 3.3 All players need to be registered players with VQ, at a minimum of Recreational Member Level. Students WILL NOT be allowed to take the court if they have not paid their registration fee. Teams will forfeit any sets/games that unregistered players participated in.

4. TOURNAMENT ORGANISATION

Volleyball Queensland shall be responsible for all aspects of the tournament organisation, other than those specified, in liaison with the VQ School's Sub-Committee, and shall carry full financial responsibility.

4.1 General Tournament Organisation

- 4.1.1 Tournament Director - to be nominated by VQ no later than one (1) month prior to the championship. Whenever possible, the Tournament Director should be a member of the organising committee.
- 4.1.2 Equipment - all equipment is to be of national standard unless otherwise allowed by VQ and will include the following equipment (if available): playing courts, spectator seating, public address system, scorer's tables, substitution benches, floor markings, nets and net supports, scoreboards, measuring tape, floor cleaning tools, match ball containers, antennae, court dividers, referees room, coaches room, referee stands, presentation area, and tournament office.
- 4.1.3 Any costs associated with damage to equipment or competition venues will be forwarded to those found responsible.
- 4.1.4 Volleyballs - only the official match volleyball will be used. The official match ball of the VQSC is Mikasa MVA 200.
- 4.1.5 Duration - all tournaments will be scheduled over a three (3) day weekend commencing on Friday morning and concluding on Sunday evening.
- 4.1.6 Draw - the draw will be delegated to a member of the Tournament Control Committee (or delegate) who will do all main draw preparations.

4.2 Interstate/ International Teams

- 4.2.1 Should nominations for the QVSC exceed the event's capabilities, preference will be given to Queensland teams.
- 4.2.2 Should applications for positions in the Honours Divisions exceed the Honours Cap, preference will be given to Queensland teams for acceptance into Honours Division.
- 4.2.3 Any teams from outside of Queensland will be eligible to participate in finals.
- 4.2.4 Interstate teams are not able to qualify for the Australian Schools Cup through this tournament.
- 4.2.5 Non Queensland teams' final placings will not be used for calculating the Champion Schools Trophy.
- 4.2.6 Teams from countries other than Australia may be accepted into the event subject to VQ approval and acceptance of any conditions as outlined by VQ.

4.3 Specific Tournament Organisation

4.3.1 Format

4.3.1.1 The tournament format for Honours Divisions in all age groups (u15, u16, u17, u20) will consist of matches being best of five sets with the point-a-rally fast scoring format being used. In sets I – IV, teams must reach 25 points, with a 2 point advantage to win the set. There is no cap. In the fifth set, teams must reach 15 points with a 2 point advantage. Again, there is no cap. From such time as matches do not count towards a medal winning result, they will revert to best of three sets, unless otherwise approved by the Board of Management.

4.3.1.2 The tournament format for all Non-Honours divisions in all year levels will consist of matches being best of three sets with the point-a-rally fast scoring format being used. In sets I and II teams must reach 25 points, with a 2 point advantage to win the set. There is no cap. In the third set, teams must reach 15 points with a 2 point advantage. Again, there is no cap.

4.3.2 Uniforms

4.3.2.1 All players are expected to play in matching team uniforms. This uniform shall include numbered tops and playing bottoms. Numbers on the jersey sleeves are not compulsory, however, are encouraged. Singlets are acceptable, however shirts are preferable.

4.3.2.2 The Libero must be clearly identifiable in a contrasting playing top (also numbered).

4.3.3 Duty Requirements

4.3.3.1 All participating teams will be rostered for duty at times as close as possible to their scheduled playing times.

4.3.3.2 Teams MAY be rostered for duty in divisions other than their own.

4.3.3.3 Duty teams are required to provide a first referee, second referee, two scorers, and two line-judges. Duty teams must be present at the start of the official warm-up prior to the match.

4.3.3.3a **For Year 7 and Year 8 competitions** the adult team official is required to be the first referee for all matches during the competition (see exceptions).

4.3.3.3b **Year 9 and Year 10 competitions** the adult team official is required to be the first or second referee for all matches during the competition (see exceptions).

4.3.3.3c **For all Year 11 and Year 12 competitions** the adult team official is required to be the first or second referee for all matches during the competition (see exceptions).

Exception A:

If both student referees are qualified referees (current Level 2 minimum) then they may take these roles and the adult team official must then sit at and supervise the scorer's bench.

Exception B:

If a current level 1 referee is being assessed in that match by the Tournament Chief Referee, the adult team official then takes the other role.

4.3.3.4 Honours teams must supply a Volleyball Queensland accredited referee to be the first or second referee for all matches during the competition.

4.3.3.5 Duty teams must ensure that the scoresheet is correctly and fully completed before the teams leave the competition court.

4.3.3.6 Failure to provide duty personnel will result in a team forfeiting their next match. Should a team's playing commitments be completed, non fulfilment of duty will result in a financial penalty (up to \$20 per position absent) or non-acceptance into the relevant Honours Division in the following year.

4.3.3.7 Should a team fail to fulfil two or more rostered duties, this will also result in a financial penalty (up to \$20 per position absent) or non-acceptance into the relevant Honours Division in the following year.

4.3.3.8 The Bronze medallists will be rostered for duty on the Gold Medal match, unless the Gold and Bronze matches are scheduled simultaneously.

4.3.3.9 All referees are required to provide their own whistle. Due to health regulations whistles will not be available for loan.

4.3.3.10 Members of the duty team must be wearing appropriate enclosed shoes and must not wear hats, bandannas, beanies, or use electronic devices (iPod, Mobile Phone, etc) whilst on duty.

4.3.3.11 Referee assessment and possible upgrade will be available during the tournament, however names of referees wanting to be assessed for upgrade MUST be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director at least 1 week prior to the tournament commencing.

4.3.3.12 In a progression tournament it is impossible to predict participants in later round matches. The Tournament Director or Venue Manager is authorised to re-assign duties in later matches. Teams will be given reasonable notice of any such changes.

5. TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

5.1 General Regulations

5.1.1 Unless stated elsewhere, the tournament will be played under the official rules of volleyball issued by the International Volleyball Federation and adopted by VQ.

5.1.2 Unless “exceptional circumstances” can be demonstrated to the Tournament Directors satisfaction, any team that fails for whatever reason to fulfil its playing commitments will incur the following sanctions;

a) Removal from finals contention

b) Cancellation of all previous results regardless of the outcome, and

c) Any games yet to be played, will be played but the results will not count.

5.1.3 Points shall be allocated as follows:

WIN	10 Points
LOSS	6 Points
FORFEIT	0 Points

5.1.4 If at the end of the preliminary rounds two teams are tied on points, the order of ranking shall be determined by the highest set ratio.

A = Set Ratio

B = Sets Won A = $\frac{B \times 100\%}{B + C}$

C = Sets Lost B + C

5.1.5 If the result is still a tie, the order shall be determined by the highest points ratio using the same formula as 5.1.4.

5.1.6 If sets and points ratios are equal, the order shall be determined by the team that won the match played between the two teams in that pool.

5.1.7 The 12 sub rule will be used in ALL divisions including Honours division.

5.1.8 Teams are allowed to use a Libero player. Coaches may declare a new Libero at the beginning of each set. The Libero must be clearly identifiable by wearing a different uniform to the rest of the team.

5.1.9 The tournament games will be played under the GEST (Guaranteed Earliest Starting Time) system. Warm up must be completed before the GEST. This means all games will start at the scheduled time unless the preceding match on that court runs over time. In the case of a delayed start time a 10 minute warm-up will commence as soon as the final whistle of the previous match is blown.

5.1.10 Any team not ready to begin play at the scheduled starting time of a game shall be deemed to have forfeited the first set and other sets at 10 minute intervals. The only exception to this rule is if a team is still playing on another court in the venue due to matches running late.

- 5.1.11 All matches will commence at the time advised in the official draw or 15 minutes after the completion of the previous match on that court, whichever is later. This time includes the six minutes combined spiking and serving warm up.
- 5.1.12 If a team due to play has performed duty on the previous match, that team will be given 20 minutes warm up after the conclusion of the previous match instead of 15 minutes. This includes the six minutes combined spiking and serving warm up.
- 5.1.13 If a team due to play has played in the previous match, that team will be given up to 30 minutes break/warm up after the conclusion of the previous match. This includes the six minutes combined spiking and serving warm up.
- 5.1.14 If matches are delayed for any reason, the Tournament Director or Venue Manager has the right to relocate or reschedule such matches. Unless otherwise advised, teams should always be prepared to play at the schedule time on the scheduled court.
- 5.1.15 The Tournament Director has the right to reschedule forfeited matches upon written application from a team if they can demonstrate they have been disadvantaged due to circumstances beyond their control. Matches will only be rescheduled should time and court space allow. Rescheduled matches shall not take place within two hours of another commitment of the team that was in attendance.
- 5.1.16 Participating teams must act as duty teams when required. If a first referee has not been supplied, teams are required to supply one.

5.2 Net Heights:

Division	Division	Women	Men
Year 12	U20 Honours	224cm	243cm
	First	215cm	235cm
	Second	215cm	235cm
Year 11	U17 Honours	215cm	235cm
	First	215cm	235cm
	Second	215cm	235cm
Year 10	Yr10 Honours	215cm	235cm
	First	210cm	224cm
	Second	210cm	224cm
Year 9	Yr9 Honours	210cm	224cm
	First	210cm	215cm
	Second	210cm	215cm
Year 8	Yr8 Honours	210cm	215cm
	First	210cm	215cm
	Second	210cm	210cm
Year 7	First	210cm	215cm
	Second	210cm	210cm

6. REFEREES

- 6.1 VQ will aim to appoint a Chief Referee four weeks prior to the Tournament.
- 6.2 Participating teams must provide at least one non-playing referee or two playing referees to accompany EACH team, as per 4.3.3.3a,b,c.
- 6.3 Whilst acting as a referee, officials will be under the control of the Chief Referee and their assistants.

7. CODE OF CONDUCT

The code of conduct applies individually or collectively to all players, coaches, managers, and officials of teams who participate in tournaments sanctioned and controlled by VQ.

7.1. All participants in these events have the duty to maintain and encourage the highest level of good sportsmanship. They are expected to set an example in conduct and are obliged to avoid all unsportsmanlike acts and practices that are detrimental to the sport.

Such acts during the course of a tournament include, but are not limited to the following:

- Swearing at a match official, opponent, or spectator
- Using obscene language or gestures
- Showing persistent outward displays of temper
- Throwing, hitting, or kicking a ball deliberately in the direction of an official, opponent, or spectator
- Persistently challenging the decision of referees or tournament officials
- Inciting others to challenge the decision of referees or tournament officials
- Refusing to comply with reasonable requests from referees or tournament officials
- Behaving in a manner deemed detrimental to the sport

7.2. Any players, coaches, managers, officials, or teams that are found not to comply with these By-Laws may lead the team or it's individual participant being sanctioned. This may include an individual or team being withdrawn from the competition, or not allowed to participate in future VQSC.

8. DISPUTES AND PROTESTS

8.1 Under the rules of the sport a protest may be lodged if a team believes that match officials have made an error under the rules of the tournament, which will affect the outcome of the match.

8.2 Protests may not be lodged against technical or judgmental decisions made by match officials. Interpretations may be discussed with the Venue Manager and/or Chief Referee.

8.3 Under the provisions of the rules, if a protest is upheld the match is replayed from the stage immediately before the error occurred. In the format of the Volleyball Queensland Schools Cup there is no scope for replaying matches at later times. Therefore, a system of instant dispute resolution is used.

8.4 At Volleyball Queensland Schools Cup, only a coach may lodge a protest.

8.5 If a coach wishes to lodge a protest he/she should immediately inform the second referee who must immediately inform the first referee. The first referee will stop the game and immediately call for the Venue Manager.

- 8.6 Team captains assume responsibility for maintaining their players as “warmed up, ready to resume playing” on the playing court on the side of the net their team occupied at the time of suspension of play. Players will be required to start the game immediately at the resolution of the protest, at whatever stage the Venue Manager decides. The Court Supervisor will have blank protest records. The protesting coach will be required to write the protest in the Notice of Protest section. The notice of protest should be limited to a statement of what rule(s) have been transgressed and who they believe has erred – NO EVIDENCE EXCLUDING THE SCORESHEET IS REQUIRED. The Venue & Referee Manager will record the Stage of Game Section.
- 8.7 The Venue Manager will hear evidence from the team coach of each team and the match officials ONLY. They will do so at a place remote from the court - the Tournament Directors office or venue control point is suitable. No other persons are required to be present unless requested by the Venue Manager. Notes on the evidence should be recorded on the back of the protest record in the space provided. No more than ten minutes should be allocated to this task.
- 8.8 The Venue Manager will then attempt to resolve the protest according to the scheme provided.
- 8.9 The Venue Manager will announce their decision to both coaches and the match referee. The game will immediately resume at the point dictated by the Venue Manager, no further warm up will be allowed.
- 8.10 The Venue Manager will leave the protest record on the scorer’s table, for attachment to the scoresheet.
- 8.11 The resolution from the Venue Manager will be immediate and the match will resume as directed. Should the Venue Manager decide that the protest was frivolous they shall instruct the referee to sanction the protesting team with a time delay penalty (red card). The match will not be replayed.

9. AWARDS AND PLACINGS

- 9.1 The men's and women's teams who win the Honours Division in their age group will be declared the Volleyball Queensland School Champions for that age group and will be recommended to the AVF to play Honours Division at Australian Schools Cup.
- 9.2 Members of Queensland teams, which gain first, second, and third placing in the tournament including managers, coaches, and assistant coaches, shall receive the official gold, silver, and bronze medallions supplied by VQ.
- 9.3 International teams in all divisions who finish in the top 3 placings will receive a corresponding International medal. The gold, silver and bronze medallions for each division will be awarded to the three highest placed Queensland teams.
- 9.4 A Most Valuable Player award will be presented in each division. This person will be nominated by the coach of the division's winning team as being the most valuable to their team's performance throughout the tournament.
- 9.5 The Champion School Trophy for the Volleyball Queensland Schools Cup will be determined as per the Champion School Trophy guidelines.