

# Queensland Country Championships

## Competition By-Laws



### Preamble

Queensland Country Championships (QCC) is a volleyball competition which is offered annually to all regional and metropolitan Affiliate and Non-Affiliate Clubs. QCC comprises multiple graded Divisions for both Men and Women including Division 1 & 2. These By-Laws address arrangements associated with Affiliate and Non-Affiliate Clubs entering QCC, the eligibility of players, requirements of participant teams and conduct of the competition. Unless otherwise listed in these By-Laws, QCC is conducted in accordance with the official rules of FIVB as varied by Volleyball Australia (VA). Competition dates, location, Divisions offered and entry process will be available through the VQ website: <https://www.vq.org.au/competitions/qld-country-championships/>

## 1. COMPETITION FORMAT

### 1.1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1.1 Each team will play between five (5) and six (6) matches, including preliminary matches and finals.
- 1.1.2 There will be two (2) Divisions in each gender available: Division 1 & 2.
- 1.1.3 Teams who have not paid their competition fees by the specified date will not be granted entry into the competition until the amount is paid. Teams may also be excluded from the competition due to outstanding debts to Volleyball Queensland (VQ). Payment plans may be considered in exceptional circumstance prior to the Invoices due date and need to be submitted in writing to VQ's General Manager on [gm@vq.org.au](mailto:gm@vq.org.au).
- 1.1.4 All regional and metropolitan Affiliate and Non-Affiliate Clubs participating in QCC, including officials, Coaches and Team Captains are deemed to have agreed to these By-Laws.

## 2. TEAMS

### 2.1 OVERVIEW

- 2.1.1 Affiliate and Non-Affiliate Clubs may have more than one (1) team in a Division subject to competition capacity and at the discretion of VQ.
- 2.1.2 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.
- 2.1.3 VQ reserves the right to refuse entry to any team.
- 2.1.4 VQ reserves the right to admit teams or vary entries in Divisions to ensure that a Division remains viable, optimal and team numbers are even (to avoid scheduled byes).

### 2.2 PLAYERS

- 2.2.1 For Affiliate Club players to be eligible, they must hold a current recreational membership (or higher) with VQ, and either be currently registered members of the affiliate they represent, or have a competition clearance from their Affiliate.
- 2.2.2 For Non-Affiliate Club players to be eligible, they must hold a current recreational membership (or higher) with VQ, or have a competition clearance from their Affiliate (if required).
- 2.2.2 There will be "Zero Tolerance" regarding unregistered players at any stage of the competition. Registrations must be received by VQ prior to 11:59 pm on the Wednesday before the competition commences.
- 2.2.3 VQ will allow the player "Clearance" system. This will allow players to compete in QCC 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 QCC match for any other Club. The usual deadline of 11.59pm on Wednesday prior to playing will apply for any Clearance to be granted.
- 2.2.4 It is deemed illegal for Male registered players to play in the Women's competition matches. It is also deemed illegal for Female registered players to play in the Men's competition matches.
- 2.2.5 Any team fielding an unregistered player or one listed under a false name will forfeit that match.
- 2.2.6 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.
- 2.2.7 If an Affiliate or Non-Affiliate Club has more than one (1) team in a particular Division, players must only participate in one (1) team throughout the duration of the competition.

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### 3 FINALS

#### 3.2 FINALS ELIGIBILITY

- 3.2.2 To be eligible to play in medal matches (Gold & Bronze), a player must have entered the court in at least three (3) prior matches for that team during the competition.
- 3.2.3 Byes will not be counted towards matches played when determining eligibility for finals.
- 3.2.4 Teams fielding 'ineligible players' in finals/medals matches will automatically forfeit all sets in which that player took the court.

#### 3.3 FINALS FORMAT

- 3.3.1 All Finals matches will be played using the "Best of Three (3) Sets Untimed" format. The first 2 sets will be scored to 25 points with a 2 point advantage. The third set will be scored to 15 points with a 2 point advantage. No cap is applied to any set.
- 3.3.2 In case of a forfeit during the finals, the offending team may be eliminated from the finals series. Only teams that have fulfilled their finals commitments, including duty, will be eligible for any medals or awards.

### 4 MATCH REGULATIONS

#### 4.1 FORMAT

- 4.1.1 Matches that start late for any reason will still finish at the scheduled finish time.
- 4.1.2 Warmup (10 minutes) and access to the court will start at scheduled times. The 'match commencement whistle' for the match will occur ten (10) minutes after the scheduled start time.
- 4.1.3 All preliminary matches are three (3) compulsory sets, with a rally point scoring system to 25 points with a 2 point advantage in the first two (2) sets and to 15 in the third set with a 2 point advantage, within the 75 minute time frame.
- 4.1.4 No time outs or substitutions can be called in the last five (5) minutes.
- 4.1.5 Incomplete sets will count as a set won if a team has 13 or more points in the first two (2) sets or 8 in the deciding set and leads by 2 or more points.
- 4.1.6 Any preliminary match that is tied on sets will be awarded to the team that scored the most points in the match, if still drawn the winner will be the team that won the last point played.
- 4.1.7 If the Referee has whistled for service prior to the siren for end of match, the rally must be played, and shall count toward the scores. The 1<sup>st</sup> Referee alone shall determine whether the whistle preceded the siren.
- 4.1.8 The 12 Substitution Rule will be used in all Divisions and Liberos can be changed per set.
- 4.1.9 The Venue Manager or Chief Referee may give permission for a Libero to be re-designated as a normal court player in order to avoid a forfeit in the case of an injury.
- 4.1.10 Each team is allowed a maximum of three (3) team officials on the bench (e.g. Coach, Assistant Coach & Manager).
- 4.1.11 The QCC match ball is the Mikasa "MVA 200" & "V200W" 8-panel volleyball.
- 4.1.12 The net heights are as follows:
  - Division 1 & 2 Men: 2.43m
  - Division 1 & 2 Women: 2.24m

#### 4.2 FORFEITS AND LATE STARTS

- 4.2.1 Any team(s) not ready at the match commencement whistle, will forfeit the first set with a 25-0 score. After a further 10 minutes increments if a team is still not ready, they will forfeit the second set and third sets, with a 25-0 & 15-0 score respectively and the non-forfeiting team will be declared the winner three (3) sets to nil (0).

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- 4.2.2 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 for the remainder of the 75 minutes as a best of three (3) sets.
- 4.2.3 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 be played for the remainder of the 75 minutes and consist of one (1) set to 25 points.
- 4.2.4 Competition Management reserves the right to permit matches to commence late without penalty, due to unforeseen problems e.g. Notified traffic accidents, major events, subject to 4.1.2.

### 4.3 UNIFORMS

- 4.3.1 All players must wear a uniform, complete in the following details:
- 4.3.2 The shirt must have – permanently fixed to the front and back – a number between 1 and 99.
- 4.3.3 The colour and design of the shirt must be consistent throughout the team.
- 4.3.4 Male players shorts should be generally consistent in colour.
- 4.3.5 Female players can wear shorts, sports briefs or bike pants, provided the uniform is generally consistent throughout the team in terms of colour.
- 4.3.6 Sponsors logo must be consistent across the team.

### 4.4 OFFICIALS

- 4.4.1 Duty teams must provide a 1<sup>st</sup> Referee, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Referee, two (2) standing Lines persons and one (1) Scorer. The 1<sup>st</sup> Referee provided must be a VA-accredited Level 1 Badge Referee or higher.
- 4.4.2 All 1<sup>st</sup> Referees overseeing matches are encouraged to wear the official VA Referee Shirt (sky blue colour).
- 4.4.3 VQ will provide a Chief Referee for this competition. The Chief Referee will be available to complete Referee assessments and upgrades.
- 4.4.4 Duty teams without a minimum of five (5) players reporting at the Scorer's bench at the coin toss will incur a penalty of one (1) competition point.
- 4.4.5 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.
- 4.4.6 All Scorers and Lines persons are prohibited from using mobile phones and other electronic devices during the match.

### 4.5 PLAYER / COACH / SPECTATOR BEHAVIOUR

- 4.5.1 Players, coaches or spectators may be given a written warning by Competition Management regarding their conduct during competition. This will be emailed to the team contact no later than 5.00pm on the Tuesday following the match in question.
- 4.5.2 Competition Management have the power to issue sanctions to players, coaches or spectators as they deem appropriate.
- 4.5.3 Any player, coach or spectator who receives two (2) written warnings or two (2) Red Cards (excluding time delay sanctions) during the competition will be:
  - a) suspended from being involved in the same team's next match, which does not include a bye.
  - b) cannot be involved in any other matches or Divisions until the suspension imposed at 4.5.2 a) is completed.
- 4.5.4 Any player, coach or spectator who is sanctioned with expulsion (Red & Yellow together) will be:
  - a) suspended immediately from the match in which they incurred the sanction.
  - b) suspended from being involved in the same team's next two (2) matches, which does not include byes.
  - c) cannot be involved in any other matches or Divisions until the suspension imposed at 4.5.3 a) and b) is completed.
- 4.5.5 Any player, coach or spectator who is sanctioned with disqualification or expulsion will be cited to appear within 5 days at a VQ Judiciary Committee at the discretion and direction by the VQ General Manager.

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### 5 COMPETITION STANDING & PENALTIES

#### 5.1 PREMIERSHIP POINTS

5.1.1 Premiership points will be awarded in all Divisions as follows:

- a) 3 points for a win.
- b) 1 point for a loss.
- c) 1 point for each set won.
- d) 0 points for a bye.
- e) -2 points for a forfeit.
- f) -1 point for “player not listed” and “Libero incorrectly listed” will be applied to the duty team. The offending team may also be penalised if the fault is due to their error. These penalties will only apply if discovered after the conclusion of the match. The match result will stand.

5.1.2 Teams who have not paid their competition fees by the due date will not receive competition points until the amount is paid.

#### 5.2 PREMIERSHIP TABLE

5.2.1 The ranking of teams on the premiership points table is determined in this order:

- a) The most premiership points.
- b) The highest ratio of points won to points played (5 decimal places).
- c) The highest ratio of sets won to sets played (5 decimal places).
- d) Result of the last match between the two (2) teams.

The set/point quotient equation is as follows:  $\frac{\text{Points Won}}{\text{Points Played}} \times 100$

#### 5.3 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

5.3.1 The Championship will be awarded to the Club with the most Club Championship points at the end of the competition. Club Championship points will be allocated as per the table below:

5.3.2 Participation Points

Division	Division 1	Division 2
Points	40	20

5.3.3 Placing Points

Placing	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12 <sup>th</sup> +
Points	20	15	12	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2

5.3.4 Totals are calculated at the end of all matches.

5.3.5 Clubs with more than one (1) 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.

### 6 AWARDS

6.1.1 Teams in each Division will receive medals for finishing first, second or third. A plaque for each Division’s champion team will also be presented to the winners of each Division.

6.1.2 The annual overall Club Champions Trophy will be presented at the completion of the competition. A perpetual trophy is presented and is given back to VQ prior to the start of the next competition.

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- 6.1.3 The “Most Valuable Player” award will be awarded to the player in each Division who has accumulated the most points during the competition. The 1<sup>st</sup> Referee will award points on a three (3) points and one (1) point basis per match, with three (3) points going to the player on the winning team and one (1) point going to the player on the losing team.

### **7 MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPETITION**

- 7.1.1 The Venue Manager is responsible for the efficient running of the competition. They are also responsible for recording the premiership points table and penalties register.
- 7.1.2 The Chief Referee is responsible for the supervision of all Referees, and implementing the “on the spot protest resolution” procedure.
- 7.1.3 The QCC Control Committee comprises of the VQ Club Services Coordinator, Chief Referee and Venue 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 match. The Control Committee reports to the VQ General Manager.
- 7.1.4 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.

### **8 PROTESTS, APPEALS & REFERRALS**

- 8.1.1 All match protests will be resolved using the “on the spot protest resolution” guidelines.
- 8.1.2 All appeals regarding score sheet penalties and ineligible players must be received by the VQ Club Services Coordinator, [clubs@vq.org.au](mailto:clubs@vq.org.au) within 3 business days of receipt of the breach notice.
- 8.1.3 Matters concerning discipline (Section 4.5) will be referred to the VQ Judiciary Committee for action as outlined in VQ’s “Complaints Handling Procedure”.
- 8.1.4 Appeals against a decision of Competition Management must be lodged to VQ’s General Manager within 5 days of receiving a decision in accordance with VQ’s “Complaints Handling Procedure”.