



Qld State Championships Competition By-Laws



Preamble

The Qld State Championships is a volleyball competition which is offered annually to current Affiliate and Associate Affiliates of Volleyball Queensland (VQ). Non-Affiliate Clubs and Associations, international, interstate and school teams may be accepted for entry. The Qld State Championships comprises multiple graded divisions for both Men and Women including open age and junior competitions, and determines the VQ President's Shield which will be awarded to the 'best performing' affiliate across all divisions and both genders.

These By-Laws address arrangements to enter the competition, requirements of participant teams and conduct of the competition. All clubs and teams participating in the Qld State Championships, including officials, coaches and team captains are deemed to have agreed to these By-Laws.

Competition dates, championships location and entry process will be available through the VQ website, www.vq.org.au.

1. COMPETITION FORMAT

- 1.1. The Qld State Championships will consist of one (1) tournament played annually.
- 1.2. Entry is open to Affiliate and Associate Affiliates of VQ and Non-Affiliate Clubs and Associations, international, interstate and school teams.
- 1.3. International and interstate teams will need authorisation of their national/state volleyball association to enter.
- 1.4. Schools teams will need authorisation of their school principal.
- 1.5. There will be up to six divisions in each gender available: Championship, Division 1 & 2, U19, U17 and U15.
- 1.6. Unless otherwise stated in these By-Laws, the Qld State Championships are conducted in accordance within the Official Volleyball Rules of FIVB as varied by Volleyball Australia and VQ.

2. TEAMS

- 2.1. The Championship Division will only be open to Affiliate and Associate Affiliates of VQ.
- 2.2. Affiliate and Associate Affiliates of VQ can only enter a single team in each Championship Division gender.
- 2.3. All other Divisions i.e. 1, 2, U19, U17 and U15 will be open to up to two teams from each organisation.
- 2.4. All teams shall compete on an equal basis with all other teams in the tournament i.e. eligible for medals.
- 2.5. VQ may accept teams in the Qld State Championships as invitational teams.
- 2.6. VQ reserves the right to refuse entry to any team including clubs which are not in good financial standing with VQ.
- 2.7. VQ reserves the right to admit teams or vary team entries to facilitate a viable competition.

3. TEAM NOMINATION AND PAYMENTS

- 3.1. Team nominations must be entered online through the entry portal provided at or from the championship webpage in www.vq.org.au.
- 3.2. Following nominations teams will be issued an invoice for payment by the due date. Payment completes the team nomination process.
- 3.3. Teams withdrawing are subject to the following refund policy:

3.3.1	Withdrawal up to invoice due date –	100% refund
3.3.2	Withdrawal after invoice due date but before draw publishing date –	50% refund
3.3.3	Withdrawal after the draw publishing date –	0% refund

4. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1. For players to be eligible, they must be a minimum current financial registered Recreational member



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- of VQ and aligned to the team they are playing with. There will be “Zero Tolerance” regarding unregistered players at any stage of the tournament. Registrations must be received by VQ prior to 11:59pm on the Wednesday before play begins.
- 4.2. If a player is registered with an Affiliate or Associate Affiliate of VQ and wish to be released to play with a different Affiliate or Associate Affiliate of VQ or Non-Affiliate Club or Association, he/she must lodge a completed Player Clearance Form with VQ prior to 11:59pm on the Wednesday before playing.
 - 4.3. Non Queensland based participants;
 - 4.3.1 If Australian must be registered with their state volleyball association in which they reside.
 - 4.3.2 If international must be registered with their national volleyball association in which they reside.
 - 4.4. Men/boys are not eligible to play in women’s/girls competition matches and women/girls may not play in men’s/boys matches.
 - 4.5. Players in the Junior Divisions must be under the stated age for the full calendar year of the competition.
 - 4.6. All teams have a duty of care to ensure that players are of an appropriate skill level for the Division in which they compete. The Court Supervisor/Chief Referee may determine if a player is not of an appropriate skill level and recommend the withdrawal of that player from the team list.
 - 4.7. Any team fielding an illegal or ineligible player (e.g. unregistered, not properly transferred, under a false name, or not under the correct age for age limited Divisions) will forfeit that match.
 - 4.8. Players may be added to the team list during the tournament upon request and with the approval of the Court Supervisor.
 - 4.9. Only those players named on the score sheet at the end of the match and having entered the court during the match will be registered as having played.
 - 4.10. In the event of a forfeit due to incomplete team numbers, those listed on the score sheet and present at the scheduled start time will be recorded as playing.
 - 4.11. Players may only appear on one (1) team list for the duration of the tournament and may not play multiple Divisions. Team lists for all teams are to be lodged with VQ by 11.59pm on the Wednesday prior to the tournament via the password-protected on line system.
 - 4.12. Only in extreme circumstances may the Competition Manager grant an exemption to the principles outlined in these By-Laws, which must be done before the player enters any match.

5. FINALS FORMAT AND ELIGIBILITY

- 5.1. To be eligible to participate in the finals, players must have been listed as taking the court in at least two (2) preliminary round matches for their team.
- 5.2. Byes will not be counted towards matches played when determining eligibility for finals.
- 5.3. Teams fielding ‘ineligible players’ in finals matches will automatically forfeit all sets in which that player took the court.
- 5.4. In case of a forfeit during the finals, the offending team will be eliminated from the finals series. Only teams that have fulfilled their finals commitments, including duty, will be eligible for any medals or awards.

6. MATCH REGULATIONS

6.1. FORMAT

- 6.1.1 Unless otherwise stated in these By-Laws, all matches will be conducted under the FIVB Official Volleyball Rules as varied by Volleyball Australia and VQ.
- 6.1.2 All Championship matches will be played as best of five (5) sets, with a rally point scoring system. The first four (4) sets will be played to 25 points with a 2 point advantage. The fifth set will be scored to 15 points (with a 2 point advantage). No cap is applied to any set.

- 6.1.3 All other Division's matches, including all finals, will be played as best of three (3) sets, with a rally point scoring system. The first two (2) sets will be played to 25 points with a 2 point advantage. The third set will be scored to 15 points (with a 2 point advantage).
- 6.1.4 The 12 Substitution Rule will be used in all Divisions.
- 6.1.5 Teams may use a Libero during a match, but only one player designated per match (Championship Division) or per set (all other Divisions) is allowed.
- 6.1.6 Matches 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 previous match. If the match finishes more than 15 minutes before the scheduled match, that match will not commence until the scheduled start time. For junior matches this is 10 minutes.
- 6.1.7 If a team due to play was involved in the match immediately prior, both teams will receive an additional five (5) minutes changeover time, resulting in 20 minutes from "last whistle to first whistle" between matches. This time includes the warm-up protocol. For junior matches this is 10 minutes.
- 6.1.8 Each team is allowed a maximum of two (2) team officials on the bench (e.g. Coach and Assistant Coach).
- 6.1.9 The Qld State Championships match ball is the Mikasa "V200W" volleyball.
- 6.1.10 The net heights are as follows:
- Championship, Division 1 & 2 Men and U19 Boys – 2.43m
 - U17 and U15 Boys – 2.35m
 - Championship, Division 1 & 2 Women and U19 Girls – 2.24m
 - U17 and U15 Girls – 2.15m

6.2. FORFEITS AND LATE STARTS

- 6.2.1 All matches (first serve whistle) will commence at the time advised in the official draw or fifteen (15) minutes after the completion of the previous match on that court, whichever is the later. This time includes the warm-up protocol. For junior matches this is 10 minutes.
- 6.2.2 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, i.e. 20 minutes after scheduled start time, a match forfeit will be recorded.
- 6.2.3 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, i.e. 20 minutes after the scheduled start time.
- 6.2.4 The Qld State Championships Court Supervisor(s) reserves the right to permit matches to commence late without penalty, due to unforeseen problems, e.g. notified traffic accidents, major events.
- 6.2.5 A team forfeiting its match will be subject to a \$100 fine, deducted from its bond.

6.3. UNIFORMS

- 6.3.1 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.

6.4. OFFICIALS

- 6.4.1 Duty teams must provide a 1st Referee, a 2nd Referee, two (2) standing Lines persons and one (1) Scorer.
- In Championship Division and Division 1, the 1st Referee provided by the Club must be a VA- accredited Level 2 Badge Referee or higher and is encouraged to wear the VA Referee Shirt (sky blue colour).
 - In all other Divisions, the 1st Referee provided by the Club must be a VA-accredited Level 1 Badge Referee or higher and is encouraged to wear the VA Referee Shirt (sky blue colour).
- 6.4.2 A 1st Referee and 2nd Referee will be provided (if possible) for the medal matches in Championship Divisions, duty teams will provide the other match officials.
- 6.4.3 For non-Championship Divisions a 1st Referee will be provided (if possible) for medal matches; duty teams will provide the other match officials.
- 6.4.4 All teams in Junior Divisions must ensure that there is a responsible adult available to supervise their Junior Referees when undertaking duty.
- 6.4.5 Duty teams must ensure that the scoresheet is completed in accordance with the 'checklist' on the Scorer's table. The 'checklist' is also available from the Qld State Championships Chief Referee(s) and Court Supervisor(s).
- 6.4.6 All Scorers and Lines people are prohibited from using mobile phones and other electronic devices during the match.

7. PLAYER & COACH MISCONDUCT AND SPECTATOR BEHAVIOUR

- 7.1. The Qld State Championships Competition Manager(s), Chief Referee(s) and Court Supervisor(s) have the power to issue sanctions to players, coaches and spectators as they deem appropriate.
- 7.2. Any player, coach or spectator who receives two (2) red cards during the Qld State Championships, excluding time delay sanctions, will be;
- suspended from being involved in the same team's next match, not including "byes".
 - cannot to be involved in any matches or Divisions until suspension at 7.2a is completed.
- 7.3. Any player, coach or spectator who is sanctioned with expulsion (Red & Yellow jointly) or disqualification (Red & Yellow separately) will be:
- as required by the rules, excluded immediately from the set/match in which they incurred the sanction.
 - suspended from being involved in the same team's next match, not including "byes".
 - cannot be involved in any matches or other Divisions until suspension at 7.3b is completed.
- 7.4. 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 hearing at Sports House Milton at the discretion and direction by the VQ General Manager.

8. COMPETITION STANDINGS AND PENALTIES

8.1 COMPETITION POINTS

- 8.1.1 Competition points will be awarded in all Divisions as follows:
- 3 points for a win
 - 1 point for a loss
 - 0 points for a bye
 - 2 points for a forfeit loss

8.2 COMPETITION TABLE

- 8.2.1 The ranking of teams on the competition points table is determined in this order:
- The most competition points
 - The highest ratio of points won to points played (5 decimal places)
 - The highest ratio of sets won to sets played (5 decimal places)

- d) Result of the pool match between the two (2) teams
- e) The point/set quotient equation is as follows: (Points Won/Points Played) x 100

8.3 PENALTY BOND

8.3.1 All Affiliate and Associate Affiliates of VQ and Non-Affiliate Clubs and Associations participating in the Qld State Championships will be required to pay a penalties bond for each team, which will be refunded at competition end if duty requirements are met (in a physical sense) and not refundable if duty requirements are not met.

- Affiliate and Associate Affiliates of VQ \$100 per team inc. GST
- Non-Affiliate Clubs and Associations \$100 per team inc. GST

The \$100.00 loss of bond will go to the team impacted by the forfeit.

9 VQ PRESIDENT'S SHIELD

9.1 The VQ President's Shield will be awarded to the 'best performing' affiliated club across all Divisions and both genders. VQ President's Shield points will be allocated in two (2) parts:

9.1.1 Participation Points - a base level of points awarded for entering a club's first team in that Division; and

9.1.2 Placing Points - determined by the team's finishing position in that Division.

9.2 Clubs with more than one (1) team entered in a Division will only receive "Placing 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 "Placing Points" table.

9.3 To be eligible for the VQ President's Shield, each club must compete in a minimum of five (5) Divisions.

9.4 Interstate and international teams cannot accumulate points towards the Presidents Shield.

9.5 VQ President's Shield points table

9.5.1 Participation Points

Division	Championship	Division 1	Division 2	Under 19	Under 17	Under 15
Points	80	60	40	20	20	20

9.5.2 Placing Points

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

9.6 Totals are calculated at the end of all finals matches.

9.7 If clubs are tied on VQ President's Shield points, the following tie-break sequence will be applied:

- a) Number of Gold Medals won across all Divisions
- b) Number of Silver Medals won across all Divisions
- c) Number of Bronze Medals won across all Divisions
- d) Highest ranked club in Championship Division across both genders combined
- e) Result of head to head between the two clubs in Championship Division across both genders combined

10 AWARDS

10.1 Each Division will receive medals/trophies for finishing first, second or third. A perpetual trophy is presented to winning teams at the conclusion of the tournament. This perpetual trophy will remain with VQ and displayed prominently.

10.2 Winning teams in each Division will subsequently receive a personalised "Recipient Perpetual Trophy"



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that will be produced and forwarded after the tournament.

10.3 Winners in all Divisions will be published on the VQ website.

11 MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPETITION

- 11.1 Competition Manager(s) will be responsible for the proper overall conduct of the event, including the recording and regular updating of the draw, premiership points table, issuing of fines and penalties for any infringements, details of matches played by players to determine eligibility for finals, records associated with red cards and the expulsion or disqualification of players and ineligibility to play in another team/grade.
- 11.2 Court Supervisor(s) will be responsible for the efficient running of matches of the Qld State Championship in accord with these By-Laws, the draw of the competition and directions of the Competition Manager(s). They will provide any incident reports to the Qld State Championships Competition Manager(s) such as when the Chief Referee(s) implements the "on the spot Protest Resolution" procedure.
- 11.3 The Chief Referee will supervise and advise all referees and duty teams to ensure consistent application of, and adherence to the international rules of the sport in accordance with the By-Laws of the competition offering feedback to all referees, but in particular to those who have requested grading/ upgrading. Where merited, referees may be upgraded in accordance with the AVRC and QVRC guidelines. The Chief Referee will appoint referees to finals matches and implement the "on the spot Protest Resolution" procedure.
- 11.4 The Qld State Championships Control Committee comprises of the Qld State Championships Competition Manager(s), Chief Referee(s) and is chaired by the VQ Sport Operations Manager (or delegate). The Control Committee's role is to operate the Qld State Championships within the terms of these By-Laws, the VQ Constitution and the rules of the game. The Control Committee reports to the VQ General Manager.

12 PROTESTS, APPEALS & REFERRALS

- 12.1 All match protests will be resolved using the "on the spot protest resolution" guideline. Match protests are not subject to further appeal.
- 12.2 An appeal against a decision of the Competition Manager must be lodged with the Chair of the Control Committee within 60 minutes of the matter occurring. An appeal is subject to a \$50 administrative fee, deductible from the team bond or payable to VQ if the bond is exhausted. The Chair of the Control Committee will consider the appeal based on the written complaint solely or and may consult or call for verbal submissions of the appellant, court supervisor, chief referee or competition manager as he/she considers necessary. The Chair of the Control Committee determination is final and not subject to further appeal.
- 12.3 Matters concerning discipline will be referred to the VQ Judiciary Committee by the Competition Manager for action as outlined in VQ's "Complaints Handling Procedure".
- 12.4 All formal written complaints concerning management of the championships should be marked to the attention of the VQ General Manager within five business days of the championships conclusion for his/her consideration.