

Qld Country Championships

Competition By-Laws



Preamble

The Qld Country 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 Country Championships comprises multiple graded Divisions for both Men and Women including Division 1 & 2 and Boys and Girls including Year 12 & under and Year 10 & under and determines the VQ Club Champions Shield which will be awarded to the 'best performing' affiliate across all divisions and both genders.

These By-Laws address arrangements to enter the championships, requirements of participant teams and conduct of the competition. All clubs and teams participating in the Qld Country 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 Country 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 four (4) divisions in each gender available: Division 1 & 2, Year 12 & under and Year 10 & under.
- 1.6. Unless otherwise stated in these By-Laws, the Qld Country Championships are conducted in accordance within the Official Volleyball Rules of FIVB as varied by Volleyball Australia and VQ.

2. TEAMS

- 2.1. Division 1 & 2, Year 12 & under and Year 10 & under will be open to up to two (2) teams from each organisation.
- 2.2. All teams shall compete on an equal basis with all other teams in the tournament i.e. eligible for medals.
- 2.3. VQ may accept teams in the Qld Country Championships as invitational teams.
- 2.4. VQ reserves the right to refuse entry to any team including clubs which are not in good financial standing with VQ.
- 2.5. 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. Teams are required to pay upon nomination; payment completes the team nomination process.
- 3.3. Teams withdrawing are subject to the following refund policy:
 - 3.3.1 Withdrawal after payment but before draw publishing date – 50% refund
 - 3.3.2 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 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 by 5:00pm on the Tuesday before playing.
- 4.2. If a player is registered with an Affiliate or Associate Affiliate of VQ and wish to be cleared to play with a

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different Affiliate or Associate Affiliate of VQ or Non-Affiliate Club or Association, he/she must lodge a Player Clearance Form showing the approved clearance of the player, with VQ by 5:00pm on the Tuesday 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.
 - 4.3.3 Evidence of this registration from the state or national volleyball association is to be provided when lodging the team list.
- 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. 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.
- 4.6. 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.
- 4.7. Players may be added to the team list during the tournament upon request and with the approval of the Court Supervisor.
- 4.8. 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.
- 4.9. 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.
- 4.10. 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.
- 4.11. 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 matches, including all finals, will be played as three (3) compulsory sets untimed, 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).
- 6.1.3 The 12 Substitution Rule will be used in all Divisions.
- 6.1.4 Teams may designate up to two Liberos;
 - per set in all Divisions.
- 6.1.5 Each team is allowed a maximum of two (2) team officials on the bench (e.g. Coach and Assistant Coach).
- 6.1.6 The Qld Country Championships match ball is the Mikasa V200W.
- 6.1.7 The net heights are as follows:

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- Division 1 & 2 Men and Year 12 & under boys – 2.43m
- Division 1 & 2 Women and Year 12 & under girls – 2.24m
- Year 10 & under boys – 2.35m
- Year 10 & under 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.
- 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 Country 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.

6.3. UNIFORMS

- 6.3.1 All players must wear a uniform, comprising shorts and shirts that is complete in the following details;
- a) Each shirt must have permanently fixed to the front and back – a unique number between 1 and 99. The number should be a minimum of 15cm on the front and minimum 20cm on the back.
 - b) The colour and design of the shirt must be consistent throughout the team, allowing for the libero's shirt which must have a different dominant colour and contrast to that of the rest of the team.
 - c) Male players must wear shorts consistent in colour, trim and style.
 - d) Female players are allowed to wear shorts, sports briefs or bike pants, providing the uniform is consistent throughout the team in terms of colour.
 - e) Numbers on the front right hand side of the shorts are permitted.
 - f) The manufacturer's brand/logo must not exceed 10cm x 10cm unless the marking is consistent across the team, including stripes on shorts.
 - g) Sponsors logo must be consistent across the team.

6.4. OFFICIALS

- 6.4.1 In all matches (including medal matches), duty teams must provide a 1st Referee, a 2nd Referee, two (2) standing Lines persons and one (1) Scorer. The 1st Referee provided 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 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 Country Championships Chief Referee(s) and Court Supervisor(s).
- 6.4.3 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 Country 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.

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- 7.2. Any player, coach or spectator who receives two (2) red cards during the Qld Country Championships, excluding time delay sanctions, will be;
- a) suspended from being involved in the same team's next match, not including "byes".
 - b) 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:
- a) as required by the rules, excluded immediately from the set/match in which they incurred the sanction.
 - b) suspended from being involved in the same team's next match, not including "byes".
 - c) 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 STANDING & PENALTIES

8.1 COMPETITION POINTS

Competition 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 where an official match is not played.

8.2 COMPETITION TABLE

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

- a) The most competition 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 pool match between the two (2) teams.
- e) The point/set quotient equation is as follows: $(\text{Points Won} / \text{Points Played}) \times 100$.

8.3 VQ CLUB CHAMPIONS

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

8.3.1 Participation Points

Division	Division 1	Division 2	Year 12 & under	Year 10 & under
Points	50	30	20	10

8.3.2 Placing Points

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

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

8.3.4 If clubs are tied on VQ Club Champions 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) Result of head to head between the two clubs in Division 1 across both genders combined.

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9 AWARDS

- 9.1. 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.
- 9.2. The annual overall Club Champions perpetual trophy will be presented at the completion of the competition. This perpetual trophy will remain with VQ and displayed prominently.
- 9.3. The "Most Valuable Player" award will be awarded to the player in each Division who has accumulated the most points during the competition. The 1st 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.

10 MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPETITION

- 10.1. The Qld Country Championships is overseen by its Control Committee, which comprises;
 - Qld Country Championships Competition Manager(s),
 - Chief Referee(s) and
 - chaired by the VQ Sport Operations Manager (or delegate).The Control Committee's role is to operate the Qld Country 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.
- 10.2. 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.
- 10.3. Court Supervisor(s) will be responsible for the efficient running of matches of the Qld Country 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 Country Championships Competition Manager(s) such as when the Chief Referee(s) implements the "on the spot Protest Resolution" procedure.
- 10.4. 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. The Chief Referee may delegate some of these responsibilities to Referees Supervisors should they be appointed to the championships.
- 10.5. Referee Supervisors may be appointed for the championships to support the Chief Referee, subject to the scale of the championships based on the number of teams entered, courts and venues utilised.

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11 PROTESTS, APPEALS & REFERRALS

- 11.1. All match protests will be resolved using the “on the spot protest resolution” guideline. Match protests are not subject to further appeal.
- 11.2. 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.
- 11.3. 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”.
- 11.4. 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.