



Volleyball Queensland
Schools Cup Bylaws
(Updated February 2026)



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.

Contained within this document is important information related to the event : Please ensure you read all of the information carefully.

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.

Schools Cups run from Friday 10am – Sunday, 4pm.

Please ensure that your team/s are prepared to be available for all matches (either playing or duty) during the entire three days of competition.

Schools may have teams compete across different venues, please ensure each team is individually managed.

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. All divisions, except Honours, will be played according to the ***Fixed Time Match Regulations*** (see Appendix A).

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.

A player may play with only one team 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. (A final is any position play-off match or single match (not in a pool) which will determine the participants in position play-off matches)
- 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, subject to 6.1.10.

2.3 Age/Year Level Limit

- 2.3.1 Only players eligible under paragraph 2.1 can participate in the tournament.
- 2.3.2 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

2.3.4 The maximum age of a participant in yr12 is 19 (Max. age at 31 Dec in year of the event)

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 Principal of the school involved will be written to advising them of the breach.

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, sent to the Tournament Director. (schoolscup@vq.org.au)
- 3.3 All players need to be registered players with VQ, at a minimum of Recreational Member Level. If an unregistered player is found to have taken the court, the school of that player shall be invoiced for the missing registration.

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 The Tournament Director, Venue Managers and Venue Staff will be appointed by VQ. The Venue Managers are responsible for the smooth running of the matches, and are empowered to resolve any on-the-spot protests.
- 4.1.2 Equipment - all equipment is to be of national standard unless otherwise allowed by VQ.
- 4.1.3 Any costs associated with damage to equipment or competition venues will be invoiced to those found responsible.
- 4.1.4 Volleyballs - only the official match volleyballs will be used. The official match balls of the VQSC is Mikasa MVA 200 or V200W.
- 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 cannot 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 must seek written permission from VQ to participate within VQSC events.

- 4.2.7 Teams from states other than Queensland must seek written permission from VQ to
- 4.2.7 participate within VQSC events.

4.3 Specific Tournament Organisation

4.3.1 **Format**

- 4.3.1.1 The tournament format for Honours Divisions in all age groups (yr8, yr9, yr10, yr11, yr12) 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.
- 4.3.1.2 The tournament format for all Non-Honours divisions in all year levels will be played in accordance with the “VQ Schools Cup Match Fixed-Time Regulations” .

4.3.2 **Uniforms**

- 4.3.2.1 All players are expected to play in matching team uniforms (tops & bottoms). This uniform shall include numbered tops. As a minimum, numbers must be clearly visible on the back of playing tops.
- 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 to 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 Candidate minimum) then they may take these roles and the adult team official must then sit at and supervise the scorer's bench (see 5 Duty Adult).

Exception B:

If a Level 2 Associate referee is being assessed in that match by a Tournament-appointed assessor, the adult team official then takes the other role.

4.3.3.4 Honours teams must supply a Volleyball Australia 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 (\$50 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 \$50 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 to VQ (schoolscup@vq.org.au) form prior to the tournament commencing. (Occurrence is dependent on operations requirements)

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. Teams will be given reasonable notice of any such changes.

5 **The DUTY ADULT**

5.1 Due to the nature of the Tournament and the participation of Junior Officials, during the match the DUTY ADULT has the Right to issue Misconduct Sanctions to Members of either team for Behaviour that does not comply with THE CODE OF CONDUCT in Section 8.

5.2 The DUTY ADULT must be 18 years of age or older. They must remain with the duty team for the duration of the match and must wear the provided DUTY ADULT sash (Orange).

5.3 Key Duties of the DUTY ADULT

- Ensure that the duty team members are well supported and performing their roles to a satisfactory standard
- Ensure that coaches of their team do not approach your duty team members
- Advise the officiating team of clear and obvious faults
- Advise the officiating team on the issue of misconduct sanctions
- If you require assistance, please reach out to a member of the Venue Staff for assistance.
- If an 'On-the-Spot Protest' occurs, please find a member of the Venue Staff for assistance.

6 **TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS**

6.1 General Regulations

- 6.1.1 Unless stated elsewhere, the tournament will be played under the official rules of volleyball issued by the International Volleyball Federation and adopted by VQ.
- 6.1.2 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.

6.1.3 Points shall be allocated as follows:	WIN	10 Points
	DRAW	8 Points
	LOSS	6 Points
	FORFEIT	0 Points

6.1.4 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 = $B \times 100\%$

C = Sets Lost B + C

6.1.5 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.

6.1.6 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.

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

6.1.8 Teams are allowed to use up to two (2) Libero players. (Only One (1) libero is allowed on court as per FIVB rules) 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.

6.1.9 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.

6.1.10 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.

6.1.11 If a team due to play has performed duty on the previous match, that team will be given 15 minutes warm up after the conclusion of the previous match instead of 10 minutes. This includes the six minutes combined spiking and serving warm up.

6.1.12 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.

6.1.13 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.

6.1.14 Participating teams must act as duty teams when rostered.

6.2 Net Heights:

Division	Division	Women	Men
Year 12	Yr12 Honours	224cm	243cm
	Divisions	215cm	235cm
Year 11	Yr11 Honours	224cm	243cm
	Divisions	215cm	235cm
Year 10	Yr10 Honours	215cm	235cm
	Divisions	215cm	235cm
Year 9	Yr9 Honours	215cm	235cm
	Divisions	210cm	224cm
Year 8	Yr8 Honours	210cm	224cm
	Divisions	210cm	215cm
Year 7	Divisions	210cm	215cm

7. REFEREES

7.1 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.

7.2 Whilst acting as a referee, officials will be under the control of the Venue Manager and/or their appointed assistants.

8. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Volleyball Queensland code of conduct applies to all players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators of teams who participate in tournaments sanctioned and controlled by VQ. (Refer to the Volleyball Queensland Code of Conduct on our website)

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

9. DISPUTES AND PROTESTS

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 Under the provisions of the rules, if a protest is upheld the match is replayed from the stage immediately before the error occurred. Due to the nature of the tournament the VQ “On the spot Protest” process is to be used
- 9.3 At Volleyball Queensland Schools Cup, only a coach may lodge a protest.
- 9.4 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 VQ Venue Manager.
- 9.5 It is the responsibility of the Venue Manager to resolve the protest.

10. AWARDS AND PLACINGS

- 10.1 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 Volleyball Australia to play Honours Division at Australian Schools Cup.
- 10.2 Members of Queensland-based school teams, which gain first, second, and third placing in the tournament shall receive the official gold, silver, and bronze medallions supplied by VQ.

- 10.3 International/Interstate 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.
- 10.4 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.
- 10.5 The Champion School Trophy for the Volleyball Queensland Schools Cup will be determined as per the Champion School Trophy guidelines.

Appendix A



VQ Schools Cup Fixed-Time Match Regulations



1 Pool Matches

- 1.1 These matches have a fixed playing time of 55 minutes, in addition to the warm up. If provided, the start and finish of a match will be signalled by the duty team; the scorer shall keep the time and advise the match referees accordingly. If the referee has whistled for service prior to the time ending, then that rally must be played, and shall count toward the scores. The referee alone shall determine whether the whistle preceded the time ending.
- 1.2 The match will be played in the best-of-5-sets format. Sets are played to 25 points. A team wins a set when they have a score of at least 25, with a lead of 2 points. Any number of sets may be completed within the specified playing time. In particular, play does not end when a team is leading 3 sets to nil, but for the purposes of the results table will be recorded as a 3-0 win.
- 1.3 A set that has not been completed when time elapses shall be counted as a completed set if the leading team has reached a score of at least 13 points, with a lead of at least 2 points.

- 1.4 The winner of a match shall be determined by the number of sets won. If teams are equal on sets, then the winner shall be determined by the total number of points won in all sets, completed or not. If the teams are still equal then the result is a draw. See Attachment 4 for examples of a win, loss and draw.
- 1.5 If time elapses during a rally, the rally must be played out. If a rally had commenced prior to time ending but a replay called by the referee, the point shall be replayed.
- 1.6 Time-outs are not permitted during the final 5 minutes of a match. A timeout which commences prior to the last five minutes shall be completed normally. It is the referee's responsibility to check the running clock, before authorising a time out.
- 1.7 Substitutions are permitted during the final 5 minutes of a match.

2 Repechages + Finals Matches

- 2.1 Such matches come under headings of ‘Repechages’ ‘Qualifiers’, ‘Quarter Finals’, ‘Semi Finals’ or ‘Playoffs’ on the Divisional Draw diagram provided on the page of the online results system.
- 2.2 Games are to be played as a “Best of Three set” Format without time restrictions

3 Shortened Matches

In the event a timed game is shortened due unforeseen circumstances the following will apply:

- If 30 minutes of play has been completed a result will be declared for the game at the time of suspension based on the examples provided below.
- If less than 30 minutes of play has been completed
 - If one team has won 2 sets, the result will be declared accordingly
 - If not, then
 - For pool matches the result will be declared a draw, but actual sets and points won will be credited to each team
 - For recharge matches, the match will be determined by total points won. Should this be equal, then if one team holds a lead on sets, they are the winner, otherwise the winner shall be the team that was leading (on total points) prior to the last rally that was conducted.

4 Examples

Example of a Draw

Scenario 1:

	Set 1		Set 2	Set 3
Team A	25		22	15
Team B	22		25	15

Draw 1-1 and equal in 3rd set (62-62)

Why: Both teams won one set each and there was not a two point difference in the third set – add up total points. Total points are equal so it is a draw

Scenario 2:

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4
Team A	25	22	20	25
Team B	19	25	25	23

Draw 2-2 and all points are equal (92-92)

Why: Both teams won two sets each -add up total points. Total points are equal so it is a draw

Example of a Win

Scenario 1:

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
Team A	25	25	25
Team B	22	21	7

Team A wins 3-0

Why: All sets were played out to 25 points

Scenario 2:

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
Team A	25	8	25
Team B	11	25	7

Team A wins 2-1

Why: All sets were played out to 25 points.

Scenario 3:

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
Team A	25	10	13
Team B	12	25	11

Team A wins 2-1

Why: For all sets to be included a team must reach 13 points, with a 2 point difference.

Scenario 4:

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
Team A	25	22	20
Team B	18	25	21

Team A wins on points 67 point to 64

Why: One set all, no 2 point difference therefore add up total points.

Scenario 5:

	Set 1	Set 2
Team A	20	12
Team B	25	2

Team B wins 1-0

Why: Only one set was completed and the 2nd set did not reach 13 points

Scenario 6:

	Set 1	Set 2
Team A	20	13
Team B	25	2

Team A wins 33 points to 27

Why: One set all (2nd set reached 13 and counts as a complete set) – add up total points