

## School Competition Rules 2026-2027

### 1. Age Groups

(a) Junior Championship: All students in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year in full time second level education

(b) U16 Championship: Under 16 years of age and in full time second level education on the 1 June preceding the current academic year

(c) Senior Championship: Up to under 20, and in full time second level education on the 1 June preceding the current academic year

(d) 4v4 volleyball: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year girl and boy Fun competitions

(f) Schools Cup: Open to all ages

(G) Beach Volleyball Championships: Open to all ages

### 2. Registration

2.1 School Affiliation must be completed online at Go membership and paid in full before teams can be entered into competition draws. All competition entries must use scoresheet that accurately records player names. Any team playing an illegal player will lose the point for the match(es) in which the player was involved. Team registration lists should be made available on scoresheets for every match by the team coach.

### 3. Playing Rules

3.1 All matches will be played in accordance with the FIVB rules of the game as adapted by the VI, subject to the following exception:

At Junior Level and 4v4 level

o No heading of the ball allowed

o No contacting the ball below the knee allowed

4. **Net Height**

Senior Girls A & B	2.24m	Senior Boys A & B	2.43m
Senior Girls C		Senior Boys C	2.35m
U16 Girls A & B	2.24m	U16 Boys A & B	2.35m
U16 Girls C	2.15m	U16 Boys C	2.24m
Junior Girls A & B	2.24cm	Junior Boys Cup	2.24m
Junior Girls C & D	2.15cm	Junior Boys Shield	2.15m

5. **5. Matches**

- 5.1 All matches will be played on a league basis or by using some other system designed by the school's commission and or/it's President.
- 5.2 All matches are the best of 3 sets except  
 Senior A Semi Final & Final. (Best of 5)  
 Schools Cup (Best of 5 sets) if only two teams competing
- 5.3 The deciding set in a 3 set and a 5 set game must have a 2-point margin regardless of the scores involved.
- 5.4 For a competition to commence there must be a minimum of five teams entered
- 5.5 For pool matches where teams have the same number of points the winner will  
 be decided in the following ways:  
 For two teams on the same points:  
 (a) The winner is the team that won in the head to head  
 For three teams on the same points:  
 (a) The winner is the team with the set difference  
 (b) If set difference is the same, then the winner is decided using sets  
 For, (then point difference if needed, then points for if needed)
- 5.6 Pool organizers do not have automatic right to a home venue.

## 6. Players

- 6.1 A maximum of two players may only play up a level in A division teams. For all other divisions unlimited juniors can play up in U16 competition and U16 to senior.

Younger players playing up can only play in a similar or higher division. They cannot for example play U16 A and Senior B or C

- 6.2 The Coach must notify [Conor cdo@volleyballireland.com](mailto:Conor.cdo@volleyballireland.com) in writing with the name of the player(s) and the movement involved.

- 6.4 **Players cannot play in multiple teams at their own age level.**

## 7. Grading

- 7.1 Grading of schools is at the discretion of the Schools Commission and will be applied to schools at the commencement of the school year.

- 7.2 Winners in previous year's Senior Final must move up one grade in Senior level only.

Winners in previous year's 16U Final must move up one grade in U16 and in Senior Competitions

Winners in previous year's Junior Cup Final must compete in U16 A competition the following year.

These rules apply regardless of number of players or standard of players involved and applies to a school.

If a school has two teams in the same competition and the ruling applies to them, the first team must play in the higher grade and the second team can play in any grade they choose. A request can be made to the commission to have both teams play in the same league.

### 7.3 Senior Competition

Senior A Competitions: Maximum of 9 teams ( new format TBC for 26-27)

B & C divisions will be created after the number of team entries is finalised. Competitions run in pools regional and expand until National Finalists are determined.. **C Division in Senior and 16U is for beginner only. Schools with any players that have prior volleyball experience should contact the coordinator and will be moved up to B division.**

Divisional placings will be at the discretion of the Competition Coordinator based on school's previous history. New schools will be placed in Senior C unless they have volleyball players which have club or previous experience.

### 7.4 U16 Competition

U16 A Girls Maximum of 8 teams (new format for 26-27 TBC)

B & C divisions will be created after the number of team entries is finalised. competitions run in pools regional and expand until National Finalists are determined. **C Division in senior and 16U is for beginner only. Schools with any players that have prior volleyball experience should contact the coordinator and will be moved up to B division.**

Divisional placings will be at the discretion of the competition coordinator based on schools' previous history. New schools will be placed in 16U C unless they have volleyball players which have club or previous experience.

### 7.5 Junior Competition

The junior competition will be seeded into the geographically closest pools of 4. After round 1 completion, teams will be seeded into Girls A-D and Boys A- B (dependent on team entries). **The lowest division is for beginners only and any schools with club players or players with volleyball experience should notify the competition coordinator [Conor cdo@volleyballireland.com](mailto:cdo@volleyballireland.com) to be moved up a division**

#### 4v4 Volleyball

This is a development category with teams involved in one large regional blitz day for 1<sup>st</sup> years and 2<sup>nd</sup> years.

#### Beach Volleyball Championships

Beach volleyball events on East, West, and South coasts will be coordinated for any age of student to compete.

## Schools Cup

The Schools Cup is open to all ages of players to compete. The competition also pits teams from all division against each other. The final is hosted alongside VLY National Club Finals.

## 8 Uniform

- 8.1 All teams should be neatly dressed in uniform tops numbered front and back. At the National Final, uniform tops must be worn.

## 9 Results

- 9.1 Winner of each game must contact the VLY office and the competition coordinator - Conor 0870997659 with the result on the day of the match. **A picture of the scoresheet with player lists should be sent to Conor immediately after the game by the host school**

## 10 Protests and Disputes

- 10.1 Any protest should be submitted, in writing, by the team coach to the Schools Commission –Mary Barrett, Pauline Della Chiesa, Jennifer O’Buachalla, Karen Usher, Vivienne O’Neill, Siobhan Martin, Jennifer Moret and Schools coordinator Conor Flood.

## 11 Hall and Referees Costs

- 11.1 All the teams involved at a neutral venue shall share these expenses.

## 12 Referees

- 12.1 Preferably a VLY qualified student referee, except where referees are appointed by the VLY. **The matches refereed by those qualified students must not be interfered with by teachers/coaches and anyone else involved on the day.** The referee can be a person acceptable to both team coaches/captains in the event of the unavailability of a referee as outlined above.
- 12.2 In the Semi Finals, schools should try to arrange for a Level 2 or higher referee. Costs to be split by teams

12.3 For the Finals (subject to approval by the VLY) VLY appointed referees shall be made available.

### 13 Officials

13.1 On match days, teams must provide backup officials. Lines and scorekeepers

### 14 Changes to Fixtures

14.1 Teams unable to meet a fixture must notify:

- (a) all the teams involved
- (b) the officials
- (c) the school's coordinator

14.2 All parties concerned must agree an alternative date prior to the original date of the fixture. In the event of agreement not being reached, points will be awarded against the team wishing to have the fixture changed. No changes can be made to Final dates.

14.3 All rounds should be played by the deadline date set down for each competition. If teams cannot agree on a date before the deadline date set, then the game must be played on that deadline date (D-Day). If all teams cannot agree a date, then the majority of teams must push on with what suits the majority.

### 15 Misconduct & AGM

15.1 School authorities shall be held responsible for any misconduct or damage caused by their player(s) or supporters

15.2 Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held online in early May. You can submit all suggestions to [cdo@volleyballireland.com](mailto:cdo@volleyballireland.com) for discussion and decision prior to the AGM

### 18 Miscellaneous

18.1 The Schools Commission whose decision is final shall decide any matters arising, which have not been covered in these School Rules.

19 **The lowest divisions in senior and 16U are for beginners only. Schools with any players that have prior volleyball experience should contact the coordinator and will be moved up a division.**