



VOLLEYBALL
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



**alcohol
thinkagain**
Beach
VOLLEYBALL TOUR

2025/2026 COMPETITION REGULATIONS



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1. Overview

The Alcohol. Think Again Beach Tour (ATABT) is Western Australia's premier beach volleyball series, showcasing top-level competition across multiple coastal venues. The tour spans October - March across regional and metro WA Beaches. The tour provides opportunities for both elite athletes and community-level players, promoting volleyball across WA's stunning beachside locations. It's a vibrant celebration of sport, community, and coastal lifestyle.

Volleyball WA welcomes back the naming right sponsor Healthway with the Alcohol. Think Again message. We look forward to all athletes supporting this message and the importance that this message holds in the community.

1.1. Child Safeguarding

VWA is a Child Safe Organisation which aims to safeguard the well-being of all children and young people who participate in our sport. All participants officials and staff are required to comply with the VA Safeguarding Child and Young People Policy and abide by the VWA Codes and Conduct.

1.2. ATABT Technical Committee

The ATABT Technical Committee is responsible for ensuring that the technical requirements of the ATA Beach Tour as outlined in the appropriated sections of the handbook are adhered to. The ATABT Technical Committee consists of the following representatives:

- Chair of the Committee – VWA Competitions Manager
- Senior Beach Referee – Referee Committee
- VWA Events Coordinator

1.3. Interpretation of Rules

Any questions relating to the interpretation of the information contained in this handbook is required to be made in writing to VWA. VWA notes that anything not covered by the FIVB

Rules of the game or the ATABT Competition Regulations and associated documentation can be decided by the ATABT Technical Committee in the first instance and thereafter the VWA Chief Executive Officer and / or the VWA Board of Management as required.

1.4. Participation of Transgender People

VWA supports participation in our sport in Western Australia on the basis of the gender with which a person identifies. Volleyball WA recognises that excluding people from participating in sporting events and activities because of their gender identity may have significant implications for their health, wellbeing and involvement in community life.

National and International events may have different participation requirement for transgender people and participants will require consultation and approval from Volleyball Australia and/or FIVB.

1.5. Participation of Non-Binary People

Non-binary people are welcome and included in competitions conducted by Volleyball WA and its Affiliates, however due to the current binary nature of volleyball competition, Non-binary people can compete in the male or female categories of Volleyball WA events based on their Sex assigned at birth or under the gender category of male or female that most affirms their gender.

National and International events may have different participation requirement for Non-Binary people and participants will require consultation and approval from Volleyball Australia and/or FIVB.

Volleyball WA is aware that an Athlete's Gender Identity may change between Competitions and if there is a change, the Athlete must, in the first instance, notify Volleyball WA prior to their intended participation in any competition. The Athlete may only participate in their nominated male or female category for the duration of any given Competition.

2. Aims of the Tour

The ATABT goals are to:

- Provide a competition environment for WA's elite, competitive and developing athletes (in line with the Volleyball WA FTEM model).
- Showcase beach volleyball to audiences across WA.
- Provide a pathway for WA athletes to progress to an international level.
- Provide marketing opportunities for Volleyball WA's commercial partners.

3. Alcohol. Think Again Tour Staff

3.1. Volleyball WA Staff

The WA Tour will be promoted and managed by Volleyball WA. Volleyball WA has appointed the following staff to ensure the smooth running of each tournament.

Volleyball WA Competitions and Events Manager

managerevents@volleyballwa.com.au

Volleyball WA Events Coordinator

events@volleyballwa.com.au

Volleyball WA ATA Beach Committee:

- VWA Senior Staff Member
- Competitive WA Beach Tour Athlete Representative
- Social / Recreational Representative
- Regional Representative
- VWA Referee Committee Representative
- VWA Support Officer

All staff contacts are available at the VWA website: www.volleyballwa.com.au

All rankings, technical questions, wildcard allocations, disputes or judiciary procedures will be submitted to the VWA Events Coordinator (events@volleyballwa.com.au).

Any questions or issues will be raised with members of the Volleyball WA Beach Committee, if required. If any of the above-mentioned members of the Beach Committee are playing in the tournament and if the issue directly affects them, they will abstain from discussing or voting on the issue due to there being perceived conflict of interest.

3.2. Technical Committee

The Beach Committee Technical Committee is responsible for ensuring that the technical requirements of the ATA Beach Tour as outlined in the appropriate sections of the handbook are adhered to. The ATA Beach Tour Technical Committee consists of the following representatives:

- VWA Events Coordinator
- VWA Competitions and Events Manager
- Referee Committee Representative

In instances where the Referee Committee Representative has conflict of interest or is unavailable, they will be replaced by a suitable member of the Referee Committee.

4. Calendar

VWA has created the following documents for the 2025/2026 beach season:

- [2025/2026 Beach Volleyball Calendar](#) – Overall beach volleyball calendar for all beach events in 2024/2025 summer season across Australia.
- [2025/2026 Alcohol. Think Again Beach Tour Schedule](#) – Dates and locations of the ATABT.

5. Pre-Event Entry

5.1. VWA Membership

All players competing in the ATABT are required to hold a current VWA Platinum Membership or Bronze ATABT One Event Membership.

Membership information categories are on the [VWA website](#) and membership is purchased via the VWA [member portal](#).

- Confirmation of membership status will be provided by VWA prior to accepting an entry into a tournament.
- Enquiries regarding current membership status or how to become a member should be made with the VWA office.
- Membership payments are non-refundable and non-transferable.
- Entries by teams who have a player/s that are not members will not be placed into the tournament and will not be refunded.

*Please note that all memberships are valid from the date of payment through to 31st March 2026.

5.1.1. Bronze ATABT One Event Membership

This membership is suitable for individuals who want to play one event of the Alcohol. Think Again Beach Tour (ATABT) series.

- An individual can only purchase this membership once and if they wish to play in more than one event a platinum membership must be purchased.
- Personal Accident Insurance is included for the event only.
- Please call the VWA office to purchase this membership. The cost is \$38.50

To register for a round using a Bronze ATABT One Event Membership:

- Please call the VWA Office to pay for your event registration.
- Email player names and division you wish to play in to VWA Events Coordinator (events@volleyballwa.com.au).

5.2. Entry Fees

Entry fees are as follows:

EVENT	NOMINATION FEE PER TEAM
WA Beach Tour 2-day event (Adult)	\$141.00 per team
WA Beach Tour 2-day event (Junior U19)	\$121.00 per team
WA Beach Tour 1-day event (Adult)	\$128.00 per team
WA Beach Tour 1-day event (Junior U19)	\$109.00 per team
WA Beach State Championships (Adult)	\$152.00 per team
WA Beach State Championships (Junior U19)	\$133.00 per team

5.3. Entry Process

THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT
ENTRIES OPEN

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event registrations and payments must be completed via the VWA Member Portal.
<p>*10 DAYS BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT AT 9:00PM (WEDNESDAY WEEK PRIOR TO THE TOURNAMENT) ENTRIES CLOSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only payments of the full team amount will be accepted. *Wildcard Applications also close at this point – see wildcards for more information.
<p>MONDAY BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT AT 5:00PM SEEDED ENTRY LIST RELEASED This will be put on Exposure Volleyball for all participants.</p>
<p>TUESDAY BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT AT 12:00PM SEED LIST PROTESTS Any protests relating to seeding must be lodged by email to events@volleyballwa.com.au before this time. Failure to do so demonstrates the teams listed accept their advised seeding position.</p>
<p>THURSDAY BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT AT 5:00PM DRAW RELEASED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tournament draw will be put on Exposure Volleyball. Withdrawal from the tournament after this point will result in the team receiving last place in their allocated division – see withdrawals for more information.
<p>TUESDAY AFTER THE TOURNAMENT AT 5:00PM RESULTS RELEASED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results will be put on Exposure Volleyball.
<p>WEDNESDAY AFTER THE TOURNAMENT AT 5:00PM OPPORTUNITY TO PROTEST RESULTS CLOSES</p>

5.3.1. Late Entries

Volleyball WA may accept late entries into a round based on extenuating circumstances for the late entry.

- If the entry deadline is missed, a late entry requested may be submitted to Events Coordinator (events@volleyballwa.com.au) outlining the circumstances of missing the deadline. No late entries will be accepted after Monday 9am (two business days after the entries close).
- Late entries will be reviewed on the strength of the extenuating circumstances and will consider whether there is room for the team in the event.
- Volleyball WA will make the final decision as to whether the late entry is accepted or declined or if the draw will be benefited by the inclusion of a late entry. Entry into the competition is not guaranteed.
- All late entries accepted will incur a \$25.00 late entry fee.**

5.4. Interstate/International Registration Process

- Registration process
 - If one or both players are based interstate or internationally, contact the VWA Events Coordinator (events@volleyballwa.com.au) or by phone to arrange entry registration and membership for the round.
 - Registration payments will be processed over the phone.
- Interstate Memberships
 - Existing memberships from other state will be reviewed with State Sporting Organisations to ensure they meet the equivalent membership level required in Western Australia.
 - If necessary, VWA offers a one-time bronze membership option – see [section](#) for details.
- Seeding and wildcards
 - For AAA grade at the WA Open, seeding will be determined using the Australian Beach Volleyball Ranking System, as outlined in [Seedings](#).
 - For all other ATA Rounds and AA grade at the WA Open refer to the [seeding](#).
 - For information on wildcards, please refer to [Wildcards](#).

5.5. Fixture Software

In the 2025/2026 season Volleyball WA will be using Exposure Volleyball as the fixturing software. Fixtures and event information can be found [here](#).

Alternatively, you can download the Exposure Events App on your phone and view fixtures and results on the app. [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

5.6. Wildcards

5.6.1. Local Wildcards

- Wildcard applications must be submitted on the entry form in the wildcard section and will be considered on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the VWA Beach Committee.
- Wildcards will not be allocated to players/teams that have played an event and want to move up a division. Results and player ratings will determine entry and eligibility.
- The number of wildcard entrants offered at a tournament is at the discretion of VWA and will be considered according to the circumstances of each tournament. It is not a requirement for all positions to be allocated.
- Regional teams will be considered strongly for regional events especially when competing in their 'hometown'. Athletes who are returning from pregnancy or long-term injury are also encouraged to apply for wildcards, as their applications will be strongly considered.
- Teams can apply for a wildcard for seeding in Round #1, if a player with no ATABT seeding information is playing and has a significant history in volleyball or beach volleyball and hasn't had access to ATABT events over the past 12 months.
- A wildcard will only be applicable in a situation where one player of a team (or both) does not have valid points and has not had access to an ATABT qualifying event in the current year. In a situation where one player of the team has met the above criteria and one has not, then the player who has not met the criteria will receive the seeding points of the player who has qualified for the division, should

the wildcard be granted. The total points of that pairing will then determine the division they play in.

- When both players have not met the above-mentioned criteria, the below factors will be considered when assessing the wildcard application:
 - Playing history/profile
 - Support of WA Volleyball and ATABT
 - Reason for not meeting the necessary qualification criteria (i.e. international travel, pregnancy, other commitments).

5.6.2. Interstate and International Wildcards

The number of interstate and international wildcard entrants offered at a tournament will be limited to two teams per Elite / AAA event, except at the WA Open.

VWA will take the following into consideration when awarding these wildcards:

- Playing history (World Tour and National Tour points)
- Player profile
- Support of WA Volleyball

5.6.3. Wildcards Seeding

Wildcards will be seeded at the discretion of the VWA Beach Committee.

The following will be considered when seeding teams:

- Playing history
- Player profile
- Support of WA Volleyball and the ATABT
- Competition Format

Wildcard seeding will be determined by the beach volleyball committee using the below process:

- An assessment will be made by the committee to determine whether the teams' expected finishing position will fall within the top third/middle third/bottom third of the draw. Where the draw is not equally divisible by three, the position will be rounded to the nearest whole number (i.e. 10 team draw, 3/3/4).
- Once the assessment has been made, the seeding position in the section of the category will be determined randomly.

5.7. Placement of Teams into Grades/Seeding

The ATABT uses the same points system as the 2024-2025 season. Outlined below is how seed-index will be calculated, by taking the average finishing position of the individuals within their teams, VWA will calculate event seeding and tour ranking.

For more details on how seed index points are awarded in 2025-2026 please refer to [section 7.1](#).

Division allocation and team seeding will be determined using the following methods:

Points

- For entry and seeding in all events that an individual player participates in, their seeding index will be calculated by taking the average of their best three results, from the last four tournaments they played in the last 365 days (at time of tournament commencement).
- If four events haven't been played, the seeding index will be based on an average seed index from the events in the last 365 days (at time of tournament commencement).
- If teams are tied on seed index, a drawing of lots will occur to separate the teams.
- The seed index will then be averaged with their playing partners for that event to form the team seed index.
- Please note for WA Open, AAA grade seeding will be formulated using the Australian Beach Volleyball Ranking System unless otherwise specified by VA or VWA. Any ties in this system will be broken by VWA seeding.

The following regulations will be used to ensure that teams play in the grade which is suitable for their skill level and will allow moves between grades, if necessary. It will also allow new teams to find an appropriate skill level if joining the tour mid-season.

New teams, where neither player has played in ATABT, will be placed into the lowest seeding position for the event that they have entered. Teams in this situation can choose to apply for a wildcard or seeding wildcard – please refer to *section 5.7* for more details.

Teams which have one new player will have their team seed index calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{The average of:} \\ & \textit{The seed index of a player who has played in last 365 days} \\ & + \\ & \textit{(Lowest seed index in the initial draw + 1)} \end{aligned}$$

Promotion:

- Teams can earn the right to be promoted to the division above by making the grand final in any division*.
- Teams can only exercise this promotion at the next scheduled graded tournament and in the team, they played that grand final in. If a team wants to be promoted, the Events Coordinator (events@volleyballwa.com.au) is required to be contacted at time of registration.
- If the members of a team decide to play with different partners in the next tournament after having earned the right of promotion, then the right of entry to the next division above is withdrawn and entry will be considered by using points.

**Teams choosing competitive divisions cannot be promoted in the next event.*

5.8. Pool Seeding Distributions

VWA will adopt the Serpentine System for allocating seeds to pools as per the following examples:

	Divisions of 16				Divisions of 10		
Pool	A	B	C	D	A	B	
Seed	1	2	3	4	1	2	
Seed	8	7	6	5	4	3	
Seed	9	10	11	12	5	6	
Seed	16	15	14	13	8	7	
					10	9	
	Divisions of 12 (4 Pools)				Divisions of 12 (3 Pools)		
Pool	A	B	C	D	A	B	C
Seed	1	2	3	4	1	2	3
Seed	8	7	6	5	6	5	4
Seed	12	11	10	9	7	8	9
Seed					12	11	10

5.9. Force Majeure

A force majeure wildcard can be used if a player becomes injured or can no longer participate (due to extenuating circumstances) after the entry deadline is closed, but before the first game of the tournament has commenced.

- The healthy player can replace their partner with someone who is not entered in the event, and they will retain their team's seeding.
- If the new team has a higher seeding than the team which was originally entered, the new team will benefit from this change, but only within the same grade.
- The seed list will then be updated accordingly which may affect team placings in pools.
- If a player withdraws and the team cannot or does not want to find a new player after the fixtures are released, any games scheduled against that team will become forfeits.

When a force majeure wildcard is used, a medical professional must supply a medical certificate on behalf of the injured player or written confirmation of work commitments. If a certificate is not supplied by **5:00pm on the Monday following the tournament**, the team will be fined \$50 and will receive last place in the grade that they participated in, and this will be recorded and added to their seed index calculation for the following event.

Repeated use/overuse of this rule will be examined by the Volleyball WA Beach Committee and penalties may apply. To apply for a force majeure, please contact the VWA Events Coordinator (events@volleyballwa.com.au).

5.10. Withdrawals

Teams must advise VWA if they have registered for a tournament but are unable to play.

- To officially withdraw from an event without a point's penalty, a team is required to inform the VWA Events Coordinator in writing, prior to the draw being released (see section 5.3) and provide legitimate reason for withdrawal.
- If a team withdraws after the initial draw is released, the team will receive last position in the grade they were allocated. This will be recorded as their seed index for that round.

- If a team withdraws before the draw is released, they will be offered a refund.
- Withdrawals after the release of the draw will not be refunded.

Please send all correspondence via email to events@volleyballwa.com.au prior to the preliminary enquiry.

5.11. Underage State Teams

After the Youth Beach Squad Phase has concluded, and teams per age group have been selected for Australian Youth Beach Volleyball Competition (AYBVC), these state teams are permitted to participate in the Alcohol. Think Again Beach Tour with team composition consisting of two, three or four players. Each team must ensure compliance with all tournament rules and regulations. Parent supervision for Youth Beach State Team athletes is always required (one parent per team).

- Youth Beach athletes can compete in pairs only prior to Team Phase selection.

5.12. Personal Sponsorship

The Events Coordinator must be advised of all personal sponsorship/s, a minimum of nine days prior to an event. They have a responsibility to ensure there is no conflict with tournament sponsors.

The tournament's sponsor will take precedence over personal sponsorship/s in relation to singlets and tops. Personal sponsorship details may still be worn on other garments such as shorts, hats/headwear, towels, bags, transferrable tattoo's, armbands etc. We encourage athletes to be proactive in obtaining personal sponsorship.

5.13. Players Responsibility

All players are responsible for checking all relevant information regarding events, including start times, locations, check in etc. via Exposure Volleyball.

- To confirm location and start time before the tournament, contact can be made with VWA before 5pm on the Friday before the tournament commences.
- During multi-day events, players are recommended to check with the Tournament Director before leaving the venue to confirm relevant information required.

6. During Event

6.1. Competition Formats

VWA Event/Tour Staff reserve the right to amend any competition rules, match format or the event structure, in the lead up to or during an event should unforeseen circumstances (e.g. extreme heat or change in pool sizes) occur.

ATABT's competitions will operate in the following formats:

OPEN FORMAT

- Choose the applicable division: **Elite (AAA)** or **Competitive (AA and below)**
- Game scoring and time limits based on team nominations and pool sizes
- Both divisions can play across both days on the weekend:
 - Pool play on Saturday
 - Single elimination finals on Sunday for teams who progress

GRADED FORMAT – 12 teams per gender

- **Elite (AAA)** - Top 12 seeded teams per gender: Full scoring, untimed (Best of 3 sets, first 2 to 21, last set to 15 uncapped)
 - Minimum of 3 games on Saturday*
 - Opportunity to place across both days on the weekend. (Pool play on Saturday, single elimination finals on Sunday for teams who progress out of their pool)
 - Pool Progression Option 1 – 6/12 teams through to finals 3 pools of 4 teams
 - 1st in Pool A and 1st in Pool B through to semi-finals on Sunday.
 - 1st in Pool C and 2nd in Pools A, B and C through to quarterfinals on Sunday.
 - Pool Progression Option 2 – 8/12 teams through to finals 3 pools of 4 teams
 - Top 2 in each pool through to quarter finals on Sunday
 - 2 'lucky thirds' also through to quarter finals on Sunday
- **Competitive (AA and below)** – Teams seeded 13 and below, and teams who choose to play Competitive, at a maximum of 12 teams per gender:
 - Full scoring, untimed (best of 3 sets, first 2 to 21, last set to 15 uncapped)
 - One-day tournament only* (pool play into single elimination finals)
 - Minimum of 3 games**, maximum of 5 games for grand finalists
 - Ideally 12 teams per gender to make 4 pools of 3 teams***
 - Top 2 from each pool through to quarter finals, 3rd in each pool play off for 9th – 12th place.

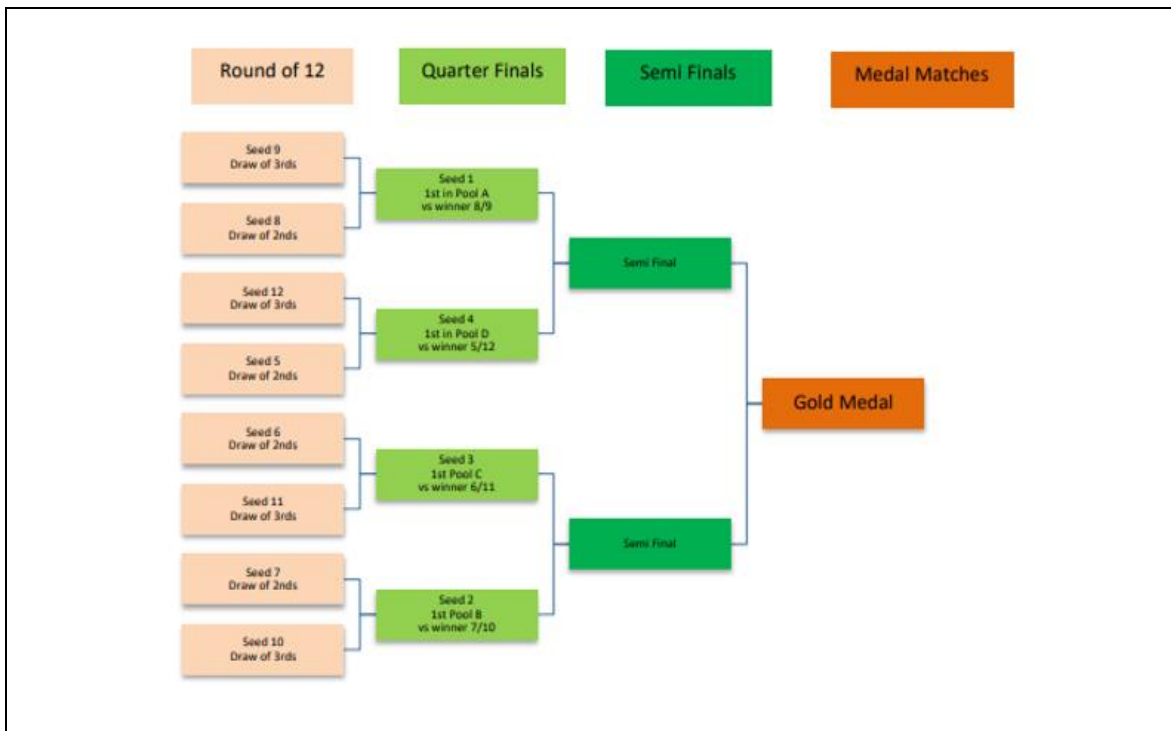
**This can be either Saturday or Sunday, players need to be prepared for either day.*

***This minimum number could change if a team drops out last minute and there is no team to fill their sport. This may result in a bye/forfeit in the affected pool. VWA will make their best effort to maintain a three-game minimum.*

****Pool sizes are based on team nominations and cannot be confirmed until entries close. The formats above obtain the ideal team numbers (12 teams per division). Additional divisions (A and below) could be added if the beach allows for more courts and if there are enough teams to create a third division.*

INNER CITY BEACH ROUND ONLY - ELITE 16 FORMAT –16 teams per gender

- **Elite** – Top 16 seeded teams per gender:
 - Teams are allocated to pools in a serpentine fashion, based on seeding
 - Teams in each pool are seeded 1st to 4th
 - Match 1 & 2 – 1st plays 4th and 2nd plays 3rd
 - Match 3 – Losers of match 1 & 2
 - Winner is placed 3rd in the pool
 - Loser is placed 4th in the pool and eliminated
 - Match 4 – Winners of match 1 & 2
 - Winner is placed 1st in the pool and automatically proceeds to the Quarter Finals
 - Loser is placed 2nd in the pool
 - Modified Round of 12 – 2nd from pools play 3rd from pools
 - 2nd in pool is drawn for seeds 5-8
 - 3rd in pools is drawn for seeds 9-12
 - Teams cannot play an opponent from the same pool for the first 2 rounds of the finals
 - Winners of these games progress to Quarter Finals
 - Quarter Finals – winners play 1st in pools
 - 1st in pools are placed based on their pool and will play a winner of the Round of 12
 - Teams cannot play an opponent from the same pool for the first 2 rounds of the finals
 - Semi Finals
 - Gold Medal Match
- Progression of a modified pool play format



- Competitive (AA and below)** – Teams seeded 17 and below, and teams who choose to play Competitive.
 - Teams are allocated to pools in a serpentine fashion, based on seeding
 - Teams in each pool are seeded 1st to 4th
 - Match 1 & 2 – 1st plays 4th and 2nd plays 3rd
 - Match 3 – Losers of match 1 & 2
 - Winner is placed 3rd in the pool
 - Loser is placed 4th in the pool and eliminated
 - Match 4 – Winners of match 1 & 2
 - Winner is placed 1st in the pool and automatically proceeds to the Quarter Finals
 - Loser is placed 2nd in the pool
 - Modified Round of 12 – 2nd from pools play 3rd from pools
 - 2nd in pool is drawn for seeds 5-8
 - 3rd in pools is drawn for seeds 9-12
 - Teams cannot play an opponent from the same pool for the first 2 rounds of the finals
 - Winners of these games progress to Quarter Finals
 - Quarter Finals – winners play 1st in pools
 - 1st in pools are placed based on their pool and will play a winner of the Round of 12
 - Teams cannot play an opponent from the same pool for the first 2 rounds of the finals
 - Semi Finals

- Gold Medal Match
- See above the template for a 4-team pool in an Elimination Pool format.

6.1.1. Playing Uniforms

All players competing in the ATABT are required to wear the Alcohol. Think Again playing tops for all games. No other uniform is permitted on 2025/2026 ATABT.

- Male players are required to wear a singlet
- Female players have the choice of a crop top, or a Female cut singlet.
- Players are required to wear only black or blue ATABT playing tops (singlet or crop top) or WA Open singlet on the 25/26 tour.
- Uniforms can be purchased from the VWA Office and VWA Website.

Elite (AAA):

- Individuals within a team must wear the same colour ATABT playing top.
- Male teams must wear shorts of a similar colour and style.
- Female teams must wear shorts or bather bottoms of a similar colour (one player can have a different style to the other).
- If the uniform requirement is not adhered to, the team in question will forfeit the match.
- Duty teams have a responsibility to ensure that this policy is adhered to.

Competitive (AA and below)

- Players must wear ATABT uniforms and are encouraged to wear matching colours, however players are permitted to wear unmatched colour uniforms if needed.

6.1.2. Additional Garments

- Athletes are free to wear long sleeve shirts/leggings/shorts/bike shorts at their own preference.
- Athletes of the same team are not obliged to wear long sleeve/leggings/shorts/bike shorts in the same match.
 - If player 1 is wearing leggings/shorts and player 2 is wearing bikini bottoms. Player 1 is required to wear the same bottoms as her partner underneath her leggings/shorts. To ensure that players are matching if they remove their leggings/shorts.
- If both athletes of the same team choose to wear the above in the same match, then the uniform shall be of the same colour and style.

6.1.3. Uniforms Supporting Religious and Cultural Beliefs

Extra under garments (tights, long sleeve t-shirts, etc) and head coverings will be permitted for religious, medical or climatic reasons. The following are VWA's requirements:

- An ATABT playing top will be required to be worn over any such garments
- VWA would request where possible that players from a team have a similar colour to their garments

6.1.4. WA Open Uniforms

- At the WA Open in the Elite division teams are required to wear a different colour shirt/crop to their opponents.
- A penalty will be issued if this is not followed.

6.1.5. Competition Balls

The ball to be used on the ATABT is the FIVB approved Mikasa BV550C Beach Volleyball. This ball can be purchased directly from Volleyball WA.

6.2. Technical Meeting

The VWA Tournament Director will hold a mandatory in-person technical meeting and sign in at the **qualifier event (Round #1) and the WA Open**. Players will be informed of key information relating to the competition, schedule, reiteration of any changes to competition format and any other useful information. During events, the Tournament Director will be on site to answer any questions or concerns.

For all other rounds, important information will be included in the event page on Exposure Volleyball.

6.2.1. Consequence for non-attendance

If at least one team member is not present at the technical meeting and sign in, the first set of the team's first game of the round will be forfeited.

6.3. Pool Play Points Allocation

Win – 3 points, **Loss** – 1 point and **Forfeit** – 0 points.

- There are no drawn matches.
- For time limit games, if the set score is 1-0 the team who won the first set wins the match irrespective of the points scored in the second set.
- If the set score is tied when time expires, teams will finish the current point (if the whistle has blown to start play prior to the announcement, then that point needs to be completed) and a lead of two points needs to be achieved to decide the match, even if that means additional points need to be played.

If teams in the same pool finish pool play with equal points, their positions will be determined by:

- Games won percentage
- Then by sets won percentage
- Then points won percentage
- Percentages will be calculated by the formula: wins (games, sets or points) – losses (games, sets or points)/total played (games, sets or points).

6.4. Technical Time Out

- A technical time out is applied automatically in the 1st and 2nd set, when the sum of the points scored by the teams equals to 21 points.
- In the deciding set (3rd set) there are no technical time outs, only requested time outs.
- If both teams agree to not take the technical timeout, it does not have to be taken.
- Timeouts are one minute.

6.5. Rules

VWA will follow the rules commissioned by the FIVB. These can be found at:

https://www.fivb.com/en/beachvolleyball/thegame_bvb_glossary/officialrulesofthegames

6.6. Referee Duties

6.6.1. Duty Requirements

All teams will be assigned “duties” during a tournament, this means providing a “First” referee and scorer for another game.

It is a requirement that the first referee has a minimum Level 1 Referee accreditation. Which is completed online (more information - <https://volleyballwa.com.au/refereeing/>).

- All duties are required to be taken seriously and completed professionally to ensure a high-quality competition for all players.
- The first referee has the ultimate responsibility but can take guidance from the scorer.
- If a referee is provided by VWA for the game, then the duty team must act as a second referee and scorer.
- The duty team is responsible for games starting on time. Noting that teams should warm-up prior to the match and only has a maximum of five minutes on court for spiking and service practice.
- In un-timed matches, it is imperative that duty teams commence matches in accordance with the protocol advertised at the technical meeting or via the information shared in fixture emails and/or on top of the fixtures on Exposure Volleyball.
- The Duty team must ensure that all time out breaks, set breaks and end changes are completed in the allotted time.
- The following hand signals are required to be used.

When taking on a duty for the first time at a beach event, the Tournament Director can assist with clarifying any responsibilities.

6.6.2. Penalties for not fulfilling a duty

Penalties for not fulfilling team duty requirements at a tournament will result in a \$50 fine for the team and a 20% increase of seed index allocated for that event. Any overdue invoices will result in both team members becoming unfinancial and will be restricted from playing in Volleyball WA events.

If a duty team is not present to referee a particular game, VWA will endeavour to supply a referee. However, on some occasions playing teams may be required to umpire and score their own game.

6.6.3. Referees in finals

- When possible VWA will endeavour to provide first referees in finals. If a team has an assigned referee duty they must act as a second referee and scorer.

6.6.4. Referee Accreditation and Fines

If the first referee does not have a Level 1 Referee Accreditation this will result in a \$50 fine for the team. Any overdue invoices will result in the team members that registered becoming unfinancial and will be restricted from playing in Volleyball WA events.

6.6.5. Whistles

VWA will not issue whistles to duty teams due to health regulations and the health risks associated with this.

6.7. Ball Mark Protocol (BMP)

- Ball Mark Protocols will only be used in games that referees are appointed to.
- Teams are entitled to request a "Ball Mark Protocol" to be implemented at the end of the rally, when they would like a review of the referee's decision concerning the ball 'in'/'out' for side and end lines.
- Teams will have the right to request another BMP if their request is successful, with a limit of a maximum of two unsuccessful BMP requests per set.
 - A second unsuccessful BMP request by a team in a set will result in the requesting team not being able to request more BMP for the remainder of that set
- A BMP may be requested by either player from either team. The players/teams have five seconds after the rally is over to make the request. However, a team cannot request for a BMP after having switched the court.
- The player must indicate the request by showing a letter "C" signal with their fingers, followed by showing to the 1st referee the appropriate BMP signal.
- Late or illegal BMP requests shall be rejected, with the 1st referee informing the decision

6.8. Court Allocations

Players must play on the court allocated to them, unless the court presents a safety issue. Any safety issues should be reported to the Tournament Director, who will review the court and if necessary, deem the court as 'unsafe' to play on and organise an alternative court.

6.9. Forfeits

If a team is not present at the beach within 5 minutes after the duty team has called playing teams to the court to commence play, this team forfeits the first set. If a game is forfeited after commencing, any points scored in the match up until that point will be allocated for point percentage.

6.10. Light Disputes

Where court lighting is available it will be used to assist in the completion of the draw. If in the event that the level of lighting may interfere with the completion of the match, the following steps will be taken:

- The Tournament Director will decide if the match is to continue.
- If the match is postponed, the Tournament Director will arrange a suitable time to reschedule.
- If the decision to reschedule the match is made during an incomplete set or at the completion of the set, then the:
 - Set scores and point scores will stand.
 - If the break is longer than 4 hours, the game will restart.

6.11. Coaches

Coaches are not permitted on the Alcohol. Think Again Beach Tour except for Under 18 teams and AYBVC Athletes.

6.11.1. Under 18 Coach Etiquette

Teams can elect one coach per tournament that may be situated in a designated area determined by Tournament Staff. Coaches are asked to make themselves known to Tournament Staff before their teams first game of the tournament. Coaches must leave the court at the time of the coin toss.

- The coach's name must be supplied on all scoresheets for the matches in which they are coaching.
- Coaches are only allowed to "coach" during time outs or intervals and may not communicate with match officials (this includes criticism and/or dispute of the referee calls), opposing players and coaches.
- If a coach's name is not on the scoresheet when the game commences, the referee should ask the coach to not coach during the game.
- Coaching includes all forms of verbal and non-verbal communication and interaction.

6.11.2. What a coach can do during a game

A coach may only speak to players during the following breaks in play:

- Prior to the match commencing.
- During a time out.
- During the break between sets.

6.11.3. What a coach cannot do during a game

- A coach may not speak to the opposing players or coaches.
- A coach may not question a referee decision directly.
- If either of the above occurs, the coach will be warned and if it persists, they will be penalised further.

6.11.4. Coaching Sanctions

The players' sanctioning scale will be applicable to a coach incurring in the below infringement:

- After receiving a red card, a coach repeating the same infraction will be removed for the remainder of the tournament.
- Tournament removals will be reviewed by the VWA Beach Committee.

6.11.5. Coaching Fines

- All coaches are required to have at least a Level 1 Coach accreditation.
- A \$50 fine will be invoiced to the player who registered for the round if the coach does not hold an accreditation.
- If a coach is found to be coaching an adult team, the \$50 fine will also be given to the player who has registered for the round.

6.12. First Aid and Sun Protection Supplies

A basic first aid kit and ice is available from the tournament tent. All other first aid supplies, such as strapping tape, is to be provided by players.

Sunscreen is available at all rounds from the tournament tent for players to use.

6.13. Equipment Safety

All equipment is set up with VWA equipment by VWA Contracted staff and volunteers. If you notice any malfunctions with any equipment, please notify the Tournament Director who will determine what action may be taken.

6.14. Injury/Incident Management

All Tournament Directors at ATA Beach Events hold a current First Aid certificate. In the event of an injury at a Volleyball WA event, the below will be followed.

- The Tournament Director or Sports Medic (where present) shall implement treatment in accordance with first aid training.
- Should an athlete sustain an injury during the competition, the athlete or partner is responsible for alerting the Tournament Director in the first instance (and Sports Medic where present).
- In the event of a serious accident, the injured person must not be moved by any person other than the Sports Medic unless it is a life-threatening situation. Keep the injured/unwell person calm and wait for the Sports Medic to arrive. In the instance that ambulance transportation is required, costs are to be covered by the athlete (athlete's parent/guardian if under 18).
- The instructions of the Sports Medic and Tournament Director must be followed. The Tournament Director will ensure that all athletes are moved away from the incident, if considered appropriate.
- The Tournament Director shall conduct a risk assessment of the competition to determine whether it is safe for the event to proceed. In the event of a critical situation, the Tournament Director will take all reasonable steps, actions and provide directions as they determine to ensure the interests, wellbeing and safety of all parties.
- The Sports Medic/Tournament Director will complete an Injury Report Form. The reports should be completed as soon as possible following the incident. The privacy of all parties will be respected at all times, and no non-essential information will be disclosed, subject to the need to comply with Volleyball WA

policies, and/or the need to fully investigate the matter and/or legal requirements for disclosure.

6.15. Grievance or Complaints

Any player with a legitimate complaint should communicate it to the Tournament Director, at the tournament, or outside tournament times to the Competitions and Events Manager (managerevents@volleyballwa.com.au).

Under no circumstances will abusive actions towards staff or other competitors be tolerated.

6.16. Players Code of Behaviour

Players must accept referee's decisions with respectful conduct and without dispute. In case of doubt, clarification may be requested. The behaviour code applies from warm-up. If any penalties are issued, it must be recorded on the scoresheet. All players will abide in a sportsperson-like manner, in accordance with the FIVB Beach Volleyball Rules and the [VWA Codes of Conduct](#).

VWA has zero tolerance for stealing. Any person to be found in possession of VWA equipment without permission will face automatic suspension from future tour events.

7. Post Event

7.1. Points Allocations for Season Rankings

This year the VWA Beach Tour has continued to use the seed index model. This means that teams (and the individuals within them) will be allocated a seed index position based on their finishing position. The lower a seed index rating the better a team's position.

Point allocations for Round #1 will be as follows:

1st place will receive a seed index of 1.00. Each place thereafter will receive 0.625 points more than the placing before them. See the table below.

VWA City Beach Open - ATABT Round #1

Finishing Position	Seed Index	Finishing Position	Seed Index
1	1.000	21	13.500
2	1.625	22	14.125
3	2.250	23	14.750
4	2.875	24	15.375
5	3.500	25	16.000
6	4.125	26	16.625
7	4.750	27	17.250
8	5.375	28	17.875
9	6.000	29	18.500
10	6.625	30	19.125
11	7.250	31	19.750
12	7.875	32	20.375
13	8.500	33	21.000
14	9.125	34	21.625
15	9.750	35	22.250
16	10.375	36	22.875
17	11.000	37	23.500
18	11.625	38	24.125
19	12.250	39	24.750
20	12.875	40	25.375

The reduced rate of decline is to encourage teams to play in Round #1 and will make this round comparable to rounds where a multi grade system exists. For this round, 1st in competitive will receive the next ranking position after last in elite.

The point allocations for the remainder of the ATABT will be as follows:

- 1st place in Elite/AAA will receive a seed index of 1.00.
- Each team (and both individuals within the team) thereafter will receive the seed index that is relative to their finishing position. If one team finishes in a position the seed index will change by one for the next team, if multiple teams finish in a position the seed index will change by the number of teams that finished in that position for the next team.
- The seed index of teams finishing equal 3rd place in any grade other than Elite/AAA will be 1 point lower than the last placed team in the grade above it. The remaining teams (and both individuals within the team) will be awarded a seed index relative to this position.

Please see the table below for more examples.

Regular Event Example Model					
	AAA Seed Index	AA Seed Index	A Seed Index	B Seed Index	C Seed Index
1	1	8	15	20	25
2	2	9	16	21	26
3	3	10	17	22	27
=3	3	10	17	22	27
5	5	12	19	24	29
=5	5	12	19	24	29
7	7	14	21	26	31
=7	7	14	21	26	31
9	9	16	23	28	33
=9	9	16	23	28	33
11	11	18			
=11	11	18			

7.2. Ranking Points for Team on National Tour

This only applies to the WA Open, where the event will be seeded using the following unless otherwise specified by VWA:

- World Tour Points
- National Tour Points
- ATABT Seed Index

7.3. National Ranking System

Details regarding Volleyball Australia's Australian Beach Volleyball Ranking System (ABVRS) can be found here: <https://abvt.volleyball.org.au/>

7.4. Withdrawal and Failure to Attend

If a team fails to attend a tournament and does not notify the VWA Events Coordinator:

- Both players will be suspended from the next tournament they enter, and the team will be fined \$100.
- If the team fails to show up for a 2nd time during the 2025/2026 season and does not notify VWA or tournament staff, they will be fined \$300 and be suspended from playing on the Tour for the remainder of the season.
- Any team that fails to attend will be emailed by Volleyball WA within 48 hours of the completion of the entire tournament and be invoiced for their fine, in due course.
- VWA will deal with legitimate reasons for not notifying staff on a case-by-case basis
- For penalties for not fulfilling duty requirements, please refer to *Section 6.6.2*.

7.5. Refunds

If a team is unable to participate after the draw has been released due to extenuating circumstances, please inform Events Coordinator events@volleyballwa.com.au stating the circumstances. Extra information may be requested from you, and Volleyball WA will make the final decision as to whether a refund is permitted or not. Refunds are not guaranteed.

8. Sanctions

Sanctions that are received by a player or coach are put on record and will accumulate points as listed below.

Sanction	Cards	Consequence
Warning	Yellow Card	1 Point
Penalty	Red Card	2 Points
Expulsion	Yellow and Red Cards together	4 Points
Disqualification	Yellow and Red Cards separately	4 Points

- If any participant accumulates four or more points in a single ATABT event or eight or more points over the ATABT season, they will be automatically referred to the ATABT Technical Committee to discuss their penalty. These penalties include but are not limited to:
 - Mandatory Education
 - Temporary removal of membership
 - Apology
 - Official Warning
- Sanctions are cumulative to an individual regardless of the role undertaken when they were received (for instance player or coach) and will apply to both an ATABT round and a Beach School's Cup event, unless otherwise stated by the VWA Board.
- If necessary, suspensions will be passed into the following ATABT season.

9. Disputes

In a case of a dispute between members, and / or Competition staff and officials, one or both of the parties of the dispute may request the VWA Chief Executive Officer to commence proceedings as per the VWA Member Protection Policy Complaints Procedure.

10. Protests

Protests can occur during the game provided the protest is lodged regarding an incorrect rule interpretation and not ball handling/opinion. If a protest is rejected, the club may follow the Appeal process to lodge an appeal in relation to the rejected protest as outlined [here](#)

10.1. Procedure for Lodging a Protest During a Match

All protests will be resolved '**on-the-spot**' by the Tournament Director. The procedure to lodge a protest is as follows:

- At the conclusion of the point either the Coach or the Team Captain may lodge a protest. The protest must be lodged immediately and cannot be lodged retrospectively.
- The First Referee will suspend play and direct the team's protest to the Tournament Director.
- The result of the protest is final, and the teams must recommence the match immediately.
- If the protest pertains to a sanction as outlined [here](#) and the sanction is deemed invalid, then consultation should take place with the Tournament Director before any action is taken.

If a team refuses to recommence the match, the team will forfeit the match and will be liable for the forfeit penalties.

- Should the protest be rejected by the Tournament Director, the team coach / captain that lodged the protest will be sanctioned with Rude Conduct in accordance with the FIVB sanction scale.
- Any decision made on the day by the Tournament Director is valid and a team / player in breach of a rule should accept this decision and play on.
- Subsequent rejected protests in the same match by the same team will result in a Disqualification being awarded to the relevant team coach / captain.

11. Appeals

If a team / player feels the interpretation of a rule resulting in a rejected protest was incorrect they are entitled to Appeal the decision post the event.

11.1. Procedure for Lodging an Appeal

The following procedure will apply:

- The team captain must submit an appeal in writing (by email) to the VWA Competitions & Events Manager competitions@volleyballwa.com.au by 5.00pm on the next working day following the ATABT Round.
- The appeal should note the following information:
 - Situation outlined in detail
 - Tournament Director's ruling
 - The team captain's interpretation of the rule.
- The appeal will be presented to the ATABT Technical Committee who will respond to the team captain's letter within three business days to close the matter.

11.2. Procedure for Protesting the ATABT Technical Committee Decision

If the Team Captain wishes to protest the decision of the ATABT Technical Committee, the following procedure applies:

- The Team Captain applies by written submission to the VWA Chief Executive Officer.
- The written submission must be within 24 hours of the decision reached by the ATABT Technical Committee.
- The written submission is to be accompanied by an Appeal fee payment of \$150.00. This will be returned to the individual should the Appeal be successful, however if the Appeal is unsuccessful then the Appeal fee payment will be retained by VWA.
- If applicable, the VWA Chief Executive Officer will forward the protest information to the VWA Board of Management and / or consult any other person (s) that has the relevant expertise to ensure that an informed decision is made.
- The VWA Chief Executive Officer's / VWA Board (if applicable) decision is final.

12. Competition Terms and Conditions

12.1. Alcohol. Think Again

Alcohol may not be consumed at events. No player is to participate in an event while under the influence of alcohol or any other banned substances. Failure to comply will mean disqualification from an event and possible further sanctions may be imposed.

12.2. Smoke and Vape Free

All Alcohol. Think Again 2025/2026 events are Smoke and Vape Free.

13. Appendix & Relevant Policies

This handbook is to be read in conjunction with the following:

- [Volleyball WA Event Calendar](#)
- [VWA Code of Conduct](#)
- [VA Member Protection Policy](#)
- [VA Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy](#)
- [VWA Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Addendum](#)
- [VWA Concussion Management Policy and Procedures](#)
- [VWA Extreme Heat Policy](#)
- [VWA Lightning Policy](#)
- [FIVB Rules of the Game](#)

alcoholthinkagain

The Alcohol. Think Again campaign aims to decrease alcohol-related harm by reducing short-term and long-term harmful drinking.

The Alcohol. Think Again campaign is the community education and marketing component of the Western Australian Government effort to reduce the impact that risky alcohol use has on our community.

Alcohol. Think Again aims to reduce the level of alcohol-related harm that results from drunkenness by changing the drinking culture in Western Australia to support safer drinking environments and practices.

Research tells us that even with the best intentions, it can be difficult for responsible drinking to take place, if getting drunk is the accepted norm, there is social pressure to drink and the setting makes it easy to drink large amounts.

Changing our (community) acceptance of drunkenness and the problems that go with it is one of the most important parts of creating a less harmful drinking culture. To begin this change, the main strategy of the Alcohol. Think Again program is to use media and other information mediums to explain the problems related to the binge drinking culture and raise awareness about what causes these problems at a community level, rather than just focusing on the individual drinker.

Characteristics of drinking environments, community attitudes to drunkenness, the availability of alcohol, how alcohol is supplied, role-modelling, and alcohol advertising are just some of the factors that influence the drinking choices people make. These factors are also contributors to levels of alcohol-related harm and problems within the community.

For more information go to www.alcoholthinkagain.com.au



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SLIP



SLOP



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Mouth

Throat

Alcohol causes cancer in more places than you think.

Breast

Liver

Pancreas

Bowel

To stay at low risk of developing alcohol-caused cancer and other diseases, health experts recommend having no more than two standard drinks on any day. To find out more, visit alcoholthinkagain.com.au



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