



**VOLLEYBALL**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**thinkagain**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**  
**BEACH CUP**

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**Term 1 2026**  
**Competition Handbook**

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# 1. Introduction

The Volleyball WA High Schools Beach Cup is open to all Western Australian schools and high school students. Participants compete in beach volleyball on one day, with the competition being held once in Term 1 and once in Term 4.

## 1.1 Participation of Diverse Genders

Volleyball WA's [Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#) supports participation in our sport based on the gender with which a person identifies, recognising that exclusion can negatively affect health, wellbeing, and community involvement. While volleyball competitions currently operate within male and female categories, non-binary athletes are welcomed to compete in the category that aligns either with their sex assigned at birth or with the gender identity that best affirms them. Athletes must notify Volleyball WA if their gender identity changes between competitions and once nominated in one gender category, they must remain in that category for the duration of the event. For national and international competitions, different requirements may apply and transgender or non-binary participants will need consultation and approval from Volleyball Australia and/or the FIVB.

## 2. Volleyball WA Commitment Statement to Child Safeguarding and Young People

- **Unwavering Commitment to Child Safety:** We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people involved in our sport. We address risks through policies and procedures to establish and maintain a stringent child-safe culture both on and off the court.
- **Inclusive and Respectful Environment:** We promote inclusion, respect, and diversity, considering the needs of children and young people from various backgrounds, including those with increased vulnerabilities, and ensuring they can participate safely and confidently in volleyball.
- **Clear Expectations and Training:** Staff and volunteers are well-informed about their roles and expected behaviours concerning child safety, supported by thorough induction, ongoing training, and clear guidelines for child-safe practices.
- **Engagement and Reporting:** We actively involve children, young people, and their families in creating a supportive environment, maintain robust reporting processes for child abuse, and continually improve our policies and practices to safeguard all participants.

### 2.1 Working With Children Check Policy

- The VA Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy (**Section 9**) applies to all VWA employees, contractors, volunteers and members, and all other people or organisations which by agreement or otherwise, are bound to comply with this policy.
- This policy applies to behaviour occurring during VWA business, activities, competitions and events, including the VWA Schools Beach Cup.

### 2.2 Photography and Videography Policy

- All participants, officials and staff are required to comply with the VWA Photography and Videography Policy (**Section 9**). This policy applies to conduct and behaviour when obtaining a photograph(s) and/or video recording for the purpose of VWA business, activities, competitions and events.
- In Australia, there are no laws specifically prohibiting photography and filming people (including children) in public places. It is a legitimate pursuit to film and take photos at sporting events. The laws governing the taking of photograph(s) and filming exist to

safeguard the privacy and safety of people (including children) from exploitation and inappropriate use of their image without placing undue restrictions on legitimate activities.

- VWA recognise that most people take photographs and/or videos of special moments including participation in sport. It is important that the volleyball community understand their responsibility to ensure any images taken are in accordance with this basis and are taken for acceptable reasons and are using appropriate methods.
- If you require any further information or have concerns or questions, please ensure you contact Volleyball WA.

### 2.3 Photography and Videography at WA Schools Beach Cup

- If permission is denied or not obtained from the school / individual, then Volleyball WA will instruct the authorised photographers / video operators that no photos / videos are permitted of the school / individual and that no photos / videos of the school / individual are used in print or online communications produced by Volleyball WA.

### 2.4 Social Media Addendum

- VWA supports the Volleyball Australia social media Policy (February 2022) and will endeavour to ensure compliance with the Volleyball Australia Social Media Policy and its subsequent dissemination and application with VWA staff and members.

## 3. Key Dates and Venues

### 3.1 Competition Date

- The competition will take place on Sunday, 22 March 2026.

### 3.2 Competition Venues

- City Beach (North side of Clancy's), 187 Challenger Parade, City Beach.
  - Subject to number of entries, the Pairs competition may need to relocate to Inner City Beach (180 Charles Street, West Perth). This will be determined once entries close.
- A venue layout map will be available on the day for court numbers.

## 4. Event Entry

### 4.1 Divisions

- The competition will be divided by format (Pairs/4-a-Side), gender (Boys and Girls), year groups (Year 7/8, Year 9/10, Year 11/12), and grades (A and B).

| 4-a-side   |                   | Pairs      |                   |
|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Year 7/8   | A and B Divisions | Year 7-10  | A and B Divisions |
| Year 9/10  | A and B Divisions |            |                   |
| Year 11/12 | A and B Divisions | Year 11/12 | A and B Divisions |

- Volleyball WA will endeavour to grade teams according to their entry. However, VWA reserves the right to change, merge or create additional divisions, subject to entries.

### 4.2 Event Entries

#### 4.2.1 Event Entry Timeline

- Event entries will open Monday, 2 February 2026

- Event entries will close on Monday 2 March 2026

#### 4.2.2 Entry Fees

- 4-a-side teams: \$135.00 per team
- Pairs: \$105.00 per team

#### 4.2.3 How To Enter the Event – Schools

- Schools enter teams via the online entry form: <https://bit.ly/49wFvUB>

##### 4.2.3.1 Payment - Schools

- Schools will be invoiced following the close of entries.
- Invoices will be due **Friday, 13 March 2026**.

##### 4.2.3.2 Team Sheet Entry Requirement

- All schools entering teams in either the 4-a-side or Pairs competition must provide the **VWA Schools Coordinator** ([schools@volleyballwa.com.au](mailto:schools@volleyballwa.com.au)) with a team list.
- The list must include each athlete's full first and last name, date of birth and primary contact email address.
- The team list template will be sent to schools following the close of entries.
- It is the responsibility of the school to ensure this list is completed by **Monday, 16 March 2026**.

#### 4.2.4 How to Enter the Event – Individuals

- Individuals enter via the respective online entry form:
  - Pairs: <https://bit.ly/3NjcnlK>
  - 4-a-side: <https://bit.ly/4ppW4qT>

##### 4.2.4.1 Payment – Individuals

- Payment is made at time of entry online.
- Individual teams that sign up for the competition cannot play if they have not paid for their team entry prior to the commencement of the competition.

##### 4.2.4.2 Membership - Individuals

- Teams that register as individuals (rather than schools) are expected to hold **VWA membership** (either **Platinum or Gold**) to be provided access to Personal Accident Insurance.
- The Personal Accident Insurance covers all players that are current VWA members only.

#### 4.2.5 Late Entries

- **NO LATE ENTRIES ARE GUARANTEED ACCEPTANCE**. Late entries will only be accepted if it benefits the competition draw (i.e. to replace a bye or another withdrawal).
- Volleyball WA may refuse team entries if it benefits the structure of the tournament. Teams who enter first will take preference if such a situation occurs. As a result, VWA strongly encourages schools to enter early to avoid the possible removal of teams.

#### 4.2.6 Withdrawals

- **Teams may withdraw from the competition with no penalty until Monday 16 March 2026.**

- Teams withdrawing on or after this date will forfeit the full event entry fee.

### 4.3 Player Eligibility

- The Competition is open to all schools, country associations and community teams that qualify for school-aged tournaments (athletes must currently be enrolled in a secondary school).
- Athletes are only required to be of school age and do not necessarily have to attend the same school to compete.

### 4.4 Team Composition

#### 4.4.1 Pairs

- Two players per team only.
- Both players must be of the same gender.
- Players may play in one team only.

#### 4.4.2 4-A-Side

- Teams must only have four players on the court but may have substitute players.
- In the event of injury, a team may start the game with three players.
- Players, in their State Team selected for the Australian Youth Beach Volleyball Competition (AYBVC), may compete in their teams of three.
- All players must be of the same gender.
- Players may only play in one team only.

### 4.5 Uniforms

#### 4.5.1 Schools

- All teams must play in a team / school uniform. This shall include same colour/cut/style tops with numbers and similar colour/style shorts

#### 4.5.2 Individual Pairs & 4-aside

- All teams must wear one colour shirts, **(this does not necessarily need to be a uniform or club jersey)** and similar colour/style shorts

## 5. Injuries and Insurance

### 5.1 Insurance for Players

- Teams that register as individuals (rather than schools) are expected to hold VWA membership (either Platinum or Gold) to be provided with access to Personal Accident Insurance.
- Players nominated by the school will be issued with a 'Bronze – School Students Event Only' Membership. This membership will cover them with insurance in case of an injury during the event.
- More details about the Personal Accident Insurance and how to make a claim can be found following this link: <https://www.honansport.com.au/volleyball-australia/personal-accident-insurance/>

## 5.2 Injuries During the Event

- All personal accidents or injuries should be reported to the VWA representative on duty at the venue. The representative will complete an Injury Report Form for the injured participant that will be required to be submitted for any insurance claims.
- It must be ensured that the player's name is written on the scoresheet as this will be needed as proof of participation.
- VWA supplies First Aid kits, sunscreen, ice, water and Tournament Directors and or VWA staff who have HLTAID011 First Aid Certification.
- VWA recommends to schools to bring their own first aid qualified, trained staff.
- For serious injuries, please visit the closest Hospital:
  - Perth Children's Hospital
    - Address: 15 Hospital Ave, Nedlands WA 6009
    - Phone: 08 6456 2222
  - Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital
    - Address: Hospital Ave, Nedlands WA 6009
    - Phone: 08 6457 3333

## 6. Event Information

### 6.1 Competition Format

- Teams will play first to a number of points under a set time restriction.
- The VWA Tournament Director will announce the start and finish of all timed games.
- Teams switch sides on court during the match when the score reaches a multiple of 10 (for example, 4-6, or 13-7). This is to eliminate advantages caused by weather and court conditions.
- For 4-a-side, substitutions may be made on a rotation basis or by normal substitution methods. Unlimited substitutions are permitted regardless of substitution method.

#### 6.1.1 Round Matches

- One (1) set first to 40 points, capped.
- Games are limited to 15 minutes with a 5-minute warm-up.
- One (1) 30 second time out per game per team.
- If teams are even at the end of the game the next point wins – there are no draws.

#### 6.1.2 Semi Final Matches

- One (1) set first to 40 points, capped.
- Games are limited to 15 minutes with a 5-minute warm-up.
- One (1) 30 second time out per game per team.
- If teams are even at the end of the game the next point wins – there are no draws.

#### 6.1.3 Grand Finals

- One (1) set first to 30 points uncapped.
- A lead of two points is required.
- No time limit (untimed).
- One (1) 30-second time out per game per team.

### 6.2 Finals Format

- If a division has more than one pool, then a crossover finals format will apply
- If a division has more than two pools, the finals format will be determined based on number of pools and court availability. This will be determined by the **VWA Competition Coordinator**.

### 6.3 Forfeits

- If a team is not present five minutes into the start of the game, it will be declared a forfeit and result in a 1-0 loss.

### 6.4 Duty

- All teams will be assigned “duty” during the Competition. This means teams must referee and score for another game.
- We ask that all duties are taken seriously and completed professionally to ensure a high-quality competition for all players
- Duty teams must provide their own whistles.
- It is the responsibility of the duty team to ensure that games start on time, ensure that all information is accurately filled out and the scoresheet is signed off. Captains of the winning team are responsible for returning the scoresheet to the VWA Tournament Director.
- Failure to provide duty personnel will result in a \$50.00 penalty and loss of one competition point.
- **If it is your first time on the beach and you are unsure about any of the duty responsibilities, please let our tournament staff know.**

### 6.5 Coaching

Coaching is permitted during the tournament. Coaches may:

- Assist the team in warming up
- Coach the team during rallies and during timeouts; and
- Call Timeouts

Coaches may not:

- Speak to the opposing players or coaches during the match; or
- Question a referee’s decision

### 6.6 Volleyball Rules

- The competition will follow the [FIVB \(Federation Internationale de Volleyball\) Official Volleyball Rules 2025-2028](#).

### 6.7 Net Heights

- Girls – 2.24m
- Boys (Year 7/8) – 2.24m
- Boys – 2.43m

### 6.8 Points System

- The following points system is in place to form the ladder of each division to select teams eligible for finals:

| Win | Loss | Forfeit |
|-----|------|---------|
| 3   | 0    | 0       |

- In the case of the teams being on equal points at the end of the Round Matches, the order of ranking will be determined by **set ratio**. The team with the highest set ratio (to three decimal points) will be awarded the higher placing in the Round Matches.

$$\text{Set ratio} = \frac{\text{Sets won}}{\text{Sets won} + \text{Sets lost}}$$

- If the tie still exists after the calculation of the sets ratio, the order of ranking will be determined by **points ratio**. The team with the highest points ratio (to three decimal places) will be awarded the higher placing in the Round Matches:

$$\text{Point ratio} = \frac{\text{Points won}}{\text{Points won} + \text{Points lost}}$$

(Please note only in complete or counting sets)

- If teams have played an unequal number of games, the team with the highest win ratio (to three decimal points) will be awarded the higher placing in the Round Matches:

$$\text{Win ratio} = \frac{\text{Points won}}{\text{Matches played}}$$

## 7. Disputes, Protests and Appeals

### 7.1 Disputes

- In a case of a dispute between schools and/or members, and/or competition and school's personnel and officials, one or both of the parties of the dispute may refer to the **VA Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy** and **VWA Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Addendum (Section 9)**.

### 7.2 Protests

- Protests can occur during the game. A protest can be lodged regarding an incorrect rule interpretation but not ball handling/opinion.
- All protests will be resolved 'on-the-spot' by the VWA Tournament Director.
- The procedure to lodge a protest is as follows:
  - At the conclusion of the point either the Coach or Team Captain may lodge a protest. The protest must be lodged immediately and cannot be lodged retrospectively.
  - The Referee will suspend play and call upon the Tournament Director
  - All protests must be resolved immediately by the Tournament Director.
- The result of the protest is final, and the teams must recommence the match immediately.
- 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 VWA Tournament Director, the Team Coach/Captain that lodged the protest will be sanctioned with a penalty (Red Card).
- Any decision made on the day by the VWA Tournament Director is valid and a team/player in breach of a rule should accept this decision and play on.

### 7.3 Appeals

- If a Team/Player feels the interpretation of a rule result in a rejected protest was incorrect they are entitled to Appeal the decision.
- The following procedure will apply:

- The school representative must submit an appeal in writing (by email) to the **VWA Competitions and Events Manager**) [managerevents@volleyballwa.com.au](mailto:managerevents@volleyballwa.com.au) by 5:00pm on the next working day following the match.
- The appeal should note the following information:
  - Situation outlined in detail.
  - Tournament Director's ruling.
  - The school's interpretation of the rule.
- The Volleyball WA Competitions Team will respond to the school's letter within three business days.
- If the School representative wishes to protest the decision, the following procedure applies:
  - The school representative applies by written submission to the VWA Chief Executive officer.
  - The written submission must be within 24 hours of the decision reached. The written submission is to be accompanied by an Appeal fee payment of \$150.00 (which will be returned to the school if the Appeal is successful; 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 with another person(s) that has the relevant expertise to ensure that an informed decision is made.
  - The VWA Chief Executive Officer/VWA Board (if applicable) decision is final.

## 8. Risk Management

The effective management of risk is central to VWA achieving its Purpose and Mission. This means VWA must have a current understanding of its risks commensurate with risk analysis and completion of a risk assessment.

### 8.1 Risk Management Policies

- VWA adopts several policies to manage risk at the event.
- These policies include (but are not limited to):
  - [Concussion Management Policy](#)
  - [Extreme Heat Policy](#)
  - [Lightning Policy](#)
  - [Needle Stick Injury Policy](#)
  - [Smoking Management Policy](#)
  - [Sun Protection Policy](#)
- All policies listed above, and further related policies can be found on the Volleyball WA website ([www.volleyballwa.com.au/about-us/policies](http://www.volleyballwa.com.au/about-us/policies))

### 8.2 Force Majeure

- For these regulations a Force Majeure Event includes (but is not limited to) any or all the following:
  - 'Acts of God' including flood, drought, earthquake, storm, cyclone, fire, explosion, epidemic; or
  - COVID-19 outbreak; or
  - War; or
  - Terrorism; or
  - Riot or civil disturbances; or
  - Permanent injunction of any duty constituted court of competent jurisdiction; or
  - Any fact, circumstances, matter or thing beyond the reasonable control of VWA

- If VWA is unable to perform, in whole or part in any obligation under these regulations of a Force Majeure Event, VWA is relieved of that obligation under these regulations to the extent, and the period it is unable to perform.
  - In addition to the above, VWA has no obligation to refund any individual or team fees paid if it is unable to perform by reason of Force Majeure Event.
- Force Majeure may only be declared by the Volleyball WA Chief Executive Officer.

## **9. Relevant Documents**

- [Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Addendum](#)
- [Photography and Videography Policy](#)
- [Social Media Addendum](#)
- [VA Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy](#)
- [VA Member Protection Policy](#)
- [VA Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy](#)
- [VWA Codes of Conduct](#)
- [VWA Membership Agreement](#)



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