



VOLLEYBALL
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



alcohol
thinkagain

BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOUR

2026/2027

COMPETITION REGULATIONS



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1. Purpose

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.

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.

1.1. Interpretation of Rules

Any questions relating to the interpretation of the information contained in this handbook is required to be made in writing to Volleyball Western Australia (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 Panel.

1.2. 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.

As per the [VA Member Protection Policy](#) and the [VWA Anti-Harassment Policy](#), gender identity is recognised as a protected characteristic, and prohibited conduct by relevant persons or organisations includes abuse, bullying, harassment, sexual misconduct, discrimination, victimisation, or vilification.

1.3. Volleyball WA Commitment Statement to Safeguarding Children 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.

1.4. Integrity Requirements

To preserve the spirit of fair play and uphold the values of volleyball, all participants including athletes, coaches, officials, team staff and volunteers are required to conduct themselves with honesty, respect and professionalism throughout the competition.

- **Fair Play**
All participants must compete to the best of their ability without engaging in cheating, match manipulation, or any behaviour intended to gain an unfair advantage.
- **Honest Conduct**
Providing false information, misrepresenting eligibility, altering official documents, or attempting to influence officials through improper means is strictly prohibited.
- **Respect for Officials and Opponents**
Decisions made by match officials must be respected at all times. Any disputes must be addressed through proper channels, and unsportsmanlike behaviour including harassment, intimidation or abusive language will not be tolerated.
- **Anti-Corruption and Anti-Bribery**
Offering, accepting or soliciting bribes, gifts or incentives intended to influence match outcomes, player conduct or administrative decisions is forbidden.
- **Reporting Obligations**
Any participant who becomes aware of an integrity breach including attempted manipulation or unethical conduct must report the matter promptly to the Venue Coordinator. Confidentiality will be maintained wherever possible.
- **Consequences:**
Breaching this Integrity Clause may result in disciplinary action, including warnings, suspension, disqualification, forfeiture of matches or removal from the competition, in line with the event's disciplinary procedures.

These requirements align with the following VWA/VA Policies:

- [VWA Codes of Conduct](#)
- [VA Competition Manipulation and Sport Gambling Policy](#)
- [VA Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy](#)
- [VA Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy](#)

1.5. 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

All staff contacts are available at the [VWA Website](#):

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

1.6. ATABT Technical Panel

The ATABT Technical Panel 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 ATABT Technical Committee consists of the following representatives:

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

In instances where the Senior Beach Referee has a conflict of interest or is unavailable, they shall be replaced by another suitably qualified member of the Referees Committee as selected by the Chair.

2. Pre-Event Entry

2.1. 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 2027.

2.1.1. 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.

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

- 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).

2.2. Entry Process

THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT ENTRIES OPEN • Event registrations and payments must be completed via the VWA Member Portal.
*10 DAYS BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT AT 9:00PM AWST (WEDNESDAY WEEK PRIOR TO THE TOURNAMENT) ENTRIES CLOSE • Only payments of the full team amount will be accepted. • *Wildcard Applications also close at this point – see wildcards for more information.
MONDAY BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT AT 5:00PM SEEDED ENTRY LIST RELEASED This will be placed on the relevant event page on the VWA Website for all participants.
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 prior to this deadline. Protests received after this time will be deemed “out of time” and not considered.
THURSDAY BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT AT 5:00PM DRAW RELEASED • The tournament draw will be placed on Exposure Volleyball. • Withdrawal from the tournament after 5pm will result in the team receiving last place in their allocated division – see withdrawals for more information.
TUESDAY AFTER THE TOURNAMENT AT 5:00PM RESULTS RELEASED • Results will be placed on Exposure Volleyball.
WEDNESDAY AFTER THE TOURNAMENT AT 5:00PM OPPORTUNITY TO PROTEST RESULTS CLOSES

2.2.1. Issues Registering

Participants experiencing difficulties with the registration process must contact the Volleyball WA office during business hours (9:00am to 5:00pm AWST) for assistance or may email the Events Coordinator with evidence of the issue encountered.

Where evidence of a registration issue is received by the Events Coordinator prior to the published entry deadline of 9:00pm AWST, the entry will be accepted without the application of a late entry fee. Evidence of registration issues received after the entry deadline will result in the entry being placed on the waitlist and treated in accordance with the late entry provisions outlined in these Regulations.

2.2.2. 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.
- Late entries will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis 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 late entry fee pursuant to [Section 5](#) of these regulations.
- No late entries will be accepted after Monday 9am (two business days after the entries close).

2.3. 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 2.1.1](#) for details.
- Seeding and wildcards
 - For all ATA Rounds, including the WA Open, seeding will be determined using the Australian Beach Volleyball Ranking System, as outlined in [Seedings](#).
 - For information on wildcards, please refer to [Wildcards](#).

2.4. Fixture Software

In the 2026/2027 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](#).

2.5. Wildcards

2.5.1. Local Wildcards

- Wildcard applications must be submitted on the online form in the wildcard section of the [ATA website](#) and will be considered on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the VWA.
- 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 'home town'.
- 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 ABVRS seeding information is playing and has a significant history in volleyball or beach volleyball and hasn't had access to beach volleyball 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 the instance where one player of the team has an established ABVRS ranking and their partner does not, VWA will assess the wildcard application to allocate the team to the upper, middle, or lower third of the seed list.
- When both players have not met the above-mentioned criteria, the below factors will be considered when assessing the wildcard application:
 - Playing history/profile
 - Reason for not meeting the necessary qualification criteria (i.e. international travel, pregnancy, other commitments).

2.5.2. 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

2.5.3. Wildcards Seeding

Wildcards will be seeded at the discretion of the VWA.

The following will be considered when seeding teams:

- Playing history/ profile
- Competition Format
- Reason for not meeting the necessary qualification criteria (i.e. international travel, pregnancy, other commitments).

Wildcard seeding will be determined by VWA using the below process:

- An assessment will be made by VWA 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.

2.6. Placement of Teams into Grades/Seeding

The ATABT will seed Teams in accordance with the Australian Beach Volleyball Ranking System (ABVRS), based on the combined ranking points of both registered players at the close of entries. Outlined below is how a team's seed-index will be calculated, taking the average finishing position of the individuals within their teams. For more details on how seed index points are awarded in 2026-2027 please refer to [Section 4.1](#).

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

Points

- For entry and seeding in all events, an individual player's ranking points will be determined in accordance with the Australian Beach Volleyball Ranking System (ABVRS). The player's seeding index will be calculated by taking the best four results within the previous 365 days (at the time of tournament commencement).
- Where a player has participated in fewer than four events within the previous 365 days (at the time of tournament commencement), their seeding index will be based on their available results during that period, as calculated under the ABVRS.
- If teams are tied on seeding index, a drawing of lots will be conducted to determine the higher seed.
- The seeding indices of both players will be added to determine the team's seeding index for that event.

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 2.5](#) for more details.

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

$$\begin{array}{c} \textit{The seed index of a player who has played in last 365 days} \\ + \\ \textit{The seed index of the new player with no ABVRS ranking points} \end{array}$$

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.*

2.7. 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

2.8. 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 continuing 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 in accordance with [Section 5](#) of these regulations 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 VWA Technical Panel and penalties may apply. To apply for a force majeure, please contact the VWA Events Coordinator (events@volleyballwa.com.au).

2.9. 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 before the release of the Seed List and provide legitimate reason for withdrawal.
- Medical withdrawals require a Medical certificate.
- If a team withdraws before the Seed List is released, they will be eligible for a refund less the Administration Fee
- If a team withdraws after the Seed List is released, the team will receive last position in the grade they were allocated and will not be refunded.

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

2.10. 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.

2.11. Personal Sponsorship

The VWA 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.

2.12. Players Responsibility

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

- During multi-day events, players are recommended to check with the Tournament Director before leaving the venue to confirm relevant information required.

3. During Event

3.1. 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.

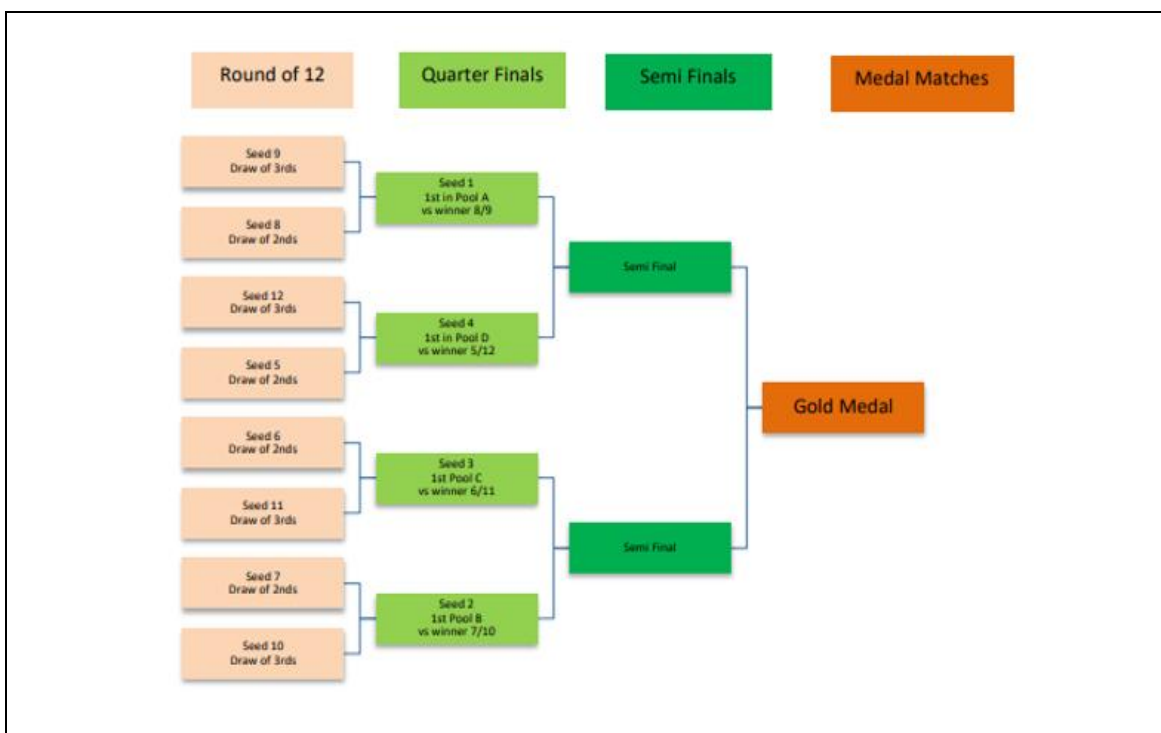
**By registering for the Competitive Division, competitors acknowledge that they must be available to compete on either Saturday or Sunday.*

***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.

3.1.1. WA Open – Qualification Tournament

The WA Open will be split into gender specific divisions with the highest-level being AAA, followed by AA and A divisions.

The AAA Division will be capped at 16 teams. The top eight teams, as determined by seeding points, will receive automatic entry into the AAA Division. The remaining positions will be determined through A Qualification Tournament conducted on the Friday preceding the commencement of the WA Open.

If a team enters the Elite Division, is placed into the qualification tournament and is eliminated from the qualification tournament, they will automatically earn a place in the AA Division.

Not qualifying for Elite does not render a team eligible for any refund.

3.1.2. 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 2026/2027 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 2026 WA Open singlet on the 26/27 tour.
- Uniforms can be purchased from the [VWA Volleysshop](#).
- Any disputes in relation to Uniforms will be dealt with on the spot by the Tournament Director. In doing so, the Tournament Director may contact the Chief Referee (if required).
- Failure to comply with the uniform requirements outlined in this Section 4.1.1 or section 4.1.2 may result in a player or team receiving a fine in accordance with [Section 5](#) of these regulations.

Elite (AAA):

- Individuals within a team must wear the same colour ATABT playing top.
- Male teams must wear shorts of the same colour and style.
- Female teams must wear shorts, bike shorts, leggings or bather bottoms of the same colour.
- Female teams may wear a combination of shorts, bike shorts, leggings or bather bottoms within the team so long as they are the same colour.
 - Should a player decide to remove their shorts, bike shorts or leggings, they must be wearing matching bather bottoms underneath to ensure that players are matching if they remove their leggings/shorts.
- If the uniform requirements are 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-coloured tops and bottoms.
- Players are, however, permitted to wear unmatched colour bottoms if needed.

- If the uniform requirements are not adhered to, the team in question will forfeit the match.
- Duty teams have a responsibility to ensure that this policy is adhered to.

3.1.3. Additional Garments

- Athletes are free to wear short sleeve or long sleeve shirts at their own preference.
 - Any short sleeve or long sleeve shirt must be worn underneath the playing singlet/top (as applicable).
- Athletes are permitted to wear compression leggings underneath playing shorts if desired.

3.1.4. 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.
- Safety pins and other metal and/or sharp fastenings are not permitted.

3.1.5. WA Open Uniforms

- At the WA Open in the Elite division, teams are required to wear a different colour singlet/crop to their opponents.
- Where teams are in clashing uniforms, and there is no agreement as to which team will change, the team that will be required to change will be determined by a coin toss.
- A fine (in accordance with Section 5 of these regulations) will be issued if this Section 4.1.4 is not complied with.

3.1.6. 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.

3.2. Technical Meeting

The VWA Tournament Director will hold a mandatory in-person technical meeting and player sign in at Round #1, the WA Open and Regional Rounds. 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 and the VWA Website

3.2.1. Consequence for non-attendance

Non-attendance at a Technical Meeting without a valid excuse will result in a fine (in accordance with Section 6 of these regulations) being issued to the team in question.

3.3. Pool Play Points Allocation

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

- There are no drawn matches.

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).

3.4. 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.
- If both teams agree to not take the technical timeout, it does not have to be taken.
- Timeouts are one minute.

3.5. Rules

VWA apply these regulations in conjunction with the FIVB Rules of the Game. These can be found at:

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

Where a matter is not covered by these regulations, the FIVB Rules of the Game will apply.

3.6. Referee Duties

3.6.1. Duty Requirements

All teams will be assigned “duties” during a tournament, this means providing a First Referee and Scorer for assigned games.

It is a requirement that the First Referee has a minimum Level 1 Referee accreditation. This can be 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.
- It is the responsibility of the First Referee to apply the Tournament Regulations and FIVB Rules of the Game.
- 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 hitting 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.

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

3.6.2. Penalties for not fulfilling a duty

Penalties for not fulfilling team duty requirements at a tournament will result in a fine for the team (as outlined in Section 5 of these regulations) with higher fines allocated to regional rounds. Any overdue invoices will result in both team members becoming unfinancial and will be restricted from playing in Volleyball WA events.

3.6.3. 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.

3.6.4. Referee Accreditation and Fines

If the first referee does not have a Level 1 Referee Accreditation this will result in a 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.

3.6.5. Whistles

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

3.7. 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 pointing to the nearest line.
- Late or illegal BMP requests shall be rejected, with the 1st referee informing the decision.

3.8. 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.

3.9. Forfeits

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

3.10. 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 two hours, the game will restart.

3.11. Coaches

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

3.11.1. 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.

3.11.2. 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.

3.11.3. 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.

3.11.4. 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 Technical Panel.

3.11.5. Coaching Fines

- All coaches are required to have at least a Level 1 Coach accreditation.
- A fine in accordance with Section 6 of these regulations 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 fine will also be given to the player who has registered for the round.

3.12. 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.

3.13. Equipment Safety

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

3.14. 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).
- Where an injured player can be safely removed from the court and does not require urgent on-court medical intervention, they will be relocated to an appropriate shaded area for assessment and treatment. Upon relocation of the injured player, matches on surrounding courts may resume at the direction of the Tournament Director.
- In the event of a serious injury or medical incident, the injured person should not be moved by anyone other than qualified medical personnel, unless there is an immediate threat to their safety or life. The injured or unwell person should be kept as calm and comfortable as possible while awaiting the arrival of the Sports Medic. If ambulance transport is required, any associated costs are the responsibility of the athlete or, if the athlete is under 18 years of age, their parent or guardian.
 - The instructions of the Sports Medic, Tournament Director, and, where applicable, the Chief Referee, must be followed. The Tournament Director will, where appropriate, establish a clear area around the incident and direct athletes to relocate away from the scene.
 - The Tournament Director, in consultation with the Chief Referee where required, will conduct a risk assessment to determine whether it is safe for the event to proceed. In the event of a critical incident, the Tournament Director may take any reasonable action and issue any directions considered necessary

to protect the safety, wellbeing and best interests of all participants and personnel.

- The Sports Medic/Tournament Director will be required to 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.

3.15. Complaints

Any player with a legitimate complaint should communicate it to the Tournament Director, at the tournament, or complete the [Complaints Form](#) on the VWA Website and sent through to the Events Coordinator.

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

3.16. 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.

4. Post Event

4.1 Points Allocations for Season Rankings

The ATABT will move to the Australian Beach Volleyball Ranking System (ABVRS) to determine player rankings, seeding and division allocation. The ABVRS is a nationally recognised ranking system administered by Volleyball Australia that rewards points based on a player's results at approved beach volleyball events across Australia.

4.2. ABVRS Points Allocation

Ranking Points shall be awarded in accordance with the ABVRS. Event classifications determine the numbers of ranking points available, with higher classified events attracting a greater number of allocated points.

Players will be awarded points according to their final placing and the applicable event classification:

- 5 Star events – Volleyball Australia National Tour events
- 4 Star events – State Open (WA Open), Mikasa Cup
- 3 Star events – Alcohol. Think Again Beach Tour: Elite Division/ AAA
- 2 Star events – Alcohol. Think Again Beach Tour: Competitive Division/ AA and below

The full points allocation table, including points awarded for each finishing position and event classification, can be found on [Volleyball Australia's website](#).

4.3 ABVRS Player Profiles

- Players can view their current ranking on the ABVRS website.
- Players who identify multiple profiles or duplicate entries must contact Volleyball Australia to have their profiles merged and ranking points consolidated.
- Volleyball WA accepts no responsibility for the management of ABVRS profiles or the consolidation of ranking points.
- Competitors are responsible for ensuring their profile details and ranking records are accurate and current at all times.

4.4 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 in accordance with Section 5 of these regulations.
- If the team fails to show up for a 2nd time during the 2026/2027 season and does not notify VWA or tournament staff, they will be fined in accordance with Section 6 of these regulations 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 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 3.6.2](#).

5 Fees and Fines

Any fees and or fines outlined elsewhere in these regulations will be chargeable in accordance with the VWA ATA Beach Tour Fees and Fines Schedule published annually on the VWA website. Any fees and fines listed in the Schedule are enforceable and payable as if they were set out in these regulations in full.

The VWA ATA Beach Tour Fees and Fines Schedule can be found [here](#).

6 Sanctions

Sanctions that are received by a player or coach are placed 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 Panel to discuss their penalty. These penalties include but are not limited to:

- Mandatory Education
- Temporary removal of membership
- Apology
- Official Warning
- Suspensions from playing and/or coaching
- Monetary fines
- 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 Technical Panel.
- If necessary, suspensions will be passed into the following ATABT season.

7 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 [VA Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy](#).

8 Protests

Protests can occur during the game provided the protest is lodged regarding an incorrect rule interpretation or the scoresheet, but not a judgement call or a sanction. If a protest is rejected, the team may follow the Appeal process to lodge an appeal in relation to the rejected protest as outlined [here](#)

8.1 Procedure for Lodging a Protest During a Match

All protests will be resolved **'on-the-spot'** by the Tournament Director (who may call on the Chief Referee if they deem necessary). The procedure to lodge a protest is as follows:

- At the conclusion of the point the Team Captain may lodge a protest with the First Referee. 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 Tournament Director will resolve the protest immediately.
- The result of the protest is final, and the teams must recommence the match immediately following the Tournament Director's decision.

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.

9 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.

9.1 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 managerevents@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 Panel who will respond to the team captain's letter within three business days to close the matter.

9.2 Procedure for Protesting the ATABT Technical Panel 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 Panel.
- The written submission is to be accompanied by an Appeal fee payment as outlined in Section 6 of these regulations. 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 determine the appropriate course of action.
- The VWA Chief Executive Officers decision is final.

10 Competition Terms and Conditions

10.1 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.

10.2 Smoke and Vape Free

All Alcohol. Think Again 2026/2027 events are Smoke and Vape Free.

11 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