VOLLEYBALL
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



VOLLEYBALL WA

COMPETITION FRAMEWORK 2027

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Overview

Volleyball WA is excited to announce our new competition structure launching in 2027. Volleyball WA's new Competition Framework will be introduced in 2027, creating a clearer, more sustainable and better-connected volleyball system across Western Australia.

The framework is the outcome of a comprehensive review of indoor volleyball, undertaken in response to the continued growth and changing needs of the sport. Rather than reviewing individual competitions in isolation, Volleyball WA considered the broader system, including participation, junior and senior competitions, athlete pathways, club capacity, workforce, facilities, membership and administration.

The review included a whole-of-membership survey and structured consultation workshops with Club Presidents, operational committee representatives and other key stakeholders. This process explored the pressures within the existing system, identified the future needs of participants and clubs, and tested potential options for a new competition structure.

The review highlighted the need for clearer competition purposes and stronger connections between participation, development and performance volleyball. It also identified opportunities to reduce administrative and volunteer burden, provide clubs with greater flexibility, and make it easier for people to enter, participate and progress within the sport.

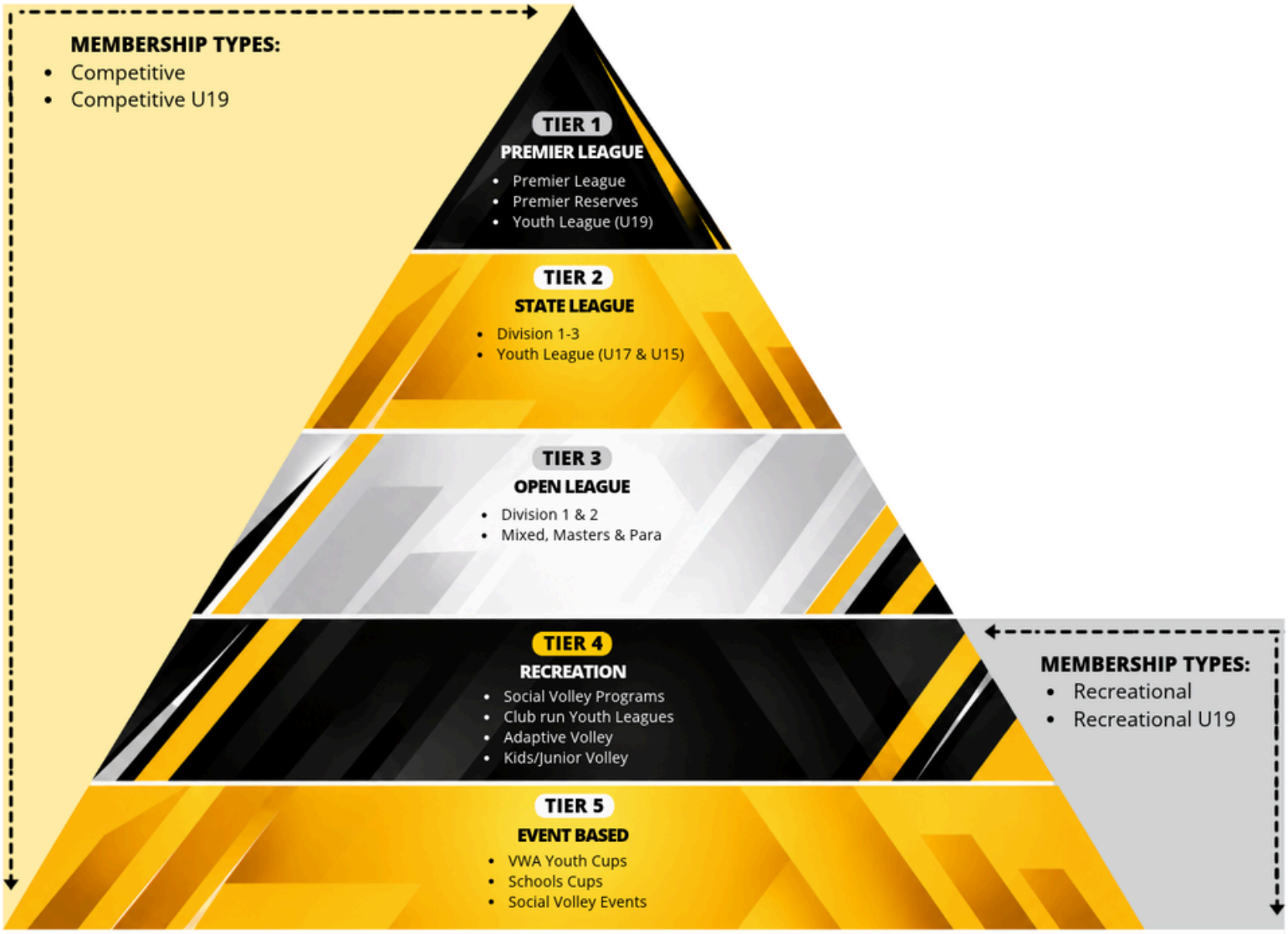
The resulting framework establishes five connected tiers:

- Premier League
- State League
- Open League
- Recreational
- Event-Based

Each tier has a defined purpose, ranging from accessible and flexible participation opportunities through to the highest level of club competition in Western Australia. Premier League and State League are supported by the Club Licensing System, while Open League, Recreational and Event-Based Volleyball provide flexible entry points with fewer barriers to participation.

Together, these changes create a more connected volleyball system, with clearer participation and development pathways and a sustainable platform for the continued growth of the sport across Western Australia. The Competition Framework will be supported by a simplified Individual Membership structure from 1 April 2027, aligning membership more closely with the level and type of volleyball in which participants are involved.

Competition Framework



OVERVIEW OF THE COMPETITION FRAMEWORK

The five-tier Competition Framework provides a clear and connected structure for volleyball participation, from event-based and recreational opportunities through to Premier League. Each tier has a defined purpose, enabling participants to access volleyball at a level that reflects their interests, experience and competitive aspirations.

From 1 April 2027, the framework will be supported by a simplified Individual Membership structure aligned with the type and level of participation. Together, the competition and membership structures will provide accessible entry points, flexible participation options and clearer pathways for participants who wish to develop and progress through the sport.

Premier League Volleyball (PLV)

About

Premier League Volleyball is the top level of the WA Volleyball League, run by Volleyball WA. It has Men's and Women's Premier and Reserve divisions. To compete, a club now needs a Premier League Licence, which confirms it meets 14 mandatory requirements and at least 200 points from the points based criteria.

Benefits

Clubs get a clear standard to work towards and a recognised licence that protects the competition's credibility. The framework puts player care first and asks clubs to improve governance, finances and facilities.

Getting Involved

The 2026 application round has closed. The next round's dates will come from Volleyball WA. In the meantime, clubs should read the regulations and plan their points early. Only the designated contact or the President should contact Volleyball WA about licensing and competition matters. Contact details are still to be confirmed.

State League Volleyball (SLV)

About

State League Volleyball provides a competitive club environment for athletes seeking to challenge themselves, build their skills and gain valuable match experience. Men's and women's divisions support player and club development through a winter regular season followed by a Finals Series. State League operates independently from Premier League and has its own competition structure and licensing requirements.

Benefits

State League offers clubs regular, high-quality competition in a development-focused and accessible environment. It helps clubs strengthen their playing programs and provides athletes, coaches and officials with opportunities to develop and progress within the WA volleyball pathway.

Open League Volleyball (OLV)

About

Open League Volleyball provides entry-level and social indoor competition opportunities delivered by Volleyball WA. It is designed for teams and players seeking an organised, accessible and welcoming environment without the higher performance requirements of Premier League or State League. The league supports developing athletes, recreational players and adults returning to the sport, giving them opportunities to compete regularly, improve their skills and stay connected to the volleyball community. Open League operates under a separate participation-focused competition framework rather than the detailed Premier League or State League licensing annexures.

Benefits

Open League supports participation, connection and continued skill development. It gives clubs and teams an accessible competition option while helping more people engage with organised volleyball.

Recreational Volleyball

About

Recreational volleyball programs provide participants with a fun, social, and inclusive environment to play, learn, and develop their volleyball skills throughout a quarter or term. While some programs may include a competitive element, their primary focus is on participation, enjoyment, and personal development, making them ideal for new and returning players, families, and community groups

Benefits

- Helping clubs attract and retain participants by offering flexible, low-pressure playing opportunities.
- Builds community connections, encourages lifelong involvement in the sport, and creates pathways into competition, coaching, officiating, and volunteering.
- Creating a welcoming and inclusive environment that encourages participation regardless of age, experience, or skill level.

Event-Based Volleyball

About

Volleyball events include one-off or short-term activities such as social tournaments, community events and school / junior competitions. These activities provide valuable opportunities to showcase volleyball, connect with new audiences, and promote participation in the sport.

Benefits

- Raising awareness of club programs and creating enjoyable experiences for players, spectators, and volunteers.
- Engaging local communities and strengthening connections with schools and community organisations.
- Building relationships with partners and stakeholders to support club growth and development.
- Attracting new participants and converting them into members of ongoing volleyball programs and competitions.

Youth League

What is Youth League?

Youth League Volleyball is the junior competition run by Volleyball WA, with two groups:

- **U19**: only licensed Premier or State League clubs can enter U19 teams. Premier League clubs must enter a U19 male and a U19 female team. Clubs are only allowed to enter one team per gender.
- **U15 and U17**: schools and clubs can both enter teams.

How is Youth League included in Club Licensing System?

Under the Club Licensing System every U19, U17 and U15 team earns 10 points, up to 60 points in total for those clubs that with Premier and/or State League Licences. A separate option, sanctioned junior competitions, earns up to 30 more points. These competitions are for the extra juniors within the club that are not ready for Youth League yet and clubs can cater for their own member needs with season length/regulations.

How to get involved in Youth League?

Clubs and schools can enter U15 and U17 teams for the full season, following the Youth League rules. Only licensed clubs can enter U19. Registration contact and deadlines are still to be confirmed.

Schools

Many clubs deliver junior and participation programs in schools, and some use school venues for training or competition. Schools are therefore a key part of the framework.

Schools can enter:

- WA Schools Cup
- Beach Schools Cup (2 events)
- VWA Youth Cups, held in Term 2 & 4
- U15 & U17 Youth League Teams
- Sanctioned youth competitions run by clubs

U19 Youth League teams are open to licensed clubs only.

Teacher Development:

Volleyball WA hosts several Teacher PD workshops throughout the year and the four different kinds that are offered are:

- Introductory
- Intermediate
- ATAR
- Adaptive

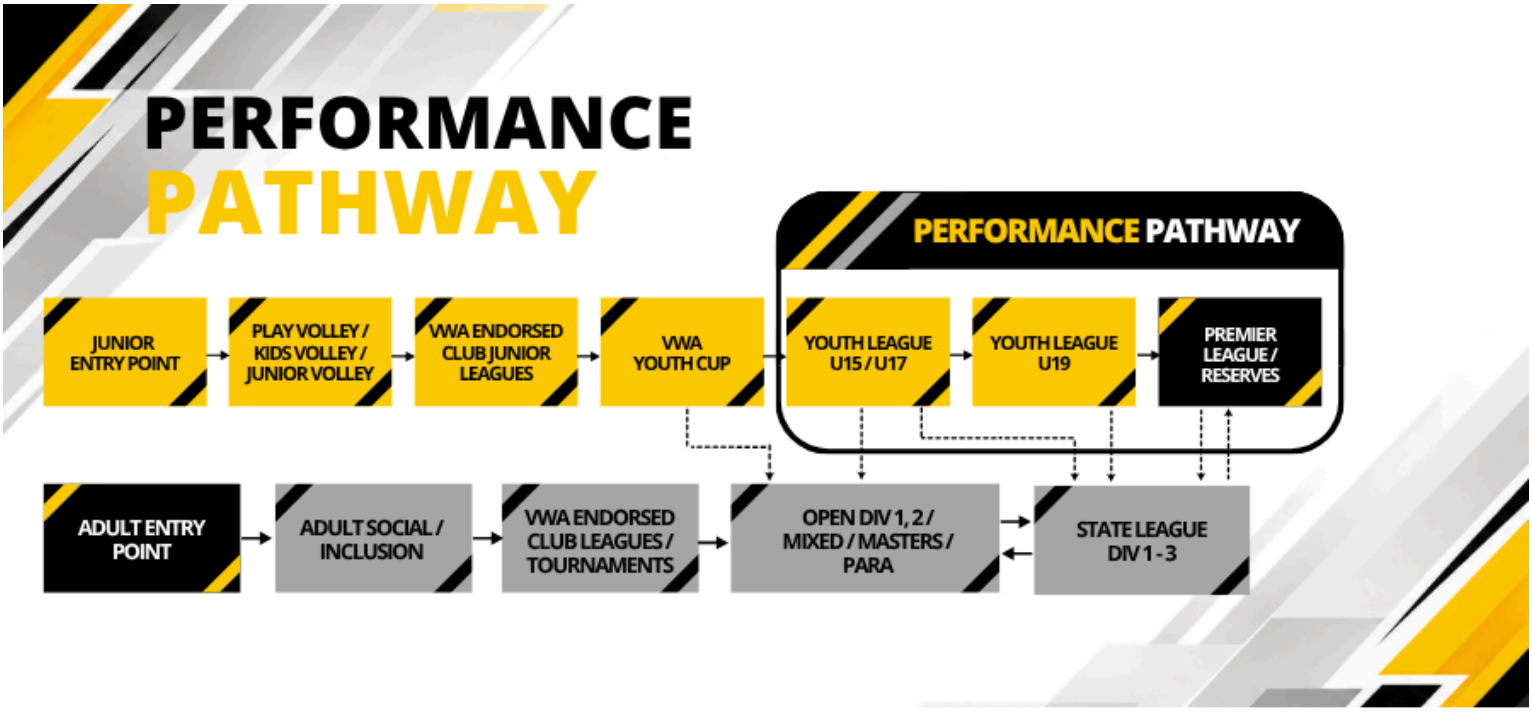
To find out more information about how schools can get involved in Volleyball WA, head to www.volleyballwa.com.au/schools/







Pathways



Steel Academy – Athlete Development Pathway

The Steel Academy is Volleyball WA's flagship youth athlete development program, providing a structured, year-round pathway for aspiring volleyball athletes across Western Australia.

The Academy focuses on the long-term development of athletes through quality coaching and a progressive approach to technical, tactical, physical and mental performance. The program complements Club, School and State volleyball, supporting athletes to reach their potential and prepare for higher levels of competition.

The Academy consists of three progressive tiers, Foundations, Development and Performance, designed to support athletes at different stages of their development. Training opportunities include indoor volleyball, beach volleyball and strength and conditioning, depending on the athlete's tier.

The Steel Academy plays an important role in Volleyball WA's broader performance pathway, supporting athletes through opportunities within WA State Teams, National Development and Performance Programs, ultimately preparing for senior high-performance environments, including Perth Steel and the Volleyroos.

For further information about the Steel Academy, including program structure and participation opportunities, visit www.volleyballwa.com.au.

Sanctioned Events and Programs

Overview:

The Club Event Sanctioning Program supports affiliated clubs and associations to deliver safe, well-managed volleyball competitions, tournaments and playing programs while helping Volleyball WA coordinate activity across the State.

Sanctioning is required for club-run competitions, tournaments and playing programs involving participants from outside the host club. Premier League and State League clubs must also obtain sanctioning for any club-run competition, playing program or activity they intend to rely on to meet a Mandatory Requirement or Points Based Criterion under the Club Licensing System, even where the activity is limited to existing club members.

Benefits:

Sanctioning provides clubs with:

- recognition as a Volleyball WA Sanctioned Event or Program;
- potential inclusion on the Volleyball WA calendar and promotion through VWA channels;
- early identification of potential calendar, membership, safety or delivery issues;
- access to appropriate VWA advice and event resources; and
- recognition of eligible activities for Club Licensing purposes.

Sanctioning also supports safe delivery, appropriate participant registration and insurance, and better coordination of volleyball competitions, pathways and participation programs across Western Australia.

Additional benefits for hosts include:

- Revenue generation opportunities.
- Increased participation opportunities.
- Coach, referee and volunteer development.
- Enhanced club and association visibility.
- Strengthened regional volleyball pathway

Process:

Clubs should check the VWA calendar and any Priority Events or Protected Dates before committing to an activity.

Applications should normally be submitted at least eight weeks before the activity commences, with clubs encouraged to submit activities for the following year by 1 December. One application may cover a recurring program or league operating across an approved season or school term.

Clubs must receive written approval before describing an activity as sanctioned and must notify VWA of any material changes to the approved arrangements.

For Premier League and State League clubs, any activity being relied upon for Club Licensing must be sanctioned and supported by appropriate evidence of delivery. Sanctioning does not automatically result in Club Licensing points being awarded.

Volleyball WA may charge a Sanction Fee as determined annually. Further information: Refer to the 2027 Club Event Sanctioning Guide and Club Event Sanctioning Application Form.

Membership

A simpler membership structure aligned to how you play

From 2027, VWA's Individual Membership categories will be simplified and aligned with the new Competition Framework. The membership required will reflect the type of volleyball a participant plays, whether competitive, recreational or event-based.

VWA will also align the Individual Membership Year with the Affiliation Year (Club Membership Year) under the VWA Constitution, creating a consistent annual cycle for clubs and members.

Transition to the new membership year

Membership Period	Duration	What this means
1 April to 31 December 2027	9 months	2027 will be a transition year, with Individual Memberships running for nine months
1 January to 31 December 2028	12 months	From 2028, Individual Membership will operation on a calendar-year basis, aligned with the Affiliation Year.

Which Membership is needed?

Membership	Access	How it applies
• Competitive Adult • Competitive U19	Tiers 1 - 5	For adults and U19s playing competitive volleyball. Also provides access to recreational and even-based participation.
• Recreational Adult • Recreational U19	Tiers 4 - 5	For adults and U19s participating in recreational, social and event-based volleyball only.

Programs and event-based participation

For some Tier 4 and Tier 5 activities, participants will not need to purchase a separate membership.

- **Tier 4:** Kids, Junior and Play Volley programs, along with VWA-sanctioned Social Volley, are considered recreational participation. The applicable Recreational Membership is included within the program cost.
- **Tier 5:** For VWA event-based activities, the applicable membership is included within the event registration fee.

This means participants can engage in these activities without needing to separately purchase an annual Recreational Membership.

Membership
(cont.)

ATA Beach Tour

Because the ATA Beach Tour operates across the summer period, a separate membership option will be available for participants who only participate in the ATA Beach Tour and do not already hold a Competitive Membership.

ATA Beach Tour	Period	Designed for
ATA Beach Tour Season Membership	1 October to 31 March	Competitors taking part across the ATA Beach Tour season who do not otherwise require a Competitive Membership.
ATA Beach Tour Single Tournement Membership	Single Tournament	Competitors taking part in an individual ATA Beach Tour tournament who do not already hold a Competitive Membership.

Participants who already hold a Competitive Adult or Competitive U19 Membership will not need to purchase an additional ATA Beach Tour membership.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