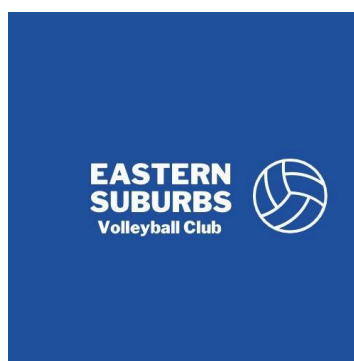


# ***Rules & Regulations 2025***

*Presented by*



## 1 APPLICATION & PURPOSE

These regulations outline the rules and procedures as they apply to the operation of the Sydney Metropolitan Volleyball League (SMVL) and Youth Sydney Metropolitan Volleyball League (YSMVL) competitions.

## 2 STAFF, OFFICIALS & COMMITTEES

Staff	Position	
Patricia Koutsoukos	COMPETITION MANAGER	<a href="mailto:endeavourvb@gmail.com">endeavourvb@gmail.com</a>
Anastasia Koutsoukos	EVENTS COORDINATOR	<a href="mailto:endeavourvb@gmail.com">endeavourvb@gmail.com</a>
Ovid Prosilis	VOLLEYBALL REFEREE DELEGATE	<a href="mailto:info@endeavouracademy.com.au">info@endeavouracademy.com.au</a>

### 2.1 Sydney Metropolitan Volleyball League Technical Committee (SMVLTC)

The SMVL & YSMVL is managed by Endeavour Volleyball Club. The role of the SMVLTC is to:

- Review and modify these Sporting Regulations annually.
- Oversee the implementation of these Sporting Regulations throughout the SMVL / YSMVL Season.
- Make decisions on any disputes, appeals or requests for dispensation (excluding the rules of the game).
- Act as the Judiciary Committee on all SMVL / YSMVL related disciplinary matters. The Committee also has the flexibility to bring in additional persons who may assist in the processing of disciplinary issues. Serious issues may be dealt with at a higher level than this Committee.
- Make recommendations to the Competition/Event Manager for any issues of misconduct that are not highlighted in the Sports Regulations or are in direct breach of EVC/ESVC policies.

The SMVLTC is made up of the following appointed roles:

- The Competition Manager – representing the sports operations, schools, clubs and having intimate knowledge of the regulations.
- Representative of the Referee Association – representing the rules of the game.
- General Manager or other appointed individual – representing Endeavour Volleyball Club.

In addition to the role and responsibilities of the SMVLTC it should be noted that the committee:

- Is perpetual and may hold meetings to discuss SMVL matters at any time of the year.
- Reserves the right to modify any of these Rules & Regulations at any time they see fit.
- May rely upon information and advice from other individuals they determine in their sole discretion to be reasonable to assist in making any decisions however do not have a vote on the decision.
- Any person of the SMVLTC may nominate a representative to replace them for operational reasons if required.
- All decisions will be made by majority rules.
- Meetings must be held with a minimum of two committee members and can be held face to face or via electronic means including but not limited to phone, text, email, and video conference with accurate minutes to be recorded and distributed.

## **2.2 Competition Manager**

The Competition Manager will be responsible for the successful delivery of the SMVL and YSMVL Competitions. The Competition Manager will be the responsible person regarding all issues relating to the administration of the competition, the readiness of the venue and liaison with the Referee appointed by the NSW Volleyball Referees' Association and/or Endeavour Volleyball Club.

If the Competition Manager is unavailable due to other commitments, then the person designated by the Competition Manager may act as interim Competition Manager until he/she becomes available. If the matter is urgent the Competition Manager should make themselves available immediately.

## **2.3 First Referees**

A Referee will be appointed by the NSW Referees Association and/or Endeavour Volleyball Club for all SMVL / YSMVL match days at each venue where games occur. If the appointed Referee is not present when needed, the most senior representative will step in.

Endeavour Volleyball Club will endeavour to appoint a First Referee for every match in all divisions. Where a First Referee cannot be appointed, the duty team will be required to supply a qualified First Referee.

It is the responsibility of the First Referee of every game to check each scoresheet to ensure that only players present and eligible to play during the match are listed on the scoresheet. The First Referee must also present the complete scoresheet to the Chief Referee for sign-off before their next engagement.

# **3 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

## **3.1 Player Registration & Financial Status**

All players participating in either SMVL or YSMVL must be aware of the risk/s they take in participating in a sport that can cause serious injury. Each player is required to either have waived these risk/s by executing a Risk Waiver form prior to participating or can choose to be or working towards being a currently registered and financial Member of Volleyball NSW and correctly registered with the Club they are seeking to compete for or they can rely on their insurance that has been provided by their school if they are participating as a school team. If the player elects to participate under the State Association registration process then each player must be either an Adult or U18 Full Membership Class. Those with Technical, One Day or Non-Playing registration are not eligible to compete in SMVL / YSMVL.

To register with Volleyball NSW under a recreational membership, the link is below

<https://www.revolutionise.com.au/endeavourvc/rego/start/&fresh>

The movement of players between teams, clubs and associations is covered later in this document in section 7.7.

Any club/team that is found to have played an unregistered or incorrectly registered player in the competition may be

fined as laid out in section 8.2. In addition, if a team is found to have played an unregistered or incorrectly registered player:

- During an SMVL or YSMVL game, the ineligible player procedures will be followed (section 7.7).
- Post match the team shall have two (2) competition points deducted from the team's total competition points for each match and each player that participated while incorrectly registered. The opposing team will not receive any recompense and there are no avenues for forfeited points to be reinstated, OR
- During an SMVL / YSMVL finals series match, the team with incorrectly registered players will forfeit the game.

Finally all players seeking to play SMVL / YSMVL must not be financially indebted to Volleyball Australia, Volleyball NSW or any previous clubs of the player. Players will not be permitted to compete until any outstanding debt is resolved. It is the responsibility of a club to inform VNSW of any outstanding debts an athlete may owe the club no later than 14 days before the start of the SMVL / YSMVL competition. Clubs should write to VNSW outlining:

- The individual
- An itemised description of owed debts, ideally including any previously sent invoices
- Confirmation of previous communication between the club and athlete in question prior to writing to VNSW

If the above is not provided VNSW may permit the athlete to continue to compete until all information is obtained.

### **3.2 Coach and Other Official Registration**

All SMVL and YSMVL teams are encouraged to have or be working towards being a Volleyball Australia (VA) qualified and accredited head and assistant coaches as well as Volleyball NSW membership (minimum Technical).

All head and assistant coaches of other SMVL and YSMVL Division teams are encouraged to be working towards holding VA Level One (1) Coach accreditation at a minimum.

All coaches are expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner per the Volleyball Rules and abide by the relevant VNSW and [VA Policies](#) including Member Protection & Coaches Code of Conduct.

Coaches are permitted to act and participate as both a player and coach but they must first notify the 1<sup>st</sup> referee prior to each game and the individual's name needs to be listed in both roles on the official scoresheet.

A coach does not have to be present for a match but if they intend to appear at some point during a game they must be listed before the commencement of the match otherwise they will not be permitted on the bench

Teams are permitted to have staff members as outlined in the FIVB Rules of Volleyball (4.1). Roles can be altered by

request to the Referee on duty.

All team coaches and officials must be listed on both the Team Entry season team list and each game scoresheet prior to the start of the match. These team lists will be provided to prior to commencement of the tournament.

### 3.3 Team Entry & Allocation

Placement in the tournament is ultimately decided upon by Endeavour Volleyball Club and may include factors such as expression of interest/preference nominations and historical participation and results as well as any other criteria determined by the SMVLTC.

Teams placed in any SMVL or YSMVL division will have an opportunity to voluntarily withdraw before the commencement of the competition subject to any financial obligations.

Team entry fees and any other requirements prescribed by Endeavour Volleyball Club must be done so by the dates and deadlines outlined by Endeavour Volleyball Club otherwise teams may be removed from the competition.

## 4 COMPETITION FORMAT

### 4.1 Divisions and Scheduling

The table set out below is to be used to assist in the scheduling of fixtures of the Sydney Metropolitan Volleyball League and Youth Sydney Metropolitan Volleyball League. EVC and ESVC holds the right to alter divisions, team minimums and maximums, fixture days, net heights and any other competition related matters each year.

The aim of the scheduling of fixtures will be to deliver a fair and equitable distribution of matches, duty allocations and byes (if required) amongst all competing teams where possible.

2025 DIVISION	TEAM MAXIMUM	FIXTURE DAY	NET HEIGHT
<b><i>Sydney Metropolitan Volleyball League (Open)</i></b>			
Open- Mixed Genders	10	Saturday	2.35m
<b><i>Youth Sydney Metropolitan Volleyball League (U18)</i></b>			
Open- Mixed Genders	10	Sunday	2.35m

- Divisions may be combined at the discretion of EVC and ESVC.
- Where the net height differs between the combined divisions, the net height that applies will be the higher of

the divisions playing in that match.

- Competition standings for the combined divisions may be calculated separately or combined at the discretion of the SMVL Competition Manager.

## 4.2 Competition Points

Competition points towards the ladder of each division shall be awarded based on the outcome of each match including:

Win	3 points
Draw	2 points
Loss	1 points
Forfeit	-2 points

At the conclusion of the round games, if teams are equal on competition points in the competition ladder, then the following criteria will be used to decide final positions:

### Set Ratio

The order of ranking will be determined by the Sets Ratio. The team with the highest sets ratio (to three decimal points) will be awarded the higher placing

$$\text{Sets Ratio} = \text{Sets WON} / [\text{Sets Won} + \text{Sets Lost}]$$

### Points Ratio

If a tie still exists after the calculation of the Set Ratio, the order of ranking will be determined by Points Ratio, with the team with the highest points ratio (to three decimal points) will be awarded the higher place

$$\text{Points Ratio} = \text{Points WON} / [\text{Points Won} + \text{Points Lost}]$$

### Total Points

If a tie still exists after the calculation of Sets and Points Ratio, the order of ranking will be determined by the highest total game points scored by a team across the season.

## 4.3 Finals Series

After all competition rounds a Finals Series will be held for each division. These may include Finals Phase, Elimination, Playoffs, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Medal Finals. Cross-over rounds or any other type of round is not considered as part of the Finals Series unless clearly stated otherwise.

Any division that has its regular rounds run under the timed format will remain timed games until the Semi-Finals (SF)

stage and beyond. For any senior SMVL division the finals format is untimed Best of Five (BO5) SF onwards. For any youth YSMVL division the finals format is untimed Best of Three (BO3) SF onwards.

## **5 GAME RULES AND PROCEDURES**

### **5.1 Rules of the Competition**

All SMVL and YSMVL Matches will be played following the latest version of the *FIVB Official Volleyball Rules* available at the start of the competition year. Any exceptions or amendments to the official rules are included within these Regulations.

All players, coaches, officials and any other team personnel who participate in VNSW run competitions agree to adhere to both the FIVB Official Volleyball Rules and SMVL Regulations set out in this document. Where there is a conflict between the FIVB Rules and the SMVL Rules and Regulations, the SMVL Rules and Regulations will apply.

On occasion the venues and equipment used for SMVL / YSMVL matches may not fully comply with the FIVB Volleyball Rules, all players who choose to participate in the competition accept that the venue

and equipment may not be fully compliant to FIVB standards and are choosing to play at their own risk.

### **5.2 Game Timings Structure**

All SMVL / YSMVL matches are to start at the advertised "Official Start Time" listed on the weekly competition draw. The "Official Start Time" is the scheduled time of the first serve according to the applicable pre-match protocol (section 5.4).

The referee must make the Official Start Time clear to both teams if a match is delayed due to a prior match. If a team is incomplete at the Official Start Time (has less than 6 players), the team shall forfeit the match, and incur the penalty as set out in 4.2 below.

Additionally the following applies to all SMVL / YSMVL timed matches:

- Assuming playing time is remaining a timed match continues until a team has won three (3) sets.
- If either team has not reached three (3) sets once playing time has elapsed the winner will be determined by whichever team has won the most sets. If teams are equal on sets at the end of a match then the result is a draw.
- If a set has not reached a normal conclusion when the game time has elapsed, it shall be counted as a completed set if the leading team has reached a score of at least 13 points, with a lead of at least 2 points.
- If a timing siren or hooter is used to indicate the end of a match and the sound takes place during a rally then the rally must be played out.
- Time-outs are not permitted during the final five (5) minutes of a match. A time-out which commences before the last five minutes shall be completed normally. It is the referee's responsibility to check the running clock, before authorising a time-out.

### **5.3 No Rescheduled Matches**

All matches must take place according to the date, time and venue specified in the Competition Draw, noting that games may start late if the prior games run over time. No rescheduling of matches by teams will be permitted irrespective of whether both teams are willing to reschedule the match. In exceptional circumstances VNSW may decide to reschedule matches such as unexpected venue or court unavailability.

Teams unable to play at the allotted time slot will forfeit the match and therefore lose two (2) competition points from the team's total competition points and incur the fine specified in section 8.2.

#### 5.4 Pre-Match Protocol

##### YSMVL (U18, U16, U15/14)

Mins to Match	Start Action
10	1st Referee collects scoresheet and match ball from the Competition Desk
8	1st Referee checks net height
8	Duty team reports to the first referee
7	The coin toss takes place and Captains check and sign score sheets <i>NB: Duty Teams must check team uniforms and the official team listed is in attendance as per 5.11 a &amp; b</i>
5	Warm-up commences at the net (teams control warm-up)
5	Line-ups required
1	Teams clear the court
0	Teams called onto the court for rotation check
0	First serve

#### 5.5 Substitutions

The following rules apply for substitutions for all SMVL matches and Divisions:

- A team shall be allowed a maximum of twelve (12) substitutions in any one set.
- Players starting a set may be replaced by a substitute and may subsequently re-enter the set twice.
- Each substitute may enter the set three times.
- A player shall not enter the set for a fourth time (starting shall count as an entry).
- Players re-entering the set must assume the original position in the service order in relation to other teammates.
- No change may be made in a player's position in the service order unless necessitated by an injury requiring a substitution.
- Any number of players may enter the set in each position in the service order.
- In case of an injury the injured player should be changed using a regular substitution if available. If a regular substitution is not available an EXCEPTIONAL substitution may be used as per FIVB Rules. See below the allowance for Libero as a substitute.

The FIVB exceptional substitution rule applies to SMVL, however is amended to allow the libero to replace an injured



player only where the team consists of 7 players for the match and there is a matching uniform available for the libero, but not until the 3-minute recovery time has expired and the injured player is deemed unable to continue. The libero who is replacing the injured player doesn't have to have a shirt number that is identical to the playing shirt number used when the player was a libero, however, the player may not use any other player's number or switch numbers with the injured players, or any other player listed on the scoresheet.

If a team becomes incomplete within a set through the expulsion of a player and substitution cannot be made under the rules, the team loses the set by default, keeping the points acquired. If a team becomes incomplete through disqualification of a player and substitution cannot be made under the rules, the team loses the matches by default, keeping the sets and points acquired.

## **5.6 Libero**

For ALL Division, the FIVB Official Volleyball Rules (Rule 19) will be applied:

- Each team has the right to designate from the list of players on the score sheet up to two specialist defensive players, Liberos (19.1.1)
- If a team has more than 12 players recorded in the score sheet, TWO Liberos are mandatory in the team list.
- A coach/captain may designate up to two liberos per set. The coach/captain may redesignate the team's libero(s) at the interval between sets. Starting libero(s) must be detailed on the team's lineup sheet with any change overs indicated on rotation slips.

In addition ALL Divisions must comply with the following uniform rules:

- The libero(s) must wear a uniform (or jacket/bib) whose jersey at least must contrast in colour with that of the other members of the team. The libero uniform may have a different design, but it must be numbered like the rest of the team members.
- The libero(s) must comply with the uniform rule and should maintain the same playing number as the original playing shirt number if possible. In the event the libero(s) do not have a contrasting shirt with the same number as their original playing shirt, a shirt with a new unused number (without tape) must be worn. The libero(s) may not use any other player's number or switch numbers with another player listed on the scoresheet.

## **5.7 Completion of Scoresheet**

Prior to the start of a match, the First Referee must complete their usual pre-game checks of the teams and the scoresheet, completing the checklist on the back of the scoresheet if available.

The Team List and Officials section of the scoresheet must be filled by each team. It is the responsibility of the Captain and the Coach to ensure the accuracy of the Team List (including names and numbers) of every player, coach and team

official competing in the match. The Referees and Duty teams must be able to identify each player's number and ensure they match those against the numbers on the Team List.

The Head Coach and Team Captain of both teams must check and sign off on the scoresheet **before** the commencement of the match. Once the scoresheet is signed no changes or additions can be made by either playing team without permission from the Second Referee.

Players that are not present at the venue and ready to play (in full team uniform) at the commencement of the second set are to be crossed off the scoresheet by the duty team scorer at the commencement of the second set. This includes Named Players.

If any part of a scoresheet is not satisfactorily completed (i.e. missing team list, scores recorded incorrectly) by any party then the party/s responsible may be fined as per section 8.2.

Any questions regarding the completion of the scoresheet at the end of the match should be referred to the First Referee or Chief Referee before final sign off.

Once the scoresheet is signed off by the First Referee, Duty Team and Team Coaches then handed to the Chief Referee after the match, **no changes** will be made to the result of the match regardless of any mistakes made by duty teams, competing teams or the First Referee in recording players, sanctions, protests or match results.

Completed scoresheets will be used to confirm player attendance and absences and will be recorded by the Competition Staff to determine Finals eligibility.

## **5.8 Duty Team**

A Duty Team is the rostered officials provided by teams in order to properly officiate matches. All Divisions will be rostered on for duty during both round games and Finals Series matches. Duty Teams for each match will include:

- First Referee x 1 (provided by EVC and ESVC)
- Second Referee x 1
- Line Judge x 2
- Scorer x 2

Any team that does not have all of the required duty personnel in attendance by the time of the Coin Toss will receive a warning. If the duty team is still not in full attendance by the start of the match (first serve) this will be considered a Duty Failure.

If a team does not have the required duty personnel at the start of the match during a Finals Series game, the team will be disqualified from the finals series and be subject to a fine as specified in 8.2.

Additionally, a Duty Team Failure may be issued to teams for incomplete scoresheets, failure to adhere to the Rules of Volleyball, noted poor behaviour, lack of enclosed footwear, operating electronic devices during duty, etc. Duty Failures may incur warnings, mandatory attendance at a workshop/clinic, a fine (8.2) and/or a deduction of competition points (4.2).

Additional responsibilities of the Duty Team include but are not limited to:

- Duty team scorers are responsible for ensuring that there are only 12 players (14 with two liberos) listed on the scoresheet and that only players present at the commencement of the second set remain on the scoresheet.
- A responsible adult (18+) must be present to supervise and oversee the proficiency of all Youth (U18) Duty teams in completing their duty requirements.
- Duty Team members should be focused at all times and not engage with any non-match related personnel while officiating a match.
- Duty teams are required to provide their own whistles and wear enclosed shoes at all times.
- Duty Teams rostered for the first match of the day may be asked to assist with setting up the net and antennae.
- Duty Teams rostered for the last timeslot of the day on that court may be asked to assist with the taking down of the net and antennae.
- Duty teams may be required to carry out additional functions as requested by EVC/ ESVC and notified to all participants.

Rostered Duty Teams that are unable to fulfil the above listed responsibilities may be considered a Duty Failure and will be fined as per section 8.2.

## **5.9 Sanctions – Players and Officials**

During a match a sanction may be applied against any player, coach or team official by the First Referee up until they have completed their final sign off of the scoresheet. No sanction may be imposed after this point.

Sanctions are determined under section 21 of the FIVB Rules of Volleyball including Warnings, Penalties, Expulsions and Disqualifications.

In the event any player or team official is sanctioned, the sanction will be noted on the scoresheet, recorded by Competition Staff and the following demerit point system will apply:

Warning – No Sanction (Yellow Card)	No demerit point
Penalty (Red Card)	1 Demerit Point
Expulsion (Red & Yellow Card jointly)	2 Demerit Points
Disqualification (Red and Yellow separately)	3 Demerit Points

Both the club and the relevant player will be informed when a demerit point/s is received.

A player or team official who accumulates three (3) demerit points during the competition season may be suspended for at least one (1) match or more pending review by the SMVL Technical Committee.

If a player or team official has been previously suspended and receives a subsequent demerit point, they will be automatically suspended for an indefinite period pending a review by the SMVL Technical Committee and/or EVC/ESVC in which further disciplinary action may be taken.

Sanctions on an athlete or team official imposed by the FIVB, Volleyball Confederations, Volleyball Australia or any other recognised volleyball governing body will be respected by EVC/ESVC and fully complied with.

## **6 UNIFORM POLICY**

### **6.1 Playing Shirts**

- All teams must have a school/club uniform which consists of playing shirts of matching design and colour and which are numbered front and back.
- Shirts worn by a team may be a mix of short sleeves, long sleeves, or sleeveless as long as they have a matching design and colour with each other.
- The Libero must wear a unique numbered shirt of a contrasting colour to the rest of the team's uniform shirt. This may mean that the reverse strip of the playing uniform is not suitable.
- The Team Captain must be indicated on the uniform via a Captain's Bar on the shirt under the front number OR via the captain's armband.
- Tape may be used as the Captain's Bar on the playing shirt.
- Referees will not conduct the coin toss unless the team captain can be identified via the Captains Bar on their uniform.

### **6.2 Playing Bottoms**

- Playing bottoms worn by a team can be a mix of shorts (either loose or fitting), leggings/tights or athletic pants (short, medium or long) as long as they are all of a matching colour and with minimal logos, stripes, shapes, etc.
- The Libero may wear playing bottoms that are either the same or a contrasting colour to the rest of the team.
- Numbers are not compulsory on shorts.
- Shorts may feature nominal manufacturer logos which may differ within a team.

### **6.3 Socks**

- Socks are not considered part of the uniform.

### **6.4 Coaching Uniforms**

- The coaching uniform is encouraged to be a club/affiliate shirt, jacket & pants, or shorts.
- A team playing jersey is not allowed.

- Enclosed shoes are required at all times.
- Smart casual attire is permitted with consideration to rule 6.6 Other Uniform Rules.

## **6.5 Out of Uniform Procedures**

All players must be in playing uniform by the coin toss of each match (as per the pre-match protocol). This is the responsibility of the Referee and Duty Team to check before the start of a match. Under no circumstances shall a team be permitted to use a player who is not in uniform, even with the consent of the opposition team. If this results in a team being incomplete at the commencement of a match, the team will forfeit each set until the team is complete or all sets have been forfeited.

If a match has commenced and a player is discovered to be out of uniform and this was missed during the pre-game checks the player will be allowed to continue playing the match in that uniform. The Referee should inform the team captain/coach of the out of uniform issue and note the missed check on the scoresheet remarks post match. If the same player/team is found to have repeated out of uniform issues they may face disciplinary action and/or fines via the SMVL Technical Committee.

## **6.6 Other Uniform Rules**

- Players are permitted to wear compression gear provided it does not obstruct the official uniform.
- Players are permitted to wear cultural or religious clothing provided it does not obstruct the official uniform.
- The SMVL does not recommend that players wear glasses or jewellery. Any player choosing not to follow these recommendations does so at their own risk.
- No alcohol or tobacco products are allowed to be advertised on a team or official's uniform.
- All uniform items must be generic or only represent the competing club/school including but not limited to the name of the school, logos, colours and official club partners, etc. No other clubs, non-affiliates or interested parties may be visible on uniforms.
- The SMVLTC may request a club to provide electronic or physical examples of any part of the uniform at any time for assessment against these regulations.
- The Referee and the Competition Manager or their representative will have the final decision in any disputes relating to uniforms.

# **7 PLAYER MANAGEMENT**

## **7.1 Season Team List**

The Season Team List is the ongoing register of players a team has for the entire competition season. The following must be adhered to by all teams regarding their Season Team List for the SMVL / YSMVL season:

- The Season Team List for each team must have a minimum of 9 players and up to a maximum of 10 players throughout the season.

- All team coaches and officials must be listed on the season team list.
- Once a Team List has been locked in, Senior (18+) players can only play for that team, in that single division, during the season with the exception of the Temporary Play Rule (see section 7.4). Temporary players do not need to be added to the season team list but must be written on the team playing roster and scoresheet each game.
- Any moving players are still required to meet the 50% games played rule (see section 7.5) to be eligible for finals.
- A player cannot play simultaneously for more than one Club or school in SMVL. Any player wishing to play for more than one club or Association must submit a comprehensive written request to the SMVLTC via their club.

## 7.2 Youth Players

The following applies to Youth Players (U18) competing in YSMVL / SMVL:

- Players competing in the U19 Division may not turn 20 in the year of the competition.
- There is no minimum age restriction.
- There are no restrictions on the movement of Youth athletes (U19) and they may play in Adult SMVL, adhering to the team list and games per week maximum.
- Youth athletes competing across multiple divisions are subject to the same athlete movement rules specified above.
- Youth athletes (U19) are not required to play in the YSMVL. If the player is only playing SMVL then they must adhere to the Senior Player rule of one (1) game per week.

## 7.3 Playing Roster

The Playing Roster is the list of eligible players on a scoresheet for each match. The following is to be considered regarding match playing rosters:

- For SMVL, a minimum of six (6) players and maximum of ten (10) players can be named on a playing roster.
- For YSMVL only, a team may play with five (5) players in play, below the FIVB minimum of six (6). If a team has less than five (5) players and is declared incomplete at the starting time, it shall forfeit the first set. If, after a further five (5) minutes, the team is still incomplete then the team shall forfeit the 2nd set. If, after a further five (5) minutes, the team is still incomplete, it shall forfeit the 3rd set and the match.
- Listed players on the scoresheet who are not present at the venue and ready to play (in full team uniform) must be crossed off no later than the commencement of the second set by the duty team scorer.

## 7.4 Finals Series Eligibility

Players must play more than 50% of round matches for their team to be eligible to play in the Finals Series for that team. Byes will not be counted towards matches played when determining eligibility for finals.

A player who has played 50% or less of matches for a particular team shall only be eligible to play in the Finals Series

for that particular team if the player has been given a special exemption to do so by EVC/ESVC or the SMVLTC. The procedure for final series exemptions is as follows:

- A player seeking a special exemption to play in the final series must apply in writing to the SMVLTC via the exemption form no less than 14 days before the exemption is to take effect. The request must state the reasons why the player did not play the minimum required number of matches.
- If the player was unable to play due to;
  - a. Injury, the request must be accompanied by a Doctor's Certificate stating the nature of the injury and the dates on which the injury prevented the player from playing. Requests without a Doctor's Certificate will not be considered.
  - b. Representative commitments, the request must be accompanied by an email or other form of correspondence from a coach or other official confirming the national or representative appointment.
- The aim of these special exemptions should not be to seek to turn missed games into eligible games for the sake of finals qualification. For example if a player was eligible to play 5 games during a season, played 2 games, missed 1 game due to injury and then missed another 4 games due to personal commitments/conflicts and therefore was under 50% games played for finals qualification. The SMVLTC is very unlikely to approve this exemption when the player had an opportunity to qualify for finals regardless of the injury. Meanwhile a player who was eligible to play 10 games during a season, played 3 games, suffered an injury preventing them from playing the next 9 games but is back for finals and has submitted an exemption this would be much more likely to be approved.
- The SMVLTC shall reasonably consider each application on its merits in determining whether or not to grant a special exemption.

## **7.5 Ineligible and Suspended Players**

In some circumstances a player may be considered ineligible to play and should not take to the court. Some of these include but are not limited to:

- A player without a valid membership type to compete (see 3.1) or incorrectly registered with another club.
- A player out of uniform.
- A suspended player or a player who has been informed they are not permitted to play by VNSW/EVC/ESVC including those deemed unfinancial.
- Any substituted player that if subbed on would exceed the maximum number of substitutions allowed (see 5.5).
- A player with an incorrect number listed on a scoresheet or without a number entirely.

Where a player is found to be on the court but they are considered ineligible to play (including but not limited to Substitutions and Sanctioned Players Rule):

- a) if discovered during the match, FIVB 7.5.3.4 applies. The team at fault will lose all points and/or sets (0:25, if necessary) gained from the moment the ineligible player entered the court. The opponent's points remain

valid and they gain a point and service. The ineligible player must be replaced for the match to continue.

- b) If it cannot be determined when the ineligible player entered the court then the First Referee in coordination with the Chief Referee will determine whether or not it is appropriate for some or all points and/or sets earned by the team with the ineligible player be lost.
- c) if discovered after the match (scoresheet signed and submitted), the match may be forfeited by the team at fault and will incur all penalties including fines and competition points specified for a forfeit for each match in which the ineligible player took the court.

Players under suspension either as a result of sanctions received during SMVL or as a result of a decision made by EVC/ESVC, including but not limited to current Financial Status with EVC/ESVC, will be ineligible to compete in any match or be present at the SMVL venue during the competition.

Any person who is suspended may not enter a venue where SMVL competition is taking place during the suspension, whether as a spectator or in any other capacity.

## **8 PROTESTS, PENALTIES AND FINES**

### **8.1 Protests**

A Protest most commonly will be defined as a team protesting a decision or highlighting a perceived error by match officials that may affect the outcome of the match when taking into consideration the FIVB Rules and SMVL Rules and Regulations.

In the format of the SMVL there is **no** scope for replaying matches at later times due to a protest made after the match being upheld. Therefore, a system of “on the spot” Protest resolution has been adopted.

During any round game a formal protest may only be lodged by the Coach of the team or by the Captain if no coach is present at the time of protest.

Such protests may include:

- i. An improper decision by the Referee who did not apply the regulations or did not assume the consequences of his/her decisions; and/or
- ii. An improper decision of the scorer who made a mistake on the rotational order or on the score.

A team Coach (or captain if not present) may lodge a protest during a match using the following procedure:

- i. The person seeking to submit a protest must immediately inform the second Referee (while the ball is out of play) that he/she wishes to lodge a protest at which point, the second Referee must immediately inform the First Referee, OR
- ii. The captain must immediately inform the First Referee (while the ball is out of play) that he/she wishes to lodge a protest.



- iii. Once a protest is lodged, the First Referee will stop the game, step down from the stand and immediately consult the Chief Referee to resolve the protest if available.
- iv. As soon as the formal protest is made the game is interrupted. The First Referee authorises the teams to leave the playing court and come to the bench, but they are not allowed to leave the playing area. Players are allowed to use balls in the free zone.
- v. If the Chief Referee has been viewing the game directly, then the Chief Referee and First Referee should resolve the protest. No other person can participate in the meeting. However, the Chief Referee can collect all information as deemed necessary.
- vi. If the Chief Referee has not been viewing the game directly, then the protesting Captain/Coach can succinctly put their point of view on the decision, with the non-protesting Captain/Coach also able to provide a succinct point of view, to both the Chief Referee and 1st Referee. The Chief Referee can collect additional information as deemed necessary. The 1st Referee and the Chief Referee should then resolve the protest.
- vii. A protest about a Referee's decision to sanction a player's action or a player or official's misconduct will be considered an improper case and will be rejected by the Chief Referee.
- viii. The Chief Referee can decide to:
  - A. Reject the protest (if it is an improper case) or
  - B. Accept the protest as legal and decide on a ruling which can be:
    - I. To Uphold the Referee's decision
    - II. To Overturn the Referee's decision
- ix. If the protest is Accepted and the Referee's decision is upheld, the game is resumed after having applied the referee's decision.
- x. If the protest is Accepted and the Referee's decision is Overturned, the game is resumed from the point before the Referee's decision.
- xi. If the protest is Rejected, the game is resumed after having applied the Referee's decision. The following sanction, as applicable will be imposed:
- xii. The first protest that is Rejected will incur a "Penalty" sanction (Red card), which is a personal sanction against the Coach/Captain.
- xiii. If there is a second protest in the same match by the same Coach/Captain and it is Rejected then the 1st Referee will sanction the Coach/Captain with disqualification (Red and Yellow cards separately.)
- xiv. To resume the game: The Chief Referee's decision is communicated to Referees, scorer and captains.

Where there is no Chief Referee, the next most Senior Referee available can assist the First Referee in resolving the protest. If the Competition Manager is present they may also provide support to the Chief, First or Senior Referees where possible. Noting that not all staff ofn EVC/ESVC will be able to assist with matters when it comes to the rules of the game.

The Competition Manager hold the authority on behalf of the SMVLTC and EVC/ESVC to resolve protests and make determinations on formal protests occurring during the match in order to re-establish the situation under the FIVB Rules and SMVL Rules and Regulations.

**No protests or requests for match review from teams will be considered after the scoresheet has been signed by the First Referee or Chief Referee. EVC/ESVC reserves the right to review match results if it deems fit.**

## **8.2 Fines & Penalties**

Fines and penalties incurred during the SMVL season may include a loss of competition points and/or payment. Please see the table below.

Issue	Fine (SMVL Team)	Fine (YSMVL Team)	Loss of Competition Points?
Match Forfeit	\$200	\$200	Yes, minus -2.
Duty Failure	\$200	\$200	Yes, minus -2.
Unregistered Player Played (per game)	\$200	\$200	Yes, minus -2.

- All fines must be paid by 5:00 PM Friday following the official issue of the fine. Failure to do so will result in no competition points being awarded to all teams within that association or club until the fine is paid. The forfeited points will not be reinstated once the fine is paid.
- VNSW reserves the right to charge or withhold all or any part of a fine and penalties issued to teams.

## **9 MEDICAL**

### **9.1 Medical Assistance**

EVC/ESVC will provide basic first aid services including ice for injuries at the venue for participants and spectators. We DO NOT provide performance services such as those of a Sports Trainer, physiotherapist or chiropractor.

### **9.2 Blood**

If any on court player is bleeding or if blood is evident on any equipment, uniform or in the field of play, the match will be stopped. The bleeding player should be removed from the game as per the FIVB rules concerning an injured player. That player cannot return to the court until there is no evidence of blood or bleeding on the player.

Any substitutions made to resolve the blood removal, including player return, are not required to be a legal substitution and will not count against a team's 12 substitution limit. See the FIVB Rules regarding Exceptional Substitutions and Injuries (17).

If there is evidence of blood on any equipment or in the field of play, the available Competition Manager or Event Staff

must be requested to take appropriate measures to remove the blood using an appropriate cleaning solution. Only once the blood has properly been removed may the game resume.

EVC/ESVC endorses the following Sports Medicine Australia blood-related policies and resources: - [Infectious Diseases](#)  
[| Sports Medicine Australia \(sma.org.au\)](#)

## **10 SYDNEY METROPOLITAN VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE AWARDS**

### **10.1 Awards**

The following Individual Awards will be presented after the Sydney Metropolitan Volleyball League season.

**MVP awards** - will be presented for the GOLD Medal match during each division's Finals Series. The decision will be made by the referee/Competition Manager.

### **10.2 Medals**

Each team that wins a SMVL / YSMVL medal will be awarded a maximum of 12 medals. It is up to the club/team/school to decide the distribution of those medals. No additional medals can be ordered / purchased.