AUSTRALIAN

BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOUR

Sport Regulations

Updated 1st December 2021

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1 AUSTRALIAN BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOUR (ABVT)

1.1 AIMS & PURPOSES OF THE ABVT

1.1.1 The ABVT aims to achieve the following goals.

- To provide professionally administered Beach Volleyball competitions for Australia's developing athletes.
- To provide an elite performance pathway for athletes, coaches and officials to develop to the national and international level.
- To develop event management skills within staff and volunteers to enable hosting of National and International events.
- To promote Beach Volleyball to the greater Australian population.
- To provide exposure and marketing opportunities to the commercial partners of VA & its members.
- Meeting Event outcomes within the VA Strategic Plan for Volleyball in Australia.

1.2 ABBRIVIATIONS

ABVT	Australian Beach Volleyball Tour
SIA	Sport Integrity Australia
AVC	Asian Volleyball Confederation
BVAC	Beach Volleyball Advisory Committee
FIVB	Federation Internationale de Volleyball
TCC	Tournament Control Committee
VA	Volleyball Australia
VARC	Volleyball Australia Referees Committee
ABVRS	Australian Beach Volleyball Ranking System
VARS	Volleyball Australia Results System
WCSC	Wild Card Selection Committee
NAD	National Anti-Doping

1.3 ABVT CONTACTS

Position	Name	Phone	Email
ABVT Tournament Director	Trent Clarke	0408 063 040	Trent.clarke@volleyball.org.au
ABVT Competition Manager	Nathan "Wombat" McLeod	0422 359 100	Nathan.mcleod@volleyball.org.au

1.4 EVENT CALENDAR

1.4.1 The ABVT Calendar can be found here - www.abvt.volleyball.org.au

1.4.2 It is the responsibility of all teams/athletes to have the most up to date information and entry details of any entered event.

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1.5 STAFF & COMMITTEES

1.5.1 The ABVT is managed by Volleyball Australia's Events Department.

1.5.2 At an ABVT event, a Tournament Control Committee (TCC) is created and made up of:

- ABVT Tournament Director
- ABVT Competition Manager
- ABVT Referee Delegate

1.5.3 The TCC may rely upon information and advice from other individuals they determine in their sole discretion to be reasonable to assist in making any decisions concerning the events sporting regulations, operations, and tournament play.

1.5.4 If a private company is contracted as the Promoter of any event, the TCC will add one (1) additional member to the TCC at the relevant event.

1.5.5 Any person of the TCC may nominate a representative to replace them during the event for operational reasons if required.

1.5.6 All decisions will be made by majority rules however if there is an equal split, the Tournament Director will ultimately hold the deciding vote.

2 COMPETITION

2.1 RULES & EQUIPMENT

2.1.1 The ABVT will be using the FIVB Beach Volleyball Official Rules (current) unless where specifically amended in this Regulations or at the E-Technical Meeting of a specific event. Copy of the rules can be viewed on the FIVB website.

2.1.2 The TCC reserves the right to amend any Competition Rules, Match Formats, or the Event Structure, in the lead up to, or during an event should unforeseen circumstances (e.g. extreme weather) occur.

2.1.3 By entering into a VA event, all participants are bound by the VA Player Rights & Responsibilities Policy.

2.1.4 The official ball used for the ABVT will be the Mikasa VLS 300.

2.2 ABVT EVENT STRUCTURE

2.2.1 The ABVT will comprise of four (4) levels of competition; the ABVT Elite, the ABVT Challenger Series (Division 1 and 2) and the Mikasa Cup.

2.2.2 Volleyball Australia will be responsible for the delivery of the ABVT Elite and the ABVT Challenger Series, while being supported by each state and territory to present the Mikasa Cup, which may be delivered via a promoter model.

2.3 ABVT EVENT FORMAT

2.3.1 **ABVT Elite Events**

2.3.1.1 There are no age restrictions for players entering into the ABVT, however, underage players must have parent/guardian consent.

2.3.1.2 Duty of Care to all participants extends only to the event precinct and times.

2.3.1.3 ABVT Elite will comprise of a male and female competition of 16 teams. There will be a Qualifying Tournament prior to the Main Draw competition commencing.

2.3.1.4 This Qualification Tournament will be limited to a maximum of 32 teams and will be single elimination format.

2.3.1.5 Any teams that enter after the initial 32 teams have filled the draw (as calculated by their seeding) will be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be in order of seeding. If a team within the Main Draw, or Qualification Tournament withdraws, the highest ranked team on the waiting list will be promoted to the Qualification Tournament.

2.3.1.6 ABVT Elite will be using the Modified Pool Play Format, as outlined below (2.3.1.7), unless event requirements dictate otherwise. There will be a maximum of 4 games per day for any teams.

2.3.1.7 ABVT Elite will have a single elimination Qualification Tournament followed by the Main Draw made up of:

- 8 x Australian Teams having direct entry based on seeding;
- 2 x International Wild Cards* (see 2.4 below);
- 2 x Australian Wild Cards* (see 2.4 below);
- 4 x teams from the Qualifying Tournament.

2.3.1.8 The 16 team, Modified Pool Play Format is outlined below:

- 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 plays 3rd from pools
  - 2nd in pool is drawn for seeds 5-8
  - 3rd in pool is drawn for seeds 9-12
  - Teams cannot play an opponent from the same pool from 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 from the first 2 rounds of the finals
- Semi Finals
- Bronze & Gold Medal Matches

2.3.1.9 Below is the template for a 4 team pool in an Elimination Pool format. Teams are seeded in their pool and progression is achieved depending on matches won.

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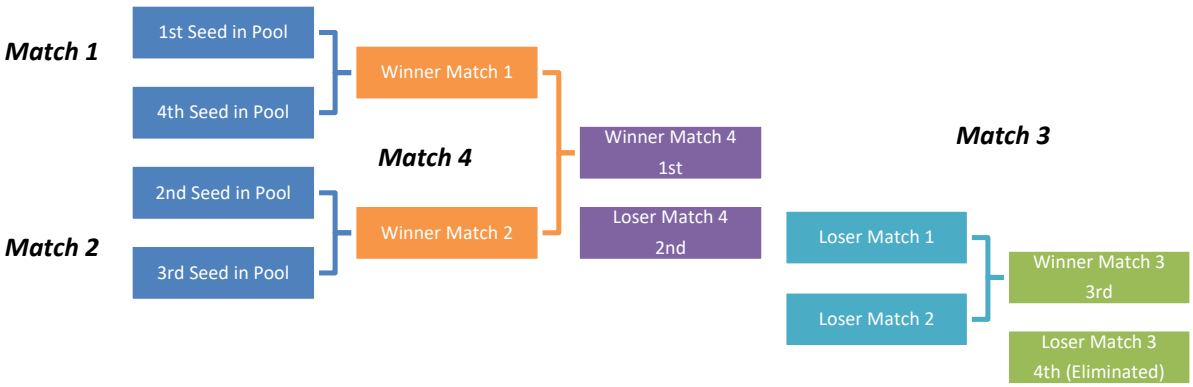
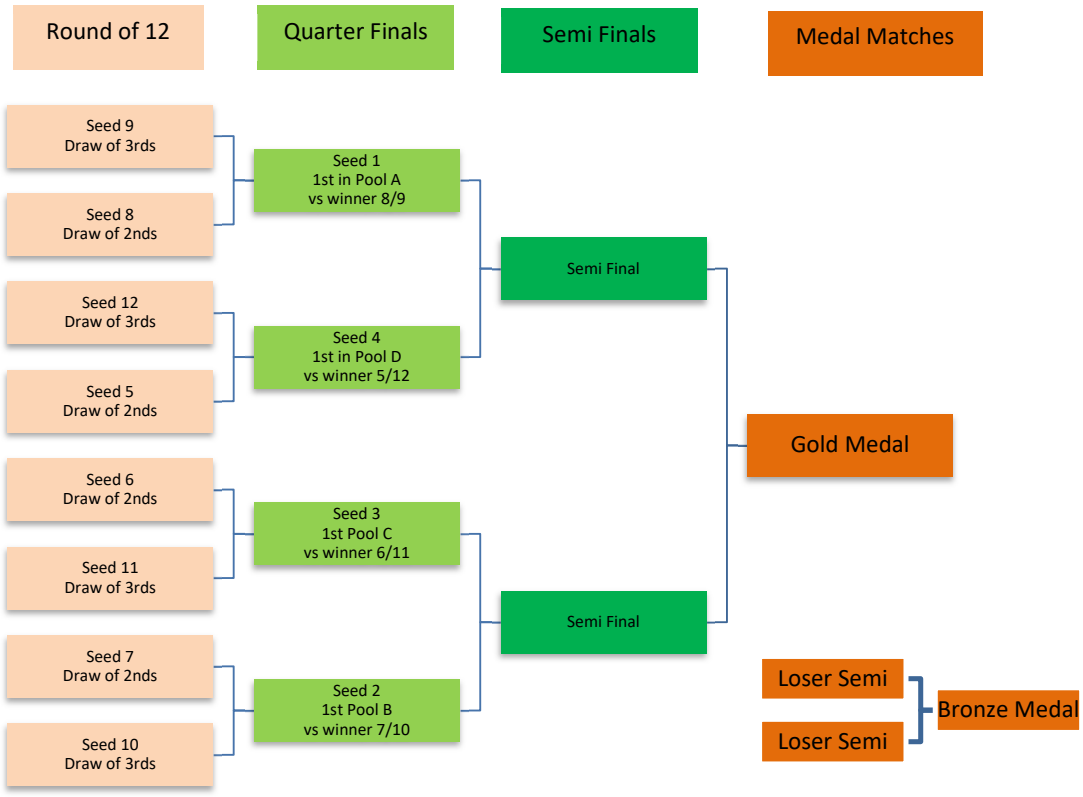


2.3.1.10 The finals progression for a 16 team Modified Pool Play Format is shown below.



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2.3.2 ABVT Challenger Series Events

2.3.2.1 There are no age restrictions for players entering into the ABVT. However, underage players must have parent/guardian consent.

2.3.2.2 Duty of Care to all participants extends only to the event precinct and times.

2.3.2.3 ABVT Challenger Series events will comprise of a male and female competition. Divisions and Formats of these competitions will be determined based on entry numbers, as outlined below (2.3.2.5).

2.3.2.4 The maximum number of teams, per gender, for Challenger Series events will be 32. After this number, teams will be placed onto a waiting list. The rankings of teams into both the event and this waiting list will be determined by their seeding.

2.3.2.5 There will be no Qualifying Tournament prior to the Challenger Series competition commencing.

2.3.2.6 Any teams that do not qualify for the Main Draw of the ABVT Tour event will be placed into the Challenger Series automatically, based on their original seeding. Results of the Qualification Tournament will not be considered in a team's seeding in a Challenger Series event.

2.3.2.7 A team may choose to enter directly into the ABVT Challenger Series without entering the Qualification Tournament of the ABVT Elite.

2.3.2.8 The following formats will be used based on the below entry numbers:

Number of Teams	Divisions Offered	Competition Format
Less than 17	1 division of 16	16 team, modified pool play
Between 17 and 24	1 division of 24	24 team, modified pool play
Between 25 and 32	2 divisions of 16	16 team, modified pool play
33 or above	2 divisions of 16 + waiting list	16 team, modified pool play

2.3.2.9 Formats using 16 team Modified Pool Play, will follow the format used in ABVT Tour events, unless event requirements dictate otherwise. There will be a maximum of 4 games per day for any teams.

2.3.2.10 The formats for the 24 team, Modified Pool Play Format is outlined below:

- Teams will play a maximum of 4 matches per day
- 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
- Round of 16 – all teams play
  - 1st in each pool is allocated to seeds 1-6 based on their pool
  - 2nd in pool is drawn for seeds 7-12
  - Best four 3rd placed teams in pool is drawn for seeds 13-16
  - Winners of these games progress to Quarter Finals

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- Teams cannot play an opponent from the same pool from the first 2 rounds of the finals

- Quarter Finals
  - Teams cannot play an opponent from the same pool from the first 2 rounds of the finals
- Semi Finals
- Bronze & Gold Medal Matches

2.3.2.11 The finals progression for a 16 team Modified Pool Play Format is shown below.

2.3.2.12 Any Wild Cards for ABVT Challenger Series will be at the sole discretion of the TCC. As a principle, Wild Cards will not be allocated to this competition.

2.3.3 The TCC reserves the right to amend the competition format for a ABVT Challenger Series event at any time. This will be advertised as early as possible and confirmed at the events E-Technical Meeting.

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2.3.4 Mikasa Cup Events

2.3.4.1 The Mikasa Cup is based on all State Opens where teams accumulate points to compete for the title of the Mikasa Cup.

2.3.4.2 Duty of Care to all participants extends only to the event precinct and times and is the responsibility of the Event Promoter.

2.3.4.3 Mikasa Cup events will have their Format set by the Event Promoter and released no later than 28 days prior to the first competition day.

2.3.4.4 The seeding policy for Mikasa Cup events will be set by the Event Promoter and released no later than 28 days prior to the first day of competition.

2.3.4.5 All entry and Wild Card information for Mikasa Cup events will be set by the Event Promoter and released no later than 28 days prior to the first day of competition.

2.4 ABVT EVENT ENTRY INFORMATION & WILD CARDS

2.4.1 All Entry Information, Key Dates and other event specific information including any associated costs will be advertised on the ABVT website or can be requested through Volleyball Australia's Events Department.

2.4.2 All referenced days prior is from the first day of competition including any Qualifying Tournament.

2.4.3 Entry into all ABVT events will close 28 days prior to the 1st competition day for International Teams (including teams comprising of 1 x Australian player and 1 x International player) and 21 days prior to the 1st competition day for Australian Teams unless advertised otherwise.

2.4.4 International teams will be notified of their entry (successful or not) 21 days prior to the first competition day to an event.

2.4.5 The entry fees and process for each event will be advertised by VA.

2.4.6 Australian entries will only be accepted from players that are current registered members of a Member State to the highest level. Verification of membership will occur prior to acceptance of the team into the competition draw.

2.4.7 ABVT Elite Event Entry

2.4.7.1 To be eligible to enter an ABVT Elite Event (including Qualification Tournament), each **PLAYER** comprising an Australian team, must have **EITHER**:

- Played in 2 recognised events from the below list within the previous 90 days:
  - State recognised Beach Tour
  - Australian Volleyball League (or equivalent competition), or;
- Have competed in at least one recognised AVC or FIVB Beach or Indoor Volleyball event within the previous 90 days or;
- Obtained written dispensation to compete from the TCC prior to entries closing.

2.4.7.2 In principle, no team entering any division of the ABVT will be penalised under 2.4.3 as outlined above if they have not had access to events within this timeframe due to the international COVID-19 pandemic. In this instance, written dispensation is expressly given by the TCC without request.

2.4.7.3 For a team to be classified as Australian, each **PLAYER** must either:

- Be an Australian Citizen, or;
- Hold a current Australian Passport, or;
- Hold a current Australian Visa that allows the individual to remain for more than 12 months (I.E. not a holiday/tourist Visa), or;

2.4.7.4 For a team to be classified as an International Team, each **TEAM** must:

- Not have lived in Australia for the past 2 years, and;
- Have a letter of approval to participate from their National Federation, and;
- Meet all FIVB Regulations regarding National Tour events.

2.4.7.5 In principle, only 1 team per gender from any country other than from Oceania may be accepted into an ABVT event at the sole discretion of the WCSC.

2.4.7.6 An Australian player wishing to play with an International player (combination team) will be classified as an International Team for team number purposes however will not be recognised as representing any country.

2.4.7.7 All approved Australian entries will be ranked using the ABVRS. The ABVRS, as default, shows players points from their best 10 results since 1st July, 2020. For the purposes of an ABVT Elite Event, a team's seeding will be based on the combined points of both players for their best 5 events each since 1st July, 2020, up to the published entry closing date for the entered event.

2.4.7.8 The top 8 ranked teams will be given automatic entry into the ABVT Tour Main Draw.

2.4.7.9 All remaining teams will be placed into a Single Elimination Qualification Tournament.

2.4.8 **ABVT Elite Event Wildcards**

2.4.8.1 A maximum of 2 **Australian Wild Cards (AWC)** may be issued for the Main Draw of each ABVT Elite event, per gender.

2.4.8.2 Where possible, priority will be given to U21 teams identified through the Junior Pathway or teams with extraordinary current results.

2.4.8.3 An Australian team wishing to apply for a Wild Card into an ABVT Elite event must complete their entry through the events system meeting all requirements 21 days prior to the 1st competition day. Along with the completed entry, a team must submit a AWC Application Form to trent.clarke@volleyball.org.au including specific details on why a Wild Card is required when compared to coming through the stated process. .

2.4.8.4 Wild Cards to Australian teams will only be issued in extraordinary situations.

2.4.8.5 A player will be awarded a maximum of 2 x AWCs each ABVT season for ABVT Elite events.

2.4.8.6 A maximum of 2 x **International Wild Cards (IWC)** will be issued for the Main Draw and an additional maximum of 4 x IWC will be issued for the Qualifying Tournament per gender.

2.4.8.7 An international team wishing to apply for inclusion into an ABVT event must complete their entry through that events system meeting all requirements. Along with the completed entry, a team must submit an IWC Application Form to trent.clarke@volleyball.org.au including details on the most recent playing experience, any national or international results, a clearance from the relevant National Federation and any other relevant information to support the team's inclusion.

2.4.8.8 The above numbers of Wild Cards as outlined above, may be changed at any time prior to the E-Technical Meeting at the discretion of the TCC. This clause, in principle will only exist in the 2021/2022 season and is due to the increased number of international teams looking for a safe environment to play due to the spread of COVID-19 world-wide. Any amendment to these clauses as outlined will be communicated to all players as soon as possible.

2.4.8.9 In the case where there are more Wild Card applications than available places, a Wild Card Selection Committee (WCSC) may be created and at their sole discretion, will decide all Wild Cards. The WCSC will be comprised of:

- Volleyball Australia's CEO – representing the commercial and political interests of the ABVT & VA
- Volleyball Australia's Performance Director - representing the High Performance and Development opportunities for VA athletes

- ABVT Tournament Director - representing the State Tours, the Tour itself and the operational deliverables of the ABVT

2.4.8.10 Any member of the WCSC has the sole discretion to delegate this responsibility to someone of commensurate standing from within the sport.

2.4.8.11 In the event that less Wild Cards (AWC or IWC) are offered than positions available, the next highest ranked Australian team/s will be promoted from the Qualifying Tournament to the Main Draw.

2.4.9 **ABVT Challenger Series** Entry for those who elect to enter directly into the Challenger Series will follow the same process outlined in 2.4.1-2.4.6 above. There are no further restrictions on entry.

2.5 ABVT EVENT SEEDING

2.5.1 Australian Teams entered into an ABVT Event will be seeded by:

1. Combined ABVRS Points from each player's best 5 results on the ABVRS from 1st July 2020 (COVID-19 Rules), then;
2. Drawing of Lots.

2.5.1.1 Where an AWC exists, the TCC will seed this team as appropriately as possible with all information available to them, in comparison to those teams making up the draw.

2.5.2 International Teams entered into an ABVT Elite Event will be seeded according to the below:

1. If a team that is awarded an IWC into the Main Draw includes either player that is ranked inside the top 50 teams in the world, according to FIVB team rankings, this team will be seeded at position three (3) of the Main Draw.
2. If a team has both players that are not part of the teams ranked in the top 50 of the world, according to FIVB rankings, this team will be seeded by comparing the FIVB World Tour points to that of Australian teams making up the Main Draw.
3. In the case where both IWCs allocated to a Main Draw consist of players ranked within the top 50, according to FIVB team rankings, they will be seeded in seeds three (3), and six (6), in order of FIVB ranking.
4. In the case of no FIVB points, a team will be seeded at the sole discretion of the TCC using any information supplied and available to them.
5. IWCs awarded to the Qualification Tournament will be given seeds three (3), four (4), five (5) and six (6). There is no requirement to fill all four IWC Qualification Tournament allocation. If this is not filled, the TCC will enter teams into the Qualification Tournament using the above range, as appropriate.

2.5.3 All Main Draw Teams will be reseeded at the conclusion of the Qualification Tournament.

2.5.4 The TCC reserves the right to amend the seeding for any team at their sole discretion using any information supplied and available to them.

2.6 ABVT ELITE FINALS

2.6.1 In order to qualify to play the Finals of the ABVT Elite, you must have participated in, as a minimum, the below events in 2021-22 prior to the ABVT Elite Finals:

- 1 x ABVT Tour event, and;
- 1 x Mikasa Cup (State Open) event.

2.6.2 There are no minimum qualifications to enter The ABVT Challenger Series Finals.

2.6.3 ABVT Elite Finals format will be consistent with all prior events which includes a Qualifying Tournament.

2.7 EVENT MEETINGS & ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS

2.7.1 Preliminary Inquiry

2.7.1.1 A Preliminary Inquiry will be held before each round. This Preliminary Inquiry is to check the attendance and eligibility of each athlete.

2.7.1.2 The Preliminary Inquiry will be conducted at a time and place to be advised by VA.

2.7.1.3 At the end of the Preliminary Inquiry, the Tournament Director will approve the final list of the participating teams allowed to enter the competition.

2.7.1.4 Attendance by both team members at the Preliminary Inquiry is compulsory.

2.7.1.5 If a player/s is wishing to be granted exemption from a meeting, they must apply in writing to the TCC at least 7 days prior to the first Meeting of the event.

2.7.1.6 Coaches, referees, or other support staff are welcome to attend however cannot replace athlete attendance.

2.7.1.7 In the case where the Preliminary Inquiry is held virtually, players must follow the instructions and complete this process honestly. Failure to adhere to instructions, including uniform pickup, may result in a fine or removal from the tournament.

2.7.2 Technical Meeting

2.7.2.1 ABVT Events will not be holding a face-to-face Technical Meeting. An E-Technical Meeting will be utilised in the 2021/22 season. If a face-to-face Technical Meeting is required, all athletes will be advised.

2.7.2.2 The E-Technical Meeting information will be sent to all competing athletes and posted on the ABVT website prior to the Qualification Tournament.

2.7.2.3 It is the responsibility of all players to read and ensure they have understood the information presented in the E-Technical Meeting.

2.7.2.4 The E-Technical Meeting information may cover the following but not limited to:

- Technical aspects of the competition & schedule.
- Medical Support/Services & Anti-Doping Information
- Media & Marketing activities.
- Information on the Rules of the Game, refereeing instructions, Duty Instructions & interpretation of the Rules.
- Any other useful information.

2.8 WITHDRAWAL & CHANGING OF PLAYERS

2.8.1 Any player or team withdrawing from an event must do so in writing to the TCC.

2.8.2 Once nominations have closed, a refund will NOT be provided for teams that don't have a medical reason or a "special case".

2.8.3 If withdrawing for medical reasons, or a "special case" exists, a request for a refund on entry fees may be made to the TCC contained within the withdrawal letter. Proof may be requested.

2.8.4 Change of players in a team is only allowed if the TCC believes there is just cause for the change (i.e. medical or special conditions). The team will be responsible for all financial implications. No player changes to teams will be allowed after the conclusion of the Preliminary Inquiry. This player change cannot consist of a player who has entered the same event, without that player's original team being unable to compete due to injury, or a similar exceptional case.

2.8.5 A new team (with a change of player as approved above) does not automatically retain its ranking within the tournament. Any changes to the draw or seeding will be made at the discretion of the TCC and all athletes will be informed at the Technical Meeting.

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2.8.6 The TCC reserves the right to issue last minute WCs if the WC allocation has not been filled based on player injury. If this occurs, the player entering the event must be from outside those who have already entered.

2.8.7 Any team who is unable to travel to an ABVT Elite or ABVT Challenger Series Event and compete due to restrictions being implemented in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic will be refunded their entry fee.

2.9 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

2.9.1 The TCC is the highest authority of any ABVT Event. The TCC can use any information supplied and available to them at their discretion to make decisions with regard to all aspects of an Event, including but not limited to entries, seeding, competition format and player, coach and officials conduct.

2.9.2 The TCC has the right to consult with external people, including but not limited to players, officials, other VA Staff and contractors, to make decisions.

2.9.3 The TCC decision is final.

2.9.4 The TCC has the right to impose a sanction on a team if they deem a dispute or protest to be unwarranted or not in the spirit of the event.

3 AWARDS

3.1 MEDAL PRESENTATION CEREMONY

3.1.1 It is mandatory for the top 3 placed teams to participate at the Medal Presentation Ceremony in full playing uniform. Unless authorised by the TCC, no other clothing, uniform, or accessories are permitted.

3.1.2 The Awarding Ceremony will take place immediately after the final gold medal match of the event unless otherwise advertised.

3.1.3 Event Staff will advise all athletes of any additional specific details of the ceremony.

3.2 AWARDS, PRIZES & PRIZE MONEY

3.2.1 All awards, prizes and money are to be equally split between both genders.

3.2.2 Prizes and Prize Money will be advised in the E-Technical Meeting notes at each event.

3.2.3 Prize Money for ABVT Elite Events will be paid to the top 50% of teams, up to a maximum of 8 teams. The breakdown of the prize money will be as follows:

ABVT Elite Placings	Percentage of prize money on offer (per gender)	Example on $5000 per Gender
1st	35%	$1750
2nd	25%	$1250
3rd	15%	$750
4th	9%	$450
Equal 5th	4 x 4%	4 x $200

3.2.1 ABVT Challenger Series Prize Money will be paid to the top 25% of Division 1 teams, up to a maximum of 4 teams. The breakdown of the prize money will be as follows:

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ABVT Challenger Series (Div 1) Placings	Percentage of prize money on offer (per gender)	Example on $1000 per Gender
1st	40%	$400
2nd	30%	$300
3rd	20%	$200
4th	10%	$100

* No prize money will be awarded for the Qualifying Tournament

3.2.2 Prize money for any other Divisions is at the discretion of the Event Organiser.

3.2.3 Promoters of the Mikasa Cup events will set their own prize money, in line with 2.6.2, and will advertise this amount prior to entries closing. Promoters will confirm the prize money for each division at the Technical Meeting.

3.3 ABVT ELITE BONUS POOL, ABVT CHALLENGER SERIES AND MIKASA CUP

3.3.1 The ABVT Tour Events will have a winner takes all Bonus Pool of $1,000 per gender for the highest placed **team** across all ABVT Elite Events, including finals. This will be determined by the Total Points earned at ABVT Elite Events only, incorporating all divisions.

3.3.2 In the case of a tie, on points, the Bonus Pool will be evenly split between the two teams and dual winners will be announced.

3.3.3 The ABVT Challenger Series will be awarded to the highest placed team across all Challenger Series Events. This will be determined by the Total Points earned at ABVT Challenger Series events only incorporating all divisions.

3.3.4 In the case of a tie, on points, the ABVT Challenger Series will be awarded to the two teams and dual winners will be announced.

3.3.5 The Mikasa Cup will be awarded to the highest placed team across all Mikasa Cup Events. This will be determined by the Total Points earned at Mikasa Cup only incorporating all divisions.

3.3.6 In the case of a tie, on points, the Mikasa Cup will be awarded to the two teams and dual winners will be announced.

3.3.7 In all Bonus Pools or Awards outlined in 3.3, only teams will attract points and individual points will not be carried over to additional partners.

3.4 ABVRS POINTS TABLE

3.4.1 The updated ABVRS Points Table can be found on the ABVT website.

4 ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITIES & SERVICES

4.1 RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1.1 It is the responsibility of each athlete to read VA's COVID Safe Event Plan and adhere to the guidelines and restrictions.

4.2 REFEREEING

4.2.1 Where required by the event, athletes will be required to perform the roles of a duty team during an event. A Duty Team will fulfil the roles of a 1st referee and a 2nd referee/scorer. You **MUST** use your own whistle.

4.2.2 When member/s of the event's Officiating Cohort is appointed to a match, duty teams must check with the appointed officials on court as to what role they are required to fulfil (if any).

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4.2.3 Any person officiating a match (in any role) will be deemed an Official. They will therefore be bound by the VA Officials Code of Ethics.

4.2.4 Individuals performing a duty may request an assessment by the Referee Delegate to assist with the skill development. This request must be submitted at the commencement of the tournament. The Referee Delegate will attempt to schedule all requests considering volume and any match clashes. A written assessment and feedback form will be provided as well as verbal feedback following the match. There is no limit to the number of assessments that an individual may request, however these are not guaranteed and are subject to time constraints.

4.2.5 The following referee positions must be accredited to the minimum of;

- Event appointed Referees who are selected through the VA/VARC EOI process – Level 2 Talent Development Referee
- National Referee Delegate (s) – Level 3 Elite Referee (Selected by VARC and VA)

4.2.6 The Event Refereeing Cohort is the group of all appointed Officials appointed to the event including the Referees and National Refereeing Delegate along with any support staff that may be appointed.

4.2.7 Unless an Event Official is appointed to a game, the following pre-match protocol is to be followed:

- **T - 10 Mins** Previous Game completed & teams able to warm up on own side of net
- **T - 8 Mins** Duty Team ready at court
- **T - 7 Mins** Call for the coin toss, scoresheet is signed (captains and service order are indicated on the scoresheet) and commence Official Warm-up
- **T - 6 Mins** Hitting warm-up starts
- **T - 1 Mins** Finish Official Warm-up and referees call for players to prepare for match start
- **T – 0 Mins** Match Starts at advertised time or 10mins after previous match finishes

4.3 COACHING

4.3.1 Coaching is not permitted during matches as per FIVB Rules.

4.4 MEDIA & PROMOTIONS

4.4.1 Publicity and promotions may be conducted by the sponsors in conjunction with VA.

4.4.2 Player participation may be requested for promotional activities, particularly any event launches prior to each round. If your attendance is requested, you will be contacted by the appropriate designated representative of VA and given further details on the activity. Your co-operation is requested to ensure maximum exposure and publicity for your profile, the sport and that of the event.

4.5 EVENT FACILITIES & SERVICES

4.5.1 Each ABVT event will focus on a centre court facility consisting of but not limited to seating, PA system, music & commentary, public interactions & promotions, VIP marquee facilities, access to toilets, referee facilities, media, competition management, several outside courts and medical services.

4.5.2 Event Operational Areas including VIP, Competition Office and Operations Compound have restricted access. Access to these areas for anyone, including athletes, is by invitation only of the TCC representatives only.

4.5.3 Qualified senior first aid personnel will attend each round to administer any first aid treatment required by competitors, staff, or spectators.

4.5.4 The ABVT will comply with all conditions of the VA Anti-Doping Policy and the rules and regulations of Sports Integrity Australia (SIA) through the Sport Integrity Australia Act 2020, the Sport Integrity Australia Regulations 2020 and the National Anti-Doping (NAD) scheme.

Further information can be obtained via *- ASADA website* www.asada.org.au

4.6 UNIFORMS & PERSONAL ACCESSORIES

4.6.1 Athletes must wear the official top/singlet provided by the ABVT at all times, during a match, on the field of play, during official warm-up periods, during post-match interviews, during the medal ceremony and during press conferences.

4.6.1.1 If no uniform is provided/required, players may choose to wear their own tops however they must be of the same style & colour

4.6.2 Men and Women must provide their own shorts/bikini bottoms. Teams must wear shorts/bikini bottoms of the same colour and style including any logos or sponsors. Player names are excluded from this clause.

4.6.3 Upon the request of the TCC, athletes must submit their own shorts/bikini bottoms for approval during the Preliminary Inquiry.

4.6.4 During severe weather conditions (hot or cold) the TCC may allow players to use additional garments that do not obscure the official uniforms. These may include but not limited to a tight shirt, long tight pants, or other additional clothing. It is requested that these be as consistent in style and colour as possible within a team. Players will be advised through any of the Referees, Referee Delegate or Tournament Director when additional garments are allowed. Players cannot wear additional clothing without TCC approval.

4.6.5 Sunglasses, hats, visors, arm & wristbands, and medical clothing including compression garments are not considered part of the official team uniform. They may be of a different design/style within teams and may be worn at any time.

4.6.5.1 For any medical garments, it is requested that the effected player have information relating to the requirement of the garment from a medical practitioner prior to the event and available to the TCC upon request.

4.6.6 Religious or Cultural Garments are allowed however must not obstruct the official team uniform. It is also requested the TCC is made aware of this upon a team's entry.

4.7 PERSONAL & EVENT SPONSORS

4.7.1 VA is committed to building the profile of the ABVT athletes. To support this campaign VA will endeavour to feature player information in promotional activities such as television programming, website content, printed materials and editorial content concerning the ABVT.

4.7.2 VA is committed to supporting ABVT sponsors and asks that players be similarly committed to such support. Sponsors that do not conflict with VA or Event sponsors or conflict with rules outlined in this handbook will be permitted to appear on Players during ABVT events at the discretion of TCC. Player sponsors that conflict with ABVT sponsors will not be permitted at any time unless advised in writing by the TCC.

4.7.3 VA and Event sponsors will constantly be updated. To get current accurate information, please contact VA.

4.7.4 It is the Players responsibility to contact VA with their sponsorship arrangements prior to the Event to ensure there is no conflict. VA reserves the rights to refuse a player wearing specific promotional material if a sponsor is directly conflicting with a VA or Event sponsors or any garment, accessory or the like is bringing the sport into disrepute.

4.7.5 No political, religious, tobacco sponsors or statements are allowed.

4.7.6 Once athletes have received confirmation that there are no potential conflicts, they are authorised to have the confirmed sponsor's logos on their shorts/ bottoms located in any position and of any size. There is no limitation in the number of sponsors to be displayed on the shorts/ bottoms.

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4.7.7 Athletes are authorised to use the following accessories:

- Visor/cap/hat/head band
- Sunglasses
- Therapeutic/Medical support braces for knee/elbow
- One (1) watch

4.7.8 Athletes are responsible for presentation, care, security, and costs of their own accessories.

4.8 MISCONDUCT AND SANCTIONS

4.8.1 All sanctions and penalties will be followed as per the Rules of the Game in the first instance.

4.8.2 If a penalty other than a loss of rally occurs during a match, a member of the TCC must be informed immediately.

4.8.3 If no cards are physical available, the referee is to verbally advise both teams and the scorer.

4.8.4 The TCC can issue sanctions at any time through an event.

4.8.5 Any player expelled from a tournament will automatically be ineligible for any awards or prizes and that team will forfeit all entries fees and tournament points.

4.8.6 The TCC has the right to impose sanctions relating to any regulation not being followed and can be given to any member of an official delegation including recognised supporters. Sanctions will be placed against a team they are representing or supporting if they are a non-playing person. If the individual has completed their participation in an event, the TCC will advise on any penalties and how they will be implemented.

4.8.7 Sanctions may include but not limited to:

- Loss of point, set & matches within an event
- Expulsion from Tournament
- Loss of Tournament Points
- Refused entry into future events
- Reduced or withdrawn awards and prizes
- Monetary fines
- Event Management Requirements – e.g. assistance with raking courts or cleaning the venue

4.8.8 Any sanctions imposed by other recognised governing bodies will be respected.

4.8.9 All sanctions are cumulative and payable/dealt with in full prior to acceptance into any future VA or sanctioned events. If a monetary sanction is imposed during event that offers Prize Money, the sanction fee will be deducted from Prize Money earned for that event.

4.8.10 Sanctions can be issued after the conclusion of an event.

5 POLICES & FORMS

5.1.1 All Policies, forms and Conditions used are found on the VA website, by contacting the VA office or at the event through the Tournament Director.

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