

VOLLEYBALL AUSTRALIA

BEACH VOLLEYBALL SELECTION POLICY 2023-2024

Preamble

- A. This Selection Policy applies to Men's and Women's Beach Volleyball National Teams for 2023 and 2024. It will apply to the following selection decisions:
1. Decision as to which teams/athletes are entered into Beach Pro Tour, Asian Tour and Oceania Tour events.
 2. Selection of teams/athletes to compete in the 2023 FIVB Beach Volleyball Senior World Championships.
 3. Selection of teams/athletes to compete in 2023 and 2024 AVC Asian Senior Beach Volleyball Championships.
 4. Selection of teams/athletes to compete for Australia at the 2023-24 FIVB/AVC Continental Cup process/tournaments for 2024 Paris Olympic Qualification.
- B. The Policy will be applied by the VA Selection Committee, which will make recommendations to the VA board for approval.

A Selection Committee will be appointed consisting of:

- National High Performance Director (Chair)
- National Performance Pathways Manager
- National Coach - VA Men's Beach Volleyball
- National Coach - VA Women's Beach Volleyball
- Up to two other persons with extensive international Beach Volleyball or high performance experience, but unconnected to the teams/athletes standing for selection.

If a member of the Selection Committee has a direct coaching relationship or other close connection with a team or athlete being considered for selection, that person will disclose the relationship and may or may not take part in the selection decision concerning that team or athlete, at the Chair's discretion.

- C. The criteria listed below will be applied in each selection decision. However, the weight given to each criterion will be at the discretion of the Selection Committee, and the weight may vary dependent on the selection decision being considered, and the timing of that decision.
- D. The dates for the making of the various selection decisions are listed below as indicative and these may change at the recommendation of the Selection Committee

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- E. The Selection Committee may propose any amendments to this Policy to the VA Board at any time. Such amendments are only valid when adopted by the VA Board.

Selection Criteria

In making the selection decisions referred to in A above, the Selection Committee will take into account the following Selection Criteria:

- VA and FIVB eligibility criteria.
- Relevant FIVB Rankings at the time of making the Selection Decision.
- Relevant AVC Beach Volleyball Rankings and Australian Beach Volleyball Rankings at the time of making the Selection Decision.
- Individual and team international results in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 as appropriate.
- The proven ability of the team/athletes to achieve the best results in like events to the event concerned in the Selection Decision.
- The team's/athlete's commitment to the 2024 Olympic Games, 2023 World Championships and 2023 & 2024 Beach Pro Tour campaigns, and, and to following the national direction as specified by the VA National Coach/es and the National High Performance Director.
- The perceived potential for development as individuals for the 2028 and/or 2032 Olympics and 2026 Commonwealth Games.
- Timely provision to the National High Performance Director and VA National Coach/es of the team's/athlete's performance plan, injury and fitness and competition readiness status, and their commitment to performance monitoring and reporting.
- Attendance at national camps as notified by the National High Performance Director and VA National Coach/es.
- Domestic Tour results in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 will be taken into account at the Selection Committee's discretion.
- The Selection Committee may also determine that participation and results of a designated selection tournament, or play-off may be used to make any final decision, provided advance notice of this has been given to the teams/athletes concerned.
- The categorisation of the players under the Volleyball Australia AIS Athlete Categorisation model.
- Injury status and competition readiness.



Selection Timelines

The following are indicative dates for the Selection Decisions mentioned above. They may change as circumstances, entry closing dates and calendars change.

Beach Pro Tour, AVC Asian Tour and Oceania Tour events	On or before 45 days before the event, unless special circumstances apply
2023 FIVB Beach Volleyball Senior World Championships	On or before the deadline named by the FIVB
Asian Senior Beach Volleyball Championships	On or before the deadline named by the AVC
2023-24 FIVB/AVC Continental Cup process/tournaments for Paris Olympic Qualification	On or before the deadline named by the AVC/FIVB

Eligibility Criteria

In order to be chosen by VA as a member of a National Beach Volleyball team to compete in international events (including international events held in Australia) each athlete must:

- a) have a current and valid Australian Passport;
- b) not have represented another country in any sport for the preceding two years;
- c) be a registered and financial member of a State or Territory volleyball governing body that is a Member of VA (as the term "Member" is defined in the Constitution); and
- d) be compliant with all applicable anti-doping policies, including those of FIVB, the AOC and VA; and
- e) be free of any injury or illness which will or has the potential to impair, inhibit or prevent the athlete from performing at the requisite level;
- f) be compliant with any eligibility guidelines published from time to time by the FIVB or AVC, including rules and guidelines which apply to eligibility to represent Australia in the sport of beach volleyball;

Appeals

The sole grounds upon which an athlete may appeal his or her non-selection in a Team or for an event are:

1. The Selection Policy has not been properly followed or implemented.
2. The athlete was prevented from having a reasonable opportunity to meet the Selection Criteria.
3. There was no material on which the decision of the athlete's non-selection could reasonably be based.
4. The nomination decision was affected by bias.



Any appeal from an athlete against his or her non-selection by VA for all events will be resolved according to the following procedure:

- a) The appeal will be heard by the VA Appeal Tribunal (**VA Tribunal**) or the National Sports Tribunal (**the NST**) at the election of the VA CEO.
- b) The appellant must be the athlete who has not been selected.
- c) The appellant must give written notice, including grounds of his or her appeal to VA's CEO within 48 hours of the being informed of the Selection Committee's decision.
- d) Failure to observe the above time limits will render any appeal a nullity provided that an athlete may apply to the VA CEO for an extension of time in which to commence an appeal. The VA CEO has discretion whether to grant an extension of time, although shall only do so in circumstances where the delay is caused by extenuating circumstances outside the control of the athlete concerned.
- e) The VA Tribunal will comprise the following persons, as appointed by the VA Board:
 - A barrister or solicitor who will act as Chair;
 - A person with a thorough knowledge of the sport and who preferably has had recent international competition experience in the sport; and
 - One other person of experience and skills suitable to the function of the Tribunal.
- f) The NST will be engaged under *the National Sports Tribunal Act, 2019* and complementary legislation (**the NST Legislation**). The NST will apply the relevant processes in the NST legislation and will manage the appeal accordingly, except in so far as the NST processes are inconsistent with the procedural matters set out in this Policy..
- g) No person is eligible to be appointed to the VA Tribunal or an NST panel if he or she is a member of the VA Board or the Selection Committee, or if by reason of his or her relationship with the appellant or any member of the Board or Selection Committee he or she would be reasonably considered to be other than impartial.
- h) VA and the appellant must identify and propose to the VA Tribunal or the NST any athletes who may be interested parties, being athletes who have been selected for the team which is the subject of the appeal, or non-selected athletes otherwise eligible for selection to the team which is the subject of the appeal. Athletes themselves may also identify themselves to the VA Tribunal or the NST as potential interested parties, and indicate if they wish to participate in the appeal. Interested parties must receive the notice of appeal, and be given the opportunity to make submissions in the appeal and give evidence.
- i) The VA Tribunal or the NST will convene a hearing as soon as possible after the submission of the grounds of appeal. The VA Tribunal or the NST is not bound by the rules of evidence but must observe the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness.
- j) As soon as possible, prior to the hearing, the Selection Committee will provide the VA Tribunal or the NST, the appellant and any interested parties with a written statement as to the reasons for the decision against which the appeal is made.
- k) In the case of an appeal before the VA Tribunal, the VA CEO or the Chair of the VA Tribunal may impose any other procedure for the appeal which, in either's belief, is fair or appropriate in the circumstances. It will be the responsibility of the NST to determine and manage the process of an appeal before it.



- l) The VA Tribunal or the NST will give its decision as soon as practicable after the hearing and will provide the VA CEO, the appellant and any interested parties with a statement of the reasons for its decision.
- m) Subject to (n) below, where the VA Tribunal or the NST upholds the appeal, the VA Tribunal or the NST must refer any subsequent decision regarding selection for the team back to the Selection Committee for reconsideration and redetermination, and the Selection Committee must observe the principles of natural justice.
- n) Notwithstanding (m) above, the VA Tribunal or the NST may itself determine the issue of the appellant's selection where the VA Tribunal or the NST determines that it would be impractical to refer the redetermination back to the Selection Committee, given the time available, or that in making its decision, the Selection Committee had such disregard for proper application of the Selection Policy that a reasonable person would apprehend that it is unlikely that the Selection Policy would be applied properly by the Selection Committee if the decision regarding the appellant's non-selection was referred back to the Selection Committee.

The decision of the VA Tribunal or the NST will be final and binding on the parties and it is agreed that neither party will institute or maintain proceedings in any court or tribunal other than the VA Tribunal or the NST.