

VOLLEYBALL AUSTRALIA SELECTION POLICY

Men's and Women's Under-Age Beach Volleyball National Teams 2023

Vision

- 1) The vision of Volleyball Australia's High-Performance Program is to achieve sustainable medal-winning results in Olympic Beach Volleyball competition. This vision is underpinned by the activities of the National Performance Pathway, which includes performances in Under-Age National Team events.

Objective

- 2) The objective of this Selection Policy is to provide the framework that underpins VA's performance aspirations to achieve the following results:
 - a. A top 4 result at the U21 AVC Beach Volleyball Asian Championships
 - b. A top 8 result at U21 FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships
 - c. Podium performances in the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games (Trinidad 2023).
 - d. A primary consideration in the selection process will be the future potential of the teams/athletes to qualify for and achieve a top 8 result at a subsequent FIVB U21 World Beach Volleyball Championships and future senior National Team representation.

Preamble

- 3) This Selection Policy applies to Men's and Women's under-age Beach Volleyball National Teams for 2023. It will apply to the following selection decisions:
 - a. Selection of teams/athletes to compete in the 2023 U21 AVC Beach Volleyball Asian Championships
 - b. Selection of teams/athletes to compete in the 2023 U21 FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships
 - c. Selection of teams/athletes to compete in the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games (U19) - Beach Volleyball
- 4) The Policy will be applied by the Selection Committee, which will make recommendations to the VA Board for ratification. The Selection Committee will consist of:

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- a. VA National Performance Director (Chair)
- b. VA National Performance Pathways Manager
- c. VA National Coach, Beach Volleyball – DVR Women
- d. VA National Coach, Beach Volleyball – DVR Men
- e. Up to two other people with Beach Volleyball and/or international 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 will not take part in the selection decision concerning that team or athlete.

- 5) 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.

Nomination Criteria for Trinbago 2023

- 8) In making the selection decisions referred to in 3. above, the Selection Committee will consider the following Criteria:
 - a. VA and FIVB eligibility criteria
 - b. Must be born on January 1st, 2003 and thereafter for U21 and January 1st, 2005 and thereafter for U19.
 - c. Individual performances in 2021, 2022 and 2023 Beach Volleyball and Volleyball competitions (domestic and international) and national camps (National Development Program, Australian Volleyball Academy)
 - d. The athlete's individual status on the Volleyball Australia Athlete Categorisation list
 - e. The assessed ability of the team/athletes to achieve the best results in the event concerned in the Selection Decision
 - f. The assessed potential for development as individuals for future Olympic and Commonwealth Games Teams
 - g. The team's/athlete's injury, fitness and competition readiness status
 - h. The team's/athlete's commitment to following the National direction as specified by the National Coaches, National Performance Director and the National Performance Pathway Manager.
 - i. The team's/ athlete's availability to compete in and prepare for the event for their targeted age group.



Selection Timelines

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

2023 U21 AVC Beach Volleyball Asian Championships:	On or before 7 days prior to the Entry Closing Date
2023 U21 FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships:	On or before 7 days prior to the Entry Closing Date
2023 Commonwealth Youth Games - Beach Volleyball:	On or before 7 days prior to Team Nomination Closing Date

VA Eligibility Criteria

- 10) 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, or be eligible to immediately become, 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).
 - d. Not have breached VA's National Integrity Framework, including VA's Anti-Doping Policy, unless the athlete has already been sanctioned for the breach and completed the sanction imposed;
 - e. Be and remain in 'good standing' with Volleyball Australia and at all times comply with Volleyball Australia's Code of Conduct and conduct themselves in a way that does not bring themselves, their sport, or the Team into disrepute.
 - f. 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.
 - g. Be compliant with any eligibility guidelines published from time to time by the FIVB or the AVC, including rules and guidelines which apply to eligibility to represent Australia in the sport of Beach Volleyball.

Appeals - General

- 11) The sole grounds upon which an athlete may appeal his or her non-selection in a Team or for an event are:
- a. The Selection Policy has not been properly followed or implemented
 - b. The athlete was prevented from having a reasonable opportunity to meet the Selection Criteria.
 - c. There was no material on which the athlete's non-selection could reasonably be based.
 - d. The selection decision was affected by actual bias.



Any appeal from an athlete against his or her non-selection by VA for all events excluding the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games 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:
 - i. A barrister or solicitor who will act as Chair;
 - ii. A person with a thorough knowledge of the sport and who preferably has had recent international competition experience in the sport; and
 - iii. 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.

2023 Trinbago Australian Commonwealth Youth Games Team

Beach Volleyball for the second time has been included in the Commonwealth Youth Games to be held in Trinidad & Tobago (Trinbago 2023) from 4-11 August, 2023. The Beach Volleyball competition will have a women's and men's division and Australia will have 1 team of 2 athletes for each gender.

Volleyball Australia (VA) has been invited to participate, as part of the Trinbago 2023 Australian Commonwealth Youth Games Team (Team) under the auspices of Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA). This Team provides the opportunity for pathway athletes to travel and compete in an international multisport event, to support their progression towards future Beach Volleyball junior and senior national team programs and activities.

The Team will be comprised of athletes nominated by VA to CGA from eligible members of the National Development Program. (NDP)

The VA Athlete Under-Age Beach Volleyball Selection Policy applies to the nomination of the Team to CGA for the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games. CGA will be responsible for making final selections.

Athletes must meet the respective age requirements by the end of the year of the competition (31 December 2023) for that sport as per the International Federation's Rules and Regulations. For Beach Volleyball, the age range is 14-18 years old (born in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009).



In addition to age eligibility requirements, to be recognised as a member of the Trinbago 2023 Long List, the Athlete must:

- a. be an Australian citizen; and
- b. be a member of VA, otherwise, eligible to represent VA; and
- c. not have breached the CGA Anti-Doping By-Law unless the athlete has already been sanctioned for the breach and completed the sanction imposed; and
- d. have pre-signed the CGA Trinbago 2023 Team Membership Agreement (the Nomination Criteria).

VA will advise CGA of the Athletes that it has identified to nominate as members of the Trinbago 2023 Long List as required by CGA.

If an Athlete breaches the requirements of this Nomination Criteria, VA may suspend or terminate the Athlete's membership of the Trinbago 2023 Long List.

Nomination of Athletes - Trinbago

For the purposes of nomination to CGA of Athletes for selection to the Team, VA will:

- a. only nominate Athletes who are Australian citizens and have not by their actions or omissions brought themselves or the sport into disrepute;
- b. only nominate those Athletes it honestly believes have met the requirements described in the Nomination Criteria;
- c. only nominate those Athletes who have signed the CGA Trinbago 2023 Team Membership Agreement;
- d. not nominate more than 2 Athletes for women and 2 Athletes for men to the Team;
- e. not nominate Athletes who have breached CGA Anti-Doping By-Law unless the Athlete has already been sanctioned for the breach and has completed the sanction imposed.

The Team shall comprise of 2 athletes for Women and 2 Athletes for Men. At the discretion of Selectors, an additional pool of athletes will be longlisted as reserves in case of injury/illness/other. These athletes, unless elevated to Team due to injury/illness/other, will not travel. Reserve athletes will not be nominated to nor selected by CGA unless they are required to replace a previously selected athlete.

Appeals - Trinbago

For the Commonwealth Youth Games CGA adopts the jurisdiction of the National Sports Tribunal (NST) in CGA policies/procedures including for disputes/appeals arising from the nomination of athletes to the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games Team.

The following CGA Team Nomination, Selection and Appeals By-Law sets out relevant the process and procedure relating applies to any CGA nomination appeals.

<https://commonwealthgames.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Team-Nomination-Selection-Appeals-By-Laws.pdf>