COMPETITION RULES

Volleyball

Revised | April 2026

1. TEAM ENTRY

1.1 Grades are:

Senior A, B and C - it is recommended that teams are selected from girls in Years 10-12. When selecting girls younger than Years 10-12 in the senior divisions, size, skill level and physical strength must be taken into consideration.

Middle A, B and C - middle teams will consist of only players from up to Year 9.

The Shield grade is **Senior A**.
The Pennant grade is **Middle A**.

Shield/Pennant competitions are only held in Term 1.
Term 4 competitions are non-Shield/Pennant across all grades.

1.2 It is expected that each IGSSA school enters one team in all core grades.

Schools may enter unlimited teams in C grade volleyball.

1.3 In Shield grades, a team may request that their opposition lend them a player,,or match their numbers if they do not have enough. If this happens, this is considered a forfeit by the team making the request, and a 'scratch match' may proceed.

1.4 Schools are expected to provide 1 venue (4 courts) for every 8 teams entered in the competition.

1.5 Schools who do not enter a team in an A-grade (or equivalent) competition are not eligible for finals in the corresponding B-grade (or equivalent) competition.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1 The strongest players should always play in the "A" team.

2.2 Every effort should be made to bring players up from a lower grade before playing a higher-grade player down.

2.2.1 A team who intends to play a player down must discuss/negotiate this with opposing school prior to match day or it must be negotiated between coaches before the game. Part of this discussion MUST be what the result will be (i.e., a forfeit if a higher year level girl plays in a lower-level team). Other modifications should be discussed and agreed, for example, the stronger player cannot serve.

2.3 Eligibility for a finals match: If half or more of the player(s) matches (including any semi-finals) have been played in any given grade, they can play in a final in that grade (as confirmation, if a player plays 50% of their matches in Senior A grade and 50% in Middle A grade, they would be eligible for finals in either grade).

For avoidance of doubt – players **can** play in a higher grade than where they have played 50% of their matches. For example, if a player had played solely in the Senior Bs, and the Senior As are short a player for a Final, the Senior B player may play.

A player may only play in **one** IGSSA Grand Final in each sport.

Schools are expected to keep player attendance records at games so that this information can be provided upon request (for example, student roll in Clipboard).

3. UMPIRING

3.1 Pool umpires organised by the IGSSA Executive Officer for up to three matches played on one court involving the Senior A fixture. This is likely to be Senior A, B and C, played at 8.00am, 9.00am and 10.00am.

3.2 For all other matches, the first listed team must supply an umpire. If necessary, the coach must umpire.

4. MATCH RULES (INC IGSSA-SPECIFIC RULES)

4.1 Unless stipulated below, all other match rules to be followed by Volleyball SA, rules here.

4.2 **Match Timing**

4.2.1 A grade matches will be for 55 minutes, except with reference to 4.2.1a below.

Sets are played to 25 points. A team wins a set when they have a score of at least 25, with a lead of 2 points. Any number of sets may be completed within the

specified playing time. In particular, the match does not end when a team wins 2 sets.

A set that has not reached a normal conclusion when the final siren sounds, 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.

The winner of a match shall be determined by the number of sets won. If teams are equal on sets, then the winner shall be determined by the total number of points won in all sets, completed or not. **If the teams are still equal, then the result is a draw**.

4.2.1 In Senior A matches only – if the set score is 1-1, then a third set can be played beyond the limits of the timer. Umpire is to make this clear to coaches. In this event, a third set is to be played to 15, unless coaches mutually agree prior that there is sufficient time (being more than 30 minutes left on the clock) to play to 25.

4.2.2 B and C Grade matches will be for 55 minutes or the best of five sets.

4.2.3 The fifth set is complete when one team reaches 25 points with an advantage of 2 points or more. If, at full-time, a set is not complete, the score will count only if one team has 15 or more points and leads by a minimum of 2 points.

4.2.4 FINALS ONLY – finals will be the best of three sets with the third set complete when one team has 15 or more points and leads by a minimum of 2 points.

4.3 A team should have a maximum of nine players. Continuous rotation is allowable.

4.4 There will be a maximum of two minutes between sets. The referee is responsible for timing the break and should indicate to both teams when there is thirty seconds left.

4.5 There will be no time-outs in the last five minutes of a game.

4.6 Score sheets must be signed by the referee upon completion of Shield/Pennant matches.

5 RESULTS

5.1 If a match is unable to commence for reasons beyond the control of either team, then every reasonable effort should be made to reschedule. Shield and Pennant grades should be prioritised where practical when venues are affected. If a mutually agreeable reschedule date between the participating schools cannot be reached, then the match result will be a draw, with 0-set differential.

5.2 All results from the preceding week's matches must be submitted to Clipboard by 48 hours post-fixture in order for accurate Premiership Tables to be published in a timely manner.

5.3 Scorers/Timers or an official rep from each school to be responsible for keeping score and time for the match. Both to sit together for the entire match and confer scores with officials at each break.

5.4 For IGSSA Premiership tables, scores will be calculated in sets only – no consideration for points scored will be given.

5.5 Three points will be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and zero points for a loss. In the event of a bye, the team drawn to have a bye will be awarded zero points. In the event of a forfeit, the non-offending team will be awarded three points and the maximum winning set margin. The offending team will be awarded zero points and the maximum losing set margin.

5.6 If **half or more** games from an IGSSA Division are unable to be completed in a single Shield/Pennant round, then **all games** from that round in that Division will be considered a draw, with a 0-point differential. For the avoidance of doubt, for example, if there are six scheduled Shield/Pennant games in a round, and three are unable to be completed, then all games in that round are considered a draw.

6 FINALS

6.1 Shield grades – single pool - two semi-finals, 1 v 4 and 2 v 3, will be scheduled, with the winners of the two semi-finals (finalists) playing for the Shield in the Grand Final. The winner of the Grand Final will be awarded the Shield. If season length/number of nominations does not allow for semi-finals, then a 1 v 2 Grand Final will be scheduled, and the winner of the Grand Final will be awarded the Shield.

Shield grades – two pools - two semi-finals, 1 (Pool A) v 2 (Pool B), and 2 (Pool A) v 1 (Pool B), will be scheduled, with the winners of the two semi-finals (finalists) playing for the Shield in the Grand Final. The winner of the Grand Final will be awarded the Shield. If season length/number of nominations does not allow for semi-finals, then a 1 (Pool A) v 1 (Pool B) Grand Final will be scheduled, and the winner of the Grand Final will be awarded the Shield.

Pennant grades – one Grand Final, 1 v 2, will be scheduled, and the winner of the Grand Final will be awarded the Pennant.

The team which finishes higher on the regular season ladder has the right to host any semi-finals, or the Grand Final, at their choice of home venue. In the event that the preferred home venue is not available, IGSSA will schedule an alternative venue in consultation with the school with hosting rights.

In the event that finalists are from different pools, the hosting rights will be granted to the team which earned more ladder points. If teams in one pool played fewer games than the teams in the other pool, overall ladders will be adjusted on average wins.

Finalists will be determined by total points initially (i.e., win/loss tally) and then SD (Score differential) if points are equal but a split needs to be made.

If the Score Differential is also equal, then the team who has won in Head-to-Head games in any Shield matches from the regular season will advance. Where more than one H2H Shield game has been played, total score from the two games shall be combined to determine a winner. For example, if Team Blue and Team Red played two Shield games in the regular season, with Blue winning the first 3-0, and Red winning the second 2-0, Team Blue would advance. If a further split needs to be made, then a point countback is to be made on all Head to Head Shield games.

6.2 If either or both semi-final matches cannot be played, the higher-ranked team will advance to the Grand Final.

6.3 If no Grand Final match can be played and team(s) are on tied points in Shield/Pennant grades at the end of the season, the Shield/Pennant winner will be identified using the following criteria:

i. Head-to-Head – Calculate the premiership points for games played between *each team involved in the tie* only. The school with the most Head-to-Head premiership points wins the Shield/Pennant (providing equal number of Head-to-Head games between tied teams exist). If there is still no clear winner from Head-to-Head calculation, then:

ii. Score Differential – Calculate the score differential for all games played. The team with the greatest score differential will be awarded the Shield/Pennant. If there is still no clear winner from the score differential, then:

iii. The Shield/Pennant will be shared between all teams on tied points.

7 EQUIPMENT

7.1 Teams fixtured in the first timeslot in the gym are responsible for setting up poles and nets, and the teams in the final timeslot in the gym are responsible for dismantling equipment.

7.2 The net height shall be as near as practical to 2.15m and no higher than 2.20m (with measurement made at the middle point of the net).

SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES

Sport plays an essential role in the personal and social development of students, fostering teamwork, discipline, and resilience. To ensure that every student has a positive and enriching experience on the field or court, it is important that we prioritise sportsmanship, respect, and enjoyment in every competition.

IGSSA's Sportsmanship Guidelines are designed to maintain a healthy balance in competition, ensuring that students from all skill levels and backgrounds have the opportunity to feel engaged and supported. In this spirit, collegiality and open communication between schools and coaches are vital. By working together, we can create an environment where the well-being of our athletes comes first, where every match is competitive yet compassionate, and where the values of respect, fairness, and encouragement shine through.

These guidelines are a reminder that while winning is part of sport, the ultimate goal is to nurture a love for the game and foster strong character in all our students.

CONSIDERATIONS

- If a game proceeds to a fourth set, at coaches discretion:
    - the leading team could rotate players after every serve.
    - trailing team could serve from between the baseline and the attack line.

It is expected that all players will embrace and respect Volleyball etiquette, including:

- Silence while serving
- Rolling ball under the net to return to opposition
- If a player is accidentally hit on the body or face by a ball, a quick and courteous apology gesture is appropriate