

Volleyball Alberta Premier League FAQ

2020-21 Season

November 6, 2020

Volleyball Alberta has released a draft version of our 2020-21 competition season. To answer additional questions regarding the competitive framework, we have created a short FAQ document.

Volleyball Alberta continues to work diligently with government officials, and our facility partners. While we are the first to admit that we would like to do things 'normally', this format is the best compromise to allow for variety in competition with as regular a schedule possible, for as many teams possible, and to help offset the limited access to practice facilities.

Q&A 1: Is the entire league fee required at the time of registration?

Due to feedback from clubs, we will create a 2-step registration method where a deposit is required at the time of registration to secure a spot in the league. The remaining fees are then due by the registration deadline.

Q&A 2: How does the waitlist work?

All league registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Once a league is full, teams will be added to a waitlist. There is no fee to be added to the waitlist. Volleyball Alberta will include as many teams as possible into the leagues; teams that are waitlisted will only be allowed access to register in groups of 4. The registration deposit and/or fee will be required at that time.

Access to facilities are limited & the number of teams permitted must be capped to manage and maximize the use of our facilities.

Q&A 3: How do I request a refund?

All refund requests must be emailed to the Program Manager overseeing that program or event.

Email your refund request with the reason for the cancellation/withdrawal request and please include (forward) a copy of the registration confirmation email to help us review your request and to get back to you as quickly as possible.

Q&A 4: Are the leagues going to be regional?

The leagues are set up regionally based on the north/south split used for Premier #1 tournaments. The divisional map is provided in the competition framework.

If you feel that there is an opportunity for us to set up a regional league outside of the Edmonton & Calgary, please reach out to us. We want to work with our clubs to provide the best fit for a safe competitive model for our membership.

Q&A 5: What is "Interlock Championship"?

The term Interlock Championship is used to define provincial play between the various approved leagues in Alberta. Volleyball Alberta will engage our clubs to see if there is interest in participating in a Provincial interlock once teams have registered in the Premier Leagues.

Q&A 6: Will spectators be allowed?

Currently, spectators will not be permitted inside the facilities. Some facilities do not allow for spectators, and others need to manage the number of people inside the building and to comply with their guidelines. As the situation with COVID-19 changes, we may review this decision and adjustments could be made on a provincial or regional basis. Our goal is to reduce the risk as much as possible and maintain positive relationships with our facilities.

Q&A 7: Will teams need to provide scorekeepers & line judges?

The current plan is to use a point tracker like beach versus a paper scoresheet which will eliminate the need for parents and/or additional volunteers in the facility.

Q&A 8: Do teams need to participate in the Premier Leagues to participate in the Interlock Championships?

Yes, teams are required to participate in the Premier Leagues to participate in the Interlock Championship. Consideration will be given if teams participating in the Premier Leagues choose not to participate in the Interlock Championships.

Q&A 9: Are teams able to compete with 5 athletes? What happens if a team is unable to play?

Teams are required to have 6 athletes to compete. We are currently looking into competition options if a team drops below 6 athletes or a team is unable to participate (due to covid) prior to competition. These options include, but are not limited to:

- 3 Team Schedule
- Best of 5's vs Best of 3's, or a certain number of sets

Q&A 10: How is our team's ranking affected if we are unable to play?

Teams unable to compete during a round of competition will fall to the lowest ranking in their pool for that round. Movement will occur every two weeks and the process of movement is still being finalized. Movement may vary between age classes and leagues, depending on league registrations and what is appropriate for that level of play.

Q&A 11: Are teams able to sign 13 athletes?

Teams are only allowed to sign a maximum of 12 athletes. All athletes participating in training are considered part of the team's cohort which is currently limited to a maximum of 50 people. Once we have registration information for teams within each age category for a particular league, we may accept exemption requests for a 13th player. However, these requests will only be granted on an EXTREMELY LIMITED basis as the cohort rule of 50 must apply to all combinations of teams within a league.

Q&A 12: Are athletes required to wear masks during competition?

At this time, athletes are not required to wear masks during competition. Facilities require masks in all common areas (hallways, entrances, bathrooms, etc.) and may have their own regulations that will guide VA policies. For example: Currently, it is strongly recommended that athletes training at U of A are wearing masks – and must wear masks when receiving instruction, taking a rest break, and not actively participating in cardio activity.

Q&A 13: What is the roster lock date?

Rosters are locked on the registration deadline date (December 14, 2020). Any adjustments after the deadline require an email request to Volleyball Alberta. All requests will be considered, although not all requests will be approved.

Q&A 14: Will out of town teams play in the afternoons to avoid hotel costs?

We will do our best to accommodate out of town teams to help reduce the need for hotels. This may not always be possible, but we will make every attempt to assist with keeping hotel costs as low as possible.

Q&A 15: Will 13U have less competition weekends?

Currently, we are securing facilities and determining the most appropriate number of competition weekends for all age classes. Potentially, the 13U age class may have a smaller number of competition weekends than other age classes which is reflective of our Premier Tournament series. Coordinating the puzzle of all the age categories is a complex process; we will communicate specific details as soon as possible.

Q&A 16: Are teams able to train together?

Currently, teams are required to train individually due to the maximum numbers for a cohort. Training numbers are included in competition cohorts which is limited to 50. This will continually be addressed as we progress through the season and AHS updates their restrictions.