

Volleyball Alberta Competition Review & 14U-16U Girls 2027 Pilot

What is it?

For the 2027 season, Volleyball Alberta is running a pilot which would introduce two streams of competitive club volleyball. In this structure, Volleyball Alberta clubs would be able to offer different volleyball experiences.

Why now?

The existing club volleyball framework cannot support continued growth without addressing constraints related to facilities, referees, coaches, and other resources that have not kept pace with the rapid expansion of club volleyball. The current club structure is largely one-size-fits-all, with similar cost and commitment expectations that increasingly limit participation outside major urban centers. These capacity constraints make scheduling complex and prevent Volleyball Alberta from confirming specific event locations well in advance to support club and team planning, budgeting, and hotel booking.

Competition Review Process

Volleyball Alberta met with Club Presidents on June 27 to start a Competition Review process to determine next steps for developing a two-stream competition model.

Some preliminary work done by Volleyball Staff was informed by Sport for Life competition assessments for Ontario Volleyball and Volleyball BC. Their assessments identified similar pressures arising from rapid growth, facility capacity, geography, and the need for more flexible participation pathways. A key recommendation was creating two competition streams. Both provinces are implementing or piloting a two-stream club volleyball system.

For more information on VBC and OVA Sport for Life Assessments:

[OVA Competition Review](#)

[VBC Competition Review](#)

Benefits & Details

Benefits of a two-stream system identified by Sport for Life, Volleyball Alberta, and club presidents during the June 27 consultation were:

1. Opportunity to tailor club volleyball experiences, increase participation and long-term engagement.
2. Increased budget and planning certainty for clubs and teams.
3. Potential to access other facilities and locations across the province for VA events.
4. More inclusive club volleyball system.
5. Retention of coaches and referees.

Sport for Life distinguishes the streams based on typical experiences and common, though not exclusive, characteristics of the season. These characteristics can vary between athletes and age class, regardless of the stream in which they participate. The examples below illustrate what participation in two streams may look like for clubs and athletes, recognizing that there will be overlap between streams, variation across age categories, and differing experiences each club may want to provide for teams.

Provincial Stream

- 2-4+ training sessions per week.
- 4-8 competitions per year.
- Often the season concludes with participation at Nationals.
- Many athletes are strongly motivated by performance and are more likely to pursue high-performance volleyball pathways.
- By age 16, a greater number of athletes are typically identifying volleyball as their primary sport and seeking more comprehensive training, development and competitive opportunities.
- By age 16, more athletes are likely to participate in off-season training and actively pursue opportunities to enhance their technical, tactical, physical, and psychological skills in preparation of post-secondary or high-performance pathways.

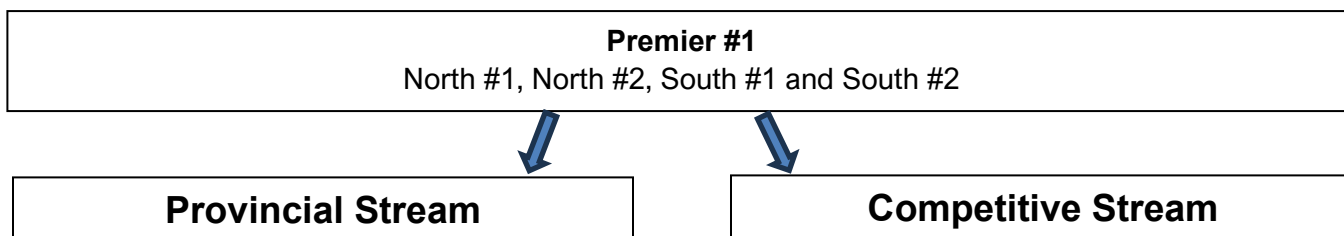
Competitive Stream

- 1-3 training sessions per week.
- 3-5 competitions per year.
- Often the season concludes with Provincials, and in some cases, Nationals, depending on the age class and location.
- Many athletes are motivated by a combination of performance, enjoyment, and social engagement, while some will have high-performance aspirations.
- Many athletes are multi-sport athletes.
- Athletes and families often prefer club volleyball schedules that leave room for other sports, school commitments, hobbies, and activities, with fewer practices and competitions and a season that concludes at Provincials.
- Some athletes and families report that the traditional club volleyball experience can be cost-prohibitive, involves extensive travel, requires significant time commitments, and creates conflict with school, extracurricular activities, hobbies, or other sports.

Athletes participating in house-leagues or short-term volleyball programs would be considered recreational athletes. These athletes are supported by their local clubs, volleyball organizations, or facilities who host drop-in type activities or recreational events.

14U Girls Premier #1 Pilot

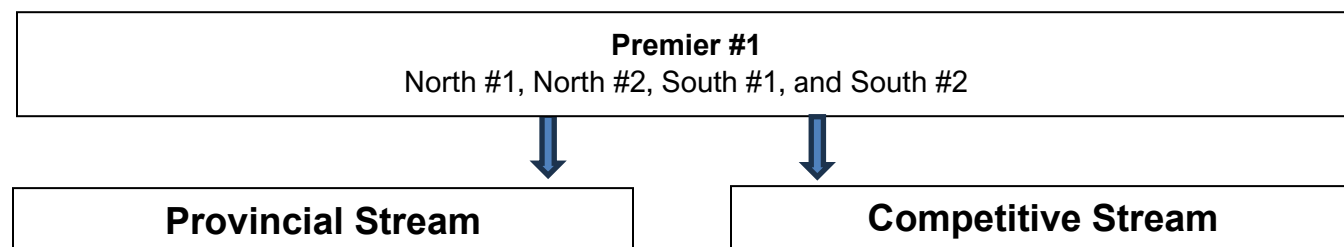
Volleyball Alberta will be piloting the following Premier #1 format to establish the streams for the 14U Girl's age class.



Based on the results of Premier #1, the top 18 teams in each Premier #1 regional event are seeded into the Provincial Stream. The remaining teams are seeded into the Competitive Stream. The streams play the whole season separately. The Provincial Stream will have 72 teams and Competitive Stream will have the remaining teams.

15U Girls Premier #1 Pilot

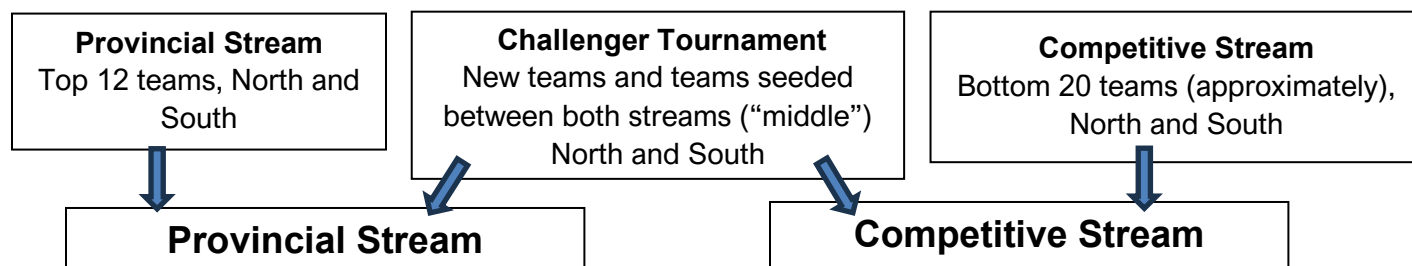
Volleyball Alberta will be piloting the following Premier #1 format to establish the streams for the 15U Girl's age class.



Based on the results of Premier #1, the top 18 teams in each Premier #1 regional event are seeded into the Provincial Stream. The remaining teams are seeded into the Competitive Stream. The streams play the whole season separately. The Provincial Stream will have 72 teams and Competitive Stream will have the remaining teams.

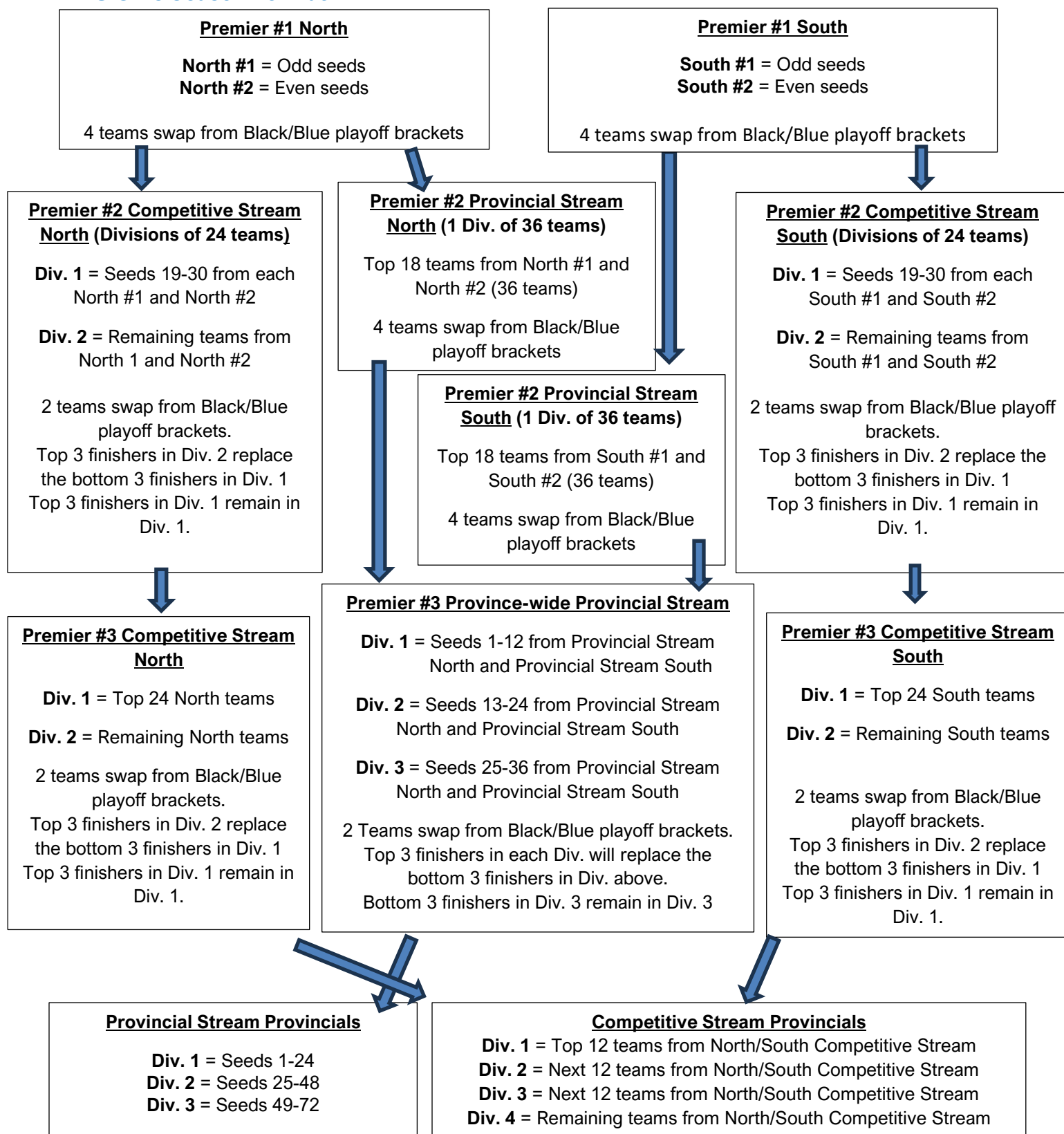
16U Girls Premier #1 Pilot

Volleyball Alberta will be piloting the following Premier #1 format to establish the streams for the 16U Girl's age class.

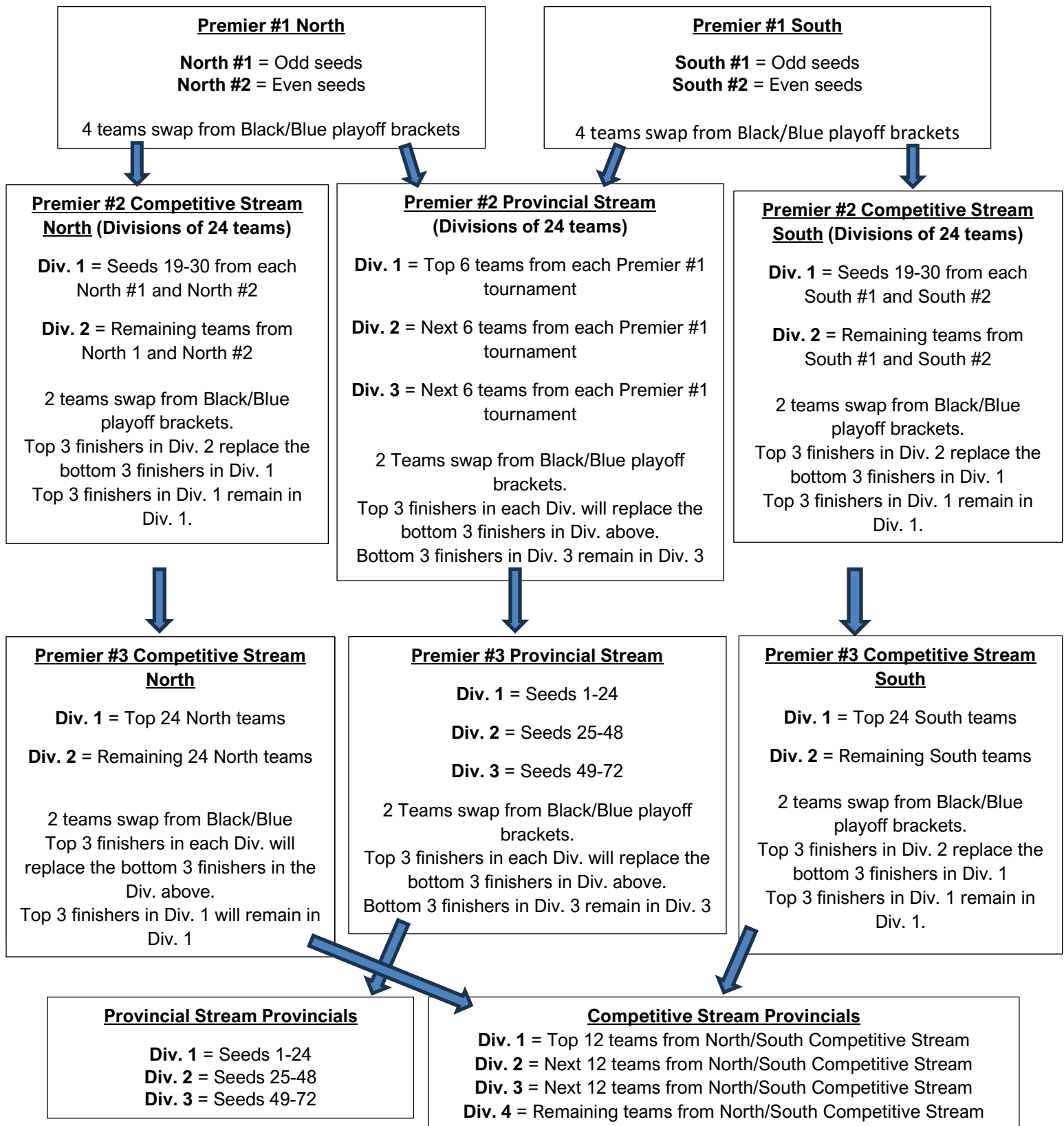


The top 12 teams and bottom 20 teams in the North and South are pre-seeded into Provincial Stream and Competitive Stream, respectively, for Premier #1. New teams and teams seeded in the middle compete in a North or South Premier #1 Challenger. After Premier #1, the top 12 teams from each region will move into the Provincial Stream and the remaining Challenger teams will move into the Competitive Stream. The streams play the whole season separately. 16U Girl's teams can opt into the Competitive Stream or make an exemption request to be placed in the Challenger Tournament before Premier #1. Seeding information for Premier #1 can be found in the [2026-27 Competition Regulations](#).

14U Girls Season Format



15U Girls Season Format



16U Girls Competition Structure

