



2027 Indoor Season Planner & Competition Regulations

September 8, 2027

volleyballalberta.ca

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Staff Directory

Contact Information

For the latest Volleyball Alberta staff contact information, please refer to our online staff directory.

www.volleyballalberta.ca/about/who-we-are-contact

Mailing Addresses

Volleyball Alberta North Office - Edmonton	Volleyball Alberta South Office - Calgary
11759 Groat Road Edmonton, Alberta, T5M 3K6	Unit 8, 135 Commercial Drive Calgary, AB. T3Z 2A7

Volleyball Alberta Membership

Volleyball Alberta requires Players, Coaches, Referees, and Club Personnel to become members prior to acting within the scope of their duties on behalf of Volleyball Canada (VC), Volleyball Alberta (VA), and affiliated Clubs. An active membership is required to register for any of our programs and events and must have a valid email address.

Please review the new [Membership & Registrant Policy](#) for your information. All other Volleyball Alberta policies can be found on our [Policies Page](#). All current membership registration guides and platform registration links can be found on our [How To Register page](#).

Membership Benefits

Volleyball Alberta (VA) provides its membership with administrative, instructional and professional services to assist in the development of volleyball in Alberta. These services include but are not limited to indoor and beach athlete development from grassroots to high-performance programs, leadership development of coaches, referees, and club leaders, governance, insurance, sport advocacy, and business development. Please refer to [Volleyball Alberta membership benefits](#) for more information.

Membership Fees

Memberships are valid from September 1st to August 31st of each year. Our Membership Fees & Benefits are assessed on an annual basis. Membership fees include a VA and VC component. Please refer to the [VA Fees](#) page for more information.

Safe Sport

Volleyball Alberta (VA) is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and inclusive sport environment for everyone involved in our community. For a breakdown of how concerns are appropriately reported, please visit:

<https://www.volleyballalberta.ca/about/safesport/>

If inappropriate behavior is witnessed during an event, the on-site VA Representative will help provide appropriate guidance.

Person in Authority Requirements

Creating a culture where everyone can thrive is a shared responsibility. All Volleyball Alberta Leaders are required to complete Criminal Record Checks, Safe Sport Training, and Annual Screening Disclosure Forms prior to participating in their roles.

Rule of Two

[Open, observable, and justifiable interactions and communications](#) are strongly recommended to foster safety, enhance protection, and help reduce vulnerability of both the athlete and adult(s) in a position of trust. Commonly referred to as the [Rule of Two](#), it means that there will always be two screened and safety-trained adults with a participant, especially a minor athlete, when in a potentially vulnerable situation. Applying the Rule of Two is a measure that helps mitigate opportunities for maltreatment and abuse to occur.

2027 Volleyball Alberta Indoor Tournament Schedule

The most up to date version of the Premier & Provincial Tournament schedule (with entry deadlines, roster locks, etc.), can be found on our website at: https://www.volleyballalberta.ca/indoor-volleyball/club_general_info/

Tournament Registration & Fees

- **Registration for all Premiers and Provincials opens on October 7, 2026, 9:00 AM MT**
- 2027 Volleyball Alberta Indoor Tournament Entry Fee for TWO-DAY VA Premiers and Provincials is **\$918.75** plus applicable service fees.
2027 Volleyball Alberta Indoor Tournament Entry Fee for ONE-DAY VA Premiers (applicable to 12U only) is **\$561.75** plus applicable service fees.
- Volleyball Alberta will accept all teams meeting the rostering requirements and registration deadline and will do its best to find courts for all to play. In extraordinary circumstances, if Volleyball Alberta is not able to facilitate all registered teams the team's main contacts will be contacted by the Age Class Staff.
- A Club Director/Contact must [register the club](#) prior to a Team Contact registering the team roster (players). A Club Director/Contact can also register as a Team Contact. The Volleyball Alberta registrar must be notified in writing via email at info@volleyballalberta.ca if there is a change of a Club Director/Contact.
- **Teams/Clubs must register before the tournament deadline** to be included in the draw for that event. Draws will be posted online only and it's the coach or team contacts responsibility to ensure they have the up-to-date tournament schedule

- **Team Main Contact Information** is required at the time of tournament registration: It is important that those doing the registration enter the team's **Team Main Contact** information in the "**purchaser contact info**" section of the registration. This is the only email Age Class Staff receive in their event team downloads. Last season, many Presidents/Registrars entered their email in this section – which meant they received ALL team emails, for each tournament. To be most efficient, tournament communications should go directly to a coach or team staff for the team registering in the event.
- Teams should register in the **most appropriate age class for their development level**. Team composition should be primarily of athletes within the same age class (consult Volleyball Alberta's Director of Competitions & Operations for further information). Teams can only select one age class to compete in. Once an age class has been selected, teams must compete in the same age class for the entire season (including Nationals) except for 12U teams (see 12U competition regulations for details).
- **Late Entries:** Volleyball Alberta will work to accommodate late entries into a tournament. Volleyball Alberta staff will consider the impact of adding a team to the draw using factors such as facility space, timing of the request, and other tournament logistics. If a late entry request is granted, a \$100 late fee plus applicable taxes and service fees will be charged in addition to the entry fee. There are no guarantees that Late Entries will be accepted.

Refund & Cancellation Policy:

- **NEW for 2027:** For tournaments with a registration deadline of December 6, teams will receive a full refund, excluding transaction fees, if they withdraw before 11:59PM MT, December 16, 2026.
 - For Tournament deadlines, see [Season Schedule](#)
 - For more information and FAQ, see [Volleyball Alberta's Refund Policy](#)

Tournament Rosters

- **Tournament Roster Lock Deadlines:** Review the tournament schedule on the [Club General Info page](#) for each tournament's roster lock deadline.
 - The roster lock deadline will be Thursday at **noon** 9 days prior to each tournament, unless otherwise stated.
- **Season Roster Lock Deadline:** The season roster lock is the Premier 2 roster lock deadline for each age class. Team staff and/or athletes can move between team rosters in their club for Premier 1 and Premier 2. Following Premier 2 an athlete can only be listed on one roster in the same age class for the remainder of the season. Please see the tournament schedule on the [Club General Info page](#) for full details.
- **Roster management:** Volleyball Alberta recommends that athletes may fill a roster spot as needed (provided they are age eligible), OR team staff who will be present for any tournaments are added to team rosters as early as possible in the season. These additions must be done before the roster lock date and season roster lock deadline.
- **NEW for 2027: Roster Addition Requests:** Changes made to official Volleyball Alberta rosters after the roster lock deadlines will only be considered under exceptional circumstances. All changes requested before **noon** the Thursday prior to the tournament are subject to a \$25 fee plus taxes and applicable service fees. Refer to the [Club General Info page](#) on the Volleyball Alberta website for further information. After **noon** the Thursday prior to the tournament OR after the season roster lock, the fee increases to \$50 plus applicable taxes and fees, and requests must be submitted via email to the Age Class staff.

- Head Coaches will pick up and verify Official Rosters from Venue Coordinators prior to their first match on the first competition day. Official Rosters must be presented to the **referee** before every match. Only athletes & team staff who appear on the Official Roster and meet person in authority/screening/ requirements will be allowed to compete and be on the bench.
- **For 12U – 14U age class teams**, a maximum of 12 players can be on the score sheet, in uniform, and participate in any given match. Teams may have a maximum of 15 players on the roster, participate in warm-up, and sit on the bench.
 - **12U–15U age class teams** that have **more than twelve players** at a tournament must submit the [Extended Roster Development Plan form](#) before the Premier 1 roster lock deadline.
- **For 15U – 18U age class teams**, a maximum of 15 players can be on the score sheet, in uniform, participate in the warm-up, sit on the bench, and participate in any given match.
 - Note: 15U teams must still align with the [Developmental Substitution Rule](#).

Club Volleyball Eligibility, Signing Policy & Tryouts

Signing Policy & Tryouts

Please review [2027 Indoor Signing & Tryout Process](#) for full details on LOI and tryout policies, as well as rationale and FAQ's.

- The 2026-2027 Indoor Club Season starts November 29, 2026, and ends May 31, 2027.
- Clubs are encouraged to refer to athlete development principles and be very deliberate with any indoor volleyball programming offered during the summer and fall. School volleyball places large demands on athletes and additional training places athletes in a position to develop overuse injuries and burnout.
- Volleyball Alberta Re-Signing LOI Form or LOI Signing Form are the ONLY binding contracts recognized by Volleyball Alberta.
- Coaches and teams should understand the 13U-15U Developmental Substitution Rules prior to selecting their teams. See 13U-15U Competition Regulations for more information.

Team Eligibility for Club Volleyball

- **Clarification:** A team must be composed of at least 8 players unique to that age class, up to a maximum of 15 players. The same player cannot be used to meet the 8-player minimum for more than one team.
- Teams are only eligible to participate in one age category per season. Teams may not play up age categories.
- A minimum of 6 players must be present in uniform during the competition to be eligible to participate.
- VA tournaments are only for fully registered Alberta club teams and may utilize only registered Volleyball Alberta members of that club. Exceptions to this rule will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis following a written application to Volleyball Alberta.
 - **Note:** Teams from Nunavut, Northwest Territories and Yukon may be approved to compete in Premier Events and Provincials. However, they will not be permitted to win the Provincials banner (they may be awarded the Gold Medal). Interested teams will be subject to a \$100 Affiliation fee plus applicable taxes and fees per tournament and are asked to request permission to enter events **as soon as possible prior to the tournament registration deadline** by contacting the appropriate Age Class staff. If tournaments are overcapacity, permission to register for an event may not be granted.
- Any individual, team and/or club having outstanding debts with VA at the end of their competitive season will be deemed not in good standing and will be ineligible for all VA programs, until such debts are paid.

Athlete Eligibility for Club Volleyball

- All participants must become members of Volleyball Alberta, with the Youth Development Player – Tryout membership, prior to participating in club tryouts.
- Upon signing a LOI to a team that will participate in club hosted tournaments, Premiers, Provincials, or Nationals, athletes must upgrade their membership to the Youth Competitive Player – Indoor and added to their club's Sportlomo portal for the season.
- Athletes must be listed on the team Roster Sheet.
- The minimum age for athletes on the roster is 9 years of age (born no later than 2016).
- The [2027 Age Categories](#) document outlines this season's competition categories, exemption request instructions, and the [18U Overage Athlete Exemption form](#).

- Athletes **cannot** play on more than one team in the same tournament weekend.
- With consideration between the family and club, Athletes can often play up one age category without many challenges or limitations. There can be significant disparity if an athlete plays up two age categories, and clubs should review the [Playing Up in Age Categories](#) document prior to making a final decision.
- While athletes playing in their current age class are able to play in another age class within the same club (provided they are age eligible); athletes would need to be registered on both rosters by the roster lock date to be eligible for Provincials. All parties should read about [Long Term Development](#) and carefully plan their season to avoid athlete burnout and injury while meeting the appropriate Training to Competition ratios. It is strongly recommended that the athlete only plays a secondary role within one of the teams as a full practice/competition load often is too much for the athlete.
- Volleyball Alberta has a [Fairness and Safety in Sport Policy](#), the purpose of this Policy is to address matters of eligibility to participate in an amateur competitive sport, as required by the Government of Alberta's Fairness and Safety in Sport Act, SA 2024, c F-2.5.

Coach & Persons in Authority Eligibility for Club Volleyball

- All clubs, coaches, and club staff must become members of Volleyball Alberta prior to participating in club tryouts or training.
- [Person in Authority Checks](#) must be completed by club and team personnel **prior to participating in their role**. Club Directors, Screening Designates, and Team Staff are responsible for ensuring they complete these requirements to adhere to the [Screening Process & Policy](#).
- All leaders on team rosters must meet the Mandatory Requirements. Please review the [Volleyball Alberta Coaching Requirements](#) for full details and deadlines.
- Rostered Team Staff must select their team role at the time of rostering.
- [Volleyball Canada 2027 Coaching Requirements](#) for Youth National Championships have been updated. Please review the requirements carefully if your team will be attending Nationals.
- All teams must have a designated head coach for the season who meets the mandatory head coach requirements. A head coach may not head coach more than one team in the same tournament weekend. The same individual may be designated as an assistant coach, manager, or trainer for additional teams in the same tournament weekend.
- A maximum of four team staff are permitted on the roster and allowed to sit on the bench. One of these team staff must be the head coach. A rostered team staff may act as the head coach in case of unexpected absence.
- The minimum age for team staff on the roster is 11 years of age.

Coaches with Infants/Children

- Team personnel who are parents of an infant (under the age of 2) will be supported in having the infant on the bench during matches. The infant must be appropriately secured in a hands-free baby carrier or in a stroller directly behind the bench. **The team must notify the Age Class staff prior to the event to ensure that competition staff are aware.** The team/coach may also be asked to complete a Risk Acknowledgement form.
- Team personnel who are the parent/caregiver to any young children may leave the bench to attend to them

during the match provided the referee is notified before they leave. If the parent is the Head Coach, an Assistant Coach can temporarily act as head coach during this time.

Uniforms

- Each registered team shall be dressed for competition as per the Volleyball Canada rulebook. The updated guidelines and Uniform Approval Request form will be available on [Volleyball Canada's Policy](#) page, under Competition Related Policies.
- **Clubs are highly recommended to Request Uniform Approval from Volleyball Canada PRIOR to ordering uniforms by submitting design proofs.** Once approval is granted, clubs would be sheltered from any potential costs associated with bringing uniforms up to standard during the club season.
- An athlete's jersey number must match their number on the scoresheet.

Restricted Activities

- **Please communicate to your athletes and families in advance** that pre-packed personal lunches and snacks that are contained within sports bags will be the only food allowed in any of the venues. **No coolers, large containers, appliances, or food preparation.**
- Music may only be played for personal use with headphones during our events. Our venues are family friendly, and the content of music may be inappropriate or distracting to our members and other patrons.
- Noisemakers of any kind are not permitted at Volleyball Alberta events for any reason.
- Food is not permitted in gymnasiums at any venue.
- Running and warm-up activities are not permitted in stairwells, hallways, off-limit areas, or other inappropriate areas of a facility or school. Use of other activity spaces in multi-sport facilities (arenas, fields, rooms, closed-off areas, private rooms, etc.) is not permitted unless the team has pre-arranged a private rental with the facility. Balls may only be used outdoors, on match courts, or on warm-up courts if specified in the draw.
- Volleyball Alberta reserves the right to control all merchandise and services for sale during Volleyball Alberta Premier tournaments and Provincials. Food and beverage concessions are also under the control of Volleyball Alberta in facilities that do not offer these services as part of their facility offerings. **Requests of any kind to sell, advertise, or promote any products, services, or organizations must be made in writing 30 days prior to the event.** All requests may be directed to marketing@volleyballalberta.ca.

Video Cameras

- Video cameras in the warm-up area are not permitted (for parents, or spectators), except:
 - To support teams using Ball-Time or other video analysis platforms; **One** team camera will be allowed at the end of a team's warm-up area, provided it is: owned by the team, not staffed during the match, and not behind the endline (when there is less than 5 meters of space). **The Head Coach must ensure no other cameras or individuals (not on the official roster) are in the warm-up area.**
- If handheld, a video camera may be operated by a team member sitting on the bench.
- Attaching video cameras to the post, scorer table, referee stand, etc. will not be allowed.
- If there is a vacant court next to the playing court that is not being utilized as a designated warm-up court or competition court for the event, cameras and tripods may be set-up in that space provided:
 - There is no infringement on the participants of the playing court,
 - Cameras and spectators are not encroaching on the team bench, warm-up area, scorer's table, referee location, etc.

- For facilities with 5+ meters of space behind the service zone (Genesis Centre in Calgary), cameras will be permitted on the playing surface behind the court, provided they are against the facility wall.
- **Remote Controlled Devices:** Any remote-controlled devices (drones, remote controlled cars) are not allowed at VA events or in venues.

Refuse & Responsibility Policy

- All bottles, garbage, and personal items must be removed from the team bench after each game. It is the coach's responsibility to ensure this is completed after every match. Repeat offenders will not be permitted to participate in future Volleyball Alberta tournaments.
- Appropriate disposal of bottles or garbage and general cleanliness is expected in all areas of a facility; non-compliance is subject to a \$50 fine plus applicable taxes and fees for each offense.

Event Conduct Policy

The [Event Conduct Policy](#) was put in place at Volleyball Alberta Premier Tournaments and Provincials as of February 11, 2022. It acts to maintain a safe and positive environment that is appropriate for youth sport.

Late Fees and Fines

Please review the [Late Fees and Fines](#) for 2027.

Fines may be applicable for violations of:

- Signing Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Coach Eligibility Requirements
- Competition Regulations
- Roster Policies
- Registration Policies

Tie-Breaking Procedures

- **Two-way Tie:**
 - “Head-to-Head”: The team who won the match played between the tied teams will be ranked higher.
- **Three-way (or more) Tie:**
 - The results from all teams involved in the tie are used for the process until all rankings are determined.
 - If there is a tie among teams X, Y and Z and criteria “b” can determine X as first, Y as second and Z as third, then no further criteria are to be used. The tie is broken.
 - However, if criteria “b” determines the seeding/ranking of any of the tied teams, then the remaining teams, which are still tied, will use criteria “c” and so on to determine their seeding/ranking. Do not start at “a” again. Continue through the sequence of criteria using the results of teams X, Y and Z for criteria “d”.

Criteria

- a) **Matches won/lost between the Tied Teams:** The team having the best ratio¹ of won/lost matches will be ranked higher;
- b) **Sets won/lost between the Tied Teams:** The team having the best ratio¹ of won/lost sets will be ranked higher;
- c) **Sets won/lost considering all matches played:** The team having the best ratio¹ of won/lost sets will be ranked higher;
- d) **Points for/against between all the originally Tied Teams:** The team having the best ratio² of points for/against will be ranked higher;
- e) **Points for/against considering all matches played:** The team having the best ratio² of points, for/against will be ranked higher;
- f) As determined by the Organizing Committee (e.g., extra set, toss of coin, etc.).

¹ A Ratio is calculated as follows: Team A is $3/2 = 1.5$, Team B is $2/2 = 1.0$. Therefore, Team A is ranked higher.

² A Ratio is calculated as follows: Team A is $160/137 = 1.17$, Team B is $135/125 = 1.08$. Therefore, Team A is ranked higher.

Note: A plus/minus is **NOT** equivalent to a Ratio and should not be used.

Volleyball Alberta Protest Policy

A captain may only lodge a protest in the following circumstances (otherwise it is not a valid protest): an error in applying a rule or rule interpretation, an improper decision of the Scorer who made a mistake on the rotational order or on the score.

- The captain lodges the protest to the First Referee.
- The coach of the team lodging the protest must place a \$100.00 cash bond (or a signed cheque payable to Volleyball Alberta) on the score table as the captain lodges the protest (if the money is not on the table immediately the game will resume, and the protest will not be heard).
- Protests must be lodged immediately and will not be accepted once the next serve has been authorized after the disputed point.
- The first referee will confirm with the Scorer that a protest has been lodged, and that the money is on the score table before calling the Tournament Staff.
- The Tournament Staff will collect the \$100.00 bond upon arrival at the court.
- The on-call Volleyball Alberta Competition staff will determine whether or not the request to protest is valid (they may choose to consult with the Referee Supervisor).
- If the protest is not valid or not upheld, the \$100.00 bond will be forfeited in whole, and the match will resume.
- If the protest is valid, a jury will be assembled to accept or refuse the protest prior to the resumption of play. The bond will only be returned if the protest is upheld.

All Volleyball Alberta tournaments have a Jury in place that will decide the outcome of each protest. A Jury will consist of three individuals from the following list:

- Venue Coordinator,
- Referee Supervisor,
- Referee Evaluator,
- Volleyball Alberta Representative,
- Alternates assigned by Volleyball Alberta staff.

Important Notes:

- The protest will be handled immediately so that play can resume following the jury's decision.
- The jury may discuss the protest by phone and do not have to be present to make a ruling.
- Video review will not be accepted in the review of a protest. The jury will not accept or view any video footage in relation to the protest.
- The jury's decision is final.
- Sanctions may be put in place if a team is abusing the protest procedures.

Competition Regulations

The objective of the regulations is to ensure equitable treatment of all Volleyball Alberta (VA) members in competitions. Even though regulations are in place to govern competitions, every situation and circumstance cannot be foreseen. Volleyball Alberta may need to adjust and make changes during the season if new circumstances arise.

The rules listed in the current edition of the [Volleyball Canada Rule Book](#) are in effect unless otherwise specified under the Volleyball Alberta Competition Regulations. It is the duty and responsibility of all players and coaches to know the rules of the game and abide by them.

Match Protocol

- Teams are guaranteed a minimum of five (5) matches for two-day tournaments.
- A First Referee will be used for all matches.
- Each team must provide a volunteer scorekeeper. Scorekeeping resources and instructions are available on the [Club General Info page](#), under "Scoresheet Resources".
- For a match in which a team is participating, they will be responsible for the provision of one (1) Line Judge.
 - This individual must be a team player not registered as a starting member of the line-up,
 - This individual must be a team player not registered as the acting Libero (if applicable),
 - If a team does not have enough athletes to provide a Line Judge, the referee shall:
 - Inquire to the opposition coach if they are willing to provide two (2) athletes to act as Line Judges.
 - Inquire to the opposition coach if they would prefer the match to commence with no Line Judges and the sole discretion of the First Referee.
- Volleyball Alberta recognizes that concussions are a significant public health issue and have developed our [Concussion Protocol](#). Of specific note are the expectations surrounding the team warm-up process to help prevent concussions. Volleyball Alberta has prepared a video with options for the [hitting warm-up](#).
- The timing of the [official warm-up protocol](#) will be a 2–4–4 model.
 - 2 minutes of shared court time for ball warm-up (E.g., dig-set, setter warm-up, etc.). Note: Shared court time will start when the court is available to both teams
 - 4 minutes official warm-up at the net – Serving Team
 - 4 minutes official warm-up at the net – Receiving Team

Be reminded that opposing teams are not permitted to use volleyballs in the free zone during the other teams allocated court time, this is an added component to help prevent concussions.

- Uniforms are encouraged to be worn for the official warm-up. This allows the referee to accurately complete responsibilities prior to the start of the match and facilitates timely roster verification by referees.
- We recommend that teams use discretion when changing from warm-up shirts to uniforms in all VA Premier tournaments and Provincials.
- Volleyball Alberta will utilize the following "End of Match Protocol":
 - After the match, teams must immediately go to their respective three-metre line, applaud for the other team & official(s) PRIOR to moving off court for team meetings/debriefs. Teams will not greet one another before or after the match nor will they shake the referee(s) hand post-match. Teams will acknowledge the opposition and referee(s) by facing them and clapping prior to leaving the court.
 - The intent of a handshake protocol is to congratulate and recognize the efforts of both teams and the

referees while promoting good sportsmanship. VA's end of match protocol still achieves this goal, below is the rationale for why it's been modified from the traditional handshake:

- a) Teams for the next match are extremely eager to take over benches and begin their warm-up and this protocol speeds up the transition to help facilitate the start of the next match. This was tracked and is shown to decrease the transition time by an average of over three minutes per match. This helps keep courts on time and reduces later starts for teams playing the last match of the day.
- b) We understand some individuals may want to personally praise their peers on opposing teams; they are still able to do that after both teams have cleared their benches at the conclusion of their match. We encourage referees to provide friendly reminders to teams of this protocol, remarks can be documented on the scoresheet if required.
- c) A good portion of the club volleyball season is played during the height of cold/flu season, and this is one small way to help prevent the spread of germs and viruses. This will promote participation, keeping athletes, coaches, and referees healthy and active by limiting absenteeism during the season.
- d) Emotions can get high during the intensity of a match. Removing face-to-face interactions immediately after the match will prevent the potential for inappropriate conduct.

Competition Structure & Rules

12U Age Class

- Athletes born from September 1, 2014, to Dec 31, 2015 (or later). The minimum age for athletes on the roster is 9 years of age (born no later than 2017).

12U is the youngest age class that VA runs. It is designed with a focus on skill development and fun. Volleyball Canada's Long Term Development manual, matrix, guidelines, and additional resources can be found on their [website](#).

12U Competition Structure

- **New for 2027:** Teams from Red Deer and north will register in the North Premier Tournaments while teams from south of Red Deer will register in the South Premier Tournaments (refer to the [Division Map](#) for further clarification). Please note: this division line is an approximation & Volleyball Alberta reserves the right to switch teams into the appropriate location based on registration numbers.
- Premier 1 and Premier 2 will be one day tournaments. Teams will play 4-5 matches at Premier Tournaments; a random schedule will be utilized without a playoff structure.
- The results from Premier 1 will be considered for Premier 2 tournament schedule.
- Prizes will be distributed to each coach to give to one athlete from their respective teams for the following:
 - Premier 1 = Best Teammate
 - Premier 2 = Most Improved

Please have coach fill out [12U Athlete Prize Form](#) and upload a photo by **noon, Monday following each Premier** to be included in social media posts for the tournament. Each athlete who receives an award will be included in a prize package draw at the end of the season.

- 12U Provincials will be a two-day tournament where teams are guaranteed a minimum of 5 matches. A standard playoff structure will be used at Provincials.
- Results from the Premier Tournaments will be considered when seeding teams for Provincials (as Premier tournaments do not have final placements because they are one day events). It's important to note there are many factors taken into consideration when seeding teams for Provincials such as: balancing the number of girls, boys and coed teams, clubs with multiple teams, and Premier results to create a developmentally appropriate Championship. Teams are not required to participate in Premier events to be eligible for Provincials.
- **New for 2027:** There will be two 12U Provincial Championships. Teams with odd seeds will be in "Tournament 1" and teams with even seeds will be in "Tournament 2". 12U Provincials seeding will be based on a 50/50 split alternating between teams that competed in the Premier 1 & 2 North & South events.

12U Competition Rules

The following rules also apply for the 12U age class:

- Receiving the serve with an overhand motion using the fingers (volley/setting) IS PERMITTED.
- Registered teams can compete in two North & South (Regional) Premier events followed by Provincials. 12U teams are not eligible to participate in 13U Provincials, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U and/or 18U events. Teams may

be approved to participate in one 13U Premier tournament. Interested teams can submit a request by contacting the 13U Age Class staff before the tournament registration deadline. If tournaments are overcapacity, permission to register for an event may not be granted.

- Teams can be composed of athletes in one gender or mixed (coed teams).
- All teams, irrespective of their gender composition, will compete against each other in Premier 1, Premier 2 and Provincials.
- The 12U category will employ a [Tripleball format](#). The goal of Tripleball is to promote better skill development, participation, meaningful competition, and fun.

The Mikasa VUL500 will be the [official competition ball](#).

- Net heights for 12U: 2.15 m
- Time-Outs: Coaches will be allowed to call 3 time-outs in sets 1 and 2 as there are no substitutions permitted. The option of a 3rd time-out may help coaches manage and alleviate stress in athletes. As set three allows substitutions, only 2 time-outs will be permitted.

All Age Classes 13U-18U

Seeding

NEW for 2027:

14UG-16UG Teams will be seeded based on the Premier 1 seeding process.

- Initial seeding will be based on the results from the previous year's Provincials (one year younger if applicable)
- **Teams must complete the [Premier 1 Seeding Form](#)** which will be used to refine the initial seeding. Head coaches will be given the opportunity to provide feedback on their seeding. A committee will finalize Premier 1 seeding after receiving feedback from coaches.
- All teams are required to complete the Premier 1 Seeding Form.
 - 16UG will have the option to opt into the Competitive Stream or request an exemption to be seeded into the Challenger Tournament.

All other Age Classes

- Initial seeding will be based on the results from the previous year's Provincials (one year younger if applicable) as a basic template to place teams into pools.
- An age class seeding committee will make any necessary adjustments based on team mergers, current rosters, and preseason results. Teams are being asked to share feedback on their Premier 1 seeding using the [Premier 1 Seeding Feedback Form](#).

Teams that did not participate in the previous Premier Tournament will be seeded afterwards at the Age Class Staff's discretion.

Regional Events

New for 2027: Teams from Red Deer and north will register in North regional tournaments while teams from south of Red Deer will register South regional tournaments (Please refer to the [Division Map](#) for further clarification). Please note: this division line is an approximation & Volleyball Alberta reserves the right to switch teams into the appropriate location based on registration numbers.

- Teams entering Province-wide divisions will be seeded based on a 50/50 split alternating between teams that competed in the previous North & South events and then be filled by remaining teams. In odd years, South teams will be ranked 1st. In even years, North teams will be ranked 1st.
- 13UG-15UG Premier 1 will have four regional tournaments: two in the North and two in the South. Going into Premier 1 with four regional tournaments, teams with odd seeds will be in Tournament 1 North or Tournament 1 South and even seeds will be in Tournament 2 North or Tournament 2 South.

Premier 3 and Provincials

- Teams participating in Premier 3 who did not participate in Premier 2, will be placed after all seeded teams. Among these teams, rankings will be based upon the results of teams who participated in Premier 1. New teams will be placed after these teams at the discretion of the Age Class Staff.
- Teams participating in Provincials who did not participate in Premier 3, will be placed after all seeded teams. Among these teams, rankings will be based upon the results of teams who participated in Premier 2, then teams who participated in Premier 1. New teams will be placed after these teams at the discretion of the Age

Class Staff.

- When north and south regional events combine into a province-wide division, teams may find themselves into a lower division as they have been grouped with the other regional event.
- Teams are not required to participate in Premier events to be eligible for Provincials.
- Teams must compete at Provincials to be eligible for Nationals, if applicable.
- All ties in rankings will be decided based on the winner of the head-to-head matchup in the most recent Premier tournament, then on the highest finish from the most recent Premier tournament. If teams are still tied, those criteria will be applied to prior Premier tournaments. If teams are still tied, the results from the most recent Premier tournament will be used - matches for/against, sets for/against and finally points for/against. In the case of two teams still tied after this criterion is followed, a coin toss will decide the outcome.

13U Age Class

Athletes born from September 1, 2013, to Dec 31, 2014 (or later).

13U is the second age class that VA runs. It is designed with a focus on skill development and having lots of fun. Volleyball Canada's Long Term Development manual, matrix, guidelines, and additional resources can be found on their [website](#).

13U Girls Competition Structure

- 13U Girls will play a regional **Premier 1**. Premier 1 will use a serpentine seeding system in the preliminary round with a [Black/Blue playoff](#). If the tournament has 23 teams or less, a regular [Serpentine Draw format](#) will be used (no Black/Blue playoffs).
- **NEW for 2027: Premier 1** will have four regional tournaments, teams with odd seeds will be in Tournament 1 North or Tournament 1 South and even seeds will be in Tournament 2 North or Tournament 2 South.
 - For Premier 1 tournaments: seed 1= 1st Tournament 1 North, seed 2= 1st Tournament 1 South, seed 3= 1st Tournament 2 North, seed 4= 1st Tournament 2 South, etc.
- 13U Girls **Premier 2** and Provincials will have division sizes of 24 teams.
 - If there are 31 teams or less: all teams will compete in Division 1 with a [Black/Blue playoff](#).
 - Division 1 will be comprised of the top 24 teams, Division 2 will contain teams 25-48, and Division 3 will contain the remainder. Divisional structure will continue in this manner as the total team numbers increase.
 - If there are 23 teams or less in any division; the division will play [serpentine playoff](#).
 - The North & South events will combine for Provincials, utilizing the results from Premier 2. This will be based on a 50/50 split alternating between teams that competed in both North/South events. In odd years, South teams will be ranked 1st. In even years, North teams will be ranked first.

13U Girls Competition Movement

- Following **Premier 1**, the four highest finishers in each Blue playoff bracket will swap seeds with the bottom four finishers in the Black playoff bracket.
- Following **Premier 2**, the two highest finishers in each Blue playoff bracket will swap seeds with the bottom two finishers in the Black playoff bracket. The three highest finishers in each division will replace the three bottom finishers in the division above.

An example of 13U Girls movement can be found [here](#).

13U Boys Competition Structure

- All 13U Boys teams will play in one Province-wide Premier 1 tournament. Premier 1 will use a serpentine seeding system in the preliminary round with a regular [Serpentine Draw format](#) (no Black/Blue playoffs). If the age class has 24 teams or more, a [Black/Blue playoff](#) will be used.
- [Serpentine Draw format](#) will be used for all Divisions at **Premier 2** and **Provincials**.
 - If there are 23 teams or less: all teams will compete in Division 1.
 - If there are 24-39 teams: Division 1 will be comprised of the top 16 teams, with Division 2 containing the remainder.

13U Boys Competition Movement

- Following **Premier 2**, the three highest finishers in each division will replace the three bottom finishers in the division above.

An example of 13U Boys movement can be found [here](#).

13U Competition Rules

The following rules also apply for the 13U Age Class:

- Receiving the serve with an overhand motion using the fingers (volley/setting) IS PERMITTED.
- Registered teams can compete in two Premier events followed by Provincials. 13U teams are not eligible to participate in 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U and/or 18U events.
- The 13U category will employ a [Tripleball format](#) for the VA Premier Events. The goal of Tripleball is to promote better skill development, participation, meaningful competition, and fun.
- The Mikasa VQ200W will be the [official competition ball](#).
- Net heights for 13U: Girls - 2.15 m, Boys - 2.20 m.
- Time-outs: Coaches will be allowed to call **3** time-outs in sets 1 and 2 as there are no substitutions permitted. The option of a 3rd time-out may help coaches to manage and alleviate stress in athletes. As set three allows substitutions, only 2 time-outs will be permitted.

14U Age Classes

Athletes born from September 1, 2012, to December 31, 2013 (or later).

14U is designed with a focus on skill development and having fun. Volleyball Canada's Long Term Development manual, matrix, guidelines, and additional resources can be found on their [website](#).

NEW for 2027: 14U Girls Competition Structure Pilot

- 14U Girls will play a regional **Premier 1**. Premier 1 will use a serpentine seeding system in the preliminary round with a [Black/Blue playoff](#). If the age class has 23 teams or less, a regular [Serpentine Draw format](#) will be used (no Black/Blue playoffs)
- **Premier 1** will be four regional tournaments, teams with odd seeds will be in Tournament 1 North or Tournament 1 South and even seeds will be in Tournament 2 North or Tournament 2 South.
 - For Premier 1 tournaments: seed 1= 1st Tournament 1 North, seed 2= 1st Tournament 1 South, seed 3= 1st Tournament 2 North, seed 4= 1st Tournament 2 South, etc.
- Divisions of 24 will use a [Black/Blue playoff](#) structure. If there are 23 teams or less in any division; the division will play [serpentine playoff](#).
- Based on the results of Premier 1, the top 18 teams in each regional Premier 1 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 the Competitive Stream will have the remaining teams.
- **Premier 2** will be regional.
 - The Provincial Stream North will be comprised of the top 36 teams from Premier 1 North events, in one division.
 - The Provincial Stream South will be comprised of the top 36 teams from Premier 1 South events, in one division.
 - The Competitive Stream North will be comprised of the remaining teams from Premier 1 North events, in divisions of 24 teams.
 - The Competitive Stream South will be comprised of the remaining teams from Premier 1 South events, in divisions of 24 teams.
- **In Premier 3** regional Provincial Streams will combine to be province wide. Competitive Streams will remain regional. The Provincial Stream and Competitive Streams will play in divisions of 24 using a [Black/Blue playoff](#).
 - Provincial Division 1 will be comprised of the top 12 finishers from each regional event.
 - Provincial Division 2 will be comprised of the 13th-24th place finishers from each regional event.
 - Provincial Division 3 will be comprised of the 25th-36th place finishers from each regional event.
 - Competitive Divisions will continue in their respective North or South Regional events with divisions of 24 teams.
 - If there are 23 teams or less in a specific North or South Regional event, teams will play a [serpentine playoff](#).
- Teams entering Province-wide divisions for Premier 3 will be seeded based on a 50/50 split alternating between teams that competed in the Premier 2 North & South events (1st- 1 South, 2nd- 1 North, 3rd- 2 South, 4th- 2 North, etc.) and then be filled by remaining teams. In odd years, South teams will be ranked

1st. In even years, North teams will be ranked 1st.

- **For Provincials**, the top 24 teams will play in Provincial Division 1. Provincial Division 2 will be comprised of the next 24 teams. Provincial Division 3 will be comprised of the next 24 teams. The North & South Competitive Stream events will combine for Provincials into divisions of 24 teams.
 - This will be based on a 50/50 split alternating between teams that competed in the Premier 3 North & South events and then filled by remaining teams. In odd years, South teams will be ranked 1st. In even years, North teams will be ranked 1st.

NEW for 2027: 14U Girls Competition Movement

- Following **Premier 1**, the four highest finishers in each Blue playoff will swap seeds with the bottom four finishers of the Black playoff.
- Following **Premier 2 and Premier 3**, the two highest finishers in each Blue playoff will swap seeds with the bottom two finishers of the Black playoff. The three highest finishers in each Division will replace the bottom three finishers in the Division above, **except teams in the Competitive Stream will not move into the Provincial Stream, and vice versa.**

An example of 14U Girls movement can be found [here](#).

14U Boys Competition Structure

- 14U Boys will play a regional **Premier 1**. Premier 1 will use a serpentine seeding system in the preliminary round with a regular [Serpentine Draw format](#) (no Black/Blue playoffs). If the age class has 24 teams or more, a [Black/Blue playoff](#) will be used.
- A [Serpentine Draw format](#) will be used for all Divisions at Premier 1, Premier 2, Premier 3 and Provincials.
- For Premier 2 seeding will be based on a 50/50 split alternating between teams that competed in the Premier 1 North & South events (1st- 1 South, 2nd- 1 North, 3rd- 2 South, 4th- 2 North, etc.) and then be filled by remaining teams. In odd years, South teams will be ranked 1st. In even years, North teams will be ranked 1st. Those teams that did not participate in Premier 2 Tournaments will be seeded afterwards at the Age Class staff's discretion.
- 14U Boys **Premier 2, Premier 3, & Provincials** will be Province-wide tournaments.
 - If there are 23 teams or less: all teams will compete in Division 1.
 - Division 1 will be comprised of the top 16 teams, with Division 2 containing the remainder. Divisional structure will continue in this manner as the total team numbers increase.

14U Boys Competition Movement

- Following **Premier 2 and Premier 3**, the three highest finishers in each division will replace the three bottom finishers in the division above.

An example of 14U Boys movement can be found [here](#).

14U Competition Rules

The following rules also apply for the 14U Age Class:

- Receiving the serve with an overhand motion using the fingers (volley/setting) IS PERMITTED.
- Registered teams can compete in three Premier events followed by Provincials. 14U teams are not eligible to

participate in VA 15U, 16U, 17U and/or 18U events.

- 14U will utilize the 12 limited substitutions rule with no libero for all Premiers & Provincials. However, the following Developmental Substitution rules will apply (which align with Nationals):
 - All players listed on the score sheet must start the first or second set.
 - Substitutions are not permitted in the first or second set. In the event of an injury or **where an athlete is visibly experiencing emotional distress (NEW)**, an exceptional substitution may be made. This player may not return to play in the same set but may return in subsequent sets if it complies with the first Developmental Substitution rule.
 - Any line up can be used at the start of the third set. Teams are strongly encouraged to distribute playing time among all players on the team.
 - Coaches will be allowed to call 3 time-outs in sets 1 and 2 as there are no substitutions, the option of a 3rd timeout may help coaches to manage and alleviate stress in athletes. As set three allows substitutions, only 2 time-outs will be permitted.
 - Note: Coaches that do not roster athletes on the score sheet or misrepresent an athlete's playing status to avoid compliance with the Developmental Substitution rule will be subject to sanctions. Injured athletes must be noted in the remarks area prior to the coach signing the score sheet. Sanctions may include verbal warning, match forfeiture, written warning, up to \$100 fine per match plus applicable taxes and fees, and/or submission to Volleyball Alberta Discipline and Complaints.
- Teams are strongly encouraged to use offensive systems that utilize multiple setters (not 5-1 systems). 5-1 systems do not train enough setters, and we need to ensure clubs and coaches address this gap in our system.
- The Mikasa VQ200W will be the [official competition ball](#).
- Net heights for 14U: Girls - 2.15 m, Boys - 2.24 m (Please note: the net height at Volleyball Canada Nationals will remain at 2.20 m)

15U – 16U Age Classes

15U athletes born from September 1, 2011, to December 31, 2012 (or later).

16U athletes born from September 1, 2010, to December 31, 2011 (or later).

15U is the first level in Alberta's competitive development system. This category of play also leads to the Team Alberta Program for outstanding individual athletes. Volleyball Canada's Long Term Development manual, matrix, guidelines, and additional resources can be found on their [website](#).

16U is the second level in Alberta's competitive development system. This category of play also leads to the Team Alberta Program for outstanding individual athletes. Volleyball Canada's Long Term Development manual, matrix, guidelines, and additional resources can be found on their [website](#).

NEW for 2027: 15U Girls Competition Structure Pilot

- 15U Girls will play a regional **Premier 1**. Premier 1 will use a serpentine seeding system in the preliminary round with a [Black/Blue playoff](#). If the age class has 23 teams or less, a regular [Serpentine Draw format](#) will be used (no Black/Blue playoffs)
- **Premier 1** will have four regional tournaments, teams with odd seeds will be in Tournament 1 North or Tournament 1 South and even seeds will be in Tournament 2 North or Tournament 2 South.
 - For Premier 1 tournaments: seed 1= 1st Tournament 1 North, seed 2= 1st Tournament 1 South, seed 3= 1st Tournament 2 North, seed 4= 1st Tournament 2 South, etc.
- Based on the results of Premier 1, the top 18 teams in each regional Premier 1 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 the Competitive Stream will have the remaining teams competing in divisions of 24 for the remainder of the season.
- **Premier 2**
 - The **Provincial Stream Division 1** will be comprised of the top 6 teams from each Premier 1 tournament.
 - The **Provincial Stream Division 2** will be comprised of the next 6 teams from each Premier 1 tournament.
 - The **Provincial Stream Division 3** will be comprised of the next 6 teams from each Premier 1 tournament.
 - The **Competitive Stream North/South Division 1** will be comprised of seeds 19-30 from each regional Premier 1 tournament.
 - The **Competitive Stream North/South Division 2** will be comprised of the remaining teams from each regional Premier 1 tournament.
- Teams entering Provincial Stream divisions for Premier 2 will be seeded based on a 50/50 split alternating between teams that competed in the Premier 1 North & South events (1st- 1 South, 2nd- 1 North, 3rd- 2 South, 4th- 2 North, etc.) and then be filled by remaining teams. In odd years, South teams will be ranked 1st. In even years, North teams will be ranked 1st.
- **Premier 3**, and **Provincials** will be comprised of divisions of 24 teams.
 - If there are 23 teams or less in a specific North or South division: teams will play a [serpentine playoff](#).
- The North & South Competitive Stream events will combine for Provincials. **With the combining of North and South regional events, teams may find themselves in lower divisions at Provincials.**

- The North & South events will combine for Provincials, utilizing the results from Premier 3. This will be based on a 50/50 split alternating between teams that competed in both North/South events. In odd years, South teams will be ranked 1st. In even years, North teams will be ranked first

NEW for 2027: 16U Girls Competition Structure Pilot

- 16U Girls will play a regional **Premier 1**. The Premier 1 tournament will consist of 3 separate tournaments (Provincial Stream, Challenger, and Competitive Stream). A serpentine seeding system will be utilized in the preliminary round with a [Black/Blue playoff](#).
 - If the age class has 23 teams or less, a regular [Serpentine Draw format](#) will be used (no Black/Blue playoffs).
 - The top 12 teams and bottom 20 teams in the North and South will be pre-seeded into the Provincial Stream and Competitive Stream, respectively, for Premier 1 based on the Premier 1 [14UG-16UG Seeding Process](#). New teams and teams seeded in the middle compete in North or South Premier 1 Challengers. An exemption may be granted for teams who want to switch streams before Premier 1.
- **Premier 1** will have four regional Challenger Tournaments. Teams with odd seeds will be in Tournament 1 North or Tournament 1 South and even seeds will be in Tournament 2 North or Tournament 2 South.
 - For Premier 1 tournaments: seed 1= 1st Tournament 1 North, seed 2= 1st Tournament 1 South, seed 3= 1st Tournament 2 North, seed 4= 1st Tournament 2 South, etc.
 - After Premier 1, the top 6 teams from each Challenger will move into the Provincial Stream and the remaining Challenger teams will move into the Competitive Stream. The streams play the whole season separately.
- A [Black/Blue playoff](#) structure will be used at Premier 2, Premier 3 and Provincials.
- **16U Girls Premier 2** Provincial Stream will have 48 teams, and the Competitive Stream will have the remaining teams competing in divisions of 24 for the remainder of the season.

Provincial Stream

- **Division 1** will be comprised of the top 10 teams from the North/South Provincial Stream Premier 1 and the first-place teams from each regional Challenger Tournament.
- **Division 2** will be comprised of seeds 11-12 from the North/South Provincial Stream Premier 1 and seeds 2-6 from each regional Challenger Tournament.

Competitive Stream North

- **Division 1** will be comprised of seeds 7-15 from both North Challenger Tournaments and seeds 1-6 from North Competitive Stream Premier 1.
- **Division 2** will be comprised of seeds 16-31 from both North Challenger Tournaments and seeds 7-14 from North Competitive Stream Premier 1.
- **Division 3** will be comprised of the remaining teams from both North Challenger Tournaments and North Competitive Stream Premier 1.

Competitive Stream South

- **Division 1** will be comprised of seeds 7-15 from both South Challenger Tournaments and seeds 1-6 from South Competitive Stream Premier 1.
- **Division 2** will be comprised of seeds 16-31 from both South Challenger Tournaments and seeds 7-14 from South Competitive Stream Premier 1.
- **Division 3** will be comprised of the remaining teams from both South Challenger Tournaments and South Competitive Stream Premier 1.

*The distribution of seeds between divisions in the Competitive Stream for Premier 2 may alter if there are fewer than 20 teams registered in the Premier 1 Competitive Stream Tournament.

- Teams entering Province-wide divisions for Premier 2 will be seeded based on a 50/50 split alternating between teams that competed in the Premier 1 North & South events (1st- 1 South, 2nd- 1 North, 3rd- 2 South, 4th- 2 North, etc.) and then be filled by remaining teams. In odd years, South teams will be ranked 1st. In even years, North teams will be ranked 1st.
- **Premier 2, Premier 3, and Provincials** will be comprised of divisions of 24 teams.
 - If there are 23 teams or less in a specific North or South division: teams will play a [serpentine playoff](#).
- The North & South regional events will combine for Provincials. **With the combining of North and South regional events, teams may find themselves in lower divisions at Provincials.**
 - The North & South events will combine for Provincials, utilizing the results from Premier 3. This will be based on a 50/50 split alternating between teams that competed in both North/South events. In odd years, South teams will be ranked 1st. In even years, North teams will be ranked first

NEW for 2027: 15U & 16U Girls Movement

- Following **Premier 1**, the four highest finishers in each Blue playoff bracket will swap seeds with the bottom four finishers in the Black playoff bracket.
- Following **Premier 2 and Premier 3**, the two highest finishers in each Blue Playoff will swap seeds with the two lowest finishers of the Black Playoff in each division. The three highest finishers in each Division will replace the bottom three finishers in the Division above, **except teams in the Competitive Stream will not move into the Provincial Stream, and vice versa.**

An example of 15U movement can be found [here](#).

An example of Girls movement can be found [here](#).

15U & 16U Boys Structure

- 15U and 16U Boys will play in one Province-wide **Premier 1**. For details on Premier 1, refer to [page 20](#).
- For **Premier 2, Premier 3 and Provincials**
 - Division 1 will use a [modified power pool draw format](#).
 - Division 2 and lower will use a [serpentine draw format](#)
- For 15U & 16U Boys Premier 2, Premier 3, and Provincials, Division 1 will have 16 teams and subsequent divisions will have 12 teams.
 - If there are 23 teams or less: all teams will compete in Division 1.
 - Division 1 will be comprised of the top 16 teams, Division 2 will contain teams 17-28, and Division 3 will contain the remainder. Divisional structure will continue in this manner as the total team numbers increase.

15U & 16U Boys Movement

- Following **Premier 1**, the four highest finishers in each Blue playoff bracket will swap seeds with the bottom four finishers in the Black playoff bracket.
- Following **Premier 2 and Premier 3**, the three highest finishers in each division will replace the bottom three

finishers in the division above.

An example of 15U & 16U Boys movement can be found [here](#).

15U Competition Rules

- **NEW for 2027:** 15U libero will be permitted as a test/pilot for 2027 season, including the National Championships. The use of only 1 libero is permitted, and 6 limited substitutions will be used (boys & girls). However, the following **Developmental Substitution** rules will apply:
 - All players listed on the score sheet must start the first or second set.
 - In the first two sets no substitutions may take place before one team has scored 15 points. An athlete may be substituted out of a set due to injury. In the case of injury, an Exceptional Substitution may be made. The injured/ill player may not return to the same set but may return to play in subsequent sets if it complies with the first Developmental Substitution rule.
 - If a third set is necessary, any lineup can be used.
 - Note: Coaches that do not roster athletes on the score sheet or misrepresent an athlete's playing status to avoid compliance with the Developmental Substitution rule will be subject to sanctions. Injured athletes must be noted in the remarks area prior to the coach signing the score sheet. Sanctions may include verbal warning, match forfeiture, written warning, up to \$100 fine per match, and/or submission to Volleyball Alberta Discipline and Complaints.

Note: The Developmental Substitution rules do not apply at Nationals.

- Registered teams can compete in three Premier events followed by Provincials. 15U teams are not eligible to participate in VA 16U, 17U and/or 18U events.
- The Mikasa VQ200W will be the [official competition ball](#).
- Teams are strongly encouraged to use offensive systems that utilize multiple setters (not 5-1 systems). 5-1 systems do not train enough setters, and we need to ensure clubs and coaches address this gap in our system.
- Net heights for 15U: Girls - 2.20 m, Boys - 2.35 m.

16U Competition Rules

The following rules also apply for the 16U Age Class:

- Registered teams can compete in three Premier events followed by Provincials. 16U teams are not eligible to participate in VA 17U and/or 18U events.
- Use of only 1 libero is permitted, and 6 limited substitutions will be used (boys & girls).
- Teams are strongly encouraged to continue to use Developmental Substitution principles for the entire season as it is important for all athletes in the age class to get an opportunity to apply their skills and tactics in a competition environment.
- Teams are strongly encouraged to use offensive systems that train multiple setters in these age classes (not 5-1 systems). 5-1 systems do not train enough setters, and we need to ensure clubs and coaches address this gap in our system.
- The Mikasa VQ200W will be the [official game ball](#).
- Net heights for 16U: Girls - 2.24 m, Boys - 2.35 m.

17U – 18U Age Classes

17U: Athletes born from September 1, 2009, to December 31, 2010 (or later).

18U: Athletes born from September 1, 2008, to December 31, 2009 (or later).

17U is the third level in Alberta's competitive development system. 18U is the fourth level in Alberta's competitive development system. The 17U category of play also leads to the Team Alberta Program for outstanding individual athletes. Volleyball Canada's Long Term Development manual, matrix, guidelines, and additional resources can be found on their [website](#).

17U & 18U Girls Structure

- A [Black/Blue Playoff format](#) will be used for Premier 1, Premier 2 and Divisions 3 or more at Premier 3, and Provincials. A [modified power pool draw format](#) will be used for Divisions 1 and 2 at Premier 3 and Provincials. If 23 teams or less, a [serpentine playoff](#) format will be used.
- For **Premier 1**, 17U and 18U Girls will play a North/South tournament in their respective events. For details on Premier 1, refer to [page 19](#).
- Premier 2, 3 and Provincials, all divisions will be Province-wide.
- For **Premier 2**, all divisions will be comprised of 24 teams. Following Premier 1:
 - The top 12 teams from North and South will compete in Division 1.
 - Seeds 13-24 from North and South will compete in Division 2.
 - Seeds 25-36 from North and South will compete in Division 3.
 - Seeds 37+ from North and South will compete in Division 4.
- For **Premier 3**, Division 1 and Division 2 will be comprised of 16 teams each. Divisions 3+ will be comprised of 24 teams. **Following Premier 2:**
 - The top 16 teams from Division 1 will remain in Division 1.
 - Seeds 17-24 from Division 1 and the top 8 finishers from Division 2 will compete in Division 2.
 - Seeds 9-24 from Division 2 and the top 8 finishers from Division 3 will compete in Division 3.
 - Seeds 9-24 from Division 3 and the top 8 finishers from Division 4 will compete in Division 4.
 - The remaining teams will compete in Division 5.

17U & 18U Girls Movement

- Following **Premier 1**, the four highest finishers in the Blue playoff bracket will swap seeds with the bottom four finishers in the Black playoff bracket.
- Following **Premier 2 and Premier 3**, the two highest finishers in the Blue playoff brackets will swap seeds with the bottom two finishers in the Black playoff brackets. The three highest finishers in each division will replace the three bottom finishers in the division above.

An example of the new 17U Girls and 18U Girl's structure can be found [here](#).

17U & 18U Boys Structure

- The 17U and 18U age categories will be combined for Premier 1 and 2. The 17U and 18U age categories will compete separately for Premier 3 and Provincials.
- If there are 23 teams or less in a Division, teams will play [a serpentine playoff](#).
- A [Black/Blue Playoff format](#) will be used for Premier 1, and Divisions 3 or more at Premier 2.

- A [modified power pool draw format](#) will be used for Divisions 1 and 2 at Premier 2, Premier 3 and Provincials.
- 17U and 18U Boys will play a North/South **Premier 1**.
 - Premier 1 will use a ratio of 2:1 to place the 18U and 17U teams into the serpentine. Please note: The Age Class Staff has the right to adjust this pattern based on the overall makeup of the pool and on the teams registered. For details on Premier 1, refer to [page 19](#).
- For **Premier 2**, Division 1 and Division 2 will have 16 teams each. Divisions 3 or more will use division sizes of 24 teams.
- 17U Boys and 18U Boys at **Premier 3** and **Provincials**:
 - Division 1 will be comprised of the top 16 teams, Division 2 will be comprised of teams 17-32, and Division 3 will be comprised of the remainder. Divisional structure will continue in this manner as the total team numbers increase.

17U & 18U Boys Movement

- Following **Premier 1**, the four highest finishers in the Blue playoff bracket will swap seeds with the bottom four finishers in the Black playoff bracket.
- Following **Premier 2**, the two highest finishers in the Blue playoff brackets will swap seeds with the bottom two finishers in the Black playoff brackets. The three highest finishers in each division will replace the three bottom finishers in the division above.
- Following **Premier 3**, The three highest finishers in each division will replace the three bottom finishers in the division above for Provincials.

An example of the new 17U Boys and 18U Boys structure can be found [here](#).

17U & 18U Competition Rules

The following rules also apply for the 17U/18U Age Class:

- 6 limited substitutions will be used.
- **NEW for 2027: 18U Teams** are permitted to use up to two (2) Liberos per set.
 - The Libero(s) may be re-designated after each set.
 - The number of the Libero(s) must be on the line-up sheet for each set.
 - If the coach decides to re-designate the Libero(s) between sets, the new Libero(s) may be any player registered on the scoresheet.
 - The number of the uniform for the re-designated Libero(s) must be the same as that player's number recorded on the scoresheet.
 - The replaced Libero(s) can now act as a regular player, providing he/she has the correct uniform.
- The Mikasa V200W will be the [official game ball](#).
- Net heights for 17/18U: Women - 2.24 m, Men - 2.43 m.
- **Team Alberta or Team Canada Program Exemptions:** Teams missing a notable number of players, or don't have enough players to field a team for a Premier due to a Volleyball Alberta (i.e. Arctic Winter Games) or Volleyball Canada event may apply for an exemption to jplakas@volleyballalberta.ca. If a team is granted an exemption, the team will not participate in that Premier and will maintain their ranking for the next tournament.

- If the exemption is granted and Premier 1 is the impacted event, the team's initial Premier 1 seeding will be used as their general ranking to maintain a position in that respective division for Premier 2. Premier 1 seeding is based on the results from the previous year's Provincials (one year younger) and any adjustments made by the age class seeding committee based on team mergers, current rosters, and preseason tournament results. Teams that participated in Premier 1 and received a ranking for Premier 2, will not be bumped out of a division due to this exemption.

Awards & Nominations

The Mikasa Achievement Awards are presented to athletes, coaches, referees and volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to volleyball in Alberta for the indoor club season and beach season.

The nomination form will open on the first Monday after Provincials. For the Athlete & Coach Performance Categories, we would like to receive their nominations within 5 days after their Provincials. To nominate a candidate, please visit our website at: <https://www.volleyballalberta.ca/about/awards-mikasa-achievement-awards/>

The Volleyball Alberta Hall of Fame Awards are presented annually to recognize outstanding achievements in the following 5 categories: Athlete, Team, Coach, Referee, and Builder. Hall of Fame nominations must be received by April 1st. The Awards Ceremony is typically held in June. For more info, please visit our website at: <https://www.volleyballalberta.ca/about/awards-hall-of-fame/>

Processes, Policies & Forms

Volleyball Alberta has established Policies, Process, and Forms to provide a basis for smooth and transparent operations.

Processes

- [Inclement Weather Guidelines](#)

Competition Structures & Zoning

- [Modified Power Pool Seeding – Sample Draw for 16 teams](#)
- [17/18U Boys Modified Power Pool Seeding for Premier 2 – Sample Draw for 16 teams](#)
- [Serpentine Seeding – Sample Draw for 12 teams](#)
- [Serpentine Seeding – Sample Draw for 16 teams](#)
- [Serpentine Seeding – Sample Draw for 24 teams](#)
- [12U & 13U Tripleball](#)
- [Premier 1: North vs. South Divisional Map](#)

Policies

Competition Policies

- [Concussion Policy & Protocol](#)
 - [Preventing Concussions in Volleyball – The Hitting Warm Up Video](#)
- [Scouting & Recruiting](#)
- [Transgender Inclusion Policy](#)
- [Event Conduct Tolerance Policy](#)

[Pan-Canadian Policies](#)

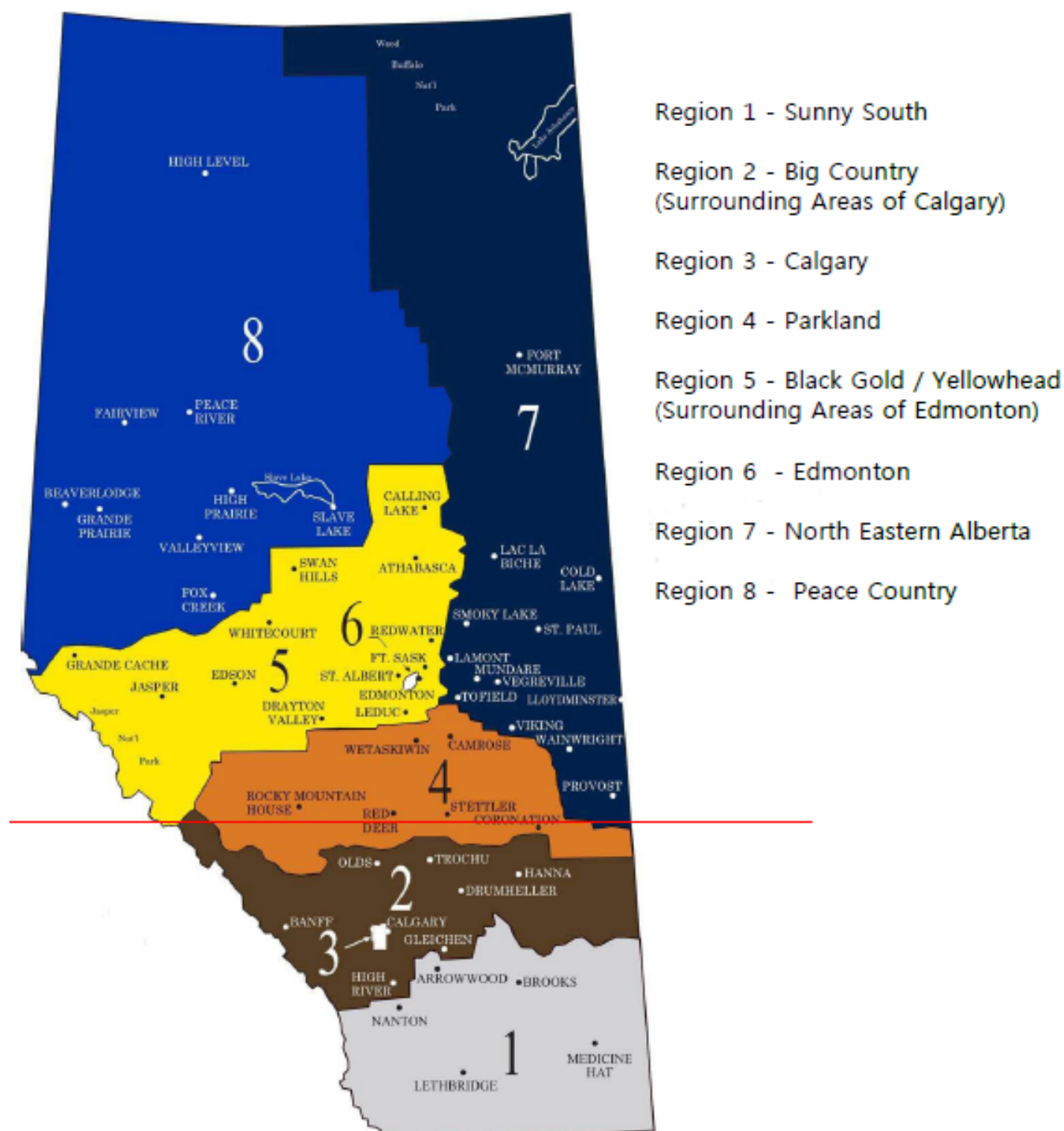
[Policies for Use of Personal Information](#)

Forms

- [Athlete Request for Release Form](#)
- [Club Request for Release Form](#)
- [Late Roster Addition Request Form](#)
- [18U Overage & Post-Secondary Athlete Form](#)
- [Extended Roster Request Form](#)
- [Letter of Good Standing Request Form](#)
- [12U Athlete Prize Form](#)

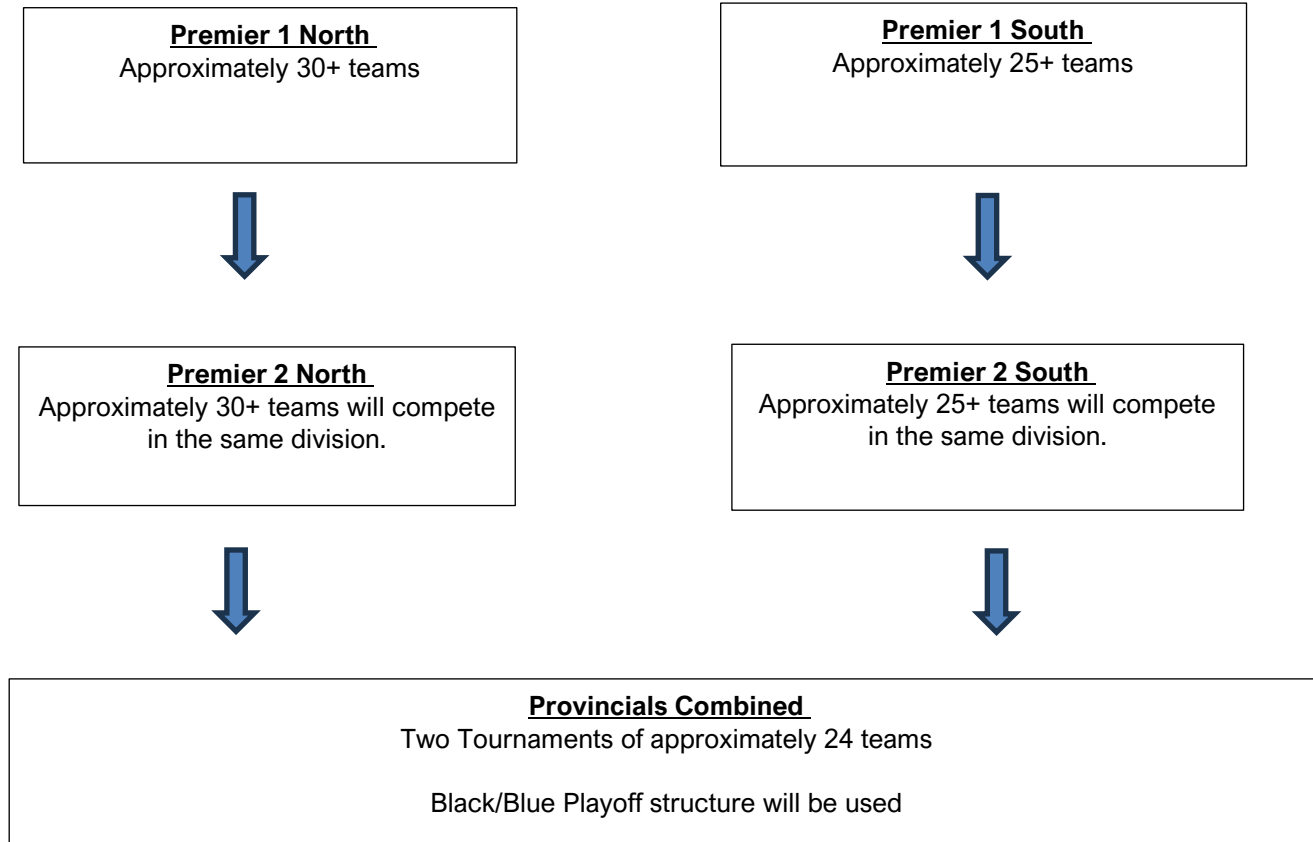
Appendix

Premier 1 - North vs. South Divisional Map



NORTH: LACOMBE, PROVOST, RED DEER, SYLVAN LAKE, STETTTLER, ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE
 SOUTH: CASTOR, CONSORT, CORONATION

12U Competition Structure



13U Girls Competition Structure

Premier 1 North Divisions

North 1 = Odd seeds

North 2 = Even seeds

4 teams swap from Black/Blue playoff brackets



Premier 2 North Divisions

Approximately two divisions of 24 teams

2 teams swap from Black/Blue playoff brackets

Top 3 finishers in each division will replace bottom 3 finishers



Premier 1 South Divisions

South 1 = Odd seeds

South 2 = Even seeds

4 teams swap from Black/Blue playoff brackets



Premier 2 South Divisions

Approximately two divisions of 24 teams

2 teams swap from Black/Blue playoff brackets

Top 3 finishers in each division will replace with bottom 3 finishers



Provincials Combined

Approximately four divisions of 24

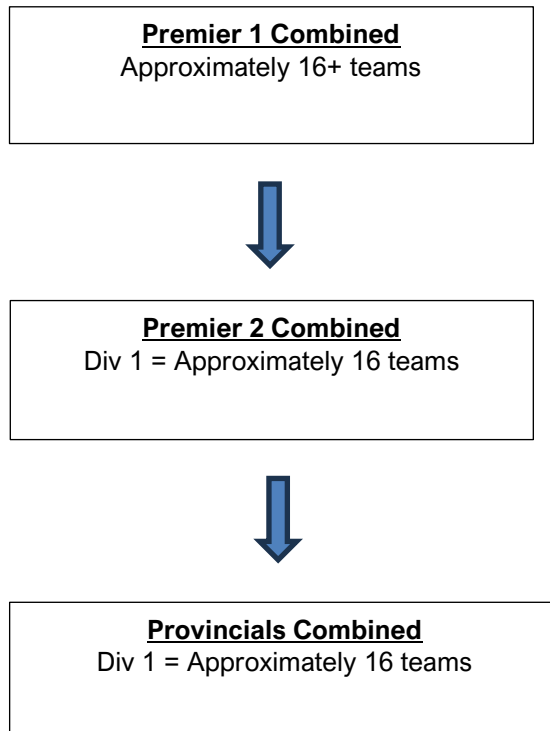
Div 1 = Top 12 teams from North/South

Div 2 = Next 12 teams from North/South

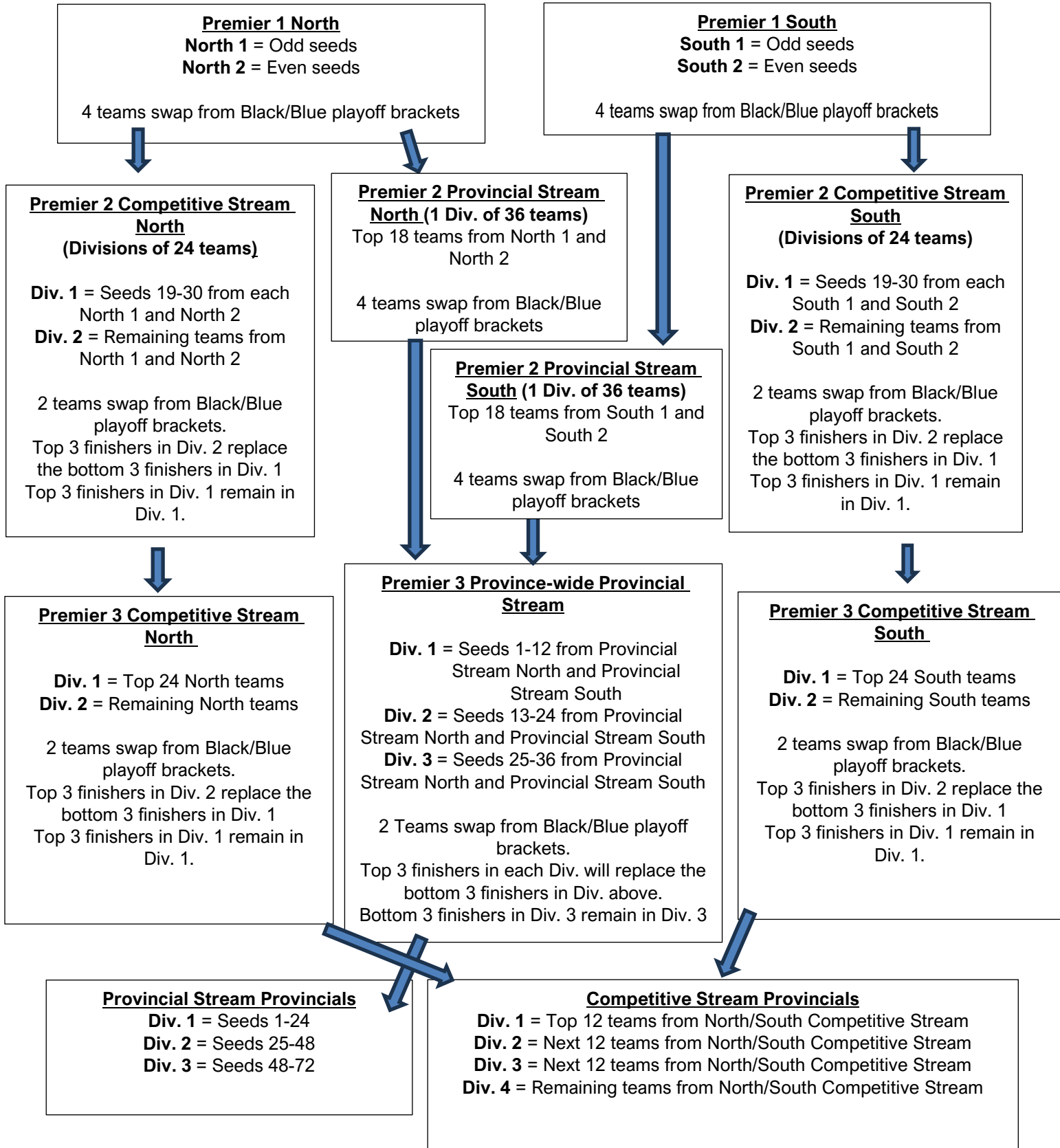
Div 3 = Next 12 teams from North/South

Div 4 = Remainder of teams from North/South

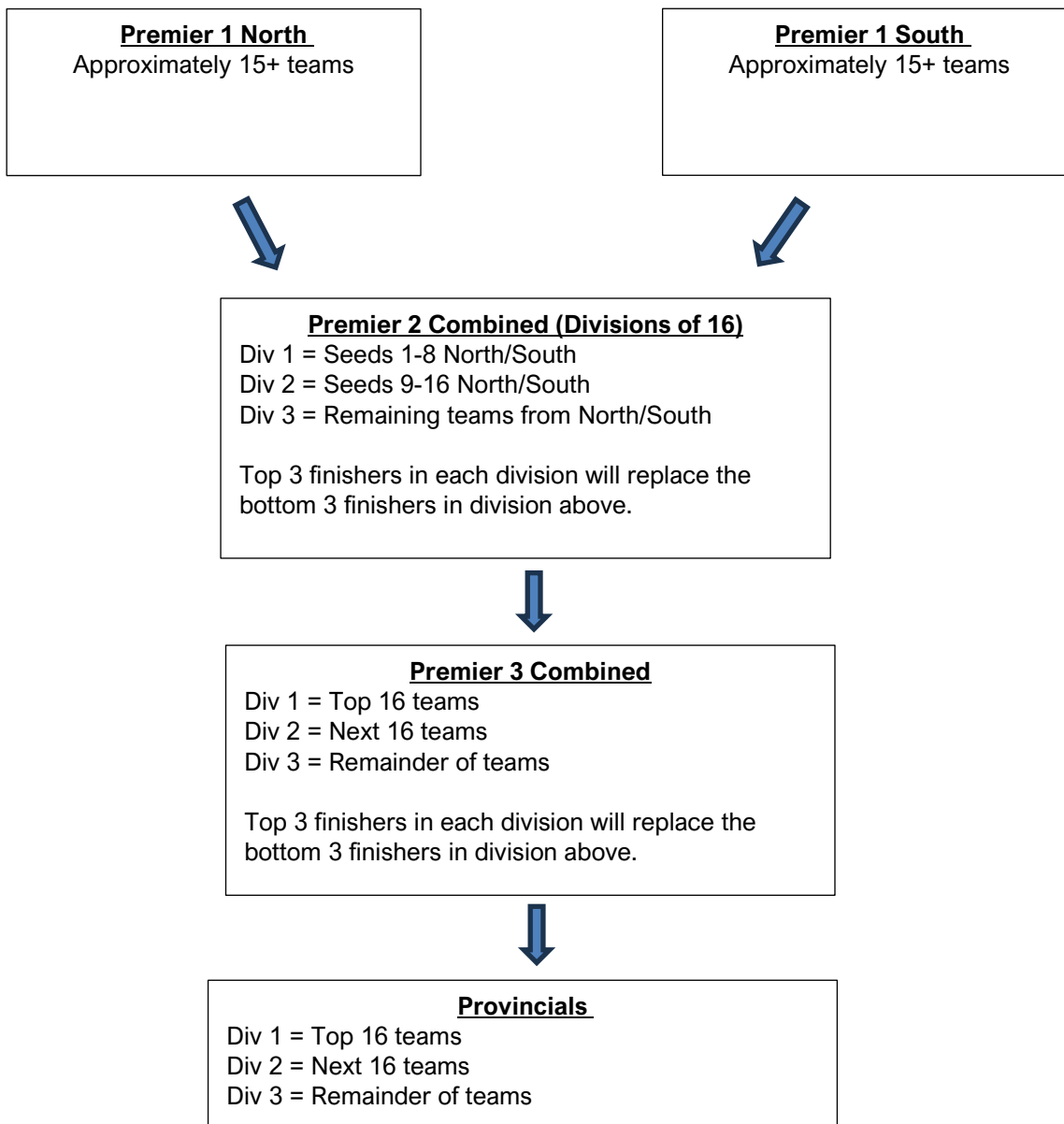
13U Boys Competition Structure



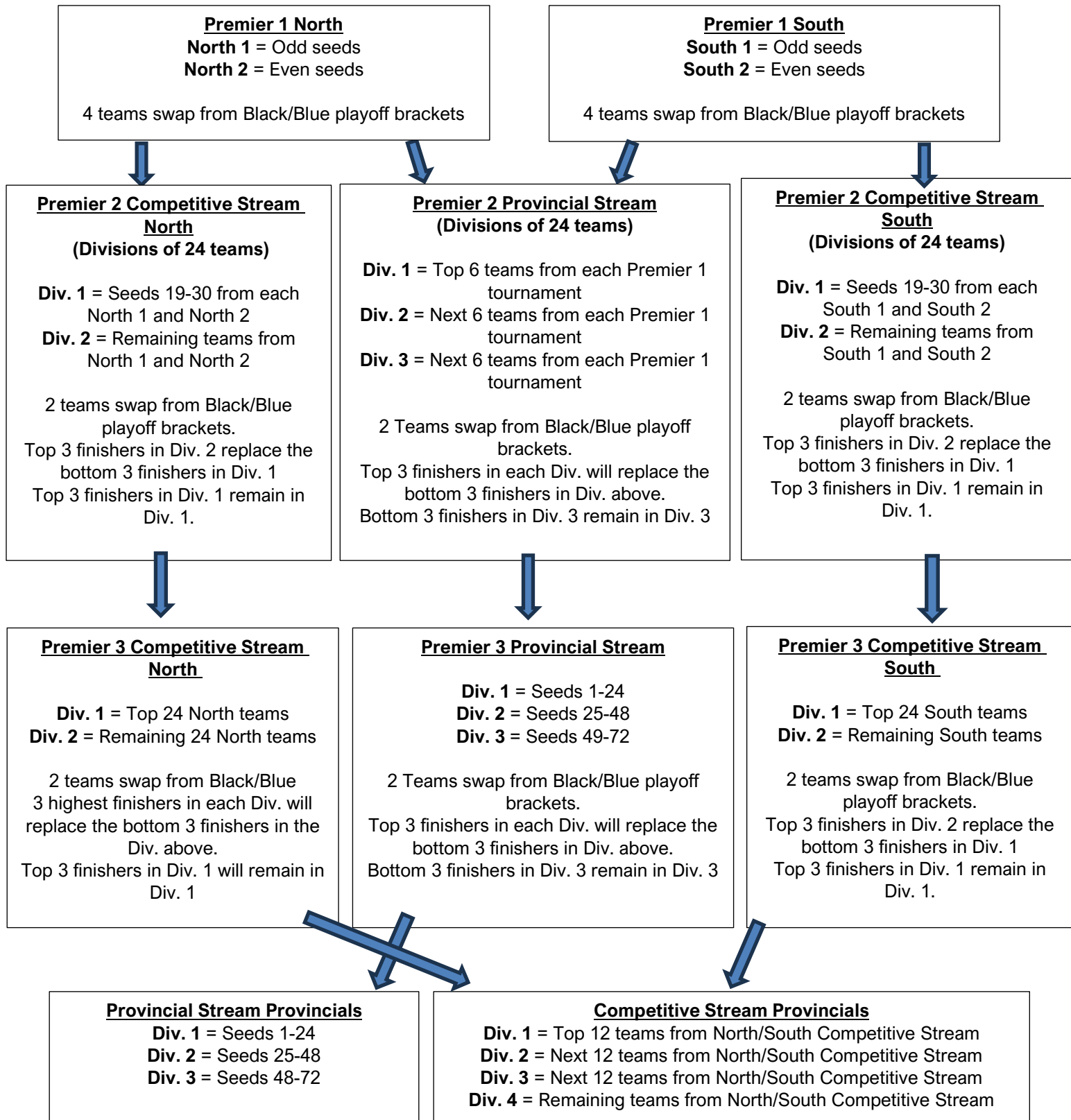
14U Girls Competition Structure



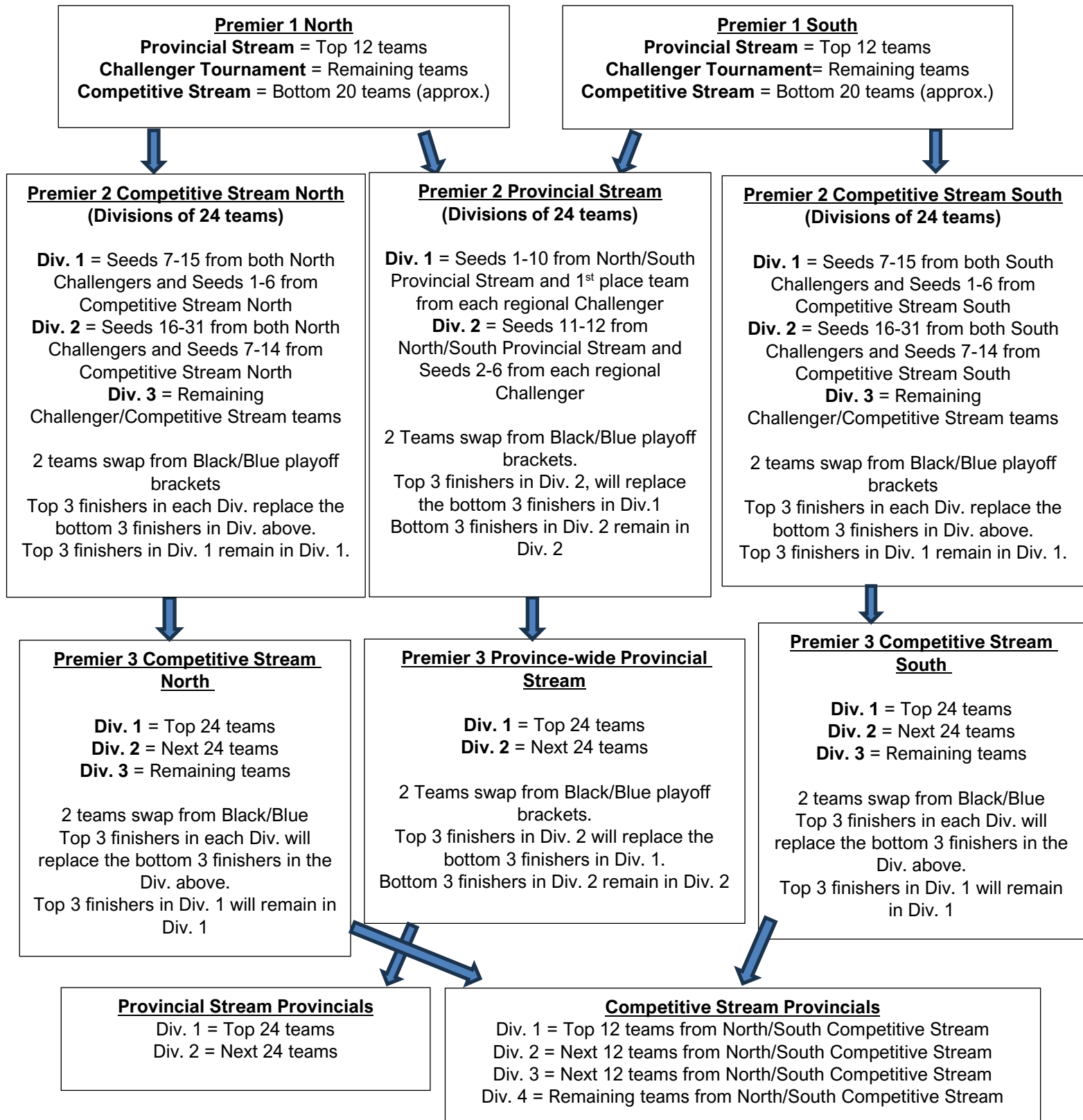
14U Boys Competition Structure



15U Girls Competition Structure



16U Girls Competition Structure



15U/16U Boys Competition Structure

Premier 1

Approximately 40+ teams

Top 4 finishers from Blue playoff bracket will swap seeds with bottom 4 finishers of black



Premier 2

Div 1 = Top 16 teams

Div 2 = Next 12 teams

Div 3 = Remainder of teams

Top 3 finishers in each division will replace the bottom 3 finishers in division above



Premier 3

Div 1 = Top 16 teams

Div 2 = Next 12 teams

Div 3 = Remainder of teams

Top 3 finishers in each division will replace the bottom 3 finishers in division above



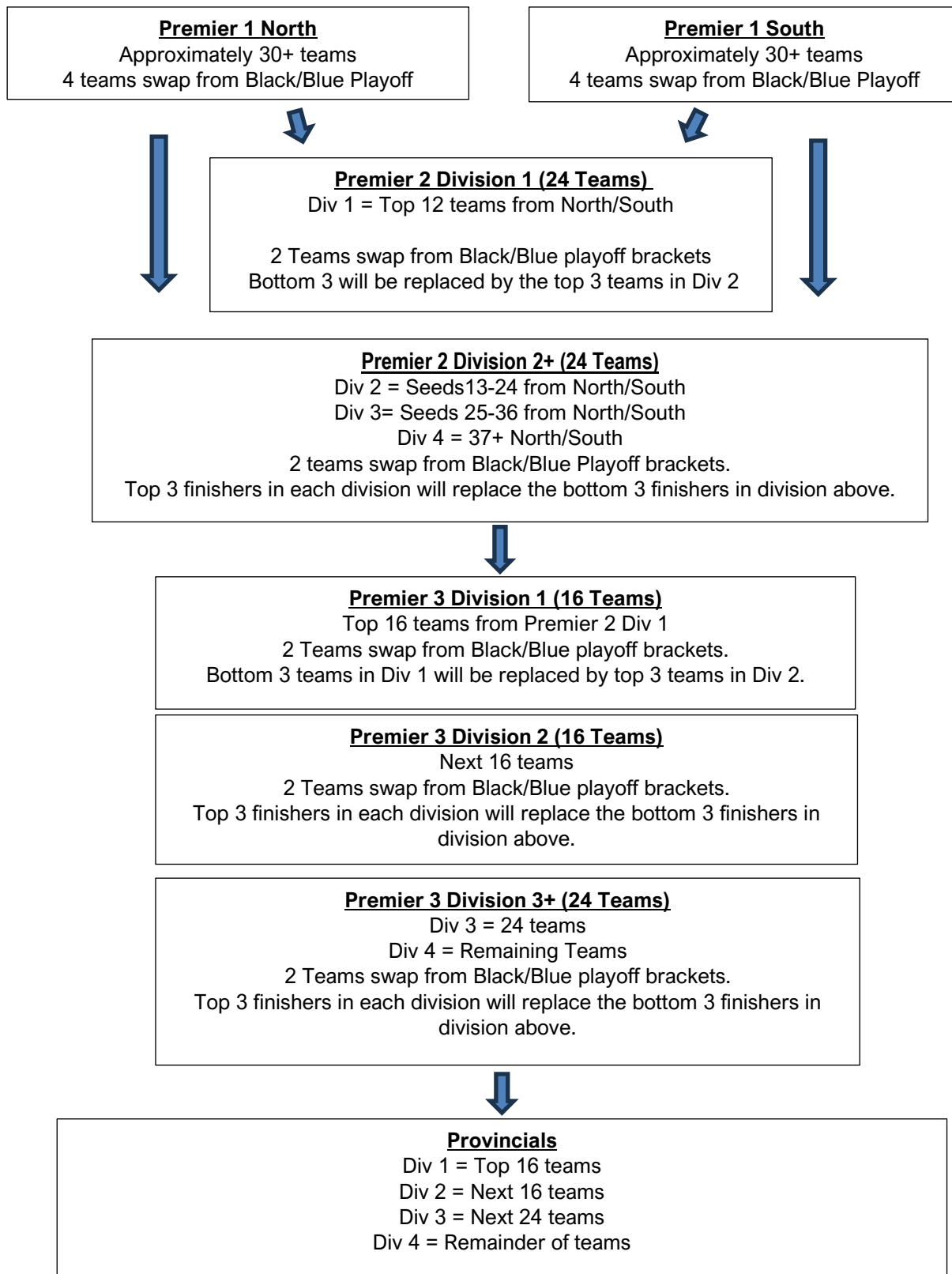
Provincials

Div 1 = Top 16 teams

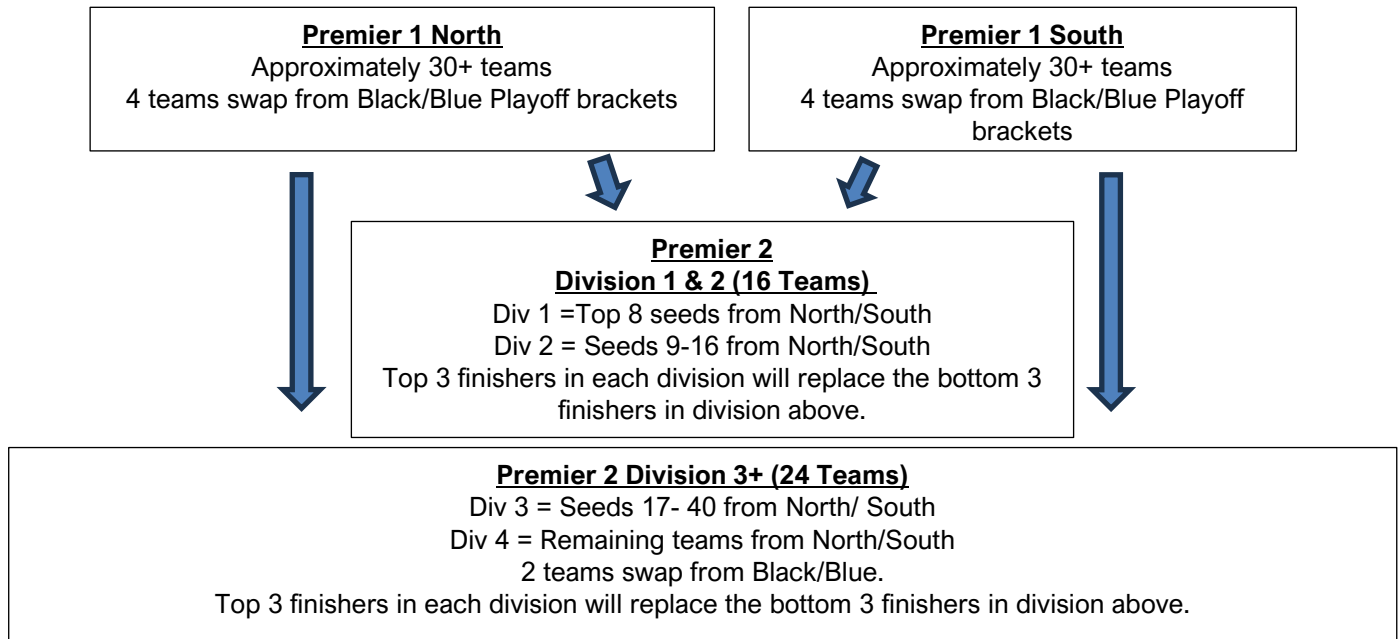
Div 2 = Next 12 teams

Div 3 = Remainder of teams

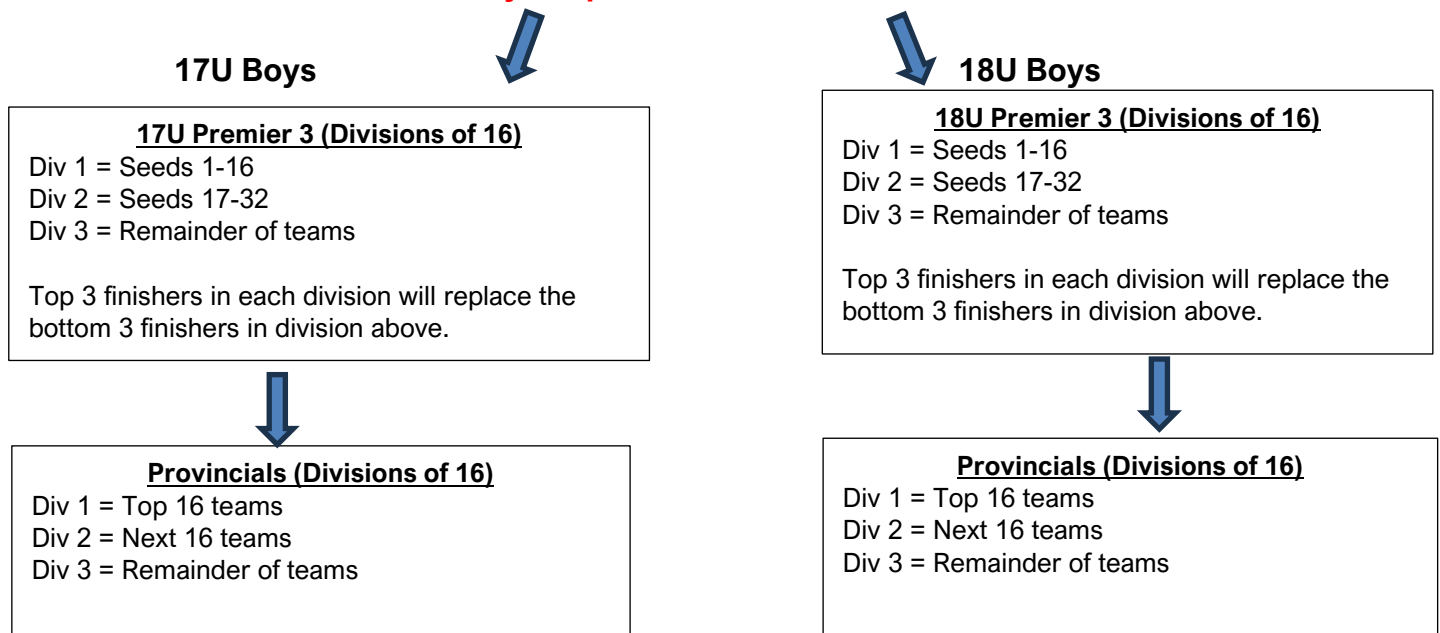
17U & 18U Girls Competition Structure



17U/18U Boys Competition Structure



17U/18U Boys Separate for Premier 3 & Provincials



Volleyball Alberta Partners

