



Official Volleyclub

Open Tournament Tour

Rule Set 2021/2022

By players for organisers

Applicable to all competitions from 1st November 2021





1. Types of Tournaments

- 1.1. **Volleyclub tournaments** may be held anywhere by anybody for anyone. They are supposed to be fun and inclusive events for players, organisers, and audiences alike. By presenting volleyclub in an organised manner tournaments are uniquely positioned to combine the relaxed and happy vibes of sunny beaches with the athleticism and creativity of volleyclub.
- 1.2. **Official Open Tournaments**, alternatively, must follow the rules of both the current **Official Volleyclub Rule Set** as well as the current **Official Volleyclub Open Tournament Tour Rule Set**.

2. The Official Volleyclub Open Tournament Tour

- 2.1. The **Official Volleyclub Open Tournament Tour (OVC OTT)** organises and records the results of all **Official Open Tournaments** and provides a structured competitive experience for participating teams and players.
 - 2.1.1. In Official Open Tournaments teams and players may earn **ranking points** based on their placements. These ranking points are being recorded and displayed on the official websites as seen in section 5. Open Tournament Rankings.
- 2.2. The OVC OTT is conducted in **seasons**. Each season starts on 1st November and ends on 31st October the following year.
 - 2.2.1. The **2021/2022 season**, instead, also includes all placements from 1st July 2021.
- 2.3. Organisers can **enter** their tournament in the OVC OTT by applying and providing the following **documentation** to the official websites or the OVC OTT organisers:
 - 2.3.1. A copy or photo of the **sign-in sheet** signed by the tournament organiser. This document must provide the full name of every player, their team name, and an agreement to participate in the OVC OTT by recording their name and results.
 - 2.3.2. A copy or photo of the **tournament results** signed by the tournament organiser. This includes both the finals stage and the group stage as well as on which court the matches were played.
 - 2.3.3. A photo of the **participants and courts**. It is recommended to show all participants and courts, at a minimum, however, the photo must show all sand courts and the winners of the tournament. Should the winners not participate in the OVC OTT, the photo must show the highest placed participating team or player.
- 2.4. The OVC OTT organisers remain the right to **deny applications** if the documentation is incomplete or fraudulent or if any requirements specified in section 4. Official Open Tournaments are not met.



3. The Official Volleyclub Cup



- 3.1. The **Official Volleyclub Cup** is an invitational tournament and, therefore, not part of the OVC OTT itself. Instead, it uses the **OTT Seasonal Ranking** to determine its invitees.
- 3.2. The **OVC OTT organisers** are responsible for organising the tournament and sending out the invites.
- 3.3. **Invites** go to the **five highest ranked teams** and one team consisting of the **two highest ranked individual players** not already invited as part of a team. The ranking is determined by the **OTT Seasonal Ranking** at the end of the season on **31st October**.
 - 3.3.1. Should a team be **unavailable**, the next highest ranked team (down to the 10th highest ranked team) is invited. Should only one player of an invited team be unavailable, the remaining player may invite one of the three highest ranked individual players not already invited (down to the 20th highest ranked player). Similarly, should an individual player be unavailable, the next highest ranked individual player is invited (down to the 20th highest ranked player).
Should there not be enough invitees to form six teams, the tournament may be played with the **four highest ranked teams**, instead. Failing that, the tournament has to be cancelled.
- 3.4. The Official Volleyclub Cup must take place **within six weeks of the end of the past season** to most accurately display the invitees form and level of play during that season. Should the invitees be unable to agree to a date within this time frame, the tournament has to be cancelled.
- 3.5. The Official Volleyclub Cup consists of a **group stage**, a following **play-off stage**, and, lastly, a **finals stage**.
 - 3.5.1. During **group stage**, teams play best-of-3-sets matches to 9 points, leading by at least two points, in two randomly seeded **single-round-robin** groups of 3 teams each. The placement in this group decides the draw for the following stages – first place teams advancing directly to the finals stage and all other teams advancing to the play-off stage.
 - 3.5.2. The **play-off stage** is played as a **single knock-out elimination stage**. The teams placing second in group stage play the teams placing third of the respective other group. Teams play best-of-5-sets matches to 9 points, leading by at least two points.
 - 3.5.3. The **finals stage** is played as a modified **double knock-out elimination stage** with a single knock-out Grand Final. Teams play best-of-5-sets matches to 9 points, leading by at least two points.
 - 3.5.4. In case of a tournament with **four teams** only, teams play one **single-round-robin group**. The placement in this group decides the finals stage draw – first place playing fourth place and second place playing third place, respectively. A play-off stage is not played. Other than that, the stages are played as described above.
- 3.6. The winner of the Official Volleyclub Cup is awarded the **Volley Cup**. This trophy is handed out by the OVC OTT organisers.



4. Official Open Tournaments

4.1. Official Open Tournament must be available for entry by anyone. They – or the events at which they are taking place – are, therefore, required to have **open registrations** available at least **seven days** before the start of the tournament.

4.2. **Official Volleyclub Tournaments** may belong to any of six **tournament categories**, namely 1 to 6 Star Tournaments. The tournament category and **amount of tournament seeds** is decided by the **amount of groups** in the first group stage.

4.2.1. **Tournament categories and amount of groups/seeds** are decided as seen below:

Category	Min. Teams	Max. Teams	Groups/Seeds
6 Star	36	48	12
5 Star	24	32	8
4 Star	18	23	6
3 Star	12	16	4
2 Star	9	11	3
1 Star	6	8	2

4.2.2. **Tournament seeding** is decided by the rules in section 5. Open Tournament Rankings. The higher a participating team's **OTT Seasonal Ranking** the higher their tournament seed. A team without any points in the Seasonal Ranking uses the combined points of their individual players for seeding purposes.

4.3. Tournament organisers are allowed to grant a **wildcard seed** to up to two teams. A wildcard seed allows for any tournament seed. If the wildcard team was not seeded before, it replaces the team that would have been seeded the lowest under rule 4.2.

Tournament organisers may, however, only offer a wildcard seed to a team if it has a **higher placement** in the OTT All Time Ranking, in last season's OTT Seasonal Ranking, or in at least two Official Open Tournaments of the current or last season than the team it replaces.

4.4. Official Open Tournaments must consist of a minimum of one **group stage** and a following **finals stage**.

4.5. A **group stage** must consist of at least two groups and must be played in a **single-round-robin** system. Groups must consist of three or four teams each and must advance two teams into the following stage. Thus, a second group stage with groups of three is highly recommended for 2 Star, 4 Star, and 6 Star Tournaments.

4.5.1. During **group stage**, teams must play best-of-3-sets matches to 9 points, leading by at least two points.

Should two or more teams in the same group win the same amount of matches, the winner of their match ("direct comparison") wins the **tie**. Should a direct comparison not solve the tie, the number of won sets or the point difference of matches between the tied teams shall be considered. In case none of the above solves the tie, teams must draw lots.

4.6. **Advancing** from groups, teams placing first in their groups must play a second placing team from another group. These match-ups may either be decided before the start of the tournament or randomly drawn after the group stage.

4.7. The **finals stage** must be played as a **single knock-out elimination stage** and determine all placements for which ranking points are awarded as seen in section 5. Open Tournament Rankings.

4.7.1. During **finals stage**, teams must play best-of-5-sets to 9 points, leading by at least two points.



5. Open Tournament Rankings



- 5.1. The results of Official Open Tournaments are recorded and displayed in **Open Tournament Rankings**. These rankings include the **OTT Seasonal Ranking**, the **OTT Permanent Ranking**, and the **OTT Historical Ranking**.
- 5.2. In Official Open Tournaments, teams and players are awarded **ranking points** that influence their standing in these rankings.
- 5.3. A team or individual player can choose not to be recorded and still participate in Official Open Tournaments. They must, however, forfeit all their corresponding ranking points. Their placements are marked as **redacted entries**.
- 5.4. **Ranking points** are awarded based on tournament category and placement of the team as seen below. Teams reaching a placement for which no points are specified earn 0 points.

Category	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	4 th Place	QF	R16
6 Star	740	500	410	340	230	150
5 Star	540	360	300	240	160	110
4 Star	420	280	230	190	130	/
3 Star	300	200	170	130	90	/
2 Star	240	160	130	110	/	/
1 Star	170	110	90	70	/	/

- 5.5. **Bonus ranking points** are awarded for placements in tournaments played **on sand** as seen below. A tournament is considered as having been played on sand and, thus, eligible for bonus points if all matches determining fifth place and above (i.e. QF stage and higher) are played on sand.

Category	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	4 th Place	QF	R16
6 Star	890	600	490	400	270	180
5 Star	650	440	360	290	190	130
4 Star	500	340	280	230	150	/
3 Star	360	240	200	160	110	/
2 Star	290	190	160	130	/	/
1 Star	200	130	110	90	/	/

- 5.6. **Individual players** earn **half the ranking points of their team**. These points are recorded and displayed in **Individual Rankings**.