



Official Volleyclub

Open Tournament Tour

Rule Set 2025

By players for organisers

Applicable to all competitions from 1st December 2024





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**, additionally, 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.
- 2.2. In Official Open Tournaments teams and players may earn **ranking points** based on their placements and/or match results. These ranking points are being recorded and displayed on the official websites as seen in section 6. Open Tournament Rankings.
- 2.3. The OVC OTT is conducted in **seasons**. Each season starts on 1st December and ends on 30st November the following year. Each season is named after the year it ends in.
- 2.4. 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:
 - 2.4.1. 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 their participation choice, accepting or declining the OVC OTT recording their name and results.
 - 2.4.2. A copy or photo of the **tournament results** signed by the tournament organiser. This includes all stages of the tournament as well as, preferably, on which court the matches were played.
 - 2.4.3. A photo or video of the **participants and courts**. It is recommended to show all participants and courts, at a minimum, however, the photo or video must show all, if any, sand courts and the winners of the tournament. Should the winners not participate in the OVC OTT, the photo or video must show at least the two highest placed participating teams or players.
- 2.5. 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 **two highest ranked teams** and two teams consisting of the **four 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 **30th November**.
 - 3.3.1. Should any invited player be **unavailable**, the next highest ranked individual player (down to the 16^h highest ranked player) must be invited additionally.
Should there not be enough invitees to form four teams, the tournament must be cancelled.
- 3.4. The Official Volleyclub Cup must take place after the last official tournament of the season and **within three months of the end of the past season** or before the first official Category 3+ tournament of the next season, whichever comes first.
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** and 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 a randomly seeded **double-elimination group (GSL-group)** of 4 teams. Every knock-out match during this stage, however, is played as a best-of-5-sets match to 9 points, leading by at least two points, instead. The two last teams in this group advance to the following stage.
 - 3.5.2. The **finals stage** is played as a single-elimination Grand Final. Teams play best-of-5-sets matches to 9 points, leading by at least two points.
- 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 Tournaments 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 Category 1 to 6 Tournaments. The tournament category is decided by the number of teams in the first group stage and defines the required **number of groups**, **tournament seeds**, and potential **wildcards** as seen below:

Category	Min. Teams	Max. Teams	Groups	Major Seeds	Minor Seeds	Wildcard Seed
6	36	44	12	12	0	4
5	24	32	8	12	4	4
4	18	22	6	6	0	2
3	12	16	4	6	2	2
2	9	11	3	3	0	1
1	6	8	2	3	1	1

- 4.2.1. Should the number of signed-in teams be in-between two categories the tournament is considered to be of the lower category and a **pre-group stage** must be added. In case of 17, 23, 33, or 45 teams, the two unseeded teams having signed in last play each other in a single knock-out elimination match to reach an eligible number of teams. This match must be at minimum a best-of-1-set match to 9 points, leading by at least two points. In case of 34, 35, 46, or 47 teams, the pre-group stage must be played as a **Royal group stage** with a single group of 3 or 4 teams, instead, following rules 5.2.1 and 5.2.2. For 48+ teams, it is recommended to add more Royal groups or offer a Beginners Open Tournament as described in section 5.3.1.
- 4.2.2. **Tournament seeding** is based on the rankings described in section 6. Open Tournament Rankings. For seeding purposes, a team's combined **OTT Player Elo Ranking** points are used. The higher a participating team's points in comparison to all other participating teams the higher their tournament seed. Seeding may include unranked players or teams following rule 6.2.1. Once tournament registration closes, the number of **Major Seeds** is determined based on tournament category. **Minor Seeds** may be added following rule 4.4.
- 4.2.3. Tournament organisers may award **Wildcard Seeds**, which allow for any tournament seed. If the wildcard team was not seeded before, it replaces the team that would have otherwise been seeded the lowest. Tournament organisers may, however, only offer a wildcard seed to a team that has or its players combined having a **higher placement** than the team it replaces in last season's **OTT Season Ranking**, or if the team has higher placements in at least **2 OVC Tournaments**, meaning Open Tournaments and/or the OVC Cup, of the current and/or last season that both teams participated in.
- 4.2.4. If tournament organisers decide against tournament seeding, all teams have to be drawn randomly and all groups must be considered unseeded. This follows the **OVC OTT Unseeded Documentation** on the official website.



4. Official Open Tournaments



- 4.3. Official Open Tournaments must consist of a minimum of a **group stage** and a following **finals stage**.
- 4.4. The **group stage** must consist of at least two groups and must be played in a **single-round-robin** system for groups of 3 teams or in a **double-elimination** system for groups of 4 teams. **Seeded teams** are placed into their seeded groups first before all **unseeded teams** are drawn randomly into their groups of up to four teams each. Minor seeds are added afterwards, 1 for every seeded group to be filled with a fourth team, if the number of participants necessitates it. This procedure follows the **OVC OTT Documentation** on the official website.
- 4.4.1. During the **group stage**, teams must play best-of-3-sets matches to 7 or 9 points, leading by at least two points.
- 4.5. **Advancing** from groups, teams either enter the finals stage directly or move into in the **play-in stage** according to the corresponding **OVC OTT Documentation**.
- 4.5.1. During the **play-in stage**, teams must play best-of-3-sets matches to 7 or 9 points, leading by at least two points.
- 4.6. The **finals stage** must be played as a **single knock-out elimination stage** according to the corresponding **OVC OTT Documentation** and determine all placements for which ranking points are awarded as seen in section 6. Open Tournament Rankings.
- 4.6.1. During the **finals stage**, the first round and 3rd Place Finals may be played as best-of-3-sets or best-of-5-sets matches to 9 points, leading by at least two points. For Semifinals and Finals, however, teams must always play best-of-5-sets to 9 points, leading by at least two points.



5. Additional Open Tournaments

- 5.1. **Royal Open Tournaments** are designed to be fast and fun tournaments able to be held in under 2 hours on one court. They may be part of the OVC OTT as Unseeded Open Tournaments following rule 4.2.4 or used as part of Official Open Tournaments as seen in rule 4.2.1. They must also consist of a minimum of a **group stage** and a following **finals stage**.
- 5.2. Royal Open Tournaments may belong to any of three **tournament categories**, namely A, B, or C. The tournament category is decided by the number of teams in the first group stage and defines the required **number of groups and stages** as seen below:

Category	Min. Teams	Max. Teams	1 st Stage Groups	2 nd Stage Groups
A	16	28	4	2
B	8	15	2	1
C	4	7	1	0

- 5.2.1. During **group stage**, one team is randomly drawn to start on the Royal Side, all other teams start in random order on the Challenger's Side. On the **Challenger's Side**, teams always serve. If they score, they replace the team on the Royal Side. Otherwise, they queue up in last position on the Challenger's Side. On the **Royal Side**, if teams score, they keep their points.
- 5.2.2. Each group stage must last for the **duration** of 9 minutes or until two teams advance, except in case of the 2nd group stage of category A tournaments, where only one team per group advances. Teams **advance** once they reach 9 points. After 9 minutes, the teams with the most points advance, instead. In case of a draw in points, the group stage continues in **overtime** until teams resolve the draw. These teams may not have been part of the draw initially.
- 5.2.3. **Advancing** from groups, teams enter the finals stage which must be played as a **single knock-out elimination stage** according to the corresponding **OVC OTT Documentation**. The two teams entering the finals stage must play a best-of-5-sets match to 9 points, leading by at least two points.
- 5.3. Event organisers may offer a **Beginners Open Tournament** or **Open Court Matches** in addition to an Official Open Tournament. They require documentation following rule 2.4.
- 5.3.1. **Beginners Open Tournaments** follow the **OVC OTT Unseeded Documentation**. Participating teams are not awarded ranking points but do count toward the number of teams in the first group stage of the Official Open Tournament and, thus, toward its tournament category as described in rule 4.2. If they (or their individual players) participate in both tournaments, they only count as participants of the Open Tournament.
- 5.3.2. For **Open Court Matches**, individual players are matched with partners in any way the event organisers choose and play a supervised set before new teams are matched up. The player (or players) winning the most sets at the end of the allotted time frame wins the event. Players are not awarded ranking points but results may be applied to the OTT Elo Ranking.



6. Open Tournament Rankings

- 6.1. The results of Official Open Tournaments are recorded and displayed in **Open Tournament Rankings**. These rankings include the **OTT Season Ranking**, the **OTT Elo Ranking**, the **OTT Permanent Ranking**, and the **OTT Historical Ranking**.
- 6.2. In Official Open Tournaments, teams and players are awarded **ranking points** that influence their standing in these rankings.
- 6.2.1. For the **OTT Elo Ranking**, all applicable OVC event results are used. The ranking uses modified Elo calculations, awarding points for wins and deducting points for losses. Unranked players are considered to have a rating of 2450 Elo.
- 6.3. 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**.
- 6.4. **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 do not earn any points and no placement is recorded.

Category	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	4 th Place	QF	R16
6 Star	790	530	450	360	240	160
5 Star	560	380	320	250	170	110
4 Star	440	290	250	190	130	/
3 Star	310	210	180	140	90	/
2 Star	240	160	140	110	/	/
1 Star	170	110	100	70	/	/

- 6.5. **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 at least all matches determining fourth place and above (i.e. SF stage and higher) are played on sand.

Category	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	4 th Place	QF	R16
6 Star	950	640	540	430	290	190
5 Star	670	450	380	300	200	130
4 Star	530	360	300	240	160	/
3 Star	370	250	210	170	110	/
2 Star	290	190	160	130	/	/
1 Star	200	130	110	90	/	/

- 6.6. **Individual players** earn **half the ranking points of their team**. These points are recorded and displayed in **Player Rankings** as opposed to **Team Rankings**.
- 6.7. For **Unseeded Open Tournaments** as seen in section 4.2.4, ranking points are awarded as seen above for Category 1 and Category 2 tournaments. Category 3 tournaments and above, however, are considered Category 2 tournaments concerning ranking points no matter the actual amount of participating teams, groups and tournament stages. Their tournament category cannot be raised in any way.
- 6.7.1. **Royal Open Tournaments** award ranking points only to the 1st and 2nd place teams. Category C corresponds to 1, B to 2, and A to 3. This tournament category cannot be raised in any way.