Mariners Volleyball Club: National Championships Participation Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline a clear and consistent framework for how Mariners Volleyball Club teams may participate in Volleyball Canada's National Championships. It provides guidance on eligibility, team decision-making, funding responsibilities, coach involvement, and playing time expectations, ensuring that all participants and families understand the structure and requirements of this optional event.

Eligibility & Participation Guidelines

Mariners Volleyball Club supports participation in the National Championships for Club and Performance teams in the 14U to 18U age categories.

- **Mariners Volleyball Club Application Process**
  Teams interested in attending Nationals must submit an Expression of Interest to the Mariners Volleyball Club Board of Directors no later than the last day of school before the Winter vacation of the competition year.

- **Team Commitment Requirements**
  - A formal parent/guardian vote must take place prior to submission.
  - A minimum of 10 of the athletes/families per team must be in favour of attending in order for the team's request to proceed.
  - The vote must be documented and submitted along with the Expression of Interest.

- **Trip Funding and Organization**
  - If approved, the event will be parent-funded and parent-organized.
  - Participation in Nationals is entirely funded outside of Mariners Volleyball Club and is in addition to annual club fees.

- No Nationals-related monies will be collected, managed, or processed by the club. All planning, budgeting, and payments are to be handled independently by participating families.
- The coaching staff may offer support and guidance where appropriate, but the organization and execution of the trip is fully parent-driven.

National Championships Playing Time Policy

The Mariners Volleyball Club believes that attending the National Championships provides athletes with valuable experiences both on and off the court. To ensure fairness, transparency, and consistent expectations, the following guidelines will direct playing time throughout the event:

Day 1 – All coaches and teams will follow the National Championships Play Time Philosophy (see below).
Day 2 – All coaches and teams will follow the National Championships Play Time Philosophy (see below).
Day 3 – Coaching staff will make every effort to play all athletes at some point during the day. The amount of court time and the role assigned will be determined at the discretion of the coaching staff.

Injuries, commitment, and behavioural concerns will always be taken into consideration when determining playtime. Any related discussions or decisions will be made at the discretion of the coaching staff.

National Championships Play Time Philosophy

This philosophy was developed by the Mariners Volleyball Club Board of Directors to ensure that all athletes have opportunities to play during the National Championships. It outlines several approaches coaches may use to provide meaningful playing time:

- Athletes may play an entire match, with a second group of athletes playing the next match in full, without substitutions.
- Athletes who do not start the first set will start the second set.

- Multiple athletes may share positions (e.g., one athlete plays front row and another plays back row) through balanced substitution patterns.

While equal playtime is not expected or always possible, MVC recognizes the importance of participation. Coaches will strive to ensure that when following the National Championships Play Time Philosophy, on a roster of 12 athletes, each athlete receives approximately 40–60% playing time throughout the event.

Approved by the MVC Board of Directors – December 10, 2025