FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ontario Volleyball Association Adds International Centre in Mississauga to Indoor Competition Schedule Starting January 2026

MISSISSAUGA, ON – August 25, 2025 – The Ontario Volleyball Association (OVA) is thrilled to announce the addition of the International Centre in Mississauga to its annual indoor competition schedule, starting in January 2026. This expansion marks another significant step in the OVA's commitment to delivering large-scale, high-quality events for its members, as part of the Association's growing convention centre event model.

The New Year's Open tournament will bring 24 competition courts together under one roof, offering 192 teams and over 2300 athletes in the 18U division, coaches, and fans the same large-scale, high-energy atmosphere that has made the OVA's other convention centre events so popular. The OVA has signed a six-year agreement with the International Centre to host this annual January event, underscoring a long-term commitment to providing members with more opportunities to compete at premier venues.

This exciting addition is made possible through the support of Visit Mississauga, which has partnered with the OVA through its Major Event Funding grant program. Their contribution helps ensure the New Year's Open will have a lasting economic and community impact in Mississauga while strengthening the city's profile as a destination for major sporting events.

This marks the third convention centre event on the OVA's annual indoor competition calendar. The season begins each November with the Fall Classic at the EY Centre in Ottawa, continues in January with the New Year's Open in Mississauga, and wraps up in March at the Niagara Falls Convention Centre, creating a strong, province-wide lineup of large-scale events for Ontario's volleyball community.

"We are ecstatic to be able to bring another convention centre event into the fold," said Alishia Lidums, Director of Operations at the Ontario Volleyball Association. "A huge thank you to Visit Mississauga for their financial contribution through the Major Event Funding grant which makes this event possible for our members, as well as the International Centre staff for working closely with the OVA to make our vision a reality."

"We are proud to partner with the Ontario Volleyball Association and The International Centre to host the New Year's Open here in Mississauga," said Victoria Clarke, CEO of Visit Mississauga. "*We feel great pride in the trust this partnership has shown by establishing a six-year agreement. Each year, this event will bring more than 10,000 athletes, coaches, and fans to a city that truly*

loves sports. OVA's commitment reflects our standing as a premier sport tourism destination, and we look forward to showcasing Mississauga's rich cultural landscape."

The OVA's decision to expand into the International Centre comes directly in response to member feedback. "We've heard loud and clear that our members want larger events throughout the season," Lidums added. "Our staff are working hard to make that happen."

David Quinn, Chief Operating Officer of the International Centre, shared the venue's enthusiasm for the partnership:

"We are pleased to be part of this significant long-term partnership and to support the Ontario Volleyball Association's forward-thinking strategic vision. With a strong track record of hosting exceptional events, The International Centre is well-positioned to contribute our expertise and flexibility in advancing the indoor volleyball landscape in Ontario, starting in early 2026. We look forward to the positive opportunities this partnership will bring."

The OVA's expansion into Mississauga strengthens its network of world-class event locations and builds on the success of its existing large-scale indoor competitions. This strategic addition will provide athletes, coaches, and fans with another top-tier event to look forward to each season.

About the Ontario Volleyball Association
The Ontario Volleyball Association is the governing body for the sport of volleyball in Ontario. The OVA offers programs and services for all levels of volleyball – indoor, beach, and sitting – and works to promote participation, development, and excellence across the province.

About the International Centre
Located in Mississauga, Ontario, The International Centre is one of the most recognized and dynamic event venues in Canada. With versatile facilities, expert staff, and a proven history of hosting premier events, the International Centre continues to be a destination of choice for organizations across industries.

About Visit Mississauga
Visit Mississauga is the official destination marketing organization for the City of Mississauga, dedicated to promoting the city as a vibrant, world-class destination for business and leisure travel. Through strategic partnerships and event support, Visit Mississauga works to enhance the city's profile, attract visitors, and generate positive economic impact for the local community.

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