

TRYOUT WINDOW REGULATIONS

Below is a chart that summarizes the important dates in the Tryout Window for the 2026/2027 season.

TLS to 18U DIVISIONS ONLY	
Dates (2026)	Description (Detailed Descriptions below)
May 31 st	End of OVA Season
June 1 st to June 26 th	Re-Signing Period
June 30 th	Club Listing of Re-signed Athletes must be sent to the OVA
July 1 st to September 4 th	Open Commitment Period
September 1 st	OVA Website Listing of Tryouts and Open Spots
September 8 th	Start of Tryouts and Posting of OVA Offer Forms
September 15 th	18U OVA Offer Form Expires/TLS OVA Offer Form Expires/16U OVA Offer Form Expires
September 16 th	17U OVA Offer Form Expires/15U OVA Offer Form Expires

May 31st

May 31 marks the official conclusion of the OVA indoor season, as outlined in the OVA Athlete Transfer Policy. Until this date, athletes remain committed to their current clubs. As of June 1, athletes are considered to have fulfilled their seasonal commitment and may begin exploring new playing opportunities.

June 1st to June 26th Re-Signing Period (48 Hour Offer)

Clubs are permitted to send re-signing offers to athletes who would like to return to their club and will be participating in the TLS-18U divisions for the upcoming season. A returning athlete is defined as an athlete that was committed to a club in the previous season as either a recreational player or full member (e.g. paid a club fee, re-signed with a club, was assigned to a club in MRS or participated in a club house league program). An athlete's registered club affiliation supersedes participation in training activities with other clubs. Athletes must be returning to their club from the previous season to be re-signed.

- Clubs are encouraged to use the re-signing period in a manner that best aligns with their program needs. There is no requirement for re-signing offers to be issued as soon as the period opens. Clubs may also choose to use this period to secure spots for select teams within their program.
- Clubs are not required to use the re-signing period.
- Re-Sign Offers are only valid when presented using the OVA Re-signing Form.
- All fields on the Re-signing Form should be filled out to the best of the club's ability using the information available at the time. If any of the fields are left empty, stipulations related to the missing information **MUST** be listed in the other conditions field. If there are any changes in the terms on the form, or there is a failure to meet the terms, the offer may be voided.

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- A change in a team's competition division will not nullify an offer. Competition division allocations for the 15U and 16U girls age groups (for 2026-27 season) will be posted here in May 2026:
 - GIRLS RANKINGS: <https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/girls-team-rankings>
- All re-signing offers must be honoured for 48 hours from the time indicated on the form.
- Clubs are permitted to collect deposits for club fees from re-signed athletes once they have accepted a re-signing offer. All deposits must be returned if a club fails to meet the terms of the offer.
- Online registration with the OVA is available September 1st for re-signed athletes.
- **Re-signed athletes are committed to their club for the full season and are NOT permitted to attend any tryouts or open gyms offered by other clubs for recruitment purposes.**
- **If an athlete wishes to terminate this commitment, they MUST follow the Release Request Process in the [OVA's Athlete Transfer Policy](#). Releases are NOT guaranteed.**
- Athletes who attend tryouts after returning an OVA Re-signing Form will be found in violation of this policy and are subject to sanctions.
- Clubs are permitted to begin team activities with any re-signed athletes.
- If an athlete does not receive a re-signing offer, they are still permitted to commit to their club from 2026-2027 season through the Open Commitment Period and September tryouts.

June 30th – Re-Signed Lists due to the OVA office

- All clubs who have re-signed athletes for the upcoming season must provide a list of committed athletes to the OVA by June 30th. Lists are to be submitted electronically. The submission link can be found at the bottom of the Tryout page on the OVA website (<https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/club-tryouts>).
- All lists must include the age group and position (multiple age divisions and positions are permitted).
- Resigning lists are posted on the OVA website as a tool for members to identify which tryouts will best suit their interests and ensure that only eligible athletes are attending tryouts.
- If a club chooses to re-sign athletes, they are required to post their re-signed athletes on the OVA website. Failure to do so can result in fines or sanctions.

July 1st to September 4th – Open Commitment Period

During the off season the OVA recognizes that many athletes seek out training opportunities with new clubs, and these opportunities can lead to informal commitments. We also recognise that these commitments will be pursued regardless of the rules or policies in place. The Open Commitment period is meant to acknowledge the current practices and educate both athletes and their families, and level the field for clubs wherever possible.

- The open commitment period is meant to allow athletes to commit to accepting an offer in September from a new club. These commitments can be made at any time between July 1st and September 4th and do not require an OVA offer form. Clubs may collect deposits to secure the commitment.
- It is the club's responsibility to provide the athlete's family with all information currently available about its program. We strongly encourage this information to be communicated in writing. It is the responsibility of each athlete and their family to become educated about the program they are considering joining. At a minimum the following information must be given to the athletes:
 - Confirmed Head Coach
 - Estimate of Club Fees
 - Potential Practice(s) venue(s)
 - Weekly training hours
 - Team's Competition Division
 - Conditions of the deposit outside the terms listed below
- Families entering open commitments are encouraged to review a club's refund/financial policies.

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- This commitment can be terminated by the athlete or club at any time during this period.
 - If the club terminates the commitment, they are required to return any deposits they have received to the athlete and their family.
 - If the commitment is terminated by the athlete, the club is permitted to keep the deposit IF the agreement is terminated 7 days after the athlete sends their agreement back to the club.
- It is the responsibility of both parties – club and athlete – to honour their commitment.
 - Athletes are not permitted to have open commitments with more than one club and must not attend tryouts in September.
- Athletes who commit to accepting an offer with a new club will still be required to sign an OVA Offer Form when they are posted in September. The OVA Re-Signing form and the OVA Offer Form are the only formal commitments recognized by the OVA. The OVA Transfer Policy will be in effect once this form is collected by the club.
- Clubs are not obligated to use the open commitment period and may only choose to use this opportunity to secure limited spots for specific teams within their program.

September 1st – *Tryout Details Posted*

- We encourage clubs to advertise their open roster spots on the OVA website. This listing can act as a central board for athletes to view clubs that are holding tryouts and what roster spots are open.
- Clubs will be listed by region, and alphabetically by hometown (as listed in MRS).

This information will be posted on the OVA website (<https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/club-tryouts>)

September 8th – *Tryouts Process Begins*

- OVA Offer Forms will be posted on the OVA website on September 8th.
- Clubs are responsible for sending any athlete who committed to accepting an offer between July 1st and September 4th the appropriate offer form.
- Clubs are permitted to present offers to athletes who attend tryouts at any time.
- **Athletes can return offers at any time; however, all offers must be honoured until the date and time indicated below.**
 - **September 15th, 2026 @ 11:59pm – 18U, TLS and 16U offers expire.**
 - **September 16th, 2026 @ 11:59pm – 17U and 15U offers expire.**
- All Offers must be presented on the OVA Offer Form with the following information: club name, head coach, team name, age category or grouping, competition division (TLS to 16U girls) and expected base club fee.
- If any of the fields are left empty, stipulations related to the missing information **MUST** be listed in the other conditions field. If there are any changes in the terms on the form, or there is a failure to meet the terms, the offer may be voided. A change in a team's competition division will not nullify the offer.
- The OVA Re-Signing form and OVA Offer Form are the only formal commitments recognized by the OVA regardless of any prior discussions, email offer, previous training, playing history or exchange of money. The OVA Transfer Policy will be in effect once this form is collected by the club.
- Clubs are permitted to continue to hold additional tryouts to fill any open spots on their rosters after these offer dates.

INSURANCE and REGISTRATION

All Athletes, Coaches and Club personnel must register in the OVA Membership Registration System (MRS) prior to participating in any OVA or Club activity (including tryouts). This is necessary to ensure compliance with provincial concussion legislation (Rowan's Law) and to sign off on the online waivers of liability prior to participating in any OVA related activities. Athletes must register as Tryout Players then pay the full membership fee once they accept an offer from a team.

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ADHERENCE

The OVA reserves the right to investigate any possible tryout window infraction regardless of how the OVA learns about the incident. This is a self-policing policy, and all OVA members are obligated to report any infraction and cooperate fully with any investigation. The follow chart outlines the some of the possible infractions as well as their associated fines:

An individual, team and/or club may appeal a sanction or fine through the [OVA Appeals Policy](#).

Violation	Fine
Any social media or Website postings that identify tryouts taking place before September 8 th	Immediate fine of \$500, in addition to other possible fine.
Clubs holding tryout before September 8 th	Minimum fine of \$2500 and suspension of all registered teams from the first event of the season
Athletes attending tryouts after they have returned an offer form	Minimum \$500 fine
Clubs pressuring athletes to commit outside dates listed in this policy	Minimum fine of \$2500
Club staff requiring athletes to return offers prior to the posted dates in policy	Minimum fine of \$2500
Clubs not submitting re-signed athletes list by June 30 th	Minimum fine of \$2500
Clubs presenting OVA offer forms to athletes over the summer months	Minimum fine of \$2500

When reporting a possible infraction please include the following information:

- Date of infraction and offending club.
- Any type of documentation that supports a violation to the policy, including but not limited to:
 - Website links and or social media posts
 - Emails and or texts
 - Publications (newspaper ads, flyers etc.)
 - Receipts
- Contact information for the person reporting the incident.

All complaints can be forwarded to info@ontariovolleyball.org



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ADVANCE NOTICE OF CHANGES TO THE TRYOUT WINDOW FOR THE 2027-2028 SEASON

The Ontario Volleyball Association is planning to introduce important updates to the Tryout Window Policy for the 2027–2028 season, specifically related to the timing of tryouts and athlete commitment dates. These changes are being developed in response to the evolving Competition System and are intended to better align with the overall seasonal structure and individual needs of club volleyball in Ontario.

The general timelines are outlined below to provide clubs, athletes, and families with adequate time to prepare and adapt. The OVA recognizes that these changes will impact club programming, staffing, and facility bookings.

Details on each phase of the window will be released Spring of 2027

2027-2028 DATES - TLS to 18U DIVISIONS	
Date	Description
May 2027	RE-SIGNING OPENS – Specific dates and details to be determined
June 2027	OFFICIAL EARLY TRYOUTS – Specific dates and details to be determined
September 2027	OFFICIAL TRYOUTS – Specific dates and details to be determined