



2026-2027 Coach Eligibility Policy

All athletes have the right to a safe, inclusive and responsible volleyball experience. As people in positions of authority, coaches have an important role to play in providing this type of environment. Coaches have the responsibility to:

- Complete the necessary training in order to provide an environment that is physically, mentally, emotionally and socially safe for all athletes and participants
- Complete the necessary training in order to provide a responsible learning environment that incorporates Volleyball Canada's teaching methodologies, technical guidelines and long-term athlete development principles
- Ensure that all of their coach training is current so as to be able to provide a safe and responsible volleyball experience for all

MANDATORY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR OVA COACHES

To be approved as a Head Coach or Assistant Coach with the Ontario Volleyball Association (OVA), individuals must complete all required qualifications prior to registering as an OVA member:

- Abide by the OVA Screening Policy
 - Submit a Level 2 Criminal Record & Judicial Matters Check (CRJMC) or [Enhanced Police Information Check \(E-PIC\)](#) completed within 3 years.
 - Complete the OVA Screening Disclosure Form via MRS registration
 - Comply with further steps under the OVA Screening Policy as necessary
- Complete the following training
 - [Making Head Way](#) (Free)
 - Coaches Association of Canada [Safe Sports Training](#) (Free)
 - NCCP [Anti-Racism in Coaching](#) e-learning module (Free)
 - [Foundations of Volleyball](#) (\$99)
 - [Making Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation](#) (\$85)

Registrants who do not meet all requirements will have their membership marked as pending and will not be eligible to participate in OVA club activities involving youth athletes. It is the responsibility of OVA Clubs to verify the eligibility of their coaches prior to having them register as members. Any club coaches who participate in club activities who are not approved registered members that meet the Coach Eligibility Policy, will be fined up to \$500, further OVA review may determine suspension and further fines.

Individuals who do not have an approved coach role in MRS are not eligible to be listed on an OVA event scoresheet. Ineligible individuals will be fined \$250 per occurrence and match results may be forfeited.

*Coaches attending Nationals should check [Volleyball Canada's Coach Certification Policy](#) to verify compliance

YOUTH APPRENTICE COACH – PURPOSE AND ELIGIBILITY

In an effort to encourage more young athletes to experience coaching during their own club careers, the OVA is excited to announce the additional role of “Youth Apprentice Coach” for the 2026/27 season! Youth Apprentice Coaches are current club athletes who are permitted to assist younger teams within their club at both practices and OVA competitions.

The Youth Apprentice Coach role is intended for athletes who wish to assist a team in a developmental capacity. Current OVA club athletes who serve as a Head Coach or Assistant Coach must meet all OVA coach eligibility, screening, and certification requirements applicable to their coaching role, regardless of age.

To be eligible to become a Youth Apprentice Coach, you must meet the following criteria:

- Be a current OVA athlete born in 2011 or earlier with an OVA competitive membership for the 2026/27 season.
- Apprentice Coach for a team within the same club they are registered with as an athlete for the 2026/27 season.
- Apprentice Coach for a team aged 15U or younger.
- Complete the following training module:
 - Coaches Association of Canada [Safe Sports Training](#) (Free)
- Complete the Screening Disclosure Form in MRS

Youth Apprentice Coaches are permitted to:

- Attend any team practices and/or competitions at the discretion of the Head Coach.
- Sit on the bench with their team at competitions.

Youth Apprentice Coaches are NOT permitted to:

- Be solely responsible for the team at practices or competitions without the supervision of another fully registered and eligible member of the Coaching Staff.
- Clubs should consider Rule of Two requirements when assigning Youth Apprentice Coaches, as the Youth Apprentice Coach role does not replace the need for screened and eligible adult coaches.

The Apprentice Coach role is free and can be added to any athlete with an OVA Competitive Athlete membership for the 2026/27 season once they have completed the eligibility requirements.

If you have any additional questions about this role, please contact Jacob Barker (jbarker@ontariovolleyball.org).