December 6, 2023

Re: NZ Secondary Schools Volleyball Championships, 2024

Kia ora koutou,

Volleyball New Zealand is delighted to confirm entries are now open for the 2024 New Zealand Secondary Schools Volleyball Championship to be held at CET Arena in Palmerston North, March 18-22.

Following the release of the School Sport NZ 2024 Calendar and after reviewing our post-event survey last March 2023, VNZ have determined several changes for the 2024 event to begin to address issues that have emerged due to the size and scale of the tournament.

In summary the key areas of focus have been:

1. Accommodation availability and travel time to and from the venue – a growing number of participant teams are finding it difficult to source an appropriate location and level of accommodation within an appropriate travelling distance to the competition venue

2. Length of time in the venue and adequate rest between games – the daily match schedule for the event often sees matches continuing to be played into the late evening and, in some instances, well after midnight. This length of time spent at the competition venue during each day has a large impact on the event experience for players, coaches, managers as well as event staff and volunteers

These changes confirmed for 2024, which are outlined below, centre around improving the participant experience on and off the court, while focusing on the wellbeing of members of our community. They have been endorsed and are fully supported by School Sport NZ.

Event participation changes – NZSSVC 2024

1. There will be a reduction of places this coming season. For the Girls Division, there will be a reduction of 16 places, from 88 to 72 places. For the Boys Division, there is a reduction of 7 slots, from 79 to 72 teams.

2. Participating teams will be determined based on the regional seedings allocated, not the number of teams a school registers. There shall be at least two places allocated per Region based on those Regions participating in 2023.

   a. To reduce risk for schools around booking travel and accommodation for the event and then potentially not being included via Regional Qualifying outcomes, we will operate the seeding allocation on the similar 'first-come, first-served' registration basis as we have historically used to determine seedings and fill the positions in the event (seeding outlines are attached to this

communication). This means it is important that all schools register their appropriate teams for the event as soon as practical to ensure the tournament reflects the right level of competitive opportunity for the players and teams involved

3. Only one team per gender per school will be accepted this year upon registration with second teams waitlisted. If there are vacant slots still available as the registration period closes, waitlisted teams can then be accepted and confirmed.

4. Draw format and schedule of the event may change with the intent to:

    a. Provide teams morning, afternoon or evening game slots

    b. Improve rest and recovery time between days

Satellite events

Due to the reduced number of places available, places in the North and South Island Satellite tournaments in Auckland and Christchurch are also available.

For further details on these events, please contact:

- North Island Satellite – Volleyball NZ - https://www.volleyballnz.org.nz/competitions/schools/nzss

- South Island Satellite – Canterbury Volleyball – https://www.canterburyvolleyball.org/

Event and pathway review

In addition to the above changes, VNZ will commence a full and wider review of its entire competition calendar and events pathway during 2024. Further changes to the event for 2025 and beyond may come because of that review process. Further information regarding this, and how schools can contribute, will be available in due course.

Ngā mihi nui,

Steven Upfold
Chief Executive Officer
Volleyball New Zealand