



# CENTRAL ZONE LEAGUE



*NEW ZEALAND*  
**CENTRAL ZONE**  
*CLUB VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE*

# COMPETITION MANUAL

# 2026





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## 1. Background

### 1.1 Philosophy

The Central Zone League (CZL) represents the highest level of volleyball competition within the Central Zone region, including Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawātū, Hawke's Bay, Gisborne, and Wellington. It determines representatives for VNZ Club Championships.

1.1.1 The CZL operates under the following guiding philosophies:

1.1.1.1 To ensure fairness and equity in the qualification process for VNZ Club Championships.

1.1.1.2 To provide a high-quality experience for players, spectators, and officials.

1.1.1.3 To create a safe and enjoyable playing environment.

1.1.1.4 To promote volleyball, the Central Zone, and its members positively.

### 1.2 Introduction

1.2.1 This manual has been developed based on:

1.2.1.1 Relevant information from VNZ (generic zone manual, qualification process, Club Champs manual).

1.2.1.2 International best practices.

1.2.1.3 Guidance from the Central Zone Committee.

1.2.1.4 Feedback from registered team representatives.

### 1.3 Competition Aims

1.3.1 Provide elite-level volleyball competition within the zone.

1.3.2 Prepare top teams for the NZ Club Championships.

1.3.3 Ensure representation across the entire geographical zone.

1.3.4 Maintain cost-efficiency and credibility.

1.3.5 Support development of emerging athletes.

### 1.4 Zone Committee

1.4.1 2026 Central Zone Committee Members:

1.4.1.1 Wellington – Andrew Fok and Isabel Lemanutau

1.4.1.2 Manawātū – Kelsey Higgins and Jessica Mitchell

1.4.1.3 Hawke's Bay – Alex Mariano and Thelma Vilo



## 2. Central Zone Entry

### 2.1 Entry submission

2.1.1 Entry submissions must be made through the official form

2.1.2 Entry deadline: Monday, 29 June 2026, by 6:00 PM.

### 2.2 Fees

2.2.1 Entry fee per team: \$1,300 including GST due by Monday 29 June 2026, 6pm

2.2.2 Payment details:

Bank: Wellington Regional Volleyball Association

Account: 06 0561 0878753 00

Reference: CZ26

Particulars: TEAM

Code: GENDER

### 2.3 Conditions of Entry

2.3.1 Clubs must be affiliated with their Association by 29 June 2026, 6:00 PM.

2.3.2 Clubs must have no outstanding debt with their Association, Zone, or VNZ.

2.3.3 Clubs must have serious intent to attend the VNZ Club Championships.

2.3.4 Clubs must attend all required CZ events to maintain qualification eligibility.

2.3.5 Failure to attend scheduled events may result in future entry and refund being denied.



### 3. The Competition

#### 3.1 Competition Format

3.1.1 Format will be finalized after registration.

3.1.2 Format will qualify 2026 Club Champs Zone allocated seeds:

##### 3.1.2.1 Central Zone Men

3.1.2.1.1 Division 1: 2 spots

3.1.2.1.2 Division 2: 2 spots

3.1.2.1.3 Division 3: 3 spots

3.1.2.1.4 Division 4: 0 spots

##### 3.1.2.2 Central Zone Women

3.1.2.2.1 Division 1: 1 spots

3.1.2.2.2 Division 2: 3 spots

3.1.2.2.3 Division 3: 2 spots

3.1.2.2.4 Division 4: TBD- 8 spots across 4 zones

3.1.2.3 VNZ may change the structure of Club Championships which may adjust the number of Zone allocated seeds per division. The CZ committee will relay all information as it is released.

##### 3.1.3 2026 Event Dates & Venues:

3.1.3.1 Not all potential dates will be played across all teams. Once entries are closed, the draw will be formatted to fit available court space. Events may be split between men and women or by pools of the league. We anticipate at least 3 tournaments per team.

3.1.3.2 Teams must play in all scheduled events to participate in the league, there is no rescheduling of matches outside of the leagues assigned draw.

##### 3.1.3.3 Potential dates

25& 26 (Sat & Sun) July: Palmerston North- Arena B&M

16 (Sun) August: Porirua- Te Rauparaha

29 (Sat) August: Wellington- Akau Tangi

12&13 (Sat & Sun) September: Palmerston North -Arena

19 (Sat) September: Walter Nash Centre- Lower Hutt

20 (Sun) September: Porirua- Te Rauparaha

and 19&20 (Sat &Sun) September: Palmerston North- Arena B&M Centre -dependent on number of entries



## 3.2 Draws & Results

3.2.1 Draws will be released at least 10 days prior to each tournament.

## 3.3 Competition Points

### 3.3.1 Best-of-5 Matches:

Win (3–0 or 3–1): 3 points

Win (3–2): 2 points

Loss (2–3): 1 point

Loss (0–3 or 1–3): 0 points

Default: –1 point points entered 0-25, 0-25, 0-25

### 3.3.2 Best-of-3 Matches:

Win (2–0): 3 points

Win (2–1): 2 points

Loss (1–2): 1 point

Loss (0–2): 0 points

Default: –1 point points entered 0-25, 0-25

3.3.3 Default is when fewer than 9 eligible players are available.

## 3.4 Referees

3.4.1 Duty teams must approach the management of the game with respect to players, team officials and spectators and seek to reflect positively on the game and the zone.

### 3.4.1.1 Provide a Regional Qualified or Regional Candidate First Referee

3.4.1.1.1 If a Regional Candidate acts as the First Referee, a National-level assessor must supervise.

### 3.4.1.2 Provide a Regional Qualified or Regional Candidate Second Referee

3.4.1.3 Provide a capable scorer and two line judges

3.4.1.4 Use referees active in the past two years

## 3.5 Disputes

3.5.1 Club representatives may lodge formal disputes with the Zone Committee.

3.5.1.1 Committee members with conflicts must abstain from decisions.

3.5.1.2 The Committee will review the dispute as soon as is practical.



### 3.5.2 Protests

3.5.2.1 Must be made to the First Referee immediately

3.5.2.2 \$100 Protest fee must be present on score table

3.5.2.2 Tournament Director and Referee Delegate will make the ruling

### 3.6 Regulations

3.6.1 CZL will follow 12 substitution adaptations to FIVB regulations.

3.6.2 Two liberos may be designated per set.

3.6.3 If a team is carrying 14 players, the two liberos must be named for the entire match.

### 3.7 Code of Conduct Expectations:

3.7.1 [VNZ General Code of Conduct](#)

3.7.2 VNZ Athlete Code of Conduct

3.7.3 [Bullying, Harassment and Intimidation Policy](#)

3.7.4 [Child Protection Policy](#)

3.7.5 [VNZ Constitution](#)



## 4. Team Composition

### 4.1 Squad Lists

4.1.1 Squad List (max 20 players) due by 6 July 2026, 6:00 PM

4.1.2 All Squad members must be VNZ members by 6 July 2026, 6pm

note: VNZ will invoice Club all player membership fees, please make sure to include this in your team fees

4.1.3 Late additions incur:

4.1.3.1 \$50 penalty fee

4.1.3.2 One match of ineligibility

### 4.2 Team Lists:

4.2.1 Must include 9 minimum players

4.2.2 May include up to 14 players

4.2.2.1 if more than 12 players are listed on a team list, Two players must be designated as liberos per match

4.2.3 Submit lists by Wednesday, 6:00 PM prior to the event through the event management sheet.

4.2.3 Players are locked to the club once listed on a Team List

4.3 Players can move between teams only under intra-club or emergency rules.

4.3.1 Intra-Club Player Movement (Rules for clubs with multiple teams)

4.3.1.1 Minimum 9 "A team" players must be designated.

4.3.1.2 Players may only appear on one list per weekend.

4.3.1.3 After 3 appearances with a higher team, the player is permanently moved.

4.3.1.4 "PROMOTED PLAYER" must be marked on scoresheets.

4.3.1.5 Movement to lower teams is not permitted unless rejoining the original team.

4.3.1.6 At season end, one player may be dropped from A/B team to lower team for Club Champs.

4.3.2 Emergency Player Rule

4.3.2.1 Applicable when a higher team has fewer than 8 players.

4.3.2.2 Up to 3 emergency players may be listed from lower teams.



#### 4.3.2.3 Rules for emergency players:

Must be marked "EMERGENCY PLAYER" on scoresheet  
Can still play for their lower-ranked team  
Once used, become a promoted player  
Must stay with the higher team for the weekend

#### 4.4 Penalty for using an ineligible player:

4.4.1 \$50 fine

4.4.2 Match loss 0-25, 0-25, 0-25 or 0-25, 0-25

4.4.3 Ineligibility for next match

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## 5. Player Eligibility

### 5.1 Registration with Clubs

5.1.1 All players must be VNZ registered by 6 July 2026, 6:00 PM

note: VNZ will invoice Club all player membership fees, please make sure to include this in your team fees

5.1.2 Transfers are required for any players moving from a different club

### 5.2 International Players

5.2.1 Definition Players on visitor/working holiday visas (or Australians visiting)

5.2.2 Limit: 2 international players per team per season

5.2.3 International Transfer Certificates (ITCs):

5.2.3.1 Required for any player whose federation of origin is not New Zealand

5.2.3.2 Mandatory for Club Champs participation

5.2.3.3 Visit the VNZ website for ITC procedures