



NEW FIVB  
VOLLEYBALL  
WORLD  
RANKING  
FOR SENIOR  
NATIONAL  
TEAMS

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

## WHY A NEW FIVB WORLD RANKING?

Implementing a new world ranking will reflect the true sporting strength of the senior national teams more accurately than ever before. The ranking will be more dynamic, which means that it is consistently and automatically updated after the competition of matches played in recognised official competitions.

The new World Ranking system will represent all 222 senior national teams per genders level of strength considering every match played in a greater number of recognised official competitions.

The previous World Ranking did not include all the national teams, was based on the final standings of a few events with an outdated points attribution system and did not reflect the reality of the sport.

## WHO BENEFITS?

The new FIVB World Ranking applies to all women and men senior national teams. This comes as a result of factoring in all official matches and sets played in recognised official competitions. The new World Ranking system helps to make every match played by a senior national team relevant to fans, media and volleyball stakeholders by considering the match result as well as the sets score of that match.

The process of seeding teams for official competitions will ensure the placement of teams in pools is fair, accurate and an indication of the teams' performance strength at the time of the drawing of lots.

## WHAT COMPETITIONS' MATCHES ARE ELIGIBLE IN NEW FIVB WORLD RANKING SYSTEM?

The table below shows the recognised official competitions eligible for World Ranking along with the match weight factor attributed to each match of the respective competition.

To be eligible for WR Points, the recognised official competitions must have a minimum of 4 senior national teams participating.



To be eligible for WR Points, the recognised official competitions must have a minimum of 4 senior national teams participating.

Organizer	Event	Match Weight Factor
World	Olympic Games	50
FIVB	World Championship	45
FIVB	Volleyball Nations League	40
FIVB	OQTs / World Cup	35
Confederations	Continental Championship	35
FIVB	Volleyball Challenger Cup	20
Confederations	Continental Championship QT	17.5
Confederations	Other annual official events organized by Continental Confederations	10

All matches played in multi-sport events, friendly matches or unofficial competitions will NOT be eligible for WR points.

## WHAT IS THE STARTING POINT OF THE NEW FIVB WORLD RANKING?

On January 1, 2019 the WR score from the previous FIVB World Ranking of all national teams were taken and +100 WR points were added to each national team to establish the starting WR score in new World Ranking system.

## WHAT IS THE STANDARD SCALING FACTOR OF 8 INCLUDED IN THE FORMULA?

The standard scaling factor was introduced on January 1, 2019 to calibrate the starting WR score for the new World Ranking system to work. A linear regression was used to find the best fit between the previous and the new starting WR score and obtain the number 8.

The standard scaling factor is used to make sure the WR points won and lost in each match are within the range for the new World Ranking system to work. It prevents the system from attributing too many or not enough WR points to the teams. The standard scaling factor changes nothing in the mechanics of the new World Ranking.

## DO ALL MATCHES HAVE THE SAME VALUE IN THE NEW FIVB WORLD RANKING?

Match weight factors are given to different competitions to reflect the prestige of the tournaments. The highest match weight factor is attributed to the most prestigious matches in the respective competition and then attributed accordingly on a sliding scale. Therefore, a team might win or lose more WR points in a match played at a more important event.

Recently played matches have a higher impact on a national team's WR score than the older matches.

## IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HOME AND AWAY MATCHES?

The new World Ranking does not consider Home and Away matches in recognised official competitions.

In volleyball there is little evidence to suggest that a Home team has an advantage over the visiting team from the study of the historical match data, so the new World Ranking system does not attribute additional factors to the awarding of WR points for a win by the Away team. Therefore, every match is considered a neutral match in the calculation of the WR points. This factor is tracked and monitored consistently by the FIVB.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO INACTIVE TEAMS?

Every year on January 1, the national teams that did not play any matches counting towards the new World Ranking over the year will lose -50 WR points for the next year. An inactive team reaching a WR score of less than 20 WR points will be removed from the ranking list.

As soon as an inactive team removed from the ranking plays a match counting towards the new World Ranking, it will be reinstated and attributed with its previous WR score from before being removed.

## DOES A TEAM BENEFIT FROM PLAYING MORE MATCHES THAN A TEAM THAT PLAYS SIGNIFICANTLY LESS MATCHES?

No, since playing more matches results in more possibilities to win and lose WR points. The World Ranking system rewards the teams that are over-performing. A very strong team winning many matches might get as many WR points as a weaker team over-performing in 1 single match against a stronger opponent. Additionally, the more a team wins, the more the team will be expected to win and the less WR points the team can score.

## **DOES A TEAM BENEFIT FROM PLAYING MORE MATCHES AGAINST STRONG TEAMS THAN A TEAM THAT PLAYS LESS MATCHES AGAINST STRONG TEAMS?**

To go up in the World Ranking it is beneficial for a team to over-perform and win against stronger teams. It gives the team more opportunities to score a good amount of WR points. However, by playing stronger opponents a team also increases its chances to lose matches and WR points.

A team can also go up in the World Ranking by winning many matches against weaker opponents.

## **WHAT HAPPENS TO EVENTS TAKING PLACE OUTSIDE OF THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL TEAM SEASON CALENDAR DATES?**

As of the official implementation of the new World Ranking on 1 February 2020, any events not in line with the Volleyball Calendar principles will not count towards the new World Ranking.

## **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TWO EVENTS COUNTING TOWARDS THE NEW WORLD RANKING AND INVOLVING THE SAME TEAM OVERLAP?**

As of the official implementation of the new World Ranking on 1 February 2020, if two events involving the same team overlap, the one with the higher match weight factor will prevail. Which means that all matches played in the event with the smaller match weight factor will not count towards the new World Ranking.