

United Towns Pilot Program – 25/26 Provincial Championships

To facilitate opportunities for athletes to participate in 13U and 14U NLVA school-based events, the following amendment is proposed as a **pilot for the 2025–2026 Provincial Championships**.

- *An exception may be granted to allow a United Towns team to play in the 13U or 14U NLVA Provincial Championships that is comprised of athletes from different schools and/or regions based on the following criteria:*

1. Eligibility

1.1 Athletes must attend a school in Newfoundland and Labrador and be in Grade 7 or 8.

1.2 Athletes may only apply to a United Towns team **if their school does not offer a team in their grade or in the grade above.**

1.3 A letter of support from the school administration must confirm:

- that no school team exists for the athlete in their grade or the grade above
- that the school supports the athlete(s) participating on a United Towns team.

2. Team Formation

2.1 United Towns teams must be independently coached and may not be affiliated with any school. Uniforms must not display school names or logos.

2.2 A maximum of **four (4)** athletes from any single school may apply to a United Towns team.

2.3 Teams must have a minimum roster of **nine (9)** athletes to be eligible to compete. Permission to participate with **eight (8)** athletes must be approved prior to the event.

3. Restrictions

3.1 United Towns teams are **not permitted to register for Volleyball Canada Nationals.**

3.2 If a team exists in the grade above, athletes will not be permitted to join a United Towns team.

4. Administration & Coaching

To apply for or create a United Towns Team a coach must:

- 4.1** be a **volunteer** and may not receive compensation.
- 4.2** be responsible for securing gym time and organizing practices.
- 4.3** ensure that athletes provide all required documentation from their school administration.
- 4.4** Submit the United Towns application for review to the Regional Director of the region the team wishes to represent (e.g., *United Towns – Eastern, United Towns – Western, etc*).

Regional Director contact information:

<https://nlvolleyball.net/information/regional-directors/>

If deemed appropriate by the Regional Director, the application will then be forwarded to the NLVA Board of Directors for final approval.

 **Goal:** As a school-based PSO, the NLVA will provide opportunities for athletes in Grades 7–8 to experience meaningful competition in school-based events, where no opportunity exists.