

2020 High Performance Athlete Identification Matrix

This matrix describes five (5) different stages of skill development in Canadian youth volleyball players.
Athletes will receive scores related to the stages of development that best reflect their current skill level.

For all skills, evaluators are looking for the relationship between the athlete's technical execution of the skill, their ability to read and make decisions related to that skill and the produced outcome.

| Skills | | What are evaluators looking for? | Proficient 5 (18U PT and YNT Standard) | Advanced 4 (17U PT Standard) | Competent 3 (16U PT Standard) | Emerging 2 (15U PT Standard) | Developing 1 |
|----------------------|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| Technical & Tactical | Serving (all players) | Can the player perform different types of serves with proper technical execution and consistency? Can the player serve to different areas of the court with an aggressive trajectory while avoiding mistakes? Does the player understand the tactics of serving and manage their serve based on what is happening in the game? | Player is refining all types of serves Main serve is very effective and technique is exemplary Ability to serve the whole court consistently, specifically the gaps between players and open court. Trajectory is flat and aggressive Serve is part of a team strategy. Can serve purposefully and tactically based on opponent's weakness and context of the game. | Player is refining standing float and consolidating jump float/spin Main serve is a very effective jump float or jump spin serve. Can perform both serves with good technique Ability to serve the whole court with some control. Trajectory is flat and aggressive Can serve purposefully and tactically based on opponent's weakness and context of the game | Player is consolidating standing float serve and acquiring jump float/spin Main serve is technically sound and effective. Execution is more and more consistent Ability to serve most of the court including short. Trajectory can be aggressive but not always consistent Can serve with some purpose and starts serving tactically based on opponent's weakness and context of the game | Player is consolidating standing float serve and acquiring jump float/spin Standing float serve is technically sound. Jump float/spin technique is in acquisition stage. Technique generally lacks consistency. Has success serving into the court. Less errors. Trajectory still lacks consistency. Serve is often easy to pass Serve is individual and player's skill level doesn't allow tactical serving. | Player is acquiring standing float serve Float serve technique is inconsistent Has some success serving the ball into the court. Trajectory is inconsistent and results in easy to pass serve or high mistakes Serve is individual and does not integrate into a team serving strategy. Player's skill level doesn't allow tactical serving. |
| | Passing (Leftsides, liberos, middles at 15UG and 16UB) | Can the player move and pass with proper technical execution? Can the player pass balls coming at different speeds with different trajectories and ball movement through good cue reading? Can the player produce a pass trajectory that is consistently in a position to allow the setter to run a full offence? | Player is refining basic serve receive skills and consolidating advanced skills Hand/forearm pass technical execution is exemplary. Spin serve passing is good. Reads the play and the ball as to produce efficient movement to the ball. Passes well outside of body. Body is balanced at contact Ability to pass tactically. Transition from pass to attack is good and consistent. | Player is consolidating basic and advanced serve receive skills Can execute hand/forearm passes with good technique on various types of serves. Acquiring spin serve passing. Reads the play and the ball as to produce efficient movement to the ball. Passes well when outside of body. Body is balanced at contact Good transition from pass to attack. Players starts to pass tactically | Player is consolidating basic serve receiving skills and acquiring advanced skills Can execute hand/forearm passes with proper technique most of the time on medium to hard serves. Free ball passing is good from various positions Reads the play and the ball well but passing outside of body is still difficult. Body is sometimes unbalanced at contact. Developing ability to transition from passing to attack | Player is acquiring basic serve receive skills Technical execution of forearm and overhead pass is good but inconsistent. Reading and tracking of the serve is limiting success Difficulty passing outside of body and seam responsibility is not yet developed Can pass free balls well when little movement necessary. Inconsistent trajectory and location in serve receive | Player is acquiring basic serve receive skills Serve receive technical execution is inconsistent. Serve reading and tracking is limited. Inconsistent trajectory and location of pass on both serves and free balls |
| | Setting (Setters) | Can the setter move to the ball effectively to use their hands and adopt a stable body position at contact? Is the technical execution of the set proper? Can the player set all positions of the court with accuracy and location from varying distances? Can the player set different tempo balls to create diversified offence? Can the player make proper setting decisions based on the situation, the abilities of their attackers and the opposite team's defensive strategy? | Player is refining basic setting skills and consolidating advanced skills Moves effectively to position themselves under the ball, square to position 4. Setter is consistently in a position to jump set. Release is fast and from a consistent contact point Ability to set tempo balls to all positions of the court (front & back row set) with above average accuracy and consistency Has a strong understanding of tactical setting and how to run an effective offence. Can exploit opponent weaknesses and utilize team strengths. Has ability to see the blockers when making setting decisions. | Player is consolidating basic setting skills and acquiring advanced skills Moves effectively to position themselves under the ball, square to position 4. Setter is in a position to jump set most of the time. Release is fast and from a consistent contact point. Ability to set tempo balls to all positions of the court (front & back row sets), from varying distances off the net with accuracy and good location. Has good understanding of tactical setting makes setting decisions based on opponent weaknesses, and team strengths. Setter uses separation/overload. | Player is acquiring advanced setting skills and consolidating footwork Movement is good, regularly is in position under the ball and square to position 4. Contact point is not always consistent and depends on choice of set. Setter uses the jump set regularly and is developing a fast release Can set high balls to all positions on the court in good pass scenarios. Both location and accuracy are consistent from varying distances off the net. Ability to set different tempo balls Has basic understanding of tactical setting. Setter adjusts strategy throughout the match based on gathered information. Makes occasional decision making mistakes | Player is acquiring basic and advanced setting skills. Movement to the ball is good but inconsistent. Setter is sometimes square to position 4 and often unbalanced which results in inconsistent contact point. Jump set is developing. Can set high balls to all positions on the court in good pass scenarios but is inconsistent with location and accuracy. Has basic understanding of tactical setting. Set location is still mainly based on quality of pass. | Player is acquiring basic setting skills. Movement is inefficient and results in unstable and inconsistent body position at contact. Technical execution of set is compromised by body position or lack of strength. Bump sets are often used Setter sets high balls. Range, accuracy and location are limited. Does not set tactically. Set location is based on quality and location of the pass. |
| | Setting (non-setters, only evaluated if significant # of sets are observed) | Can the player move to the ball effectively and be stable at contact? Can the player execute a high ball set with proper technique? Are the sets consistently allowing attackers to hit multiple shots? | Player refines high ball setting skills and demonstrate certain qualities associated with setters Moves effectively to position themselves under the ball and square to position 4. Can set using hands and arms with exemplary technique. Release is clean, fast and contact point is consistent. Is able to set a hittable high ball to all positions of the court using front and back sets from varying positions on the court. Player reads situations well and makes good setting choices. Player is able to deliver a hittable tempo set when appropriate. | Player refines high ball setting skills Moves effectively to position themselves under the ball and square to position 4. Can set using hands and arms with good technique Is able to set a hittable high ball to all positions of the court from varying positions on the court. Can back set a hittable high ball in certain situations. The choice of sets is consistently appropriate given the context | Player is consolidating high ball setting skills Movement is good, but body position is inconsistent at contact. Technical execution of hand set is proper. Technical execution of forearm set is inconsistent Is able to set a hittable high ball in front of them to positions 2 & 4 from limited positions on the court. Back sets are inconsistent. The choice of sets is appropriate most of the time | Player is acquiring high ball setting skills Body position is unstable and irregular. The technical execution of the set is affected by body instability Is able to set a hittable high ball right in front of them but the quality of the set is inconsistent Ability to back set is limited. Decision making is not developed yet. | Athlete movement is inefficient and results in unstable and inconsistent body position at contact. Technical execution of set is compromised The quality of the set is very inconsistent and doesn't allow hitters to attack aggressively. Lack of physical strength is a probable cause of the difficulty with setting a high ball Decision making skills are not developed yet |

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| Other Assessments | High Performance Potential | Potential is the perceived likelihood that a player will be successful at a higher level of the high performance pathway in the future based on the qualities they currently demonstrate. An athlete is perceived to have potential if they demonstrate exceptional levels of performance in one or more of the assessment areas (Technical & Tactical, Physical, Psychological, Life Skills) <i>No coaches or evaluators can accurately predict who will actually reach higher levels of play but the following characteristics have been linked to higher chances of advancing in volleyball.</i> | The athlete's technical and tactical skills are exceptional and beyond the standards for the expected developmental level |
| | | | The athlete's physical abilities are exceptional and well beyond standards for the expected development level |
| | | | The athlete's cue reading and decision making abilities are exceptional and well beyond standards for the expected development level |
| | | | The athlete demonstrates exceptional understanding and proficiency in certain life skills and psychological skills |

*The Athlete Evaluation Matrix was a collaborative project developed by a Volleyball Canada working committee that consisted of technical staff from Volleyball BC, Volleyball Alberta, Volleyball Saskatchewan, Volleyball Manitoba & Ontario Volleyball.