

Cambridge University Volleyball Club (CUVC)

SELECTION POLICY

Policy Objective:

This policy is to enable the fair selection of players for the four CUVC squads for the 2025-2026 season: Blues Women, Blues Men, UCCW (2nd women's team) and UCCM (2nd men's team) working towards playing the BUCS matches in their relative divisions and competing in the Varsity match.

Performance objectives:

BW: To build a training squad who will grow to become a team capable of qualifying for the playoffs of the National Finals, win Varsity and do well in the Student Cup.

BM: To build a competitive training squad throughout the season, to win Tier 2 and compete for promotion to the Premier League.

UCCW: To compile a training squad which can function as a development pathway for players who aspire to move to BW and which can build onto the progress of last season by winning the Varsity match and place top 2 in Tier 2.

UCCM: To build a training squad with the aim to rank first in Tier 3 in order to get promoted to Tier 2 and win the Varsity match.

Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible, players must be paid up members of the Cambridge University Volleyball Club and matriculated members of the University of Cambridge.

Each one of the teams will aim to select 16-18 players to join them in the upcoming season. The final number of selected players for a team will depend on the captains and the coach of that team. This decision should be based on how many trialists meet the selection criteria and have the potential to make a positive contribution to their team at the expected level.

Squad Selection Criteria:

Trials will take place on the weekend of Week 1 of Michaelmas Term, on October 10th 2026.

Candidates for the teams must submit general information and description of their volleyball experience to an online form. Two forms will be available: one for men, gathering applications for BM and UCCM, and one for women, gathering applications for BW and UCCW. The form will be released mid-August and will be closed at 12pm on the Friday before the trials weekend. The form will be advertised on the CUVC website, social media, and at the Sports and Freshers' Fairs.

Players who do not fill the form by the deadline but reach out to the club expressing interest afterwards may be invited to join a training session rather than trials. The same applies to players

who fill out the form but are unable to attend the trials for a valid reason and have previously informed the Club about this.

Trials for each gender will take place on the same day in the same venue with the captains and coaches of both the first and second team present. The venue will be booked as a full sports hall, with two volleyball courts set up, one to serve as the Blues court and one to serve as the second team court. Players may choose which court to start on based on which team they are trialling for but will be moved around based on their skill level by the captains and coaches observing them. Captains and coaches reserve the right to refer trialists to developments sessions during the trials if their skill level is not suitable for either of the teams.

Continuing players from the past seasons need to be re-trialled.

Players will be selected for the training squad based on the following criteria:

- Ability to perform key technical skills
- Ability to positively respond to feedback from the coach and their teammates
- Tactical knowledge
- Position they play and demand for this position
- Willingness and flexibility to change the position they play to fit the needs of the team
- Availability for practices and matches
- Previous volleyball experience
- Suspected potential for improvement
- Height

All final selection decisions are made by the captains and the coach.

Candidates who are selected for their desired team will be informed so via email by the team captain and given a training schedule. Candidates who are not selected for their desired team will be informed so via email by the captain of the team they have applied for. Candidates not selected for the Blues teams will be considered for the second teams instead and contacted by the second team captains should they choose to have them on the team. Candidates not selected for the second teams should be referred to the development sessions.

Captains and coaches are expected to maintain a level of professional communication and respect with all trialists and be prepared to elaborate the reasons for (not) selecting a player.

Match Selection Criteria:

Players will be selected for BUCS matches based on the following criteria:

- Recent form in training sessions
- Percentage of previous matches and training sessions attended
- Positions of available players
- Whether drivers are required

Permission from Oxford University Volleyball Club should be requested to permit everyone on the squad to take part in the Varsity match, and the same permission should be granted to the opponents. In the case of a failure to do so, the same selection criteria as for the BUCS matches should apply to Varsity.

Extenuating circumstances:

Reduced participation due to illness or injury will be considered when assessing the attendance record of players. A player who remains an active member of the team despite being injured, e.g. supporting during matches they cannot play or attending Strength and Conditioning sessions, will be more likely to have the previously stated attendance requirement waived.

Players not selected for matches, will be informed so before a team sheet is announced. All selected players are asked to bear in mind that other players may not have been selected and recognise the impact this may have on them.

Appeals:

Athletes wishing to appeal should follow the complaints process outlined in the Club's constitution. Should a player feel they have not been selected due to a lack of a fair, due process, they may raise this issue with the coach, captain, vice-captain, welfare officers or the Club President.