

The background is a deep blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white snowflakes and small white stars. In the center, there is a faint, circular graphic of a volleyball net. The text is prominently displayed in the middle of the image.

INTERNATIONAL VOLLEYBALL INDOOR TOURNAMENT
"ISTA SNOW CUP"

26-29 DECEMBER 2026

INTRODUCTION

“ISTA Snow Cup” is a new international youth volleyball tournament coming to Lithuania, created by “Indrė Sorokaitė tinklinio akademija” (ISTA VOLLEYBALL) and Indrė Sorokaitė herself, Olympian and former professional volleyball player with more than 20 years of experience at the highest level of the sport.

The vision behind the tournament is simple: to bring international volleyball to Lithuania and create a high-quality experience for young athletes, both on and off the court.

Teams from different countries will have the opportunity to compete, meet new people, exchange cultures and build lasting connections through volleyball.

With a strong focus on professional organization, sporting quality and player experience, “ISTA Snow Cup” is designed to allow teams to focus on what they came for playing volleyball and enjoying the experience, while the ISTA staff team takes care of the tournament logistics.

High-level experience. International competition. One volleyball community.

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INTRODUCTION

Categories

U15 Girls — born in 2012 and younger
U17 Girls — born in 2010 and younger

Teams

16 teams per category · 32 teams total

Organizer

Indrė Sorokaitė tinklinio akademija (ISTA VOLLEYBALL)

Venue

ISTA Arena, Islandijos street 57, Kaunas, Lithuania

Tournament dates

27–29 December 2026

Team arrival (tournament check-in)

26 December 2026

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REGULATION

1. OBJECTIVES

- Promote youth volleyball, improve sporting skills and create opportunities for international cooperation and communication between volleyball clubs.
- Encourage healthy lifestyles, teamwork, character development, unity and communication.
- Promote Kaunas and Lithuania through sport and cultural exchange.
- Determine the strongest teams in the U15 and U17 girls' categories.

2. DATE, AGE GROUPS AND VENUE

- Competition: 27–29 December 2026.
- U15 Girls: players born in 2012 and younger. U17 Girls: players born in 2010 and younger.
- Capacity: 16 teams in each category.
- Venue: ISTA Arena, Islandijos street 57, Kaunas, Lithuania.

3. ORGANIZER

The tournament is organized by Public Institution “Indrė Sorokaitė tinklinio akademija” (ISTA Volleyball). Refereeing and the official match secretariat are provided by the organizers.

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4. PARTICIPATION AND TEAM COMPOSITION

- The tournament is open to invited youth volleyball organizations.
- A delegation may include up to 14 players and 1 coach. Additional staff members may be included for an additional fee.
- Players must meet the age eligibility of their category.
- Players must wear official competition uniforms with numbers.

5. COMPETITION RULES AND MATCH FORMAT

Matches are played according to the FIVB Indoor Volleyball Rules, unless a specific tournament regulation states otherwise.

- Match format: best of 3 sets (the team winning 2 sets wins the match).
- Sets 1 and 2 are played to 25 points, with a minimum 2-point advantage.
- If a third set is required, it is played to 15 points, with a minimum 2-point advantage.
- Referees and the official secretariat are provided by the organizers.

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6. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

16 teams in each category are divided into four groups of four teams for the first stage.

6.1. Day 1 - 27 December - Qualification Stage

- Four groups A, B, C and D of four teams are formed in each category.
- Each team plays 3 matches within its group.
- Group standings determine each team's position from 1st to 4th.
- Day 1 - Qualification stage results determine the teams' positions in the Day 2 - Second Group Stage.

6.2. Day 2 - 28 December – Group Stage (table n.1)

Teams are redistributed into four new groups of four, according to their results from 27 December Day 2 - Group Stage. Teams finishing 1st and 2nd in their Day 1 groups will advance to Groups 1 and 2 for the Day 2 Group Stage. Teams finishing 3rd and 4th will advance to Groups 3 and 4. Each team plays 3 matches in the second group stage.

6.3. Day 3 - 29 December – Playoffs and Final Placement (table n.2)

After the Day 2 - Group Stage, teams compete for final positions 1–8 and 9–16 in each category. Every team will play placement matches to determine its final position from 1st to 16th.

6.4. Group Ranking

Teams receive: 3 points for a 2:0 win = 2 points, for a 2:1 win = 1 point, for a 1:2 or for a 0:2 loss = 0 points. If two or more teams have an equal number of points, ranking is determined in the following order: set ratio; point ratio.

Group 1: A1 vs D2	Group 3: A3 vs D4
Group 2: A2 vs B1	Group 4: A4 vs B3
Group 1: C1 vs B2	Group 3: C3 vs B4
Group 2: C2 vs D1	Group 4: C4 vs D3
Group 1: A1 vs C1	Group 3: B4 vs D4
Group 2: B2 vs D2	Group 4: A3 vs C3
Group 1: A2 vs D1	Group 3: A4 vs D3
Group 2: A1 vs B2	Group 4: A3 vs B4
Group 1: B1 vs C2	Group 3: B3 vs C4
Group 2: C1 vs D2	Group 4: C3 vs D4
Group 1: B1 vs D1	Group 3: A4 vs C4
Group 2: A2 vs C2	Group 4: B3 vs D3

Table n.1

1–8 QF1: 1st G1 vs 4th G2	1–8 QF2: 1st G2 vs 4th G1
1–8 QF3: 2nd G1 vs 3rd G2	1–8 QF4: 2nd G2 vs 3rd G1
9–16 QF1: 3rd G3 vs 2nd G4	9–16 QF2: 3rd G4 vs 2nd G3
9–16 QF3: 4th G3 vs 1st G4	9–16 QF4: 4th G4 vs 1st G3
1–4 SF1: W QF1 vs W QF2	5–8 SF1: L QF1 vs L QF2
1–4 SF2: W QF3 vs W QF4	5–8 SF2: L QF3 vs L QF4
9–12 SF1: W QF1 vs W QF2	13–16 SF1: L QF1 vs L QF2
3rd Place: L 1–4 SF1 vs L 1–4 SF2	5th Place: L 5–8 SF1 vs L 5–8 SF2
🏆 FINAL: W 1–4 SF1 vs W 1–4 SF2	7th Place: W 5–8 SF1 vs W 5–8 SF2
CLOSING CEREMONY & AWARDS	

Table n.2

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7. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Table N.3

8. REGISTRATION

- On-line team registration opens on 1st October 2026. Registration deadline is 2nd November 2026.
- Before the tournament, each team must submit the Team Registration Form by 1st December 2026 to events@istavolleyball.com
- The Team Registration Form will be sent to each team after registration has been confirmed.
- Teams check-in (26 dec) Teams must submit the completed Team Registration Form and the original valid identification document of all registered participants.
- Places are limited to 16 teams per category and are confirmed by the organizers.

Date	Program
26 Dec	After 14:00 Delegation arrival to the hotel /check-in (for teams using accommodation). 14:00-18:00 "ISTA SNOW CUP" tournament check-in (at the venue "ISTA Arena"). 18:00-22:00 Official Opening Ceremony & Opening Party «Winter fairytale» 19:00-20:00 Coach meeting/Rules briefing.
27 Dec	Day 1. Qualification Stage
28 Dec	Day 2. Group Stage
29 Dec	Day 3. Final stage. 20:00 closing ceremony, awards and tournament party.
30 Dec	Hotel check-out for teams using the 4-night accommodation package.

Table n.3

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9. TEAM REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:

- Medical staff present throughout the event.
- A local team guide available throughout the event.
- Opening and closing ceremonies and tournament parties.
- Photo and video content.
- Game Live Stream.
- Tournament gadgets.
- Coaches meeting/rules briefing.
- Referees, secretaries, and medical staff.
- Volleyball equipment (w-up balls, trolley ecc.).
- Team awards and prizes.

€ 2.200 /team

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10. ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS PACKAGES		3*** & 4*** hotels Bed & breakfast + Lunch & dinner delivered to the venue
Package N.1	4-Nights Package 26–30 Dec Bed & breakfast + lunch + dinner. Lunch: 27, 28 and 29 Dec (3 lunches). Dinner: 26, 27, 28 and 29 Dec (4 dinners).	€ 290/person
Package N.2	3-Nights Package 26–29 Dec Bed & breakfast + lunch + dinner. Lunch: 27, 28 and 29 Dec (3 lunches). Dinner: 26, 27, 28 and 29 Dec (4 dinners).	€ 250/person
Package N.3	No accommodation. Lunch: 27, 28 and 29 Dec (3 lunches). Dinner: 26, 27, 28 and 29 Dec (4 dinners).	€85/person
Extra leading person (coach, assistant coach, team representative, or family members)	Bed & Breakfast + Lunch + Dinner	€ 80/person/day
Transportation	Not included. The organizers can assist with airport transfers and local transportation for an additional fee, arranged in advance.	

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11. AWARDS

- The top three teams in each category receive trophies, medals and commemorative gifts.
- A “Dream team” is selected in each category: 2 Outside Hitters, 2 Middle Blockers, 1 Setter, 1 Libero, 1 Opposite and Tournament MVP.
- 4-16 places will be selected each Teams’ MVP.
- Each participant receives a tournament souvenir.
- Teams will be awarded monetary prizes: 1st place – €600; 2nd place – €400; 3rd place – €300.

12. BALLS, EQUIPMENT AND PLAYING CONDITIONS

- The organizers will provide MOLTEN V5000 volleyballs for warm-up and matches throughout the tournament.
- All teams must use appropriate indoor volleyball equipment and official competition uniforms with clearly visible player numbers.
- Net height: 224 cm.
- Court size: 18 × 9 m.
- Matches are played 6 vs 6.
- Each team may use a libero, in accordance with the official volleyball rules. The libero must wear a clearly contrasting uniform from the rest of the team.

13. OFFICIAL INFORMATION

The tournament schedule, results and other official information will be published through the official ISTA VOLLEYBALL communication channels. The organizers reserve the right to make operational adjustments to the schedule when necessary, while maintaining the sporting integrity of the competition.

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REGULATION

14. FINAL PROVISIONS

- Participation in the tournament means acceptance of these regulations and the organizer's operational instructions.
- The organizers may address situations not expressly covered by these regulations in accordance with the FIVB Indoor Volleyball Rules and the principles of fair play.
- The organizers may amend the timetable or operational details when necessary due to circumstances beyond their reasonable control and will inform participating teams as soon as possible.

15. Organizer Contact



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Official website: www.istavolleyball.com Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/istavolleyball/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/istavolleyball>

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The image features a vibrant blue border at the top and bottom. It is decorated with white snowflakes of various sizes, bright white stars, and a white volleyball. The volleyball is positioned in the center of the top and bottom borders, partially obscured by the snowflakes and stars. The background of the entire image is a gradient of light blue and white, giving it a clean, icy feel.

**LET'S BRING
VOLLEYBALL
TO THE NEXT LEVEL TOGETHER.**