

SITTING GRAND PRIX



Volleyball England Sitting Volleyball Grand Prix Series 2025-26 Competition Regulations



A. Competition Aim

1. The intention of the competition is to provide a competition outlet for all those playing Sitting Volleyball and, ultimately, provide a domestic competitive outlet for athletes eligible to play for Great Britain Sitting Volleyball team as per World ParaVolley classification.

B. Definitions

1. Unless explicitly described otherwise, "Lead" means, the individual named by the Competitions Working Group as overseeing the event at any location. It could be the organiser of a round, a deputy for the Event Lead or the Lead himself
2. A "Wild card" is a team that enters a single Grand Prix during the season. If a team enters more than three Grand Prix's during a season they will be considered as a registered team.

C. Eligibility

1. Entry is open to all teams, who should register at the beginning of the season, using [VolleyZone](#). We have prepared a video tutorial on how to do this process which can be found [here](#).
2. Players are required to register via VolleyZone for the appropriate sitting volleyball player registration. Registrations provide a player eligibility to enter any Sitting Volleyball event. Click [here](#) to view the video guide to registering on VolleyZone.
3. Wild card teams may enter at discretion of the Competition Working Group, they are required to enter via [VolleyZone](#).

D. Withdrawal of teams

1. Any team wishing to withdraw from any date, must give at least 7 days' prior notice, in writing, to the Competitions Team via competitions@volleyballengland.org.
2. Failure to do so may result in that team being required to pay a fine together with a surety for the following competition.
3. Teams failing to arrive on the day of the competition will be fined £100.00 and have any grant or financial assistance already awarded withdrawn.

E. Coaching Staff

1. Teams must have a qualified coach present who is registered with Volleyball England.

F. Players

1. Teams can be of mixed gender.
2. All players must be bona fide members of their Club. (i.e. they must play/train regularly with that Club).
3. All players must be registered and assigned to their team roster on VolleyZone, more information on how to do this can be found [here](#)
4. All players playing in a Grand Prix must be listed on the Team Sheet handed to the scorer's table at the start of the day.
5. A player may transfer once in a season to another team. This request must be made to the Senior Competitions Working Group and Volleyball England [Competitions Team](#) for sanctioning prior to any transfer between clubs. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action against the Club and Player as deemed appropriate by the Competition Working Group.
6. If a player is not in attendance, they must have their name deleted from the team list at the end of the Grand Prix.
7. Only players who have been on a validated team sheet in at least one round of the of Grand Prix 1-5, may play in the final 4 and Final of the competition.

G. Team Dress

1. All teams must play in uniform shirts and shorts (i.e. same colour and design). All teams must wear numbered shirts.
2. Teams not in uniform shorts and numbered shirts may be fined £5 per player.

H. Rules of Play

1. The games will be played under [World Paravolley rules](#) Except where modified within the regulations above and below.

I. Officiating

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Volleyball England will aim to provide a qualified 1st officials and 2nd officials. If asked, Teams will be expected to provide Officials, competent scorers and at least 2 competent line judges

J. Tiers and Match Format

The match and tier format will be determined by the number of teams entered and the number of courts available.

- For events where we have 7, 10, 11 or 12 teams entered we will play a tiered format as detailed below.

No of Courts	No of Teams	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Sets played	Points	Start Time	Estimated Finish Time
2	7	4	3	0	3	25	10:00	16:30
3	10	5	5	0	2	25	10:00	17:30
3	11	4	4	3	3	25	10:00	16:30
3	12	4	4	4	3	25	10:00	16:30

- When adopting a tiered format There will be 2 tiers with a possibility of a 3rd if we have the number of teams. Tier 1 will consist of the best four to six placed teams from the 2024-2025 season (including the winner of the last tier 2 of the season). Tier 2 will consist of the remainder of the teams and wild card entries. The organisers reserve the right to allocate international wild card Teams to tier 1.
- Teams in Tier 1 will play a round robin format determined by the number of entrants and courts available. The team that finishes bottom will play in tier 2 for the following Grand Prix
- Teams in Tier 2 will play a format determined by the number of entrants and courts available. The team finishing in first place will gain promotion to tier 1 for the following Grand Prix.
- If we have the number of teams, we will introduce a 3rd tier that will be made of the bottom placed teams from the previous GP and any new teams. They will play the same format as the other tiers and the winner will be in tier 2 for the following Grand Prix.
- You will be notified of the format set to be used around 10 days before each Grand Prix.
- Net height will be 1.10m.

- For events where we have 6, 8, or 9 teams then we will be adopting a different format to the tiered system, these are detailed as follows.

- 6 teams**, the teams will be put into 2 groups based on the standings from the previous GP using a serpent format as follows.

Group 1	Group 2
1	2
4	3
5	6

Teams will play the other teams in their groups in the morning, in the afternoon the top teams from each group will play each other followed by the 2nd placed teams then the 3rd placed teams to determine the final standings for the day.

- 8 teams**, this format will adopt the same as the U18 super series. The top 4 teams will be seeded in 4 quarterfinal matches; the remaining 4 teams will then be drawn against each of the 4 teams. The winners would progress to semifinals then final/3rd place playoff to determine the top half of the standings, the losers from the quarterfinals would then play the other losing teams from the quarter finals to determine the bottom half of the standings.
- 9 teams** the teams will be put into 3 groups based on the standings using a serpent format as follows

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
1	2	3
6	5	4
7	8	9

Teams will play the other teams in their groups in the morning. In the afternoon the 3 teams who finish top of their group will play in another round robin to decide places 1-3, the 2nd placed teams will play in a group to decide places 4-6 and finally the 3rd placed teams will play for positions 7-9.

K. Tournament Match Points

- 10 points will be awarded for a match win.

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2. Should any team not be able to field 6 players (in Tier 1, 2 or 3) at the start of a Grand Prix and have to resort to loaning a player from another team, 4 points will be deducted in a four-team Tier, and 3 points will be deducted in a Tier of five teams and above from your Match Points per match won for each and every player loaned.
3. Where points are awarded to a team, deductions will apply for not being able to field 6 players for each match. These points will form the final standings in the Grand Prix. Wild card teams will not be included in the final standings so therefore cannot progress on to the finals.
4. Where teams are tied on points the order will be decided as follows:
 - i) Total Match Points
 - ii) Sets Won
 - iii) Sets Ratio
 - iv) Points Ratio
 - v) Match between the tied teams

L. Grand Prix Series League Points

1. At the end each of the first 5 Grand Prix's teams will be awarded League Points for their positions in either Tier 1 or Tier 2 as follows: (Wild card teams will not be awarded league points). For Grand Prix's where we have played an alternative format the points will be awarded in the same way just for where you finish on the day.

4 teams in Tier 1				5 teams in Tier 1			
Position	Points	Tier	Position in Tier	Position	Points	Tier	Position in Tier
1st	20 points	Tier 1	1st	1st	20 points	Tier 1	1st
2nd	18 points	Tier 1	2nd	2nd	18 points	Tier 1	2nd
3rd	16 points	Tier 1	3rd	3rd	16 points	Tier 1	3rd
4th	14 points	Tier 1	4th	4th	14 points	Tier 1	4th
5th	12 points	Tier 2	1st	5th	12 points	Tier 1	5th
6th	10 points	Tier 2	2nd	6th	10 points	Tier 2	1st
7th	8 points	Tier 2	3rd	7th	8 points	Tier 2	2nd
8th	6 points	Tier 2	4th	8th	6 points	Tier 2	3rd
9th	4 points	Tier 2	5th	9th	4 points	Tier 2	4th
10th	2 points	Tier 2	6th	10th	2 points	Tier 2	5th
11th	1 point	Tier 2	7th	11th	1 point	Tier 2	6th

2. League Order will be determined as follows:
 - i) Total League Points
 - ii) Total Match Points
 - iii) Sets Won
 - iv) Sets Ratio
 - v) Points Ratio

M. Final 4 and Final

1. The top four teams in the league, based on grand prix series league points accumulated over the season (Grand Prix 1-5), will play in a top 4 pool where each team will play each other once with a best of 3 set matches, the points system will be the same as a normal Grand Prix in line with the tournament match points information above. For Teams to make the final 4 they must also have competed in Grand Prix 5. In conjunction we will run a tier for the remaining teams in the competition where the winner will play in tier 1 for the first Grand Prix of the 2026-27 season. The bottom team from the final 4 will be relegated to Tier 2 for the start of the 2026-2027 Season.
2. The top 2 teams from the Final 4 pool will play in the Grand Prix Final on 25th April 2026. Please note this date is subject to change. If a change is made you will be notified immediately. The final shall be the best of 5 sets as per [World ParaVolley Rules](#)

For the final the following will apply.

3. The Officials Working Group will provide all the officials.
4. The "3 ball system" will normally be used.
5. A Team trophy shall be awarded to the Champions for which they can keep, there is no requirement to return the trophy for the next season.
6. Playing kit is required to be numbered for the final as per the [World ParaVolley Rules](#).

N. Late Arrival of teams

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1. Teams arriving less than 10 minutes late for a pool match will forfeit the right to a warm-up and time outs in the first set that will be played immediately.
2. Teams arriving more than 10 minutes late for a pool match will forfeit the first set 25-0. If the team is not ready within a further 15 minutes, then they will forfeit the match 25-0 for each set that should have been played.

O. Nonpayment of Fines

1. Nonpayment of fines may lead to entry being refused for future competitions.

P. Discipline & Code of Conduct

1. Players, Coaches and Managers of all competing teams shall behave in a manner that is not likely to bring the game of Volleyball into disrepute.
2. The Competitions Working Group shall have the power to take appropriate action against any affiliated Club, Player, Coach or Bench Personnel within its jurisdiction.
3. Suspensions shall be valid throughout all competitions in England.
4. Any Player, Coach or Bench Personnel expelled or disqualified at any stage of any Sitting Volleyball Competition shall be automatically suspended for the next match in any of the competitions and the matter shall be referred to the Competitions Working Group.
5. Each Club that enters competitions is also responsible for the behaviour of its spectators.

Q. Disputes

1. For tournament competitions to complete the day/weekend matches, the decision of the Lead shall be final.
2. Any team wishing to dispute the results of matches at any stage of any competition must bring it to the attention of the Lead at the time the result is handed in, and at that time make their protest in writing.
3. Any Club that wishes to dispute the results of matches (or other matters) at any stage of any competition, shall forward its complaint, in writing, to the Lead of the Competitions Working Group within 7 days of the dispute. A fee of £100.00 must accompany the letter. The fee will be refunded if the dispute is found in favour of the disputant.

R. Appeals

1. There shall be the right of appeal to the Competitions Working Group against the ruling of the Lead.
2. The final right of appeal against the decision of the Competitions Working Group shall be to the Disciplinary Committee. Any appeal must be submitted to the Volleyball England Hub within 10 days of the Appeal decision date. Please refer [here](#) for more details.

S. Entry Fees

1. For the 2025-2026 Season teams will need to pay an entry fee for each Grand Prix they compete in.
2. To purchase entry to all 6 Grand Prix's and the Sitting Cup in one transaction it is £567 which works out at £81 per event.
3. For an Individual event entry is £92.50.
4. There is an entry deadline of 2 weeks before each Grand Prix, Entry after this point will incur a £40 late fee..
5. Each team will need to purchase entry through [VolleyZone](#). Please consult the separate instructions for the process.
6. Wild card entries may have to pay in advance of entry. This is at the discretion of the Competitions Working Group.
7. Teams that fail to pay their entry fees will not be permitted to participate in future Grand Prix's.

T. Loaning Players

1. Players registered to a Club may be loaned to another Team (including a Wildcard entry) for the duration of a specified Grand Prix.
2. Loans need to be confirmed on the Team Sheet handed in before the start of each Grand Prix, which will be no later than 30 minutes before the start of the first match of any given Grand Prix.
3. In exceptional circumstances, loans may be allowed outside of the regulations set out above, including allowing for a player to play for more than one team at a particular Grand Prix. In these circumstances the appointed lead / event manager on the day will decide as to whether the loaning of a player will be allowed. These loans will be considered:
 - i) Where the loaning of a player(s) allows a team to complete a match during a Grand Prix, where the match would not otherwise have been played/concluded.
 - ii) Where in Tier 2 it allows for player development.

U. Photos and Filming

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1. Volleyball England may film and/or take photographic images during the Sitting Grand Prix Series. It is agreed that you, your club and its players authorise and give permission for Volleyball England and its authorised associates to have:
 - (a) Permission to use any video footage and photographic images taken at any events for exclusive use/broadcast by Volleyball England and or its associates at no cost in perpetuity in all territories worldwide.
 - (b) Permission to use any photographic images on any online platform as deemed appropriate for promotional or marketing purposes. This will include social networking sites.
 - (c) Grant permission for Volleyball England to use any images taken from the events for any other marketing or promotional material in perpetuity in all territories.