

**A. Competition Aim**

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

**B. Definitions:**

1. Unless explicitly described otherwise, "Commissioner" means, the individual named by the Competitions Commission as being in charge of the event at any particular location. It could be the organiser of a round, a deputy for the Event Commissioner or the Commissioner him/herself.

**C. Eligibility:**

1. Entry is open to all Clubs. Who should register at the beginning of the Season, using the entry form.
2. Wild card teams may enter at discretion of the Competition Commission. Wild cards can apply using the season entry form.

**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 relevant Competition Commissioner.
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to arrive on the day of the competition will be fined £50.00 and have any grant or financial assistance already awarded withdrawn.

**E. Coaching Staff**

1. Tier 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 listed on the team page on the website.
4. All players playing in a specific Grand Prix must be list on the Team Sheet.
5. A player may transfer once in a season to another team. This request must be made to the Competition Commission 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 Commission.
6. If a player is not in attendance they must have their name deleted from the team list at the end of the tournament.
7. Only players who have been on a validated team sheet in a previous round or, have been registered as a named player for the Club since the start of the season, may play in the Final of the competition.

**G. Team Dress**

1. All teams should 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 Para Volley rules except where modified within these the rules above and below.

**I. Officiating**

1. Volleyball England will provide qualified 1<sup>st</sup> officials and 2<sup>nd</sup> officials where possible. If asked Teams will be expected to provide a competent scorer and at least 2 competent linespersons.

**J. Tiers and Match Format**

1. There will be 2 tiers in the Grand Prix Series. Tier 1 will consist of the best four or five placed teams from the 2016-2017 season. Tier 2 will consist of the remainder of the teams and wild card entries.
2. Tier 1 Teams will compete in a round robin format. The last placed team in each Grand Prix will be relegated to Tier 2 for the next Grand Prix.
3. Teams in Tier 1 will play best of 3 set matches with the final set up to 15 or 2 clear points.
4. Teams in Tier 2 will play a format determined by the number of entrants. The team finishing in first place will gain promotion to tier 1 for the following Grand Prix.
5. Tier formats may alter based on the number of entrants per Grand Prix. You will be informed of any changes prior to competing.
6. Net height will be 1.10m.

#### **K. Tournament Match Points**

1. 10 points will be awarded for a match win.
2. Up to a maximum of 6 bonus points can be awarded per match, for each disabled player that is on court for a completed rally. Bonus points will only be applicable to teams in Tier 2.
3. In Tier 1 and 2, should any team not be able to field 6 players, and have to result to loaning a player from another team, 4 points will be deducted in a four team Tier, and 3 points will be deducted in Tier of five teams and above from your Match Points per match won for each and every player loaned.
4. Total match points will consist of 10 points in the event of a match win plus bonus points (Bonus points only awarded to teams in Tier 2), minus any deductions for not being able to field 6 players for each match to 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.
5. 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 of each Grand Prix teams will be awarded League Points for their final positions in either Tier 1 or Tier 2 as follows: (Wild card teams will not be awarded league points)

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

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. Semi Finals and Finals**

1. The top four teams in the league, based on overall points accrued over the season, will play in a Semi Final which will be best of 5 sets. Top placed will play 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> will play 3<sup>rd</sup> at the National Volleyball Centre in Kettering on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Please note this is subject to change. If a change is made you will be notified immediately.
2. The 2 winning teams from the semi finals will play in a final on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Please note this 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 Para Volley Rules.
3. Referee Commission 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 shall be responsible for safe keeping & returning in time for presentation to the following years winners.
6. Playing kit is required to be numbered for the final as per the 2013-2016 World Para Volley Rules.

#### **N. Late Arrival of teams**

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. Non payment of Fines**

1. Non payment of fines may lead to entry being refused from 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 Commission 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 Commission.
5. Each Club that enters competitions is also responsible for the behaviour of its spectators.

#### **Q. Disputes**

1. In tournament competitions in order to complete the day/weekend matches, the decision of the Commissioner 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 Commissioner 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 President of the Competitions Commission 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 Commission against the ruling of the Commissioner.
2. The final right of appeal against the decision of the Competitions Commission shall be to the English Volleyball Association Judicial Panel under paragraph 13.3 of the EVA Constitution whose decision shall be final.

#### **S. Entry Fees**

1. For the 2016-2017 teams will need to pay an entry fee for each Grand Prix they compete in.
2. Each Tier 1 entry is £35 and each Tier 2 entry is £30.
3. Each team will be invoiced at the end of the season for the amount due.
4. Wild card entries may have to pay in advance of entry. This is at the discretion of the Competition Commission.
5. 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 Commissioner / event manager on the day will make a decision as to whether the loaning of a player will be allowed. These loans will be considered;
  - i) Where the loaning of this player allows a Team to complete a match during a Grand Prix, where the match would not otherwise have been concluded.
  - ii) Where in Tier 2 it allows for player development.

#### **U. Photos and Filming**

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.