

Volleyball England  
**NATIONAL COMPETITION  
REGULATIONS**  
2026-27

## Introduction

The purpose of these regulations is to provide a structured, safe, fair and consistent framework for the organisation of Volleyball England's National Volleyball League (NVL) and other national competitions.

The FIVB Rules of the Game, these regulations, and associated regulations for specific competitions, alongside Volleyball England's policies constitute the complete set of provisions in force from 1<sup>st</sup> of September to the 31<sup>st</sup> August in the year of issue.

These regulations are ratified by the Volleyball England Board and are the regulations, unless otherwise stated, which govern all competition matters. The operational management of the NVL and associated competitions has been delegated to the Competition Working Group (CWG) and Hub Team.

Competition regulations shall be applied in the following order:

1. FIVB Rules of the Game, unless modified by
2. Volleyball England NVL Regulations and Policies, unless modified by
3. Specific National Competition Regulations<sup>1</sup>.

It is recognised that not every circumstance can be anticipated or addressed within these regulations. In such cases, the CWG Senior Competitions Committee holds the authority to make any necessary decisions. Volleyball England also holds the right to issue amendments to these regulations at any time.

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Any queries relating to these regulations should be sent to: [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org)  
If you believe that the regulations are unclear, it is essential a ruling in writing is received before making any decision, as stating the regulations are unclear, is not considered as grounds for appeal. If you wish to propose a regulation change for a future season, please complete the form provided by the November of the current season.

*If you wish to make a regulation suggestion, please fill in the form [here](#). Please note that these suggestions will not be reviewed until November 2026*

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<sup>1</sup> For Under 14's, Under 15's, Under 16's, Under 18's, Inter Regional, Student Cup and Sitting indoor volleyball competitions, please refer to the Volleyball England website for current associated regulations.

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## **DEFINITIONS:**

**CEV-** European Volleyball Federation

**CWG-** Competitions Working Group

**FIVB-** International Volleyball Federation

**Match Official-** First and Second Referees

**MOS-** Minimum operating standards

**NVL-** National Volleyball League

**OWG-** Officials Working Group

**Technical Official-** Scorer, Line judge

**Technical Supervisor** - Major Competitions, oversees everything to ensure regulations and match protocol is followed

**The Hub-** Volleyball England Hub, [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org)

**VE-** Volleyball England

**VIS-** Volleyball Information System

**NVL Referee Liaison-** Member of OWG responsible for NVL

**CWG Senior Competitions Committee** - Members of the CWG Responsible for overseeing and supporting the NVL, [cwg@volleyballengland.org](mailto:cwg@volleyballengland.org)

## **SECTION A. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **A 1 To enter the National Volleyball League (NVL), each team must;**

- 1.1 Have paid a goodwill deposit of £100.
- 1.2 Have no outstanding debts with Volleyball England (English Volleyball Association Ltd) from previous playing seasons. Teams in debt to the Association may not be permitted to play fixtures if the previous playing season's debts are not cleared by the 31st May. Teams/ Clubs with historic debts to Volleyball England will not be permitted entry to the NVL until the debts are cleared and the matter resolved by the CWG.
- 1.3 Operate within a club with an approved Volleyball England (Standard) Club Affiliation
- 1.4 Have a name that:
  - a. Permits easy geographical recognition of where they are from / play
  - b. Is unique in the NVL
  - c. Is agreed and approved by the CWG.
- 1.5 Agree to abide by the MOS ([See Section D](#)).
- 1.6 No team may alter its name during the competition season without the prior written approval of the CWG.
- 1.7 No club can alter its name or location to gain admission into any of the divisions of the NVL,
- 1.8 No official can act as Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer of more than one NVL club, or hold any combination of these offices for more than one club.

Note: The place in the NVL is the right of the club as evidenced by its constitution.

### **A 2. Withdrawing from the National Volleyball League**

- 2.1 Any club or team withdrawing from the NVL, and then wishing to re-enter later, must re-apply as a new entrant. New entrants will be placed in the lowest available division geographically as decided by the CWG.
- 2.2 Any team withdrawing from the NVL during the competition season or after their entry has been accepted by the 16th March 2027 will forfeit their goodwill deposit.
- 2.3 Any team withdrawing from the NVL after 30th April will forfeit their goodwill deposit of £100 and will additionally will be imposed with a £200 fine.

### **A 3. Before competing in any Volleyball England competition, each team must:**

- 3.1 Have their affiliation approved by Volleyball England, this could include a Standard, BUCS, Junior or School/ FEI Affiliation
- 3.2 Have its coach, players and authorised bench personnel appropriately registered with Volleyball England on VolleyZone.
- 3.3 Have paid any further competitions fees that may be in force by the specified deadlines. Late entries will only be accepted at the discretion of the CWG and will be subject to a £25 administration charge.
- 3.4 Have a registered Head coach (minimum Coach Award or equivalent) committed to supporting that team. To be considered compliant with the rule, a team must have a Head coach who is at least registered as a learner on a Coach Award coaching course, appearing on their team's Volleyball England page.

- 3.5 Teams which fail to meet the deadline will be sanctioned and deducted one league point for each match it plays until they become compliant.

#### **A 4. Conditions of Entry to the National Cup / Shield**

- 4.1 Entry into the National Cup will not be assumed for NVL teams, entry must be processed via VolleyZone.
- 4.2 Non NVL teams must be competing in a recognised league or approved for entry by the CWG.
- 4.3 Players must hold a player membership on VolleyZone to be eligible to compete. Players must have an active NVL Player Registration or National Cup/Shield Registration with Volleyball England to be eligible to compete.
- 4.4 NVL clubs with multiple teams can combine and enter “Amalgam” teams. If a club enters “Amalgam” team(s), they will be recognised in the K.O. Cup as the club’s highest-level team(s). Refer to Section J Regulation 1 Volleyball England Cup for further clarification.
- 4.5 NVL players may not play for another NVL Club in any Cup competition other than the one they are registered for.
- 4.6 NVL teams may contain non-NVL registered players if they can demonstrate an affinity with the NVL team they represent.
- 4.7 Refer to Section J for specific regulations and format of the National Cup and Shield.

#### **A 5. New Team Applications**

Conditions for a New Team Entry into the NVL will normally include:

- 5.1 Proven playing ability of the team in a recognised regional / area league over more than one season.
- 5.2 Club having been affiliated to VE for the last two seasons.
- 5.3 Club constitution to be acceptable in that it shows:
  - a. The name of the club.
  - b. The way its constitution may be amended.
  - c. The financial control.
- 5.4 The Regional or Area Association to provide a letter of support for the entry.
- 5.5 The Club should nominate a minimum of one registered referee(s), minimum Grade 3R Regional, who are from there, not currently officiating in the National League, but are prepared to referee a minimum of three games.
- 5.6 The club’s financial accounts provide evidence of the financial support for competition at National level.
- 5.7 A team must have a registered Head coach (minimum Coach Award or equivalent) committed to supporting the NVL team.
- 5.8 Club being able to nominate at least 10 players who are prepared to commit to playing for the team. If any such players are with an existing NVL team, then it must be shown that the team holding the NVL registration would agree to the transfer should the team requesting entry to the NVL be accepted.

- 5.9 The club having a suitable home venue and equipment for NVL matches in the location indicated by their team's name and specified as their normal home venue.
- 5.10 The CWG has the right and discretion to accept or refuse any club or team admission to the league.
- 5.11 The deadline to submit an application to enter the NVL for the 27-28 season is, 14th March for new teams. 22<sup>nd</sup> March for relegated division 3 teams to reapply.

#### **A.6 All Teams undertaking self-report:**

- 6.1 Due to the NVL reaching capacity, both pre-existing NVL teams and new team entries, will undergo an end of year standards review to ensure all NVL teams are operating at an expected standard.

The review will be done via a self-report based off the 5-year vision upping standards. This will be then reviewed by the HUB and CWG. Any teams falling short of the NVL MOS will be at risk of being pulled out of the NVL regardless of division.

- 6.2 The Self Report will assess teams across four key areas:
  - a. **People-** (Coaching, referees, team sec, wider team support roles, strong admin team, not withdrawing, lateness, team discipline)
  - b. **Performance-** (Past season performance, consistency of performance eg, do we have development/ junior teams rather than mixed match group of mates here today gone tomorrow.)
  - c. **Club Sustainability-** (strong governance, safeguarding, player welfare, effective leadership, committee, risk assessment, medical support)
  - d. **Facilities-** (access to facilities, Field of play, condition of facility, equipment, Wi-Fi, streaming).
- 6.3 Self-Reports must be completed by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2027, any missing self-reports will lead to a £50 fine and may also lead to withdrawal from the league.

Note: Volleyball England aim to support the development of teams throughout this process, to ensure that teams are meeting the standard criteria of the NVL, in line with the 5-year vision.

The outcome of a team's Self-Report may result in withdrawal or non-promotion of a team regardless of division.

If there are any extenuating circumstances as to why a team is unable to submit this report, please email [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org)

#### **A 7. Club/ Team sponsorship**

- 7.1 Clubs/teams playing in any competition governed by these regulations are required to notify the Hub of the name, period, and type of any sponsorship that they may have.
- 7.2 The value of any sponsorship is a matter confidential to the club/team and its Sponsor.
- 7.3 Tobacco sponsorship is not allowed. Failure to register details of sponsorship within 14 days of a contract being completed will result in a fine of £100, and additional penalties, thereafter, within the discretion of the CWG if details are not registered.

#### **A 8. Club Structure**

- 8.1 Clubs may be membership based and run with a democratic style constitution with elected officers, or they may be proprietorial in nature.
- 8.2 No proprietor (whether as an individual, company, by way of shareholding or as nominee) may have an interest or hold office in more than one club.
- 8.3 Where clubs seek to amalgamate then the Hub shall be supplied with full details including detailed minutes, details of who attended meetings, and such other information as the Hub may require. Volleyball England has a role in ensuring that clubs are formed correctly and with the consent of those involved.
- 8.4 Where a democratic/membership-based club seeks to become proprietorial, as for example where a commercial concern wishes to run a club, then the association (through its appropriate officers) shall ensure that the club membership has voted thereon and that the provisions of that club's constitution have been observed.
- 8.5 No club, individual or group, whether membership based or proprietorial, has a right to a particular place in Volleyball England's National League, entry for which is requested each competition season.
- 8.6 Any alterations to a club's constitution are to be advised to the Hub on behalf of the CWG within 14 days of such alteration and amendment.
- 8.7 All NVL correspondence will be forwarded to the relevant club and team secretaries named in. Any club specific matters will be addressed to the club Secretary / Chairperson, as detailed on.

#### **A 9. Disputes**

- 9.1 The CWG has the full authority to deal with disputes involving clubs, players, administrators and non-qualified person acting in the capacity of head coach or Referee, and to sanction clubs and their members, both playing and non-playing, when deemed to be in contravention of any of the NVL regulations or relevant codes of conduct.
- 9.2 A CWG member has the delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the CWG to facilitate the day to day running of a competition.
- 9.3 Where appropriate a CWG member can impose fines and /or deadlines to facilitate the smooth running of a competition.

#### **A 10. Match Venues**

- 10.1 Matches played in Men's and Women's Super League, quarter finals and semifinals of all Cup Competitions shall be played at venues approved by the CWG. clubs competing must obtain such approval from the CWG where required.

#### **A 11. NVL Mandatory Meeting**

- 11.1 There will be a virtual mandatory meeting, all teams are required to have at least one attendee.
- 11.2 The meeting will take place as specified in the Volleyball England NVL Timeline for the 2025-26 Season. Failure to attend will result in a fine of £100.

#### **A.12. NVL Fees 2026-2027**

Super League Entries	£1000
Division 1 Entries	£454
Division 2 Entries	£383
Division 3 Entries	£334
NVL Transfers	£29
National Shield Entries (Non-NVL)	£43
Senior NVL Player Registrations	£45
Junior NVL Player Registrations	£30

## SECTION B. ORGANISATION OF FIXTURES REGULATION

### B 1. Pre-playing Season Fixture Arrangements

- 1.1 Teams will be provided with the draft fixtures well in advance of the season. Volleyball England reserves the right to host, or have hosted, any fixtures centrally, and these will be advised at the time of the draft fixture publication. On receipt of the draft fixtures, teams may enter mutual discussions and request agreed amendments to the proposed fixtures.
- 1.2 Any such proposals must be formally agreed by both teams confirming the new date, time, and venue, in line with the NVL Timeline for the season.
- 1.3 No fixture that is scheduled outside of those permitted will be accepted by Volleyball England unless accompanied by the formal agreement of the opposition. Any such changes will need to be approved by the CWG.
- 1.4 No team entered in the Cup/Shield will arrange an NVL match onto any Cup/Shield date during the draft fixture process. Any matches being moved onto a Cup/Shield weekend require the approval of the CWG Senior Competitions Committee. Match rearrangements during the playing season will be considered by the CWG Senior Competitions Committee, considering the teams continued participation in the Cup/Shield. After the amended draft fixtures have been returned to the Hub, no other changes will be allowed except under very exceptional circumstances.

### B 2. During the Playing Season

- 2.1 Matches must be played on the date, at the time and at the venue specified in the National Volleyball League fixtures section of the Volleyball England website, and not any other publication. If there is an error or a fixture has been agreed to be changed by the CWG, then the correct details will be updated on the website.
- 2.2 Where a club has two or more teams in the same NVL Division, the CWG reserves the right to schedule both fixtures between the teams as early in the playing season as possible.
- 2.3 **Requests for Rearrangement-** Only under very exceptional circumstances, fixtures may be rearranged with prior consent of the CWG Senior Competitions Committee and the opposition. Any such proposals must be agreed in writing by both teams, and confirms the new date, time, and venue. Requests for rearrangement must be made to the Working Group at least 21 days prior to the original fixture date. Requests with less than 21 days' notice will only be considered in the most extreme circumstances. The Hub and the Referee Co-ordinator must be kept informed of the changes. Teams must be aware that sourcing Referees for changed fixtures may well be problematic and must be prepared to source their own. Requests to re-arrange a fixture due to holiday arrangements is not considered to be a very exceptional circumstance.
- 2.4 **International Competitions-** Where a team has two or more players involved in international competition, application may be made to the CWG for rearrangement. Application must be made as soon as any conflict is known and, in any event, no later than 21 days prior to a

match. It is stressed that this rearrangement is discretionary. This provision does not apply to International Beach fixtures.

- 2.5 **Approval requirements for rearrangement-** A rearrangement will only be approved when a fully justifiable reason is provided, and a new date has been arranged and agreed by the teams involved. Match start times do not need agreement from both teams, unless they are outside of the times specified in the NVL regulations. Where teams cannot agree a new date then the appropriate member of the CWG Senior Competitions Committee will specify a date on which the rearranged match will be played, or the original date will stand.
- 2.6 **Postponed Fixtures-** Where a fixture is postponed due to exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the teams, then any additional costs incurred in restaging the fixture shall be equally shared between the teams i.e., Sports hall costs, Referees and actual travel costs. Travel costs are to be based on travelling from your closest home venue.
- 2.7 **Fixture Alternations-** Where match Referees were appointed by Volleyball England, and the date, time or venue is changed, the original home team becomes responsible for notifying those Referees and the NVL Officials Group Member of the change and for appointing suitable replacement Referees, if necessary. Such changes to date, time or venue must be approved in writing by the appropriate CWG Senior Competitions Committee. Normal Match Confirmation procedures will then apply.
- 2.8 **Cancelled Fixtures-** Where a match is cancelled at short notice then the home team is responsible for ensuring the Officials are aware of the cancellation and communication has been received to acknowledge this. If the Referee travels to the match, then full remuneration shall be made as if the match took place.
- 2.9 **Fixture Clashes-** NVL Teams participating in national volleyball competitions including Junior Grand Prix Series BUCS, Student Cup and Regional and Local League competitions must prioritise competing in NVL fixtures. Clashes with other competitions (except National Cup and Shield) is not deemed a sufficient reason for a fixture change request to the CWG Senior Group.
- 2.10 NVL fixtures cannot be played after 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2027 for all divisions. Any such requests will be under truly exceptional circumstances and will be decided by the CWG.
- 2.11 COVID is not normally seen as an exceptional circumstance.

## SECTION C. REGISTRATION

### C 1. Players

- 1.1 All teams should register a minimum of eight players by the 1st September before the start of the playing season. A valid registration requires a player to register via VolleyZone for the appropriate NVL Player Registration. The player must also be aligned to their NVL Club, and the Club's specific Team Roster on VolleyZone. Failure to adhere to the deadline may result in a £25 administration charge.
- 1.2 It is the responsibility of the team or club of a newly registering player to ensure the eligibility of the player to be registered. Players who are subject to transfer requirements must be correctly transferred. Player registration information for the previous seasons is available on the Volleyball England website, recorded in VolleyZone and from the Hub.
- 1.3 Players will be required to provide their visa status and confirm they are not being paid to play when registering for the NVL Players and coaches cannot receive payment unless they have an approved International Sportsperson or International Sports coach visa.
- 1.4 Clubs with more than one team may delay allocating their players to a specific Team Roster on VolleyZone until a week before their club's first match. However, players must all be registered by 1st September. It is the club's responsibility to ensure that the players are correctly registered on the Club's specific Team Roster for the team that they will play for in the NVL on VolleyZone before they play, no player can be on more than one Team Roster.
- 1.5 Players cannot be registered after 31st January during the playing season, except with the express approval of the CWG Senior Competitions Committee. (This will only be permitted in emergencies to enable games to take place e.g., where less than seven registered players are medically fit or are available to play. Written confirmation of registered players non-availability will be required before agreeing to an Emergency Registration). The emergency registered player will be eligible to play for the team for the remainder of the playing season but will not be able to play up for another team.
- 1.6 In any competition season, no player may be listed on the scoresheet for more than one club in the same competition unless they are officially transferred. Except under very exceptional circumstances a player may only transfer once during any NVL competition season. No player may play for different teams in a cup competition (Cup and Shield are a single competition), under any circumstances. Where clubs have two or more teams in the same competition, a player will become 'Cup tied' to the team they played their first cup match with, regardless of transfers and the playing up regulation. Transfer regulations apply to movement of players between different teams within the same club.
- 1.7 A junior player (Under 18 on 1st September of the current competition season) playing in a junior competition may also play for their club in a senior competition, providing that they have registered for the correct NVL Junior Player Registration.
- 1.8 Teams can have up to 12 players and additionally up to 2 Liberos listed on their Team Sheet (there is no limit to the number of players registered on the Club's specific Team Roster on VolleyZone).
- 1.9 Player Photos on VolleyZone must be of the players wearing the same team kit. Photos must be high quality and zoomed in to show head, shoulders, and team badge, across all divisions.

### C 2. Technical Members of the team

- 2.1 A maximum of five Bench Personnel are permitted.

- 2.2 Bench Personnel must be registered with Volleyball England and included in the Team Sheet for the match
- 2.3 The role of the Head Coach during a match can only be performed by an individual with a Club Coach (L2) qualification and active registration who meets criteria 2.2 above
- 2.4 If a Head Coach with a Club Coach (L2) qualification is not included in Bench Personnel the Team Captain will overtake the coach's functions to request time-outs and substitutions if not on court.

### **C 3. Transfers** ([See Appendix A – Procedure for Player Transfers](#))

- 3.1 Subject to the provisions below, players may transfer between clubs prior to 31st January each playing season. Only in exceptional circumstances will a player be allowed to transfer more than once during the NVL/K.O. Cup playing season. The NVL competition season shall run from 1st September to 31st August each year.
- 3.2 Players who are playing up and reach 11 sets, must be manually transferred on VolleyZone to the roster of the higher team. It is the responsibility of the club to keep account of the number of sets each player plays up, no player can be listed on more than one Team Roster.
- 3.3 Where a club has more than two teams playing in the NVL the player will be deemed to have transferred to the team for which they have played up most for. Players having reached the maximum number of sets should be moved from one Team Roster to the other by the club in [VolleyZone](#).
- 3.4 If a team or club withdraw from the NVL, its players are still deemed to belong to that club. Therefore, they need to transfer before being permitted to play for another club. This is to protect clubs and their assets.
- 3.5 Unless under contract, a player is deemed to become a free agent if they have not played in the NVL in the preceding two competition seasons and have no documented indebtedness to a previous NVL club. Teams are strongly advised to consult the available player registration information available from the [Volleyball England website](#) to confirm the status of a player.
- 3.6 **International Transfers (ITC)** Any player that has previously been registered with another Volleyball Federation above the age of 14 before being registered with Volleyball England will require an International Transfer. This includes players that have been registered to play in a volleyball competition (of any form) for a club, team, school or other volleyball entity with a Volleyball Federation outside of Volleyball England. The first Volleyball Federation a player has registered with above the age of 14 is called their Federation of Origin. A player's Federation of Origin may not coincide with the player's nationality.
- 3.7 International Transfers are bound by the Regulations set out by the FIVB. International Transfers can be initiated by the Volleyball England Hub or the Receiving club. The player will be required to have a VIS profile created, please refer to our international transfers guide for details on how to obtain your VIS profile. The player's membership will only be activated once the International Transfer is completed, making them eligible for competition.
- 3.8 From the start of the 2025–26 National Volleyball Season, all International Transfer Certificates (ITCs) for players whose Federation of Origin is not England will be centrally administered by Volleyball England.

There will be two categories within the ITC process:

1. **ITC Continuation** – For players renewing their ITC with existing FIVB clearance still valid. These will be processed at no additional cost.

2. **New ITC Applications** – For players initiating an ITC for the first time. An administration fee of £35 will apply.

Players requiring an ITC under category 2 must purchase the relevant event via VolleyZone to initiate the process.

- 3.9 Throughout the 26-27 season Volleyball England will be conducting random spot check to ensure that players are following regulations. Any team found to play anyone who does not have the 'approved' International Transfer Certificate (ITC) for that team will be imposed with a £100 fine per ineligible player. The International Transfer Certificate (ITC) is automatically sent to players once they have completed their international transfer via email.
- 3.10 It is the responsibility of teams to ensure that any player requiring an International Transfer completes the process before playing in the NVL. Any team found to be playing a player who hasn't registered correctly i.e. by selecting NVL (Federation of Origin – England) will be subject to an Administrative Dispute as outlined in regulation G 2 where the CWG, has the right to deduct points, fine and suspend any team should the situation warrant it.
- 3.11 All Divisions within the NVL are bound by the FIVB International Transfer Regulations.
- 3.12 Any team who play in any CEV European Competition are required to have International Transfers for all players that require them. This applies to all Volleyball England approved Competitions including the National Cup and Shield.
- 3.13 **National Transfers:** Clubs registering new players should always be aware of the possibility of the need to formally transfer, and should take the following steps:
  - a. Establish from the player if they have ever been to any NVL club in the past. They may not have played, but could have registered, or simply been for training, and may have forgotten to return items.
  - b. If they have been at previous NVL club(s), which are still in existence, contact the Club and obtain confirmation that they are in good standing i.e. they do not owe the club anything and are able to register for the new club.
  - c. If they have been to previous NVL club(s), which are not in existence consult the available previous NVL registration data on the [Volleyball England website](#), and contact [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org) to clarify that no indebtedness or impediment has been lodged with the Volleyball England Hub.
- 3.14 Clubs playing ineligible players will be considered for disciplinary action. Clubs are advised to ensure they take all reasonable steps, as above, to ensure the eligibility of players being registered.
- 3.15 Players found to have documented indebtedness to previous NVL club(s), who seek current NVL registration, and who may not have provided the new club or Volleyball England with all material information may be liable to suspension from playing until the matter is resolved.
- 3.16 A club having two or more teams competing in the NVL shall be entitled to transfer player(s) between teams. Players transferred to the lower team within a club after the start of the competition season cannot use the playing up regulation. Transferring would be achieved by the club removing the player from the lower roster and transferring the player to the higher Team Roster to another and paying the required Transfer fee (in [VolleyZone](#)).
- 3.17 Any player wishing to leave their club to take up a different post at another club (i.e., Head Coach etc.), may do so only with the agreement of the club holding their registration, and abide by the transfer provisions. Disputes will be referred to CWG for arbitration.

**3.18 Transfers will not be allowed if any of the following circumstances apply:**

- a. The player is under valid contract to the current club unless that contract is terminated by mutual consent (See CONTRACTS Appendix B).
- b. The player has not discharged any documented indebtedness to the current club, e.g., subscription arrears (limited to one month's fees maximum), kit etc. Teams are advised to ensure that players are made fully aware of their commitments and fees due. These should be detailed in writing and signed by the player wherever possible to avoid any confusion or subsequent doubt arising.
- c. The current club would be left with less than eight available registered players during the NVL / K.O. Cup playing season.

**3.19 Visa status of overseas players in the NVL-** Overseas players must declare their UK Visa status.

Process- Players are required to select one of two NVL player membership categories:

- Federation of Origin England
- Federation of Origin Not England

If a player has 'Non-British Nationality' status they are required to take the following steps:

- a. Declare their VISA status.
- b. Evidence their status by using Gov. website - [www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status](http://www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status).
- c. Take a screenshot and upload.
- d. Volleyball England shall check the VISA type & status as part of the player registration and approval status.
- e. If necessary, players may be required to supply additional information to Volleyball England.

**3.21 Standard Visitor Visa –** from the start of the 2025-26 season, no individual on a Standard Visitor Visa will be permitted to play in the NVL.

**3.22 UK asylum seekers and refugees** may be licensed as British Players if the player has been granted asylum or refugee status in the UK. Proof of being granted asylum or refugee status is required to be uploaded in the membership portal, in the visa section. This will be at the sole discretion of Volleyball England and reconsidered on an annual basis.

**3.23** It is the responsibility of teams to ensure that players register correctly. Any team found to be playing a player who hasn't registered correctly will be subject to an Administrative Dispute as outlined in regulation G 2 where the CWG, has the right to deduct points, issue a fine and/or suspend any team should the situation warrant.

## SECTION D. PREPARATION FOR MATCHES

For all Volleyball England competitions, only equipment deemed suitable, fit for purpose and safe, or which has FIVB approval may be used unless the CWG gives prior agreement. Playing conditions must conform to those laid down in the current FIVB Official Volleyball Rule Book.

### D 1. The Home Team is responsible for:

- 1.1 Arranging for the availability of the venue and booking a minimum period of
- Three hours for single matches,
  - Five hours for a double header
  - Seven hours for triangular matches.

*These time periods are from when the away team enter the hall.*

- 1.2 If less time is booked and time runs out, the home team will forfeit the last match in which they played.
- 1.3 If, after the recommended hours booked the matches have not been completed, the teams concerned will rearrange the outstanding fixture at an agreed venue and date approved by the CWG Senior Competitions Committee as acceptable to the teams involved. The teams involved will share total costs (i.e., the cost of travel of the away team, (from their closest home venue), the venue and Referees costs) of the new match equally.

### D 2. Match start times

- 2.1 Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the opposition, start times for matches must be:

Type Of Match	Day	League	Start time between
Single Matches	Saturday & Sundays	Super League, National Cup, National Shield QF & SF	12:30-15:00
Single Matches	Saturday & Sundays	Div 1/2/3/ National Shield before QF	11:30-16:30
Double Matches	Saturday & Sundays	ALL	11:30-14:00
Triangular Matches	Saturday & Sundays	Div3	11:30-12:30

- 2.2 The first referee shall decide upon the adequacy of the court and equipment at the time of the match.

### D 3. Supplying competent Technical Officials

- 3.1 Supplying a competent Scorer and a visual scoreboard in all Divisions and at least two competent Lines Judges in Division 2 and above. All Technical Officials should be competent in the performance of their duties.
- The Scorer must be the same person throughout the match and must be present at least 30 minutes before the start of the match.
  - Line Judges should be present at least 20 minutes prior to the start of the match.

Failure to provide the Technical Officials will result in.

- A minimum of a £10 fine for the first offence,
- £20 for the second offence,
- £30 for the third offence, and
- £30 for every subsequent offence thereafter.

### D.4 Match Confirmations

- 4.1 Confirming in writing to the Secretary of the visiting team, the match Referees, and the Hub at least 14 days, and not more than 21 days prior to the date of the match, on VolleyZone:

- a. The date of the match.
  - b. The venue and travel directions for the match, for both public and private transport.
  - c. The time of the availability of the court.
  - d. The time of the start of the warm-up.
  - e. The time of the start of the match.
  - f. The names of the Referees; TBC is not acceptable; Away Teams must know who is scheduled to Officiate.
  - g. Weather post and base padding is available at the match.
  - h. Live stream link, if applicable.
- 4.2 Where the match is the 2nd match of a Double header (only two NVL League/Cup/Shield fixtures and not any other preceding match) then it must be made clear in the match confirmation that this is the case and that the match start time may be subject to delay based on the finish time of the previous match.
- 4.3 Triangular matches will be played in the order set out on the website fixture list with the home team playing in the first and third matches unless mutually agreed in writing at least 10 days (according to the email delivery receipt) prior to the date of the match.
- 4.4 Where confirmation is sent by e-mail, it should be acknowledged by the away team and the match officials. If the home team secretary does not get the message acknowledged they should chase the confirmation using all other contacts available.
- 4.5 Any team failing to send the appropriate match confirmations shall be fined £10 per occurrence.
- 4.6 Any visiting Team Secretary or Referee who has not received confirmation within the stipulated time should contact the Hub or CWG Senior Competitions Committee for guidance.
- 4.7 The payment of any entrance fees at the venue for visiting teams and Referees. It is suggested that to avoid difficulties, Sports Centres should be contacted beforehand.

## D.5 Equipment Standards

- 5.1 All equipment shall adhere to the following minimum operating standards (MOS). The aim of the MOS are to increase the presentation of matches, increase participant satisfaction and create an aspirational pathway through the leagues, to lower barriers to entry into National competitions in the NVL and in the National Cup (NC) and National Shield (NS) and reduce unplanned costs.

## 5.2 Player equipment

All teams are required to be in full match kit prior to the official warm-up at the net.

Equipment	Standard	Same	Similar	Penalty <sup>2</sup>
Shirts	Uniform colour/design, clean. Sleeve length may differ. Numbered 1-99.	NVL, NC & NS		S
Shorts/ Sports Leggings	Shorts and/or sports leggings are permitted: - must be uniform in colour / design. - do not have to be numbered but all the team must wear the same (either all numbered, matching the shirt number or all without). - lengths/styles may differ.	SL, D1 & NC	D2, D3 & NS	S
Socks	Socks shall be all white or all black or all team colours	SL D1 & NC	D2, D3 & NS	S

<sup>2</sup> PENALTY TYPE: S = Standards, Safe = Safety, A = Administrative.

Compression layers	Must be either all black or all white or all the same as the corresponding part of the sleeves and uniform, E.g. red shirt, red compression sleeves, black shorts, black cycling shorts.	NVL & NC & NS		S
Libero	Different coloured shirt, easily identifiable, numbered as part of team sequence (1-99). If a team has two Liberos, their shirts do not have to match each other.	NVL, NC & NS		S
Numbers	Correctly positioned, contrasting colour to shirts (front & back) as per FIVB ruling. All shirt numbers must be numbered 1-99	NVL, NC & NS		S
Captain	Identified by a stripe throughout the match (tape permissible).	NVL, NC & NS		S

## 5.2 Court Equipment

Note: Failure to provide adequate equipment cannot be attributed to a sports centre or the staff thereof, it is the sole responsibility of the home team. Failings in the facilities are also the responsibility of the home team unless matters arise, exceptionally, during or in the days approaching a match that are outside the control of the venue. e.g., electrical, mechanical or safety failures.

Equipment	Standard	Compulsory	Recommended	Penalty <sup>3</sup>
Net	Length (9.5-10m), depth (1m), mesh unbroken & correctly tensioned	ALL Divisions		S
Sidebands	Correctly positioned	ALL Divisions		S
Antennae	Correctly positioned	ALL Divisions		S
Posts	Smooth, safe and height adjustable	ALL Divisions		S
Post Pads	Correctly fitted before the warmup.	ALL Divisions		Safe
Base Padding	If posts have anchor points, base padding is required to ensure all components of the base are entirely covered.	ALL Divisions		Safe
Referee Stand	Stable and, safe. Step ladders, jump boxes and other devices not specifically designed as referee stands shall not be used.	ALL Divisions		Safe
Balls	FIVB approved Mikasa balls to be used in all NVL matches (see NVL Accepted Balls) (Two identical balls are required for a one ball system & four for a three ball system, See FIVB Rules of the Game P16.	ALL Divisions		S

## 5.3 Courtside Equipment

Equipment	Standard	Compulsory	Recommended	Penalty type <sup>4</sup>
Visual scoreboard	Operable	ALL Divisions		A
Scoresheet	VE approved	ALL Divisions		A

<sup>3</sup> PENALTY TYPE: S = Standards, Safe = Safety, A = Administrative.

<sup>4</sup> PENALTY TYPE: S = Standards, Safe = Safety, A = Administrative.

Line Up Sheets	Available	ALL Divisions		A
Pressure Gauge	Available	ALL Divisions		S
Line Judge flags	2x (40 x 40cm)	ALL Divisions		S
Mop/ Towel	Courtside		ALL Divisions	S
First Aid Kit	Located within venue		ALL Divisions	S
Blood Spill Kit			ALL Divisions	S

#### 5.4 Match Day requirements

Equipment	Standard	Compulsory	Recomm- ended	Penalty
Team sheet	Teams are to present the scorer with a Team Sheet (produced in VolleyZone) specifying Players Name, Shirt No. and Position, Captain and Libero and the numerical part of the VE registration number.	All Divisions		A
Live Stream	The live stream at a match must meet the below following criteria: a. Have a digital scoreboard connected to the stream. b. Be public facing and free to watch. c. Must be available to watch during and after the match in a public space. d. Filmed in a landscape orientation e. Minimum quality of stream 1080p Super League 720p all other divisions.	SL, D1 & NC	D2 & NS	S
HUDL	The home team shall record the entire match and upload to the Hudl platform within 24 hr of match start time. See Hudl Rules and Regulations <a href="#">here</a>	SL		S

#### 5.5 Match Day People

The Referee Appointments Panel are responsible for appointing first and second referees for NVL, National Cup, and National Shield matches. The appointments will be made between five and three weeks prior to the fixture. If appointments have not been made by this point it is the responsibility of the host (home) team to make the vacant appointments.

Equipment	Standard	Compulsory	Recomm- ened	Penalty <sup>5</sup>
First Referee	Qualified & registered	All Divisions		A
Second Referee	Qualified & registered	All Divisions		A
Line Judges	Competent x2	SL, D1, D2. NC & (NS QF/SF)	D3	S - D1/D2/D3/ NC & NS
Scorers	Competent x2	All Divisions		A

<sup>5</sup> PENALTY TYPE: S = Standards, Safe = Safety, A = Administrative.

## 5.6 Home Venue Criteria

Equipment	Standard	Compulsory	Recomm- ended	Penalty <sup>6</sup>
Court Surface	Flat, smooth, non-slippery and safe	All Divisions		Safe
Free Zone	Minimum 3m around court with preferably 5m to rear	All Divisions		Safe
Court Markings	correct, and clearly visible as per FIVB court layout	All Divisions		S
Air Temp.	Minimum 10°C	All Divisions		S
Team Bench	Size and safely positioned	All Divisions		S
Warm-up area	3m x 3m, correctly positioned	All Divisions		S
Spectator seating	Available	All Divisions		S

## D.6 Referees

- 6.1 The Referee Appointments Panel are responsible for appointing first and second referees for NVL, National Cup, and National Shield matches. The appointments will be made between five and three weeks prior to the fixture. If appointments have not been made by this point it is the responsibility of the host (home) team to make the vacant appointments (see point 6.10).
- 6.2 First Referee - shall be qualified and registered.
- 6.3 Second Referee - shall be qualified and registered.
- 6.4 Scorer – shall be competent.
- 6.5 Line Judges – shall be competent.
- 6.6 The use of Referees who are directly connected with the teams playing is discouraged. Where used the connection should be noted in the confirmation to visiting teams. If requested a neutral referee should act as First Referee.
- 6.7 When a team appoints its own Referee, they must notify the other teams, and include the name and email address in the match confirmation. If the referee is not qualified, they are classed as a 'non-panel referee'. If they are officiating in the NVL for the first time Volleyball England will create an account on VolleyZone for them. This will need to be activated in advance of the fixture so that the post-match administration can be undertaken.
- 6.8 Teams are not permitted to cancel any Referee appointed by the NVL Appointment Sub-Committee and appoint their own.
- 6.9. Details of Referee appointments are available from VolleyZone. Club / Team Secretaries must use the system when sending out appointment confirmations. Club / Team Secretaries are also responsible for ensuring that the details held are correct and inform the NVL Referee Liaison or Volleyball England Hub as appropriate of any inaccuracies.
- 6.10 In case of difficulty finding referees, clubs should use the 'Find a Ref' mechanism held on the Volleyball England Club Hub webpage to contact referees to request support for their fixture. The data within this page should be used for the sole purposes of finding a referee and should not be shared externally.

<sup>6</sup> PENALTY TYPE: S = Standards, Safe = Safety, A = Administrative.

- 6.11 Evidence of the home teams' efforts to obtain referees must be made available to the CWG Senior Competitions Committee and the NVL Referee Liaison in case of a complaint.
- 6.12 Where only two Referees have been appointed to a triangular fixture, they will be expected to officiate all three matches. If the home team wishes to officiate the middle fixture, then both officials must be currently registered with Volleyball England, and the first Referee must be at least Grade 3 Regional.
- 6.13 If a home team has not been able to source two registered match officials, then they should notify their opponents, CWG Senior Competitions Committee and NVL Referee Liaison. Whilst it is always preferable to have registered officials it is recognised that there is insufficient referee availability on occasions. The home team should look to source a qualified referee to fulfil the fixture with someone who is not on the NVL Panel this competition season but may be officiating regularly in local leagues. Failing that the home team should source the most competent, experienced, and suitable person e.g., player or coach, to act as second official, again advising opposition and the CWG Senior Competitions Committee. The Referee must sign up for an account as a non-panel Referee to enable them to be assigned to the match. They must then undertake the responsibilities assigned to a Referee.

Note: Referees must hold a Volleyball England referee grade. Please follow the information on the Volleyball England website.

## D 7. Expenses for Referees:

- 7.1 Expenses for Referees should be paid on the day, preferably by electronic transfer, or by electronic transfer within three working days of the match (e.g. by Thursday morning for a weekend match).

Super League	£30	per match
Div 1 & 2	£27	per match
Div 3	£25 £75 £6	per match for 3 triangular matches Additional fee, applicable if the referee only officiates matches 1 & 3 in a triangular
National Cup and Shield	£27 £30	per match in the rounds per match in the semis finals
All Competition Finals	£35	except where tournament fees apply
VE Tournaments	£50	rate per day

## D. 8 Referees Travel

- 8.1 Is to be claimed as actual expenses (public transport) or at current Volleyball England rate (£0.30 per mile private car). if the timing of the match means that public transport cannot be taken then taxis/Ubbers may only be claimed with the prior agreement of the home team. If the home team cannot arrange for the Referee to be collected, then they must expect to incur taxi/Uber costs. If parking at the venue is not available for the Referee, then the home team will be expected to re-imburse the cost of the most appropriate, closest parking, the location of which must be provided as part of the match confirmation.

## SECTION E. ARRANGEMENTS AT MATCHES

### E 1. Regulations of play

- 1.1 All matches will be played to the best of five sets (unless altered by the CWG prior to the match date).
- 1.2 The Rules of the Game that will apply to all competitions will be those currently issued by the [FIVB](#). In the event of a regulation change being required in any competition, the CWG must first give agreement.
- 1.3 Except in exceptional circumstances, and with the express approval of the OWG, the Referees must hold recognised qualifications and be registered with Volleyball England.

## E 2. Golden Set

- 2.1 Where CWG have directed that a 2-legged match will be decided by a Golden Set then the following will be applied;
- 2.2 A Golden Set will only be played where each leg has been won by a different team. This is irrespective of any set or points difference between the 2 legs.
- 2.3 The CWG Senior Competitions Committee is to ensure that the Referee of the Second Leg knows who won the First Leg, so the requirement of the Golden Set may be determined.
- 2.4 The interval between the end of the Second Leg and the Golden Set shall be five minutes.
- 2.5 The Golden Set shall be played as if it were the 5th Set of a normal game, i.e., first to 15 points with an advantage of 2. All other rules relating to a 5th Set shall be applied to the Golden Set.
- 2.6 Any sanctions applied in the Second Leg shall carry forward to the Golden Set.
- 2.7 The Golden Set Scoresheet is to be used – any players or team officials sanctions by disqualification in the Second Leg may not take part in the Golden Set, neither may any player who left the Second Leg through injury.
- 2.8 Equally any player or technical member serving a suspension during the Second Leg may not take part in the Golden Set.

## E 3. The Schedule

- 3.1 The times listed on the Volleyball England website specify the match start time. The warm-up period shall be 30 minutes before the match start time. The scoresheet shall record the time of first service.
- 3.2 **Triangular Match Schedule.** The following will apply to matches that are headed accordingly in the match schedule, see below example of how matches could be scheduled:

Match*	Timing	Example Warm up time	Example Start time
A vs B	In accordance with published warm up and start time.	12:00	12:30
B vs C	Warm up no later than 1 hour after first match start time.	13:30	14:00
A vs C	Warm up no later than 2 hours after first match start time.	14:30	15:00

\*Team A = Home team, Team B= Closest away team, Team C=Team with the most travel

- 3.3 In the event that on arrival at the venue there has been a mistake with the venue booking then the home team has one hour to arrange for the match warm-up to start at that venue or another one. If it is a Triangular Fixture, then the first match is defaulted after one hour and

they have a further 30 minutes to allow the warm-up of the second match. If the home team is unable to book the requisite amount of time for the scheduled fixture(s) any uncompleted matches will be awarded to the opposition.

Note: As the home team alone is responsible for the venue and equipment, venue changes, double bookings, missing equipment will not normally be considered to be outside the control of the team.

#### **E 4. Arrival of teams**

- 4.1 It is advised that a team allows an hour contingency plan whether travelling by public or own transport, with an arrival time of at least 30 minutes before the warm-up is due to start. Should a team not be able to fulfil its fixture, then a member of the team will need to contact the opposition as soon as possible, utilising numbers available on or website for secretary, coach, other personnel, and venue as required. Home teams should then advise the Referees, Volleyball England Hub and CWG Senior Competitions Committee immediately. Should a fixture not be played then the CWG Senior Competitions Committee shall consider the available evidence, and rule as to whether the match should be replayed, forfeited, declared null and void and any sanctions applicable.
- 4.2 Where a problem arises on match day or on the way to the match, the team must make every effort to contact the opposition and CWG Senior Competitions Committee to explain and resolve the problem.
- 4.3 Where a team is delayed by factors that are wholly out of a team's control (e.g., public transport breakdown on the day) and can be backed up by professional and independent reports of confirmation (e.g., public transport company, police, motoring organisation, MET Office) indicating driving conditions and advice, this can be considered by the CWG Senior Competitions Committee as an extenuating circumstance. However, every attempt must be made to travel and play matches as scheduled. Additional travel time requirements would not be a reason not to play, and teams cannot "postpone" matches without the approval of the CWG Senior Competitions Committee. Delays such as traffic problems, vehicle breakdowns (unless by public transport) are not normally considered as factors outside of a team's control. Teams are expected to inform the CWG Senior Competitions Committee, the home team and the Referees of the delay as soon as possible.
- 4.4 Away teams are responsible for planning their route of travel and are responsible for any charges or fines resulting from tolls, low emission or congestion charging zones.
- 4.5 If a fixture or competition is cancelled by Volleyball England. any expenses incurred by the participating teams or Referees will not be refunded.

#### **E 5. Late arrival**

Providing the court is available, and one team is ready to commence play.

- 5.1 Any team failing to appear on court, ready to commence play, within 20 minutes of the published start time shall forfeit the first set. The set shall be lost 25-0. The time available up to the 20 minutes may be available for warm-up subject to agreement from the team already present and ready to play (who will have already warmed up for up to 30 minutes).
- 5.2 The second set shall commence 20 minutes later, i.e., 40 minutes after the published start time. A team arriving between the start times shall be able to use the available time for warm-up. If a team is not on court ready to play 40 minutes after the published start time, then they shall lose the second set 25-0.

- 5.3 The third set shall commence 20 minutes later, i.e., 60 minutes after the published start time. A team not on court ready to play at that time shall lose the third set 25-0, and thus loses the match 3-0.
- 5.4 The defaulting team may forfeit the match, be fined and lose league points consequently.
- 5.5 The time should be taken from the referees if there is a dispute between teams over the exact time.

Note: If a team arrives (ready to play) 19 minutes after the official match start time they are still entitled to play the first set, but they forgo their warm-up, if however, the team arrives (ready to play) 20 minutes or later, after the official match time, that team loses the first set 25-0. The late team could use the remaining minutes as warm-up before starting the second set if play commences within the 40 minutes of the scheduled match start time.

## **E 6. The Players**

- 6.1 Only players who are correctly registered with Volleyball England via may play in competitions. Guidance on gender eligibility in Volleyball England competitions can be found in [Volleyball England's Transgender Policy](#).

*Note: Referees are not expected to prevent a player playing if the team believes him/her to be correctly registered, providing that the player's identity can be proven by suitable photographic identification. Should such a player play, this is at the team's own risk, since playing with an ineligible player will lead to forfeiting the match (see 6.6 below).*

- 6.2 All players in a team, apart from the Libero(s), must wear a strip of identical colour and design with regulation size numbers on the front and back. The numbers 1-99 may be used. The Libero(s) shall wear a different coloured, easily identifiable, numbered shirt (1-99); if a team has two Liberos, their shirts do not have to match each other. In all respects, kit must conform to *FIVB Official Volleyball Rules 25-28*.
- 6.3 Referees are empowered to prevent players from taking part in a match if they do not comply with this rule. If, however, the referee does allow the player to participate it should be indicated on the scoresheet.
- 6.4 Teams may register players on the day of the game via VolleyZone, providing that NVL Transfer and International Transfer regulations are adhered to. Players must be added to the club's specific team roster for that team (or to another NVL Team within the Club, if playing up) to be available to be selected on a team sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)).
- 6.5 NVL player and bench personnel registration details as confirmed in the matchday team sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)) are to be presented to the scorer at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the match. Referees must check identity and validity of player and bench personnel registration details and note all irregularities on the scoresheet. A new team sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)) must be presented for every match.
- 6.6 Any team found to have used ineligible players shall forfeit all matches in which such players have participated.
- 6.7 If a player is not physically present at the start of the match, when Referees check the identity of the players the following shall apply:
  - a. Notice of the expected late arrival shall be given to the First Referee before the match begins.

- b. A player or coach who arrives during the match may not take part in the set-in progress; they may, however, be permitted to play/ coach in subsequent sets once their arrival has been properly recorded and their identity checked.
- c. If the expected player or coach does not arrive, this name should be deleted from the scoresheet.

### **E.7. Playing Up**

7.1 A club, having two or more teams competing in the NVL, once having nominated players to its team rosters identifying which team each player belongs, shall be entitled to play a lower team player in that club's higher team for up to (and including) four matches without the necessity of transfer, until December 1st 2026.

Note 'playing' is classified as being listed on the scoresheet. For season 2027-28 onwards this deadline will be earlier 1st November.

7.2 It is the club's responsibility to notify both Referees and scorer before the start of the match as to which players are involved. If a player is found to have played for the lower team for a fifth match then that player will be considered an ineligible player, and the team will forfeit the game.

7.3 During the current competition season, any player playing up who reaches four matches , must be transferred to the higher team. Once the player reaches the four match limit it is the club's responsibility to remove the player from the lower team roster and add the player onto the higher team roster. This will also apply until 1<sup>st</sup> December 2026.

7.4 From the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2026 senior players must be selected for a specific roster.

7.5 There is no restriction on the number of sets a junior player may play up. A player is deemed a junior if they are under the age of 18 on September 1st of the current competition season.

7.6 'Playing up' does not constitute a transfer, until four matches are reached. Cup tie provisions apply in all Knock Out Cups.

7.7 To change, teams will require an official national transfer. This transfer will require the club to move the player from on team roster to another and for the National Transfer Fee to be paid.

7.8 When a player is deemed to be transferred by the playing up regulation, they may no longer play up again for the remainder of the competition season.

7.9 Teams must inform the Referees and scorer of the fact that a player is playing up and the number of matches that have already been played up (unless they are a junior).

7.10 The scorers must record the playing up details on the scoresheet.

7.11 The First Referee shall record the playing up details in VolleyZone following the match.

### **E 7. Bench Personnel**

7.1 Only players and bench personnel who are registered with Volleyball England and included on the team sheet for the match may sit on the bench during a match.

7.2 The role of the coach during a match can only be performed by an individual with a Club Coach (L2) qualification who meets criteria E7.1 above.

7.3 If a coach with a Club Coach (L2) qualification is not included in bench personnel the team captain will overtake the coach's functions to request time-outs and substitutions if not on court.

- 7.4 The coach must produce their coach e-registration card at every match.
- 7.5 Bench personnel must abide by the Competition Regulation and Volleyball England Codes of Conduct.
- 7.6 At Cup Finals, Super League Opening Weekend, Super League Finals and Super League Live; bench personnel must be suitably attired wearing matching clothing either smart casual (no jeans) or track suits and suitable footwear (no flip flops or open toe sandals).

## **E 8. Referee Team**

- 8.1 Should only one of the appointed Referees arrive for the match, they will appoint a person to act as the Second Referee. They will do this from any available persons based on qualification, registration, and competence.
- 8.2 Should neither of the appointed Referees arrive, the home team will provide both Referees for the match, and the match will be played. The responsibility for selection of Referees under these circumstances' rests with the home team only. Again, the most appropriate persons must be appointed considering qualification, current registration, competence, and experience. A full report of the events should be sent to the Hub and the result will be considered by the CWG, in the light of qualifications/experience of the Referees used. Should a rematch be decided upon, the expenses may be borne by Volleyball England where Volleyball England appointed the Referees or by the home team where the home team were responsible for appointing the Referees.
- 8.3 Where any qualified Referee fails to appear at a match, then the home team shall, within seven days, send a report to the CWG Senior Competitions Committee and the NVL Referee Liaison. Where an appointed referee fails to appear for a match without prior notice, this should be recorded on the scoresheet. Where an appointed official withdraws from a fixture, after giving notice, it is the responsibility of the home team to re-appoint Referees, after consultation with OWG.
- 8.4 The scorer must be available 30 minutes prior to the match start time and complete the whole match. The team lists on the scoresheet must be fully completed by the time the captains are called for the toss (at least 16 minutes before first service time). The scorer must complete the scoresheet before it is presented to officials for signature at the end of the match.

## **E 10. Bad Weather**

- 10.1 In the event of bad weather, teams should make every effort to play their fixtures whilst taking responsibility for their own safety. If either team feels they are unable to complete the fixture they must ensure they have professional and independent evidence (e.g., Weather (MET Office), public transport company, police, motoring organisation, sports hall) indicating travel conditions and advice or hall closure notice. Teams are expected to call and email the opposition, the Referees and the CWG Senior Competitions Committee as soon as possible and at the same time agree a date for the match to take place.

## **SECTION F. AFTER THE MATCH**

### **F 1. Scoresheet and Match Day protocol**

- 1.1 The First Referee is be required to;
- 1.2 Notify by email the Hub via [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org), the Referee Liaison and CWG Senior Competitions Committee via [cwg@volleyballengland.org](mailto:cwg@volleyballengland.org) if the match did not take place or that the match was unfinished, with a copy of the scoresheet attached.

- 1.3 Take a photo of the scoresheet and upload it through the (SportLoMo) Game Official App, by 10pm.

Note : if a match did not take place, or was not finished, then nothing should be uploaded.

- 1.4 Submit the match scores (including set scores), and provide information on sanctions, Playing Up and MVPs, by 10pm.

**F 2. The home team will be required to;**

- 2.1 Keep the hard copy of the scoresheet until the start of the following competition season, in case of any queries.
- 2.2 If the appointed match official does not turn up on the day, then the photo of the scoresheet should be emailed to the Hub via [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org)
- 2.3 If there are any discrepancies with the results, contact [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org).

Note: This is required so that Volleyball England's communications team can produce weekend match reviews.

## SECTION G. PENALTIES, PROTESTS AND APPEALS

It is anticipated that teams will abide by both the letter and the spirit of these competition regulations, and the Official Volleyball Rules and that defeat will not be an excuse for making a complaint.

Following the decision of the CWG Senior Competitions Committee, all parties have a right to appeal the decision. See G 6.

Note: Before making any decision, CWG members, must declare an interest in any matter that they are remotely associated with.

### G 1. Penalties

Penalties can be applied to all breaches of the regulations. Where not actually stipulated in the regulations, the penalty will be determined by the Competitions Lead, for the event.

	Breach	Super league	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3
1.1	<b>Games not being played and/or forfeited</b>	<b>1st offence</b> Min. fine £500 Review of team's future in the league by CWG 3 league point deduction <b>2nd Offence</b> -Same as above.	<b>1st Offence</b> Min. fine £100 <b>2nd Offence</b> £200 fine Review of team by CWG	<b>1st Offence</b> Min. fine £100 <b>2nd Offence</b> £200 fine Review of team by CWG	<b>1st Offence</b> Min. fine £100 <b>2nd Offence</b> £200fine Review of team by CWG
	In Divisions 1,2 & 3 where a team fails to play either of its last two fixtures of the playing season the fine can be £200 (A set of triangular matches equals one fixture).				
1.2	<b>Game being brought into disrepute</b>	Min. fine £250	Min. fine £50	Min. fine £50	Min. fine £50
1.3	<b>Interfere with the running of the event</b>	Max. fine £250	Max. fine £50	Max. fine £50	Max. fine £50.
1.4	<b>Safety concerns where referee allows game to take place:</b>	Max. fine £500	Max. fine £100	Max. fine £100	Max. fine £100
1.5	<b>Administrative failures</b>	Max. fine £100 per offence	Max. fine £20 per offence	Max. fine £20 per offence	Max. fine £20 per offence
	Administrative fines will be notified by the Hub				
1.6	<b>Player Equipment Standards</b>	<b>First Offence</b> Written Warning <b>Second Offence</b> Max. fine £100	<b>First Offence</b> Written Warning <b>Second Offence</b> Max. fine £20	<b>First Offence</b> Written Warning <b>Second Offence</b> Max. fine £20	<b>First Offence</b> Written Warning <b>Second Offence</b> Max. fine £20
1.7	<b>Court Equipment Standards</b>	<b>First Offence</b> Written Warning <b>Second Offence</b> Max. fine £100	<b>First Offence</b> Written Warning <b>Second Offence</b> Max. fine £20	<b>First Offence</b> Written Warning <b>Second Offence</b> Max. fine £20	<b>First Offence</b> Written Warning <b>Second Offence</b> Max. fine £20
1.8	<b>Courtside Equipment Standards</b>	<b>First Offence</b> Written warning <b>Second Offence</b> Max. fine £100	<b>First Offence</b> Written warning <b>Second Offence</b> Max. fine £20	<b>First Offence</b> Written warning <b>Second Offence</b> Max. fine £20	<b>First Offence</b> Written warning <b>Second Offence</b> Max. fine £20
1.9	<b>Match day Standards</b>	<b>First Offence</b> Max. fine £100	<b>First Offence</b> Max. fine £20		

		<b>Second Offence</b> Max. fine £200	<b>Second Offence</b> Max. fine £40		
1.10	<b>Matchday People Standards</b>	Max. fine £50 per offence	Max. fine £10 per offence	Max. fine £10 per offence	
1.11	<b>Home venue criteria standards</b>	Max. fine £50 per offence	Max. fine £10 per offence	Max. fine £10 per offence	Max. fine £10 per offence

1.12 Failure to pay any fine levied within the timescale stated will be reported to the CWG, who will consider imposing further sanctions including, but not limited to, financial penalties, points deduction, relegation, or expulsion from the NVL.

1.13 Should, during the competition season, a team be issued with a fine an invoice will be sent to the team via email addressed to the Team Secretary. This must be paid within 21 days from the date on the invoice.

1.14 Any additional offences after a second offence, is subject to a further financial penalty, point deduction, relegation or expulsion from the NVL.

**G 2. Administrative Disputes** -Disputes relating to administrative matters and interpretation of competition regulations shall be the responsibility of the CWG.

2.1 Disputes arise only where teams are unable to resolve difficulties amicably between themselves, and they are urged to make every endeavour to do so. It is intended that matches should be decided on the court of play. Therefore, in all but the most exceptional administrative cases, and unless a penalty is otherwise stipulated, any team found to have broken the regulations will be fined, and their match result may stand. However, teams must be aware that breaches of the Regulations may mean forfeiture of matches.

2.2 The CWG, has the right to deduct points, fine and suspend any team should the situation warrant it.

**G 3. Technical Disputes** -Those relating to the match itself under areas covered by the match Referees.

3.1 If, prior to the start of a match, a dispute arises, this should be noted on the scoresheet by the Scorer (under the direction of the first referee) in the 'remarks' section before the match commences. If no such entry is made, it is assumed that up to that point all events and conditions are satisfactory. The referee may also note at this point any breaches of competition regulations.

3.2 If, during a match, a dispute arises, the first referee's decision is final. Any legitimate protest is to be recorded on the scoresheet after the end of the match by the scorer (under the direction of the first referee).

3.3 All disputes must be referred in writing to the Hub as soon as possible prior to the scheduled match date, or within five days after the match took place. Disputes beyond this period shall not be entertained.

3.4 A party to match wishing to make a protest should follow (Regulation G.5)

**G 4. Remarks on the Scoresheet**

4.1 Comments relating in any way to the competence of the match Referees must not be recorded on the scoresheet.

4.2 Any complaints about the competence of the officials must be forwarded within five days of the match:

- a. Where the Official(s) is/are unqualified, the CWG Senior Competitions Committee will deal with the dispute.
- b. Where the Official(s) is/are qualified then any protest will be dealt with by the OWG. Any comments should be sent to the Hub.

#### **G 5. Protests**

- 5.1 All disputes must be referred in writing to the Hub as soon as possible prior to the scheduled match date, or within five days after the match took place or when the decision was made. Disputes beyond this period shall not be entertained.
- 5.2 A party to a match wishing to make a protest to the Hub must also copy their protest to their opponents and the referees, within five working days of the match, so that they may give their account.
- 5.3 Following the submission of these documents a decision on the dispute will be made by the relevant Competitions Lead responsible.
- 5.4 Only disputes regarding the technical application of the Regulations and Rules will be considered. This does not cover the award of Red Cards.
- 5.5 Any party that disagrees with the decision of the relevant Competitions Lead has the right to Appeal the decision.

#### **G 6. Appeals**

- 6.1 An appeal will only be considered if (acting reasonably) that one or more of the following grounds has been met:
  - a. The decision of the relevant body was based on error of fact or could not have reasonably been reached by a relevant body when faced with the evidence before it;
  - b. There was injustice because of a serious procedural or other irregularity in the proceedings before or during the relevant body; and/or
  - c. The sanction imposed by the relevant body was manifestly unreasonable in the light of the facts presented to the body.

**Note** If significant and relevant new evidence has come to light which was not available before the conclusion of the findings from the relevant body but, had it been available, may have caused the relevant body to reach a materially different decision then the matter should first be re-visited by the relevant body before referral:

#### **G.7 Filing an appeal against a decision.**

- 7.1 On filing an appeal with the Hub against the decision of a Competitions Lead, a copy of the appeal shall be sent to any other affected party at the time of submission. A deposit of £100 must be paid when lodging any appeal, with such deposit to be returned if the appeal is successful. The Hub should give out the relevant documents to each affected party. No appeal will be considered unless a copy of the appeal submission and the £100 deposit is received by Volleyball England within the 14-day deadline.
- 7.2 The Hub will issue written confirmation of acceptance of the appeal.
- 7.3 The CWG will respond within five working days with details of the hearing, which will normally be a minimum of a further 10 days hence, to enable any documents to be submitted and circulated.

- 7.4 The appeal should be heard by the CWG within 28 days of receipt, and such appeal shall be chaired by the CWG Lead, or their appointed deputy, and the CWG Senior Competitions Committee shall be able to ask any party questions concerning the subject of the appeal.
- 7.5 The appeal panel will normally consist of at least 3 CWG members who will either sit in person or by conference call. In exceptional circumstances the panel may sit with two CWG member. Any member with a personal or prejudicial interest will not be allowed to sit on the panel.
- 7.6 Any party to an appeal shall have the right to an oral hearing (face to face or via conference call).
- 7.7 Any party wishing to refer to any document or letter shall submit copies of such items to all parties concerned at least seven days prior to the appeal being heard. All parties will have a right to reply within a deadline of three days.
- 7.8 At the end of the appeal hearing, the Chair shall announce the decision, but shall be entitled to reserve the decision for further consideration and later announcement / communication to the parties.
- 7.9 Failure to comply with these procedures may result in a further fine being imposed by the CWG.
- 7.10 No appeals of any description whatsoever shall be considered unless filed within 14 days of notification of the original decision and the relevant deposit paid. Original decisions are those made by the relevant Lead at the time and on the available information. Once the decision is made no further information will be considered, nor decisions reviewed, except under appeal. Therefore, teams are reminded that they must submit all information for consideration when asking for a CWG Senior Competitions Committee ruling.

**G 8. Disciplinary Committee**

- 8.1 There shall be a right of appeal of the decision of the CWG to the Volleyball England Disciplinary Committee. Any appeal must be submitted to the Hub within 10 days of the Appeal decision date. Please refer [here](#) for more details.

**SECTION H. MISCONDUCT**

**H 1. Sanctions**

- 1.1 The first Referee will ensure that all sanctions issued to players, coaches and authorised bench personnel are recorded on the scoresheet.

**H 2. Disqualification**

- 2.1 In the case of expulsion or disqualification, the first referee will submit a full report (RC9) to the Volleyball England Hub and to the NVL Officials Group Member after the match.

**H 3. Penalty Points**

The below table outlines penalty points which will be applied to, players, coaches, and authorised bench personnel if they are issued with the below sanctions. (These do **not** apply to delay sanctions)

3.1	Misconduct (red card)	3 disciplinary points
3.2	Expelled (Red and yellow card jointly) repetition of a misconduct offence	5 disciplinary points

3.3	Expelled (Red and yellow card jointly) for single offence	5 disciplinary points
3.4	Misconduct (Red card) followed by Expelled (Red and yellow card jointly)	5 disciplinary points in addition to the 3 disciplinary points previous
3.5	Disqualified (red and yellow card separately)	9 disciplinary points, Where disqualification results from aggressive conduct, these 9 points will add to any previous disciplinary points received during the match. If disqualification occurs because of other misconduct following an expulsion, the 9 points will replace the 5 points awarded for expulsion.
3.6	Disqualified (red and yellow card separately) due to aggression	Minimum 1 match suspension This matter will then be automatically referred to the Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee ( <a href="#">See Regulation H7</a> )

#### H 4. Suspensions

- 4.1 The following penalties shall apply when a player, coach or authorised bench personnel accumulates disciplinary points in the same competition season:

8 disciplinary points	1 match suspension
16 disciplinary points	A further 3 match suspension

It is the team's responsibility to ensure that suspended players do not participate in matches.

- 4.2 The points are cumulative during the competition season and anyone receiving additional disciplinary points shall have their case reviewed by the Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee. The Sub Committee shall be entitled to impose further penalties, as it deems appropriate. The Sub Committee may require the attendance at an appropriate meeting of any player, coach or authorised bench personnel concerned. Equally, the person concerned has the right to attend or be represented at any meeting discussing their case.
- 4.3 A player, coach or authorised bench personnel shall have the right of appeal to the CWG from the decision of the Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee.
- 4.4 Player suspensions apply to the next fixture played in any competition covered by these regulations. All matches in which a suspended person participated will be forfeited. Such suspensions must be for either the same team or, if transferred, the new team in such competitions. The onus rests with the team to ensure that the suspension is served correctly.
- 4.5 In the case of triangular fixtures, both matches will count as one fixture and the suspension will take effect in the first match of the next fixture.
- 4.6 Coaches and authorised bench personnel who receive suspensions will serve their ban in their next scheduled League / Cup match with the team they accumulated the points with regardless of their role within that team.
- Note: Any person who is required to serve a suspension cannot attend the suspended match(es) under another team role (e.g., a coach/bench personnel who is serving a suspension cannot attend the suspended match as a player and vice versa).
- 4.7 Disciplinary points shall not carry forward from one competition season to the next. If suspensions must be served and there is no opportunity to do so in the current competition season, then such suspension shall be served in the next available match/matches of the following competition season.

#### H 5. Illegal Approaches

- 5.1 No official from any other club shall approach a player with a view to inducing them to leave that club unless permission has been granted in writing by a duly authorised representative of the club for which the player is currently contracted or registered.
- 5.2 This restriction applies to all club officials, including coaches and players or other persons acting on behalf of or purporting to act on behalf of a club. Infringements of this regulation will be referred to the Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee as being liable to bring the game into disrepute and may be dealt as misconduct.
- 5.3 The CWG shall receive any allegations of breaches of this regulation. The CWG shall have the right to seek evidence and testimony from all parties involved, and a record of all complaints made shall be kept and reviewed.
- 5.4 Where it is felt there is a case to answer, it shall be referred to the Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee for investigation and resolution. Sanctions may include reprimand, fine or suspension. No transfer will be approved until the conclusion of the disciplinary process.
- 5.5 Coaches are reminded of their obligations under the Volleyball England Code of [Code of Conduct](#).
- 5.6 If a player approaches a club seeking transfer, without having requested to leave their club, the club which the player seeks to join must notify the existing club of the player concerned in writing within seven days. An infringement of this regulation would be referred to the Disciplinary Sub Committee as being liable to bring the game into disrepute.

## **H 6. Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee**

- 6.1 The Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee shall be chaired by the Chief Executive Officer or the Deputy Chief Executive Officer and consist of members nominated by the Competitions Working Group and/or the Officials Working Group.

## **H 7. Conduct**

- 7.1 The Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee is empowered to discipline a player, coach, club, team, or team follower whose actions are considered to bring the game into disrepute. The Sub Committee is empowered within its absolute discretion to suspend or fine a coach, player, club, or team in circumstances where it considers it appropriate. These provisions apply to NVL /K.O. Cup Competitions, Student, Junior, Sitting, Beach tournaments and any other competition in which Volleyball England registered players may participate. The Officials Group is responsible for any disciplinary action relating to match Referees.
- 7.2 The Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee, CWG or Volleyball England Disciplinary Committee is empowered to discipline any registered player, coach, club, team, or team follower. The penalties imposed shall be within the absolute discretion of the Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee, CWG as appropriate.
- 7.3 Club officials and NVL Referees must respond, within a reasonable specified period of time, to legitimate requests for information made by the Volleyball England Hub, CWG or Officials Group when conducting preliminary investigations. Failure to do so may result in a fine and will be taken into consideration when complaints and appeals are being considered.
- 7.4 The Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee shall be entitled in its absolute discretion to impose penalties for the following:
  - a. Aggressive behaviour to players/spectators
  - b. Aggressive behaviour towards Referees
  - c. Threatening behaviour
  - d. Abusive conduct
  - e. Behaviour likely to undermine the authority of match Referees

- f. Conduct likely to bring the game into disrepute.
- 7.5 In the event of the Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee considering alleged behaviour as above, then the player/coach/club official/ spectator may be required to attend a disciplinary hearing.
- 7.6 There shall be a right of appeal to the Volleyball England Disciplinary Committee of any decision made by the Competitions Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
- a. If the reason for the sanction is safeguarding, then the sanction remains in place until after the appeal is finalised.
  - b. For other circumstances, the sanction maybe suspended if requested in writing however if the appeal is unsuccessful then the sanction will be increased.

## **SECTION I. END OF NVL PLAYING SEASON**

- I.1 Any club or team not entering for the ensuing competition season must notify the CWG by 9<sup>th</sup> March 2027 otherwise, all fees and goodwill deposit will be retained.

### **I 2 National League positions**

- 1.1 In all Divisions, three points will be awarded to the team winning a match should the score be 3-0 or 3-1. Two points will be awarded to the winning team and one point to the losing team should the score be 3-2.
- 1.2 In the event of a tie at the end of the playing season in any division, the teams will be classified in the order of:
- a. Set quotient: number of total sets won / number of total sets lost.
  - b. Point's quotient: number of total points scored / number of total points conceded (during all sets).
- 1.3 If two teams are still tied, the head-to-head record will determine the position of the two teams.

### **Post NVL Playing Season**

#### **I 3 Super League Final 4 & Super League play-off.**

- 3.1 The date of the Final 4 and Super League play-off will be detailed in the Volleyball England calendar.
- 3.2 The hosts / venue for play-off matches will be selected by Volleyball England, Volleyball England reserves the right to host, amend the play-offs, or cancel them, as required.
- 3.3 The top four teams in the Super League table at the end of the Regular Season will take part in the Super League Final 4, and the seventh placed team in the Super League will take part in the Super League play-off.
- 3.4 The order of matches will be confirmed by Volleyball England ahead of the event, for both Final 4 and the Super League play-off.
- 3.5 To be able to play at the NVL play-offs, a player must have played in a minimum of three league matches in the current season for the team they are representing. In exceptional circumstances the CWG may waive this requirement.
- 3.6 The Final 4 will have the following format,

**Semi-Finals** (1<sup>st</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> vs 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Based on the Regular Season Division finishing positions,

### Medal matches

Bronze medal (loser of SF1 vs loser SF2), and  
Super League Champions (winner of SF1 vs winner of SF2).

#### 3.7 Super League Playoff structure:

**Round 1:** takes place Saturday of NVL playoff weekend.

Who: North 1<sup>st</sup> vs South 1<sup>st</sup>

Winner: Play in the Super League for the following season.

Loser: Play off against the Super League 7<sup>th</sup> Place

**Round 2:** takes place Sunday of NVL playoff weekend.

Who: Round 1 Loser vs 7<sup>th</sup> Super League

Winner: Play in the Super League for the following season.

Loser: Play in Division 1 for the following season

#### 1.4 Promotion and Relegation

4.1 Dates of all play-off matches will be detailed in the Volleyball England calendar.

4.2 If a team does not wish to accept promotion, they must formally apply to the CWG for their consideration by 8<sup>th</sup> March.

4.3 This will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances and must always be a last resort.

4.5 Any scenarios not mentioned will be at the discretion of the CWG Senior Competitions Committee.

#### 4.6 Men's and Women's Super League

Position	Action
1 <sup>st</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup>	Progress to Super League Final 4
7 <sup>th</sup>	Playoff against the loser of the round 1 Division 1 Playoff -Winning team plays in Super League -Losing team plays in Division 1
8 <sup>th</sup>	Relegated to Division 1

#### 4.7 Men & Women's Division 1

Position	Action
1 <sup>st</sup>	Playoff Round One: 1 <sup>st</sup> place in Division 1 North and 1 <sup>st</sup> place in Division 1 South will playoff against one another. -Winner progress to Super League -Loser will playoff against 7 <sup>th</sup> in the round two Super League in a follow up playoff
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	Relegated to Division 2 in each conference.

4.8 In the unlikely event that winning team of Division 1 applies for permission to not accept promotion and the CWG grants this or is unable to be promoted because their Club has another team in the Division that they would be promoted to the promotion slot will no longer exist, and the 7<sup>th</sup> placed Super League team will retain their space.

#### 4.9 Men's and Women's Division 2

Position	Action
1 <sup>st</sup>	Promoted to Division 1 in all conferences.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> placed teams across the three conferences, play-off in a round robin for the remaining promotion place.

7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	Relegated to Division 3
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4.10 In the unlikely event that a winning team from Division 2 applies for permission to not accept promotion and the CWG grants this or is unable to be promoted because their Club has another team in the Division that they would be promoted to an additional promotion slot will be made available within the division 2 play-offs.

#### 4.10 Men's and Women's Division 3

Position	Action
1 <sup>st</sup>	Promoted to Division 2
2 <sup>nd</sup>	The 4, 2 <sup>nd</sup> placed teams will enter a play-off. The schedule will be as follows: Match 1: SE VS SW Match 2: NC VS NW The 2 winning teams will be promoted into Division 2, the 2 losing teams will remain in Division 3.
8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	Will be relegated from the NVL. Relegated teams will be permitted to apply as a 'new team entrant' for the following season. All the teams in the pool of new team applicants will be judged in line with the same criteria and submissions outlined in regulation A6 and A7 and the highest ranked teams will be accepted into the league.

4.11 In the unlikely event that a winning team from Division 3 applies for permission to not accept promotion and the CWG grants this or is unable to be promoted because their Club has another team in the Division that they would be promoted to an additional promotion slot will be made available within the division 3 play-offs.

4.12 Should teams drop out of any of the Divisions during the competition season, then the CWG reserves the right to alter the Promotion/Relegation regulations e.g., to cancel a play-off if not required.

### I.5 League Structure for following Season

- 5.1 If teams do not fill their respective places in the NVL in the following season, the CWG will fill those places with existing teams.
- 5.2 If the playing season has completed normally then usually these gaps will be filled from teams from the lower division (however the CWG reserve the right to alter this if in their sole opinion this is unreasonable).
- 5.3 If the playing season has not completed normally then usually these gaps will be filled from teams that were previously in the higher division (however the CWG reserve the right to alter this if in their sole opinion this is unreasonable).
- 5.4 In the lowest division due teams entering and leaving there is often a need to rebalance the league geographically and numerically. Therefore, teams may find themselves in a different conference that they might have expected. The HUB works hard to make this difficult decision based on geography, travel time, travel distance to make it as fair as possible on average for all teams and sometimes this means one team will end up with more travel but overall, for all teams there is less. Teams do not have the right to appeal in this case.
- 5.5 All teams in a promotion position must take their place in the appropriate division if permitted to do so by other regulations. However, in exceptional circumstances the CWG may review the situation if a written submission is received by 8<sup>th</sup> April during the current competition season.

### I.6. Teams within the same club

- 6.1 Volleyball England recognizes clubs' use of multiple teams in a hierarchical structure to develop their players. To improve the diversity and standard of teams in the NVL, teams within the same club will no longer be permitted to compete in the same division of the NVL in the 2026-27 season.
- 6.2 Teams within the same club include all teams listed in the clubs' team rosters on VolleyZone. Any doubts over the affinity of teams in the NVL must be clarified with the CWG lead or the Volleyball England Competitions Team.
- 6.3 If promotion/relegation of teams result in teams of the same club competing in the same division the following season, the following outcomes will apply:
  - a. If the higher-level team is relegated; the lower-level team will be relegated to the next division below. If the lower-level team is in division 3, the team's entry to the NVL for the following season will be removed.
  - b. If the lower-level team is promoted; the lower-level team's promotion is void and promotion will be rewarded to the next placed team in the division.
  - c. If the higher-level team is relegated while the lower-level team is promoted; both teams' promotion and relegation will be void and teams will remain in their respective division.
  - d. If your teams are separated by a single division e.g. Super League and Division 2. If the higher team is relegated the lower team promotion is void. Clubs with teams in Division 3 are not permitted to apply for an additional team entry as this would result in both teams in the same division.

## **I 7. European Competition Entry**

- 7.1 If teams are considering entering European Competitions, teams must indicate their intention in writing to the CWG by 1st May.

## **SECTION J- REGULATIONS FOR SPECIFIC COMPETITIONS**

### **J.1 Volleyball England National Cup**

- 1.1 NVL Super League, NVL Division 1, National Shield finalists (24-25 season), BUCS Premier Tier and London League Premier teams are permitted to compete in the competition.
- 1.2 The main draw will consist of a maximum of 32 teams, if entries exceed this number a preliminary round will take place. NVL Super League, NVL Division 1, and the National Shield finalist teams will be exempt from the preliminary round. The required fixtures will be drawn at random from the non-NVL team entrants (i.e. BUCS Premier Tier and London League Premier teams).
- 1.3 Teams who are eliminated from the Volleyball England National Cup will not be entered into the Volleyball England National Shield.

### **J.2 Volleyball England National Shield**

- 2.1 NVL Division 2, NVL Division 3, and all other teams from Volleyball England affiliated clubs are permitted to compete in the competition (with the exception of the teams categorised in 1.1 **Volleyball England National Cup** ).
- 2.2 The main draw will consist of a maximum of 64 teams, if entries exceed this number a preliminary round will take place. The teams drawn into the preliminary round will start with 'non-NVL teams'. Preliminary round will be drawn with due regard to geography to prevent excessive travel.

- 2.3 NVL Division 2 and NVL Division 3 teams will be exempt from the preliminary round. The required fixtures will be drawn from the non-NVL team entrants.
- 2.4 The two National Shield finalists will only be eligible for National Cup the following season.

### **J.3 Volleyball England National Cup and Shield general regulations**

- 3.1 Entry is included for all NVL teams and is open to all affiliated clubs.
- 3.2 Players in any team must hold an active player membership to be eligible to compete.
- 3.3 Clubs are to ensure that they keep the scheduled dates for the Cup and Shield free of local League fixtures; failure to do so will not be an acceptable reason for playing on a different date to that scheduled.
- 3.4 A randomised draw will take place at the start and after each round of the competition to determine the fixtures for the following round. The results of the draw will be announced on the Volleyball England official website.
  - a. Teams will be drawn from the same pools based on their region in the initial stages of the National Shield to ensure shorter travel distances. Teams will be drawn from one pool from the Quarter Final stage onwards. The regional classifications for each team will be confirmed when the team entries are confirmed.
  - b. Teams will be drawn from the same pool in the National Cup.
- 3.5 The Cup and Shield are connected competitions, and no player may play for more than one team in the competition under any circumstances. This includes teams within the same club.
- 3.6 Clubs which have multiple teams in the NVL, can combine their NVL teams to compete in the Cup and Shield on the understanding that; If a club enters amalgam team(s), they will be recognised in the competition as the club's highest-level team(s). That is, if the club has a team categorised in 1. Volleyball England National Cup, the amalgam team will not be permitted to compete in the Shield.
- 3.7 Players who have competed in a team eligible for the National Cup cannot participate in the Shield competition for a team.
- 3.8 NVL clubs cannot form "Amalgam" team(s) with other clubs.
- 3.9 "Amalgam" teams must be able to demonstrate some common affinity (e.g., playing in the same local league or living in the same geographical area). Any doubts over eligibility must be clarified with the relevant CWG Senior Competitions Committee or the Volleyball England Competitions Team.
- 3.10 Players and team officials (e.g. coaches, bench personnel, etc.) must be registered with their respective teams on VolleyZone in that Club's specific Team Roster for the Cup/Shield Team.
- 3.11 An NVL registered player may choose to play for a non NVL team in the Cup/Shield different from the club/team which holds his/her NVL registration, provided:
  - a. The NVL team agrees (evidence of approval to be sent to [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org)) and is not left with less than eight players to compete in the cup competition themselves;
  - b. It is the non NVL team that the player plays for in the local / regional league.
  - c. That the player is listed in that Club's specific Team Roster on VolleyZone, to be selectable in the matchday Team Sheet (produced in VolleyZone). This will require a Dual Membership to both clubs.
  - d. The player has not competed in the Cup/Shield for their NVL club this season (cup tied).

- e. NVL registered players cannot play for another NVL team, other than the one that holds their registration at the time of the fixture.
  - f. NVL teams may contain non-NVL registered players subject to that player having a player membership of the club in VolleyZone.
- 3.12 To take part in the competitions' semi-finals and finals, players must either have been listed in the team sheet in a previous round for their team or have been registered with the Club's specific Team Roster, from before the first NVL game of the season.
  - 3.13 Teams may register players up to, and including, the day of the Quarter Finals.
  - 3.14 All clubs/teams are required to play their allocated fixture(s) on the date(s) specified by the CWG.
  - 3.15 **Teams that withdraw from the National Cup and Shield will be subject to a minimum fine of £100. Furthermore, they may be debarred from such competitions for a period of one season.** If a team withdraws after the draw, the CWG reserves the right to amend the draw.
  - 3.16 Shirt numbers must be numbered as per the requirements in the minimum operating standards (refer to Section D.3 Equipment Standards).
  - 3.17 Matches must be played on the scheduled date unless agreed in writing by the CWG Senior Competitions Committee.
  - 3.18 The final for the National Cup and Shield will be played during the Cup Finals Weekend between the 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> of April in the National Volleyball Centre in Loughborough. Specific arrangements will be communicated when teams qualify.

#### **J.4 England National Squads in the National Cup**

- 4.1 If England Under 20s are entered into the National Cup the following will apply.
- 4.2 Players with a 2008 birth date and younger will be eligible to for selection.
- 4.3 Players selected by England will not be cup tied, therefore will be permitted to compete for their club team when not selected by England.
- 4.4 Players are not permitted to compete for both club and country in the same round.
- 4.5 England will select their squad 21 days prior to the match and communicate the selection with all teams with players involved.
- 4.6 England will select a maximum of 3 players from a team that is currently competing in the National Cup / Shield.
- 4.7 Cup / Shield teams have until 14 days prior to the match to inform The Hub ([competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org) and [talent@volleyballengland.org](mailto:talent@volleyballengland.org) ) if they have exceptional circumstances whereby they cannot fulfil the fixture due to the player selection. A decision will be made up to 10 days prior to the match on the outcome of the request.

## SECTION K. INSTRUCTIONS TO REFEREES

### K 1. Instructions to Referees

- 1.1 Referees who have not received a match confirmation by seven days prior to the match should contact the Volleyball England Hub or the CWG Senior Competitions Committee for advice (refer to Regulation D 1).
- 1.2 Referees are to confirm as soon as possible that they are attending the match and are requested to let the home team know their likely match fees and expenses.
- 1.3 First referees are required to notify the CWG of any inadequacies in playing conditions by recording them on the scoresheet (Regulation D 1).
- 1.4 First referees who issue an expulsion or disqualification penalty are required to submit a Form RC9 to the Volleyball England Hub and NVL Referee Liaison after the match (Regulation H 2. refers).
- 1.5 First referees should ensure that any legitimate protest is recorded in the Remarks box of the scoresheet at the first opportunity after the event arises ([Regulation G 3.](#) refers).
- 1.6 Referees should not allow anyone other than the scorer or themselves to write in the Remarks box of the scoresheet.
- 1.7 Referees should only allow players, coaches, or bench personnel, in possession of a valid, current registration for that team, as confirmed by the Team Sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)), to sit on a team bench or otherwise participate in a match (Regulation E7. refers).
- 1.8 Where the second match of a Double Header involves a change of Net Height then the 30-minute warm-up shall start from when the new net height has been set and confirmed by the Referees.
- 1.9 Referees who do not get paid promptly i.e., on the day, or within three working days by electronic transfer, should contact the CWG Senior Competitions Committee and the Referee Liaison (Regulation D3. refers).
- 1.10 Referees are to record on the scoresheet if an incorrect match ball is used or any equipment required is not provided (Regulation D)
- 1.11 Referees are to record on the scoresheet if Line Judges are not provided in Divisions 2 and above.
- 1.12 Referees are to submit a copy of the Scoresheet along with playing up information, sanctions, and MVPs via the VolleyZone (SportLoMo) App (Regulation F1. refers).

Note: Player registrations and transfers cease as of 31<sup>st</sup> January unless in exceptional circumstances where permission is granted by the CWG Senior Competitions Committee prior to the match (Regulation C1.& Regulation C.3.1 refers). By the 31<sup>st</sup> January all players should have purchased the correct membership on VolleyZone and have purchased a domestic transfer if necessary. If an ITC is needed, then the transfer must be initiated and signed by Club and player by 31<sup>st</sup> January.

## **SECTION L. ANTI-DOPING (DRUG TAKING) REGULATIONS**

- 1.1 If you are an player or Athlete Support Person (this includes bench personnel) participating under the jurisdiction of Volleyball England, then the anti-doping rules of Volleyball England apply to you, regardless of what level you participate at.
- 1.2 A copy of the Volleyball England Anti-Doping Policy and regulations for doping control is available [here](#).
- 1.3 Doping Controls may be carried out at any time during or out of competition.

The anti-doping rules of Volleyball England are the UK Anti-Doping Rules published by UK Anti-Doping. These rules can be amended from time to time, such rules shall take effect and be construed as the rules of Volleyball England.

## **SECTION M. BLOOD INJURIES**

- 1.1 A player is not allowed to play with a bleeding wound, regardless of the seriousness of the injury. Any blood on a player's skin, playing kit, floor or equipment must be dealt with immediately. Referees should stop the game and instruct the player to receive the appropriate medical intervention to stem the blood flow, and clean any blood from the player, and the floor / equipment, as required. Safe and sterile cleaning materials must be used. It is the team's responsibility to clean any blood from the floor / equipment.
- 1.2 Although the player does not have to be substituted immediately, they should leave the court for treatment. An assessment of the likelihood of the player returning within three minutes (in blood free kit) should then be made.
- 1.3 If the bleeding has stopped and the player is in blood free kit, then the match should resume as soon as it is possible. If the blood flow cannot be stemmed or dealt with within the 3-minute period, then the player may have to be substituted legally or exceptionally. This may, in time, mean teams taking their time outs to prolong this period. If a player does not recover and a substitution cannot be made in accordance with Rule 17.1.2 then the team will be considered incomplete.
- 1.4 It is required that teams equip themselves with a small box with disposable gloves, antiseptic wipes, disinfectant, cloths and nappy sacks for safe disposal. All contaminated material including any used gloves should be doubled bagged before appropriate disposal.

## **SECTION N. SPORTS BETTING**

### **N 1. Sports Betting**

- 1.1 No player or club/team representative shall place or attempt to place a bet on a match or other event or competition in which they or their club participates.
- 1.2 No player or club/team representative shall solicit or facilitate, or attempt to solicit or facilitate, another person to bet on a match or other event or competition in which they or their club participates.
- 1.3 No player or club/team representative shall offer, or attempt to offer, a bribe to fix or contrive a result or the progress of a match or other event or competition in which they or their club participates.
- 1.4 No player or club/team representative shall receive, seek or attempt to receive or seek a bribe to fix or contrive a result or the progress of a match or other event or competition in which they or their club participates.

- 1.5 A player or club/team representative shall report any approach or other activity which contravenes, or which may contravene, the sport's rules on betting to the CWG Senior Competitions Committee, co-operate with any investigation and/or request for information including the provision of documentation (e.g., telephone/betting records to officials engaged in the investigation of suspected integrity issues in the sport in relation to betting).
- 1.6 A player or club/team representative shall perform to the best of their ability in any match or other event in which they participate in.
- 1.7 Any breach of this regulation will be dealt with under Regulation H 7 Conduct.

## **SECTION P. APPENDICES**

### **Appendix A – Procedure for Player Transfers**

1. Player Transfers are required to be completed via [VolleyZone](#) using the NVL Transfer Event process which includes paying the Transfer fee. Players can access the NVL Transfer Event here, click on "NVL Transfer Fee xxxx-xx Season", and complete the process.
2. The old team are required to provide evidence of approval for the Player to submit via the NVL Transfer Event process that they agree for the Transfer to go ahead.
3. In the event a team wishing to object they must inform the Hub via [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org) as to why any request is being withheld within 7 days of the request, providing any relevant evidence at the time of notification. Failure to provide proper notification and reasons for objection will result in a fine of £20 and thereafter, such penalty as the CWG may decide.
4. Failure to provide evidence of approval to the player or failure to give proper notification of any objection to [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org) will result in the Hub being able to approve a player being transferred irrespective of the lack of consent from the team.
5. Releasing clubs should refer to Regulation C.3 regarding reasons for objecting to the proposed transfer.
6. Teams must manage indebtedness of their players within season. The CWG will only accept player debts to a maximum of one month's fees with appropriate evidence in order for a transfer to be approved. It is important to note that this in no way supersedes or removes a wider obligation of debt that a player may have with a club.
7. Once the Transfer fee has been paid and approvals have been gained, Volleyball England will then approve the Transfer.
8. Domestic transfers will be processed for the weekend if the VolleyZone payment is made by 12:00 noon on the Thursday with the required approval from departing club attached.

The required approval needs to be a screenshot of an email or message which visibly shows:

- Visual consent that the departing club are approving your transfer request.
- It was sent from a committee member from the departing club.

Note:

The CWG is empowered to approve transfers, provided that the process is complete and in accordance with the above.

The onus is on the club holding the player registration to advise of any reason why the transfer cannot be completed as requested.

Once approval has been evidenced in [VolleyZone](#) or in the absence of approval within specified timescales, and the transfer fee has been paid, the transfer will be approved by the Hub. A current club refusing to release a player MUST provide proof of indebtedness or contract within 7 days of receipt of request to leave. In the event of dispute, the CWG Senior Competitions Committee will decide.

## **Appendix B – Player Contracts**

1. Where a club and player enter into a form of contract, then such contracts shall be registered within 14 days of execution by both parties, by sending a certified copy to the Volleyball England Hub. The Volleyball England Hub will provide an acknowledgement of registration by issuing a contract number.
2. Any such contract must amongst other things provide for commitment from the club concerned to:
  - provide proper and adequate coaching facilities
  - provide proper and adequate match facilities
  - ensure due entry to the National League and K.O. Cup
  - conduct its affairs in a proper manner as required from time to time by the Competitions Working Group.
3. Such contract must amongst other things provide for commitment from the player to:
  - train as directed by the club's appointed coach
  - attend matches as required by the club's appointed coach
  - adhere to club rules (a copy of which must be supplied to the player)
  - observe the code of conduct as laid down by the Competitions Working Group.
4. Any such contract must be for a stated and limited period and cannot be for more than 2 years. On expiry of such contract, a player shall be free to transfer to another club, subject to the provisions concerning transfers.
5. In the event of dispute between a player and club, then either party may apply in writing to the CWG for arbitration. Such application must give basic details of the dispute stating the breaches of contract alleged. A copy of any application made to the CWG must be sent at the same time to the parties involved. The Competitions Working Group shall if requested by either of the parties concerned hold an oral hearing. In the event of an oral hearing then the parties concerned must file at the Volleyball England Hub seven days prior to such hearing a list with copies of all correspondence notes and written material to which reference is to be made.
6. The CWG shall be entitled if the club is at fault to release the player from the terms of the contract and to permit (in its absolute discretion) the transfer of such player to another club. Such relief shall only be granted in circumstances where there has been a lack of proper commitment from the club in fulfilling its obligations under the terms of contract.

## Appendix C – Pre-Match Protocol

The total warm-up will last for 30 minutes. Prior to the start of the 30 minutes the Home Team prepares the court (See NVL Regulation D 1) and erects the posts and net.

Note: The preparation of the court and the correct erection of the net is not the responsibility of the referees; they are only responsible for checking the facility and equipment.

Timing	Action
- 45 (-30) mins	Referees' courtside and in uniform.
- 30 (-20) mins	Net ready for initial height check by Referees. Home team to adjust net height if necessary.
- 30 mins	Scorer to be present. Team and Referee registration details submitted to the scorer. Scorer commences scoresheet.  Home team provides the match balls. Second Referee checks match balls conform to the rules and are at the correct pressure – DO NOT apply your signature to the match balls.
- 15 mins	First referee calls team captains to the scorer's table and checks whether captains agree for their teams to share the net warm-up, or whether one team prefers separate warm-ups (Rule 7.2.2).  Enquire if the Captain is likely to be involved in a Libero action and remind them that they need to nominate a game Captain if they leave the court.  NOTE:  (i) A captain still has the right to ask for separate warm-ups up to the time of the whistle to begin the warm-up.  (ii) If it has not already been established teams should confirm whether they will be using a Libero and, if so, whether the Libero is likely to replace the team captain. In the latter case, it is helpful if referees are informed who is likely to be the game captain in such situations.  The toss is taken in the presence of the two <i>team captains</i> . Each captain will be allocated a side of the coin which shall be caught and not allowed to hit the floor.  After the toss, team captains go to the scorer's table to sign the scoresheet. The scorer is informed of the result of the toss. Both Coaches to check and sign the scoresheet.  Both teams at their respective benches at this time and be in full playing kit.
- 14 mins	Begin official net warm-up: this takes the format of 4 minutes through position 4, then 4 minutes through position 2, then 2 minutes serving – but this can be varied, if both teams agree.  (If one team chooses to warm-up separately then the serving team will have the court for the first 5 minutes. The receiving team should remain at their bench; NOTE they are not allowed to use balls or any part of the free zone for warming up).
-12 mins	Coaches submit line up sheets for the first set to the second referee. <i>The line-up sheet</i> must have the <i>name of the team</i> and the <i>set number</i> and must be <i>signed by the coach</i> , not the assistant coach. The 'Libero' is only excluded from the match if he/she is not named in the space provided on the scoresheet.

	Second referee ensures that the scorer has both team line-up sheets. Scorer must ensure each team does not see the opposition's line-up sheet or the line-up recorded on the scoresheet.
- 4 mins	First referee whistles to signify the end of the warm-up. Referees ensure all is in order and ready for commencement of play.  Line judges go to their positions.
-3.30 mins	Presentation of teams.  Teams enter the court and line up on the 9m (end) lines.  The team captain stands with one foot on the 9m line, closest to the bench with the 1 <sup>st</sup> libero standing next to them, remaining players in numbered order and 2 <sup>nd</sup> libero at the end of the row.  Both referees must be located on the side line on either side of the post, on the side of the court nearest the scorer's table, 1 <sup>st</sup> referee on the side of team A, 2 <sup>nd</sup> referee on the side of team B, facing the crowd.
-3 min	First Referee initiates the fair play handshake once teams have lined up on the 9m line.
- 1 min	First referee goes to the stand. Second referee stands at the post on their side of the court. The first referee calls teams to line up on their baseline, then onto the court.  Second referee checks each team's line up. Libero may not enter the court until his/her team line up has been checked.
0 min	Start match.

## Appendix D – Expectations for Volleyball England sanctioned matches

Note - Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents/carers of players, coaches, technical officials, volunteers and spectators.

No person(s) attending a match shall:

1. Use offensive or obscene language to any player, coach, referee, technical official or other spectator or anyone else present;
2. Enter the field of play during a match without the prior approval of the court manager appointed by the home club and/or league;
3. Dispute the decision of a match official either during or after a match;
4. Assault or act with aggression to any person/s;
5. Behave in a way contrary to the spirit of the game;
6. Behave in a way which disturbs the enjoyment of the match by any other person/s, or brings discredit to the home club, away club and/or league and/or the game of volleyball;
7. Act in such a way as to exhibit intolerance towards individuals or groups, due to their gender, age, race, disability, religion, faith, sexual orientation or any other visible or non-visible difference, either by language or other conduct, to any other person/s;
8. Refuse to accept the reasonable direction of the court manager, official of the home club and/or league, or official of the team/club which that person/s is supporting.

See Volleyball England code of conduct on [www.volleyballengland.org](http://www.volleyballengland.org)

## Appendix E – Guidance in the event that a season ends prematurely

Although the exceptional circumstances may require the CWG to modify the guidance below, we thought it important that teams are aware of how we would most likely treat this circumstance.

1. Season likely to be completed if at least 60% of scheduled matches in all divisions have been played.
2. All unplayed matches will be awarded as a draw.
3. If the season is not completed there will be no promotion or relegation.
4. For all Cup competitions unless the competition has reached the finals stage the competitions will likely be voided and no winners. If semis having been played, then teams will have the option to play the final; Volleyball England will support by trying to appoint referees and paying for those they appoint and providing medals.

#### **Appendix F – Emergency Player Registration Process – For Registrations after 31st January**

For an emergency registration the following steps are required.

1. Get approval in writing from the CWG Senior Competitions Committee
2. Create [VolleyZone](#) profile for the player (if not already created).
3. Use [VolleyZone](#) to purchase an NVL registration (this can be done by the player or relevant club official).
4. Add the player to the Club's specific Team Roster for the team they will play for.
5. Select the player on the Team Sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)) as required for matches.

All steps are required to be completed before a player's registration is complete.

#### **Appendix G – New Team Entrants**

Guidance notes to help with Regulation A 5.

When requesting support from the Regional or Area association Volleyball England will provide a copy of your completed NVL application form, so the association is aware of the full details of your application.

If a team already has a team in the NVL then they do not have to provide your club constitution (unless it has changed since the last team applied).

Please remember Regulation H 5 if you are intending to have players that previously played for another NVL team.

Please ensure that if you have players that have played for another NVL team that the player has notified their previous team of their decision before adding their name to your application.

#### **Appendix H – VolleyZone**

Please use the following VolleyZone URL to login to the most appropriate area of [VolleyZone for you](#).

All Membership, Event Entry and National Transfer Fees are as per the prices listed on VolleyZone. The stated fees will have a Service Fee of 3.2% + 50p added per Transaction.

Refer to the [Volleyball England website for more guidance on VolleyZone](#).

END