



## GUIDANCE DOCUMENT NVL NEW TEAM APPLICATION 2026-27

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### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the guidance document to help you to complete the [NVL New Team Application for 2026-27](#)

This is a very competitive process, with continued demand for entry into the NVL. The 26-27 season there will be a minimum of four available places in the Men's and Women's competitions to reach the structure of 84 teams.

Volleyball England aims to guide teams through this process and offer help and support where it is requested.

Please take time to complete the below application.

The report needs to be completed as part of the team's application into the league (NVL Regulations A.6 & 7) by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, and no late applications will be considered.

The Application encompasses four key elements:

**People** – The team conduct, coach, referees and team administration.

**Performance** – Team performance, player support, and development.

**Match day experience** – Venue and facilities standards and fan experience.

**Club Sustainability** – Basic clubs standards, volunteer sustainability and growth of future talent.

At the end of each element is an open comment box for you to provide comments or feedback on your answer.

Please note that the application needs to be completed for each team that wants to enter the NVL.

## SECTION ONE: TEAM DETAILS

1. Club Name

*Please note that the club must have been affiliated with VE for the last two seasons to gain entry to the league.*

2. The name of the team you are applying to enter the NVL.

*Please type the name of the team you are applying to into the NVL, this needs to be completed individually for each team you are entering if you wish to enter multiple teams.*

*A team's name must:*

- *Permit easy geographical recognition of where they are from / play*
- *Is unique in the NVL*

3. Is the team you're wanting to enter:

- Men's Team (Adult Open)
- Women's Team (Adult Women)

4. Please share your full name.

5. Please state your role with the team.

6. Please state your email and contact number.

*Volleyball England will use this to clarify any information with you throughout the application process.*

## SECTION TWO: PEOPLE -

The team conduct, coach, referees, and team administration.

Rational:

- To demonstrate a support team made up of a variety of people to provide seamless team functionality, increasing the standard of the teams.
- To demonstrate the team has qualified and registered people to raise standards.
- To demonstrate support from your current Regional or Area Association.

7. Do you give permission for Volleyball England to share your application with your regional or area association so that they can fill in their 'Form Of Support' for your application to enter the NVL

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

8. Who is the best person for your region / area association to fill in the form of support for your team? Please provide their name and email address here.

*Please note that if this is not answered by your Region or Area Association then your application will be marked as incomplete.*

*The Form of Support will ask the Region / Area Association about the Teams: Admin levels, Team Conduct, History of the Team, Teams Performance, and any other information that may be relevant to the application.*

9. Do you have additional **non-playing** people to ensure your team is effective and able to operate at an NVL level?

Please specify all the different people and roles they will be undertaking.

*Example roles could include; Assistant Coach, Team Manager, Statistician, Team Secretary, Secondary Team Contact, Social Media Secretary.*

*Not all roles listed in the example are required, however please give as much detail in this section as you can. It is encouraged that where possible teams have a varied people structure opposed to the same people doing multiple roles.*

*The Assistant Coach must hold an Assistant Coach Award (Level 1) and be registered as a coach in VolleyZone for the current season to be able to be selected as an Assistant Coach.*

10. Please select the most applicable sentence which describes your team's **referee staff**.

A: The Team has a **minimum of one registered referee** (s) who is of a minimum **grade 3N** who is **not currently refereeing in the National League** but prepared to do so for a **minimum of three games** in the season.

B: The Team has a **minimum of one registered referee** (s) who is of a minimum **grade 3R** who is **not currently refereeing in the National League** but prepared to do so for a **minimum of three games** in the season.

C: The Team has a **minimum of one registered referee** (s) who is of a minimum **grade 4** who is **not currently refereeing in the National League** but prepared to be observed to a 3R and referee in the National League for a **minimum of three games** in the season.

D: The Team has **no qualified referees** at current however has people who would be willing to take a referee course, if this application is successful.

Please note that if you have a referee who is currently officiating in the NVL, this will not count.

11 . Please name your nominated referee(/s) below:

12. Please select the most applicable sentence which describes your team's **coaching staff**.

A: At **every match** this season (both home and away) we have had a qualified matchday Head Coach who has both a Club Coach Award (Level 2) (or is registered on a Club Coach Award course), and an active coach registration on VolleyZone for the current season.

B: **We mostly** (50% of matches) have a qualified matchday Head Coach who has both a Club Coach Award (Level 2) (or is registered on a Club Coach Award course), and an active coach registration on VolleyZone for the current season.

C: We **do not have a have** a matchday Head Coach who has both a Club Coach Award (Level 2) (or are registered on a Club Coach Award course), and an active coach registration for the season.

*If you do not have a qualified Coach with a Club Coach Award (Level 2 ) within your team or across your club, bookings for the next Club Coach Award Course are now open. This is a great opportunity ahead of the 2026-27 season for your team to ensure that you can always have a matchday Head Coach who is appropriately qualified.*

*Bookings close in February 2026 with webinars starting in March, practical days in May, and a final webinar in July. For full course information, timelines and how to book, please visit the webpage [here](#).*

*Please note that Assistant Coaches are unable to resume the role of matchday Head Coach.*

13. Please provide the name of your Head Coach

14. COMMENT – Share any comments or feedback on your answers on this section.

*Use this to share your thoughts with us at this stage.*

**SECTION THREE: Performance** - Team performance, player support and development

Rational

- The past and current performance of team and their aspirations for the 26-27 season.
- A regular training environment supplemented by additional support services.
- A sustainable group of players retained and recruited.

15. Division Performance: Please provide a link to the league competition that your team is currently competing in.

*The team must be competing in a BUCS/ Regional/ County competition.*

*This section of the report will be analysed by the Competitions Team at Volleyball England per league individually.*

16. Did the team you wish to enter the NVL compete in the National Cup or Shield 25-26?

- Yes
- No

*Regardless of placing of the team in the competition, let us know if you entered the National Cup or Shield 2025-26 season?*

17. If yes, National Cup and Shield placing

18. Please outline the current playing standard of the players forming your team.

*For example, our team has:*

- Five players are progressing through our regional team.

- Three players that have dropped down from our first team.
- Two players are NVL players that are transferring from different clubs.

*Please note that any player requiring a transfer to join your team will need written confirmation from the current NVL team at the point of application otherwise they will not be recognized as a player in that list.*

- Two players are from our junior team who played at Tier 1 level last season.
- Two players have joined the team recently playing abroad.

19. Your club can nominate at least 10 players who are prepared to commit to playing for the team in the NVL.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you are holding try-outs after the window of application, a list of suggested players will be required for this section.

20. Please enter the full name of the players and their VEU numbers here.

*Note: 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 request entry to the NVL be accepted. Evidence of this should be sent to [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org).*

21. On average, how often does your team train?

- A: Four-plus times a week.
- B: Four times a week.
- C: Two to three times a week.
- D: Once a week.

Each session duration must be a minimum of one hour.

*This is specific to training during the playing season. Only include sport-specific training and on-court training time. Do not include personal or team S&C training time.*

22. Player support services. Select **all** the statements below that are correct for your team.

- A: The team has a physio assigned to support them.
- B: The team has access to strength and conditioning sessions.
- C: The team has a written development plan.
- D: The team uses performance analysis to review and prepare for matches.

E: None of the above.

F: Other- Please elaborate on any additional, or individual training the team may do.

*Please send any relevant documentation to support your answer to this question to [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org) e.g. a copy of the team's development plan, or strength and conditioning plan, or detail what software is used for performance analysis.*

23. COMMENT – share any comments or feedback on your answers on this section.

*Use this to share your thoughts with us at this stage.*

**SECTION FOUR: MATCH DAY EXPERIENCE** - Venue and facilities standards and fan experience

Rational:

- A facility that is available and equipped with the NVL specifications to host matches in a safe professional environment.
- Team engagement with local community, and a good spectator experience for matches increasing the exposure of Volleyball and increasing standards.

24. What is the Name and Address of your primary home venue.

25. Do you have a secondary venue?

Yes/No

26 Please provide the name and address of your secondary venue

27. How many triangulars can you host per season?

A: The team **can** host **four** to five triangulars in the season.

B: The team **can** host **three** triangulars in the season.

C: The team **can** host one to **two** triangulars in the season.

D: The team **can't** host triangulars.

*Volleyball England expects teams to be able to host triangular matches at their home venue throughout the season. It is rare that a team will be asked to host more than four triangulars within a season.*

*Each triangular requires a seven-hour hall booking.*

28. Please select the statements that are most applicable to your primary home venue.

- ☐ The Venue has a minimum 7m ceiling,
- ☐ The Venue has always accessible changing rooms with showers.
- ☐ The Venue has WIFI, suitable for streaming and is available for spectators and referees.
- ☐ Team benches / chairs are provided for all matches
  
- ☐ **Free Zone**
- ☐ Not 3m around all sides of the court
- ☐ A minimum of 3m around all sides of the court
- ☐ 5m around all sides of the court
  
- ☐ **Seating**
- ☐ Available Spectator seating (0-20 seats on average)
- ☐ Available Spectator seating (20-30 seats on average)
- ☐ Available Spectator seating (30-60 seats on average)
- ☐ Available Spectator seating (60+ on average)

29. At the point of application please tick from the list below what equipment your team has access to for ALL home games.

Stated from the NVL Regulations D.3 MOS

Court Equipment

- Post Pads
- Base Protection- If the posts have anchor points, then base protection is required to ensure all components of the base are entirely covered.
- Referee Stand

*Please note that Post Padding and Base Protection is COMPULSORY at ALL NVL matches, regardless of division and if a team wants to enter the league, then they must have (or have on order) both Post Padding AND Base Protection (if required)*

30. Does your club promote itself in the local community. If so, describe how?



*In this question, think about how your club promotes your matches.*

*Points to consider are how the team interacts with local partners, ie schools' colleges and universities.*

*Engagement with local media outlets.*

*A community and club following towards the team, spectators ect*

31. Please select the statement that is most applicable for the team's social media provisions:

- Does your team do squad announcements on social media?
- The team posts pre, during and post-match content on social media
- The team posts some content on social media
- The team does not have a social media presence

32. *If the team uses social media, please leave the teams socials below:*

33. Please select the sentence that describes your live stream provision during home matches. Please tick all that apply.

- A: **Every** home game is live streamed to an online audience.  
B: **Some** home games are live streamed to an online audience.  
C: **Some games are recorded** then later posted online.

34. If yes, please provide a link to where these get posted:

35. COMMENT – share any comments or feedback on your answers on this section.

*Use this to share your thoughts with us at this stage.*

**SECTION FIVE: CLUB SUSTAINABILITY-** Basic club standards, volunteer sustainability and growth of future talent.

Rationale - The team exists within a strong club foundation that considers the wider committee, finances and a club structure.

36. What way can you demonstrate you have a pool of players available to be fed into the team?

*The focus of this question is to determine whether your team is sustainable year on year and able to cope with losing players (for example injuries and players leaving).*

*For example, the team has a development pathway through the club teams/squads or an annual try-out and recruitment activity, rather than a reactive/last-minute raid of the Junior or recreation sections of the club.*

37. Please provide the Finances of the club including the current balance plus a breakdown of projected income and expenditure for 26-27 season across key areas, hall hire, refs, fines, players ect.

Please either produce the link below or email to [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org)

*This would include an annual income and expenditure budget agreed by the committee, and a club bank account.*

38. If you have further information to support your application, please outline below.

*Use this to share any additional information that has not been requested within the form which you believe will be impactful on your team's application to join the NVL.*

Points Matrix

| NTA Scoring Matrix                          |           |        |        |       |       |    |
|---|-----------|--------|--------|-------|-------|----|
| QUESTIONS                                   | MANDATORY | POINTS | WEIGHT | TOTAL |       |    |
| <b>VE ASSESSMENT</b>                        |           |        |        |       | TOTAL | %  |
| Regional Form of Support                    | YES       | 3      | 3      | 9     | 9     | 11 |
|   |           |        |        |       |       |    |
| <b>PEOPLE</b>                               |           |        |        |       | TOTAL | %  |
| Additional performance improvements         |           | 5      | 1      | 5     | 22.5  | 27 |
| Referee                                     | YES       | 5      | 1      | 5     |       |    |
| Head Coach                                  | YES       | 5      | 1      | 5     |       |    |
| Additional 'non-playing' people             |           | 5      | 1.5    | 7.5   |       |    |
|   |           |        |        |       |       |    |
| <b>PERFORMANCE</b>                          |           |        |        |       | TOTAL | %  |
| Current Players - Playing Standards         | YES       | 5      | 1      | 5     | 19.5  | 23 |
| National Cup and Shield Entry               |           | 1      | 1      | 1     |       |    |
| National Cup and Shield Performance         |           | 5      | 0.5    | 2.5   |       |    |
| Team Performance - From Regional Assessment |           | 2      | 3      | 6     |       |    |
| Training                                    |           | 5      | 0.5    | 2.5   |       |    |
| Additional performance improvements         |           | 5      | 0.5    | 2.5   |       |    |
|   |           |        |        |       |       |    |
| <b>MATCH DAY EXPERIENCE</b>                 |           |        |        |       | TOTAL | %  |
| Facility availability                       | YES       | 5      | 0.5    | 2.5   | 22.5  | 27 |
| Sports Hall Specification                   | YES       | 10     | 1      | 10    |       |    |
| Equipment                                   | YES       | 5      | 0.5    | 2.5   |       |    |
| Community engagement                        |           | 5      | 0.5    | 2.5   |       |    |
| Social Media                                |           | 5      | 0.5    | 2.5   |       |    |
| Livestreaming                               |           | 5      | 0.5    | 2.5   |       |    |
|   |           |        |        |       |       |    |
| <b>CLUB SUSTAINABILITY</b>                  |           |        |        |       | TOTAL | %  |
| Succession Planning                         |           | 5      | 1      | 5     | 10    | 12 |
| Financial Planning                          | YES       | 5      | 1      | 5     |       |    |
|   |           |        |        | 83.5  |       |    |
|   |           |        |        |       |       |    |
| Affiliated                                  | YES       |        |        |       |       |    |
| 10 players committed                        | YES       |        |        |       |       |    |

## GOODWILL DEPOSIT

*To complete the submission of your application, a £100 Goodwill Deposit is required. This will be returned if the application is unsuccessful or upon exit from the leagues within timeframes indicated in NVL rules.*

*Please see payment instructions below:*

***Please Pay via your VolleyZone Admin account***

Step 1: Log into your VolleyZone admin account

Step 2: Under events and affiliations

Step 3: NVL Goodwill deposit 'add' and this will then be in your basket to make payment

*The fees for the 2025-26 season were as follows. Please note these will be subject to change.*

***League Entry Fee for Division 3 teams*** -£318 (due upon acceptance of entry).

***Player Registration Fee*** – Seniors £44.50 or Juniors (U18) £29.

***Transfer Fee*** - £27 (for players registered for another NVL team in the last 2 years).

***You will be notified if your application has been successful or not by May 2026.***

Thank you for completing the New Team Application to join the NVL 2026-27 season.

Volleyball England Hub Staff, along with the Competitions Working Group, will use this information to assess the applications submitted. Teams will expect to hear back from Volleyball England with the status of their application by May 2026.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the competitions team: [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org)