



HEVO and University Guidance Document

2026-27 Programme



What is the HEVO Programme

The Higher Education Volleyball Officer (HEVO) Programme is a volunteer initiative that sees students take up official ambassador roles and deliver recreational volleyball at their university during the academic year, with support from Volleyball England.



Role of a HEVO



The role of a HEVO is primarily to lead volleyball sessions at their university.



- Attend the HEVO Conference for induction training in September. This event includes practical and theoretical sessions, along with plenty of opportunity to network and get to know the other HEVOs and Senior HEVOs.
- Deliver weekly recreational volleyball sessions for the academic year at their university. This is a great way to develop coaching skills, motivate others, and share your passion for the sport.
- Organise at least one tournament, mass participation event and/or inclusive participation event (grant funding can be used to do this).
- Collate and share weekly volleyball and mass participation event data with Volleyball England as per the termly deadlines.
- ❖ The official role description can be found by clicking [here](#).

Attributes of a HEVO



- Motivates and inspires other students
- Excellent communication skills
- Passionate about developing sport
- Good organisational skills
- Friendly and approachable
- The volleyball voice at university
- IT and social media literate
- Can work independently and as a team
- Keen to learn



What previous HEVOs have said

I've had enormous fun engaging people in Volleyball at my university, the sessions that I host have always shown high attendance rates, and the interest in volleyball here seems only to be growing. I've also helped to hold a successful mass participation event, and the HEVO conference itself was a grand experience.

The role provided meaningful opportunities for growth, collaboration, and impact. I felt well-supported and empowered to contribute effectively, and the experience significantly enhanced both my leadership and communication skills.

It's been fun seeing players develop from beginners with no skills to being able to keep a ball up. The HEVO conference was a ton of fun and connecting with other HEVOs over the course of the year has been super nice too.

It has been an amazing experience teaching everyone how to play and have fun, I think it's important to be a role model to a sport not many people know about. I also really enjoyed the conference and the friends I made in just two short days.

Why the Programme is so popular

Reaching the less active

- Over 4000 students playing and engaging with weekly sessions last academic year.
- Over 60 mass participation events and 20 sitting events were run all together across the program last academic year.

Support and Wellbeing

- 93% HEVOs said that the programme improved their leadership skills.
- 86% HEVOs said that the programme made them feel part of a community & more confident.

Student Experience

- Overall satisfaction for the HEVO Conference in 2025 was 9.1/10.
- 95% HEVOs felt prepared to deliver volleyball at the end of the conference.
- 82% HEVOs would recommend the HEVO Programme to a friend.

Annual Awards

- All the HEVOs and Senior HEVOs are eligible for the Volleyball England Annual Awards.



Perks of the Programme



Employability

- ❖ 85% of HEVOs felt they developed a professional skill set through being part of the programme.
- Enhanced CV and improvement in transferable skills
- Networking opportunities

Training

- Students are inducted into the role through the heavily subsidised HEVO Conference.
- Students will complete several practical and theoretical workshops, including how to organise tournaments, run beach volleyball, & sitting volleyball workshops.
- Students will also receive a range of CPD resources and have the opportunity to attend additional workshops and catch-ups with their regional HEVOs and Senior HEVO.

Grant Funding

- From the 2026–27 academic year, universities will be required to submit a separate Grant Funding Application to apply for financial support linked to the HEVO Programme. Funding is no longer automatically provided and will only be awarded following successful assessment by Volleyball England.
- Universities may apply for one of three development funds, each valued at £200. These funds are designed to support different areas of volleyball development. More information on these funds can be found in the SLA.
- Funding will only be released to universities whose applications meet the criteria, and all approved funding will require reporting and evidence of spend.

Courses

- Free or Discounted course places for each university.
- 2x free Grade 4 Referee course places (RRP £80) OR £160 discount for an Assistant Coach Award course place.

HEVO Conference



Dates

Saturday, 12th September &
Sunday 13th September 2026.



Venue

Loughborough University, Leicestershire.



Travel

Transport to and from the venues/hotel will be by car or walking.



Stay

Twin sharing rooms will be booked for you for the Saturday night.



Food

Lunch and dinner for Saturday, and breakfast and lunch for Sunday will be provided.



Training

HEVOs will engage in theory and practical workshops to prepare them for the role.



Kit

You will receive HEVO branded Kukri kit at the conference.*



Photography

There will be a professional photographer, and photos will be circulated after the conference.

*Please be aware that to get the exact sizes you need, the applications and payment need to be completed by 10th July. Beyond this, we will strive to provide the exact kit sizes but might size up or down depending on availability.

Additional Information

All clubs that are part of the HEVO Programme need to have a BUCS or Standard affiliation with Volleyball England. This means you will be covered by Volleyball England's insurance for any recognised activity. To have an approved BUCS affiliation, universities must have their safeguarding documents, and student and university staff member contact details updated on VolleyZone.

Club Affiliation

Any individual who participates in recognised volleyball activity by Volleyball England is subject to UK Anti-Doping Rules for a minimum of 12 months from the commencement of membership or attendance at an event, in accordance with the Volleyball England Anti-Doping policy. This still applies if you are not a citizen of, or resident in, the UK.

Read more about the [Volleyball England Anti-Doping Policy](#).

Anti-Doping



Steps for Students to join the HEVO Programme

1. Contact your sport department about the programme and contact us if you require additional information. You can watch the promo video [here](#) and read the role description [here](#).
2. Complete the [student application form](#), please note that this includes information we need from you to attend the conference so please take some time to complete this fully. The deadline is *Friday 28th August 2026. (Refer to page 8 for kit)*
3. Please note that your university will also need to complete the [university application form](#) to secure your place. **Volleyball England will send a welcome email with information on how to make the payment via VolleyZone or the next steps for invoice payments once both your application AND the university's application have been received.**
4. Liaise with your university lead to make travel arrangements to attend the HEVO Conference. **All other arrangements including a room for Saturday night, and food while at the Conference will be made by Volleyball England.**
5. Attend the [HEVO Conference](#) on Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th September 2026. **Volleyball England will send out a welcome pack with all the conference information 2 weeks before the conference & what to expect from the 2 days.**
6. **Run weekly recreational sessions during the academic year and record weekly attendance. Run a mass participation event during the academic year. Volleyball England will send out reporting reminders per term to both universities and students.**



Steps for Universities to join the HEVO Programme

1. Read the [Service Level Agreement](#), and recruit one or more students to become your HEVO(s) who have the attributes identified on page 4 and would be a good fit for the HEVO [role description](#).
 2. Complete the [university application form](#), please note you will need your university finance details to complete the form, and Volleyball England will not be able to send out grants without this being updated. The deadline is *Friday 28th August 2026*.
 3. Volleyball England will send a welcome email with information on how to make the payment if paying via VolleyZone or via invoice once both the university's application AND student(s)'s application have been received. Please make payment via VolleyZone or raise a PO for us to invoice you. Please note an invoice incurs an additional 10% admin fee.
 4. Liaise with the student(s) to make travel arrangements for them to attend the HEVO Conference. All other arrangements will be made by Volleyball England.
 5. Volleyball England will send out a welcome pack with all the conference information 2 week before the conference & what to expect from the 2 days.
 6. Ensure that your HEVO(s) have at least a one-hour weekly slot in your sports hall for the weekly recreational sessions. This should be separate from the regular training slots. Volleyball England will send out reporting reminders per term to both universities and students.
- ❖ Volleyball England are running a briefing for universities that apply for the HEVO Programme to provide more information.



Payment and Insurance

- The first HEVO place is £140, with each additional HEVO place priced at £170. Total fees: 2 HEVOs - £310 and 3 HEVOs - £455.
- Please make payment using [VolleyZone](#). Details of how to make the payment will be sent in the welcome to the programme email you will receive once both the student & university has signed up.
- If payment cannot be made via VolleyZone, there is a 10% admin charge for invoices.
- The university must maintain appropriate and adequate insurance which covers such liabilities as may arise in the delivery of this programme. Insurance can be obtained through affiliation to [Volleyball England](#).





Contact Details

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*Please feel free to contact your regional chairs. If you are looking to enter community leagues, offer coaching or refereeing in your local area or access local support, they will be able to help.

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2011

VOLLEYBALL OFFICER

