

## Key Regulation Amendments 2026-2027:

Volleyball England have made some amendments to the NVL Regulations for the 2026-27 season. These changes have come from the learnings of previous seasons the teams feedback and VE subgroups and the board.

### Key Changes are:

1. Playing Up
2. Match Start Times
3. Livestream of Matches
4. Role of the captain at a match when a level 2 coach is not present
5. Super League Division 1 Promotion/ Relegation
6. Division 3 Relegation
7. Procedure for Player Transfers

## SECTION E. ARRANGEMENTS AT MATCHES, E 6. THE PLAYERS, VII PLAYING UP

2025-26 Wording	2026-27 Wording
vii. 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) <b>11 sets during the current competition season</b> (i.e., an appearance in that set whether for 1 point or the whole set and if a Libero player, whether they enter the court or not) without the necessity of transfer.	vii. 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) <b>4 matches</b> without the necessity of transfer, until December 1 <sup>st</sup> 2026. The term playing is defined as a players appearance on the VolleyZone team sheet for a match.  For season 2027-28 onwards this deadline will be earlier 1 <sup>st</sup> November.

### Rational for Change:

- An official consultation resulted in a 62% majority of NVL teams outlining their preference for the teams. Feedback citing “Provides the fairness to level of the league” and “allowing experienced players to compete across multiple divisions can create a competitive imbalance”. The teams outlining their opposition to the change cited “impact player development particularly in the 18 - 25 age group” and “Having two NVL teams sometimes not sure which team would be best”
- There are more teams and players than ever wanting to compete in the National Volleyball League.
- The regulations need to encourage teams to provide a large enough roster to be self-sustaining, rather than moving a limited number of players between teams.

- The regulation will encourage clubs to assign players to the team at their appropriate level.
- The transfer window allows teams to have some flexibility over 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams.

**SECTION D. PREPARATION FOR MATCHES, D 1. THE HOME TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR: II MATCH START TIMES**

<b>2025-26 Wording</b>	<b>2026-27 Wording</b>
Single Matches Saturday & Sundays Super League Div 1 & National Cup 12:30-15:00	Single Matches Saturday & Sundays Super League, National Cup & National Shield Semi Final 12:30-15:00
Single Matches Saturday & Sundays Div 2/3/ National Shield 11:30-16:30	Single Matches Saturday & Sundays Div 1/2/3/ National Shield pre-Quarter Final 11:30-16:30

**Rational for Change:**

- Consultation with NVL teams found that the vast majority of Super League teams were opposed to the widened window, they cited the challenges with national travel and an early start / late finish.
- Super League timings will remain unchanged. Division 1 timings were originally aligned with national competition timings.
- As this is no longer the case Division 1 will now adopt the same timings as Division 2, while Shield timings will be adjusted based on the stage of the tournament. Quarter finals onward will follow national competition timings, due to the travel being national at that phase of the competition.

**SECTION D. PREPARATION FOR MATCHES, D.3 EQUIPMENT MOS, III. LIVESTREAM**

<b>2025-26 Wording</b>	<b>2026-27 Wording</b>
No advice on quality of livestream.	Live Stream: The live stream shall meet the below following criteria. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Have a digital scoreboard connected to the stream with accurate live score (sets and points).</li> <li>ii. Be public facing and free to view.</li> <li>iii. Remain public after the match is complete and until the end of the season.</li> <li>iv. Filmed in a landscape orientation.</li> <li>v. Minimum quality of stream 1080p for the Super League and 720p in all other divisions.</li> </ul>

**Rationale for Change:**

- Greater clarity for teams on what standards is expected, less room for interpretation.
- Increasing the standards at the top of the NVL.
- Making the sport more accessible to watch for fans.

**SECTION C. REGISTRATION, C 2. TECHNICAL MEMBERS OF THE TEAM, VI [ CAPTAINS' RESPONSIBILITY WHEN LEVEL 2 COACH IS NOT PRESENT]**

2025-26 Wording	2026-27 Wording
If a Coach with a Club Coach (L2) qualification is not included in Bench Personnel the Team Captain must be designated as the Coach.	If a Coach with a Club Coach (L2) qualification and active individual coach membership is not included in Bench Personnel, the captain shall take the coach's functions to request interruptions (time-outs and substitutions) when not on the court.

**Rationale for Change:**

- Clarification for teams and referees when they do not have a qualified and registered coach on the bench.

**SECTION I. END OF NVL PLAYING SEASON, I.4. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION, MEN & WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE**

	2025-26		2026-27
Position	Action	Position	Action
1 <sup>st</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup>	Progress to Super League Final 4	1 <sup>st</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup>	No change
6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>	Elimination play-off  6th (Host) vs 7th (winning team remains in SL)  Losing team from Elimination play-off is relegated to Division 1	7th	Playoff against the loser of the Division 1 Playoff  Winning team plays in SL  Losing team plays in Division 1
8 <sup>th</sup>	Relegated to Division 1	8th	No change

**MEN & WOMEN'S DIVISION 1**

	2025-26		2026-27
Position	Action	Position	Action

1 <sup>st</sup>	1st place in Division 1 North and 1st place in Division 1 South will be automatically promoted	1 <sup>st</sup>	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 Super League in a follow up playoff.
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	Relegated to Division 2 in each conference.	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	No change.

### Rationale for change :

1. Consensus from the community: 20 primary contacts across Super League and Division 1 teams, all unanimously with the concept of 1 automatic relegation and 1 playoff.
2. Development of the Super League: Create a more consistent group of Super League teams (rather than a 25% turnover) allows teams to invest in enhancing their standards and their match day product of the Super League
  - Would be harder to achieve with a larger uncertainty about the future (ie: partnerships, sponsorships, etc)
3. Reduce the significant disparity in the standard of Super League and Division 1: Over the last 10+ seasons, there has been a significant disparity in the standard of the Super League/Division 1 playoff. Super League team almost always comes out on top, demonstrating there is a gulf in the standard.
  - If we want the best teams competing in the Super League, this structure helps to make it possible, while not discriminating against teams coming top of Division 1 (as they have 2 chances to make it into the Super League)

### DIVISION 3 RELEGATION

	2025-26		2026-27
Position	Action	Position	Action
1 <sup>st</sup>	Promoted to Division 2	1 <sup>st</sup>	No change
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.	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.
9 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Will be relegated from the NVL.</p> <p>Relegated teams will be permitted to apply as a 'new team entrant' for the following season.</p> <p>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</p>	8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Will be relegated from the NVL.</p> <p>Relegated teams will be permitted to apply as a 'new team entrant' for the following season.</p> <p>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</p>

#### Rationale for change

- High demand to enter the NVL
- Sets standards at the bottom of Division 3

### SECTION P. APPENDICES APPENDIX A – PROCEDURE FOR PLAYER TRANSFERS

#### 7.[TRANSFER OF DEBT]

2025-26 Wording	2026-27 Wording
<p>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.</p> <p>7. Once the Transfer fee has been paid and approvals have been gained, Volleyball England will then approve the Transfer.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>7. Once the Transfer fee has been paid and approvals have been gained, Volleyball England will then approve the Transfer.</p>

#### Rationale for change:

- Protects Clubs from financial situations.
- Removes room for interpretation that players only have to pay one month of debt.