

Amendments to the NVL Regulations for the 2022-2023 season

Coronavirus has given several challenges this season and we hope this won't be the case next season

We continue to make changes to the regulations to make it simpler, easier and cheaper for Clubs and Volleyball England as well as clarifying a number of rules based on questions raised by teams.

We cannot stress enough the importance of the Team Secretary email address being correct at all times. This is the email address that VE use to communicate all important information. If your team secretary changes, make sure this is updated in VolleyZone at once.

We have made further updates to the appeals process to align with the new Volleyball England processes.

We have had a few comments about start times for matches being too early or late for teams with significant travel distances, so we have updated the start times of matches. It is important to remember that if BOTH teams agree in writing different start times are permitted e.g., if both teams wish to play on a Saturday evening to make a spectacle and get a bigger crowd.

One of our core values is inclusion so we don't want anyone to feel that kit requirements would prevent them from playing so we have updated the regulations to reflect this.

To speed up and simplify our processes we now require that scoresheets and match confirmations are submitted electronically.

We have reintroduced the mandatory NVL meeting (virtual) to help ensure the smooth running of our competitions.

We have set clear standards that are required for photos on VolleyZone. These photos are used to identify players at the start of a match and too many of these photos make this job difficult and time consuming.

Teams are responsible for tracking playing up and making sure that playing up is monitored. We have introduced the requirement to note this on the team sheet so this can be properly recorded on the scoresheet to prevent inadvertent playing of ineligible players and the subsequent defaulting of matches.

We have updated the rules around team names to prevent systems issues.

We have increased the maximum number of players that can be listed on a team sheet.

We have clarified that the Cup and Shield are a single competition.

- Updated the various dates for this season.
- Updated numbering as required.
- Updated links and references where required.

Introduction to the Regulations

It is important to note that not every circumstance can be covered in these regulations and in that event the *appropriate* working group *divisional* lead will make the necessary decision. This decision can be appealed

If you believe that the regulations are unclear, please ask for a ruling in writing before making any decision, as stating the regulations are unclear will not be grounds for appeal.

Section A. Administrative Matters.

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

- iii. 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 Competitions Working Group.

Regulation A12 NVL Mandatory Meeting

There will be virtual mandatory meeting, all teams are required to have at least one attendee. The meeting will take place as specified in the VE Calendar. Failure to attend will result in a fine of £100.

Section B. Organisation of Fixtures

Regulation B 1. Pre-playing Season Fixture Arrangements

Teams will be provided with the draft fixtures well in advance. At that time teams may enter mutual discussions and request agreed amendments to the proposed fixtures. Any such proposals must be agreed in writing by both teams, and confirm the new date, time, and venue. *No fixture that is scheduled outside of those permitted will be accepted by VE unless accompanied by explicit agreement in writing of that time by the opposition.*

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 Cup Lead.*

Regulation B 2. During the Playing Season

- x. COVID is not normally seen as an exceptional circumstance.*

Section C. Registration

Regulation C 1. Players

- v. In any competition season, no player may play 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.

- vii *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 Volleyzone)*
- viii *Player photos on VolleyZone (www.volleyzone.co.uk) must conform to UK passport standards. Failure to meet this standard can lead to a fine of £10 per photo per match.*

Regulation D 1. The Home Team is responsible for:

- iii. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the opposition, start times for matches must be:
 - (1) Single matches on Saturdays and Sundays
 - a. *For Super League and Division 1 between 12:30 & 15:00hrs*
 - b. *For Division 2 between 11:30 & 16:30*
- vi. **Equipment**
 - (5) Balls - Only **Mikasa** approved FIVB balls must be used in all NVL competitions (see [FIVB Regulations](#), page 16) (Two identical balls are required for a one ball system and 4 for a three ball system).
- viii. Confirming in writing to the Secretary of the visiting team, the match Referees, the Volleyball England Hub and the Divisional Working Group Lead **at least 14 days**, and not more than 21 days (according to the ~~postmark, or~~ email delivery receipt) prior to the date of the match, in the same ~~letter or~~ email
 - (9) 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 ~~postmark, or~~ email delivery receipt) prior to the date of the match.

Regulation D 2. Playing kit

([refer to Section N](#) – Minimum Operating Standards)

- i. Shirts - uniform colour/design, clean. *Sleeve length may differ*
- ii. Shorts - uniform colour/design. Shorts do not have to be numbered but all the team must wear the same (either all numbered, matching the shirt number or all without). *Short lengths/style may differ*

Section E. Arrangements at Matches

Regulation E 6. The Players

- vii. Playing Up
 - (6) *Teams must record on their Team Sheet both the fact a player is playing up and the number of sets that have already been played up (unless a junior).*

Section F. After the Match

Regulation F 1. Scoresheet and Match day protocol

- ii. ~~Sending the top copy of the Scoresheet in the form of an~~ email with a legible photo or pdf sent to competitions@volleyballengland.org AND to ve.resultsservice@btinternet.com (You must keep the hard copy of the scoresheet until the start of the following competition season in case of any queries); if possible, by 8p.m.
- iii. Failure to report results within 24 hours of the published start time of the match will result in a £10 fine per occurrence

~~Regulation F 2 -- deleted~~

Regulation G 6. Appeals

An appeal will only be considered if (acting reasonably) that one or more of the following grounds has been met:

- *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;*
- *There was injustice because of a serious procedural or other irregularity in the proceedings before or during the relevant body; and/or*
- *The sanction imposed by the relevant body was manifestly unreasonable in the light of the facts presented to the body.*

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

Section H. Misconduct

Regulation H 7. Conduct

- vi. There shall be a right of appeal to the Volleyball England Disciplinary Committee of any decision made by the Competitions Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
 - (1) *If the reason for the sanction is safeguarding, then the sanction remains in place until after the appeal is finalised*
 - (2) *For other circumstances the sanction maybe suspended if requested in writing however if the appeal is unsuccessful then the sanction will be increased.*

Section J. Regulations for Specific Competitions

Regulation J 1. Volleyball England K.O. Cup

- iii. *The Cup and the Shield are a single competition, and no* player may play for more than one team under any circumstances.

Section L. Anti-doping (Drug Taking) Regulations

Regulation L1. Anti-doping rules apply to all volleyball players and athlete support personnel at all levels of the game *for a minimum of 12 months.*

3. *In the event a team wishing to object they must* inform the Hub via 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 ~~approve the request within 7 days without~~ *provide* proper notification ~~to the competitions working group or~~ and reasons for objection will result in a fine of £20.00 and thereafter, such penalty as the Competitions Working Group may decide.

Appendix F - Emergency Player Registration Process

For an emergency registration the following steps are required.

NB it is not possible to do an emergency registration if a player requires an ITC

- 1) *Get approval in writing from the appropriate divisional lead*
- 2) *Create VolleyZone profile for the player (if not already created)*
- 3) *Use VolleyZone to purchase a voucher for NVL registration (this can be done by the player or relevant club official).*
- 4) *Send the player details and voucher code to competitions@volleyballengland.org*
- 5) *The hub will then apply the voucher code to complete the registration code*

If steps 1-4 have been completed before the match takes place (and an ITC is not required) then the player is considered eligible.

If step 5 has not been completed, then the player will not be shown on the VE team page.

This should be noted on the scoresheet and the player may be requested to provide photo id by the officials.

