

NVL Season 22-33 | Regulation Consultation

The primary aim of this consultation is to gain feedback on the proposed changes to the allowable playing times for NVL matches.

Our primary goal is to support teams to play volleyball and part of this is to try and ensure people are not put off by travel, start times, finish times, etc.

We continue to get feedback after the changes made last year.

We believe there have been significant changes in working patterns, hall availability, player willingness to travel, multiple teams, junior, local and regional league fixtures etc. we have tried to keep up with these changes for instance by allowing matches to take place on either day of the weekend to address some of the issues above. Since Cup games are not known, these must be played on the date shown in the draw (and not on either day of the weekend)

Many factors are diametrically opposed and so we must try and find the best balance.

Another major consideration is safety, it is important that participant safety is uppermost in all our minds.

Home teams want maximum flexibility in start and end times to enable them to get hall availability firstly and secondly to control cost.

Away teams don't want to travel too early in the morning and to get home at a reasonable time and with significant travel distances this means they want a minimal allowable match window.

Referees are a factor too, they also want a reasonable day ☺

Team composition plays a factor too, some teams have players that are geographically dispersed and so on top of the travel to the away venue, some players have long journeys to meet up to travel.

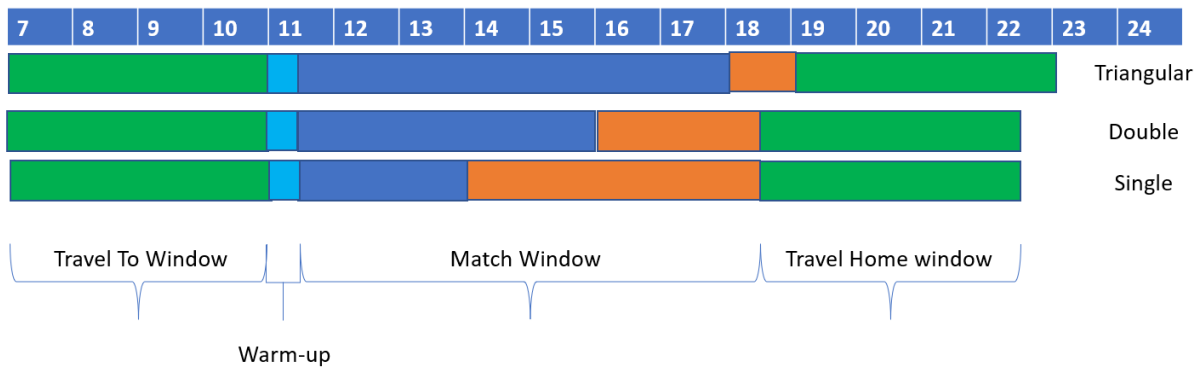
Hall booking length is an important factor too – a triangular requires a 7-hour hall booking whereas a single match only requires a 3-hour booking.

Division plays a factor too with Super League and Division 1 being national and associated with longer travel. Division 2 covers half the country with Division 3 being more regional but still with significant travel.

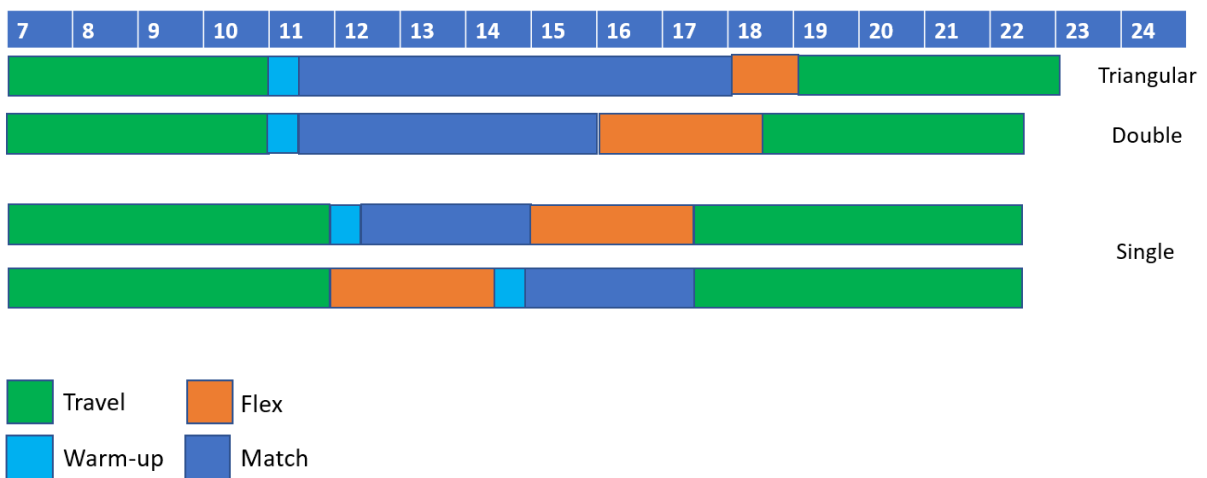
Some teams arrange to play two matches in a weekend to reduce travel and add an overnight stay whilst this may increase cost (due to accommodation but offset by reduced travel) it often makes things safer by reducing fatigue.

We also recognise that there will be circumstances that due to the distances involved it will not always be possible to travel to a match, play the match and travel home in a reasonable period of time, in these circumstances, this will require more creative thinking e.g., hiring transport with a driver(s) or including an overnight stay.

Current Regulations – Diagram



New Regulations – Diagram



The idea behind the change is that it fully recognises the increased travel times for the upper divisions while balancing this with keeping the biggest booking window consistent with the travel requirements.

The Double referred to above is for two matches on a single day at a single venue.

It will still be possible to play outside these windows with the agreement in writing of both teams.

We are also planning to require scoresheets and match confirmations to be sent electronically to speed up and simplify this process.

We have a meeting on the 15th May where all the changes will be finalised. Attached is a draft of the other changes that are currently planned (there may be a few others too).

We would welcome feedback on any of the proposed changes.