

#### A. Competition Aim

1. The intention of the competition is to provide a competition outlet for all those playing Sitting Volleyball and, ultimately, provide a domestic competitive outlet for athletes eligible to play for Great Britain Sitting Volleyball team as per World ParaVolley classification.

#### B. Definitions

1. Unless explicitly described otherwise, "Lead" means, the individual named by the Competitions Working Group as being in charge of the event at any particular location. It could be the organiser of a round, a deputy for the Event Lead or the Lead him/herself.
2. A "Wild card" is a team that enters a single Grand Prix during the season. If a team enters more than three Grand Prix's during a season they will be considered as a registered team.

#### C. Eligibility

1. Entry is open to all teams, who should register at the beginning of the seasons, using [VolleyZone](#). We have prepared a video tutorial on how to do this process which can be found [here](#).
2. Players are required to pay a sitting volleyball player registration fee in order to compete. The senior (over 18) fee is £28.50 and the junior (under 18) fee is £17.50. Registrations provide a player eligibility to enter any Sitting Volleyball event. This process is through [VolleyZone](#) Click [here](#) to view the guide to registering as a Sitting Volleyball player.
3. Wild card teams may enter at discretion of the Competition Working Group, they are required to enter via [VolleyZone](#).

#### D. Withdrawal of teams

1. Any team wishing to withdraw from any date, must give at least 7 days' prior notice, in writing, to the Competitions Team via [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org) and Competitions Working Group Sitting Volleyball Lead - Herman Prada ([Herman.Prada@LSBU.AC.UK](mailto:Herman.Prada@LSBU.AC.UK)).
2. Failure to do so may result in that team being required to pay a fine together with a surety for the following competition.
3. Teams failing to arrive on the day of the competition will be fined £100.00 and have any grant or financial assistance already awarded withdrawn.

#### E. Coaching Staff

1. Tier 1 teams must have a qualified coach present who is registered with Volleyball England.

#### F. Players

1. Teams can be of mixed gender.
2. All players must be bona fide members of their Club. (i.e. they must play/train regularly with that Club).
3. All players must be registered through VolleyZone and listed on the team page of the Volleyball England website: [http://www.volleyballengland.org/competitions/sitting\\_volleyball\\_competitions](http://www.volleyballengland.org/competitions/sitting_volleyball_competitions)
4. All players playing in a Grand Prix must be listed on the Team Sheet handed to the scorer's table at the start of the day.
5. A player may transfer once in a season to another team. This request must be made to the [Sitting Volleyball Competition Lead](#) and Volleyball England [Competitions Team](#) for sanctioning prior to any transfer between clubs. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action against the Club and player as deemed appropriate by the Competition Working Group.
6. If a player is not in attendance, they must have their name deleted from the team list at the end of the Grand Prix.
7. Only players who have been on a validated team sheet in at least one round of the series or have been registered as a named player for the Club since the start of the season, may play in the Cup, Shield or Final of the competition.

#### G. Team Dress

1. All teams should play in uniform shirts and shorts (i.e. same colour and design). All teams must wear numbered shirts.
2. Teams NOT in uniform shorts and numbered shirts may be fined £5 per player.

#### H. Rules of Play

1. The games will be played under World Paravolley rules except where modified within the regulations above and below.

#### I. Officiating

1. Volleyball England will provide qualified 1<sup>st</sup> officials and 2<sup>nd</sup> officials where possible. If asked, Teams will be expected to provide Officials, competent scorers and at least 2 competent line judges.

## J. Tiers and Match Format

1. There will be 2 tiers in the Grand Prix Series. Tier 1 will consist of the best four or five placed teams from the 2022-2023 season (including the winner of the last tier 2 of the season). Tier 2 will consist of the remainder of the teams and wild card entries. The organisers reserve the right to allocate international wild card Teams to tier 1.
2. Tier 1 Teams will compete in a round robin format. The last placed team in each Grand Prix will be relegated to Tier 2 for the next Grand Prix.
3. Teams in Tier 1 will play best-of-3-set matches. First two sets to 25 points with a minimum lead of 2 points. If a deciding third set is required, it will be played to 15 points with a minimum lead of 2 points.
4. Teams in Tier 2 will play a format determined by the number of entrants. The team finishing in first place will gain promotion to tier 1 for the following Grand Prix.
5. Tier formats may alter based on the number of entrants per Grand Prix. You will be informed of any changes prior to competing.
6. Net height will be 1.10m.

## K. Tournament Match Points

1. 10 points will be awarded for a match win.
2. Should any team not be able to field 6 players (in Tier 1 or 2) on the morning of a Grand Prix and have to resort to loaning a player from another team, 4 points will be deducted in a four-team Tier, and 3 points will be deducted in a Tier of five teams and above from your Match Points per match won for each and every player loaned.
3. Total match points will consist of 10 points in the event of a match win minus any deductions for not being able to field 6 players for each match to form the final standings in the Grand Prix. Wild card teams will not be included in the final standings so therefore cannot progress on to the finals.
4. Where teams are tied on points the order will be decided as follows:
  - i) Total Match Points
  - ii) Sets Won
  - iii) Sets Ratio
  - iv) Points Ratio
  - v) Match between the tied teams

## L. Grand Prix Series League Points

1. At the end of each Grand Prix teams will be awarded League Points for their final positions in either Tier 1 or Tier 2 as follows: (Wild card teams will not be awarded league points)

4 teams in Tier 1			
Position	Points	Tier	Position in Tier
1 <sup>st</sup>	20points	Tier 1	1 <sup>st</sup>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	18 points	Tier 1	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	16 points	Tier 1	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup>	14 points	Tier 1	4 <sup>th</sup>
5 <sup>th</sup>	12 points	Tier 2	1 <sup>st</sup>
6 <sup>th</sup>	10 points	Tier 2	2 <sup>nd</sup>
7 <sup>th</sup>	8 points	Tier 2	3 <sup>rd</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup>	6 points	Tier 2	4 <sup>th</sup>
9 <sup>th</sup>	4 points	Tier 2	5 <sup>th</sup>
10 <sup>th</sup>	2 point	Tier 2	6 <sup>th</sup>
11 <sup>th</sup>	1 point	Tier 2	7 <sup>th</sup>

5 teams in Tier 1			
Position	Points	Tier	Position in Tier
1 <sup>st</sup>	20points	Tier 1	1 <sup>st</sup>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	18 points	Tier 1	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	16 points	Tier 1	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup>	14 points	Tier 1	4 <sup>th</sup>
5 <sup>th</sup>	12 points	Tier 1	5 <sup>th</sup>
6 <sup>th</sup>	10 points	Tier 2	1 <sup>st</sup>
7 <sup>th</sup>	8 points	Tier 2	2 <sup>nd</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup>	6 points	Tier 2	3 <sup>rd</sup>
9 <sup>th</sup>	4 points	Tier 2	4 <sup>th</sup>
10 <sup>th</sup>	2 point	Tier 2	5 <sup>th</sup>
11 <sup>th</sup>	1 point	Tier 2	6 <sup>th</sup>

2. League Order will be determined as follows:
  - i) Total League Points
  - ii) Total Match Points
  - iii) Sets Won
  - iv) Sets Ratio
  - v) Points Ratio

## M. Final 4 and Final

1. The top four teams in the league, based on grand prix series league points accumulated over the season (Grand Prix 1-5), will play in a top 4 pool where each team will play each other once with a best of 3 set matches, the points system will be the same as a normal Grand Prix in line with the tournament match points information above. In conjunction we will run a tier for the remaining teams in the competition where the winner will play in tier 1 for the first Grand Prix of the 2024-25 season. The bottom team from the final 4 will be relegated to Tier 2 for the start of the 2024-2025 Season.

The top 2 teams from the Final 4 pool will play in the Grand Prix Final on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Please note this date is subject to change. If a change is made you will be notified immediately. The final shall be the best of 5 sets as per World ParaVolley Rules

For the final the following will apply.

2. The Officials Working Group will provide all the officials.
3. The "3 ball system" will normally be used.
4. A Team trophy shall be awarded to the Champions for which they can keep, there is no requirement to return the trophy for the next season.
5. Playing kit is required to be numbered for the final as per the World ParaVolley Rules.

#### **N. Late Arrival of teams**

1. Teams arriving less than 10 minutes late for a pool match will forfeit the right to a warm-up and time outs in the first set that will be played immediately.
2. Teams arriving more than 10 minutes late for a pool match will forfeit the first set 25-0 (or 21-0 if this is the format). If the team is not ready within a further 15 minutes, then they will forfeit the match 25-0 (or 21-0) for each set that should have been played.

#### **O. Nonpayment of Fines**

1. Non payment of fines may lead to entry being refused for future competitions.

#### **P. Discipline & Code of Conduct**

1. Players, Coaches and Managers of all competing teams shall behave in a manner that is not likely to bring the game of Volleyball into disrepute.
2. The Competitions Working Group shall have the power to take appropriate action against any affiliated Club, Player, Coach or Bench Personnel within its jurisdiction.
3. Suspensions shall be valid throughout all competitions in England.
4. Any Player, Coach or Bench Personnel expelled or disqualified at any stage of any Sitting Volleyball Competition shall be automatically suspended for the next match in any of the competitions and the matter shall be referred to the Competitions Working Group.
5. Each Club that enters competitions is also responsible for the behaviour of its spectators.

#### **Q. Disputes**

1. For tournament competitions in order to complete the day/weekend matches, the decision of the Lead shall be final.
2. Any team wishing to dispute the results of matches at any stage of any competition must bring it to the attention of the Lead at the time the result is handed in, and at that time make their protest in writing.
3. Any Club that wishes to dispute the results of matches (or other matters) at any stage of any competition, shall forward its complaint, in writing, to the Lead of the Competitions Working Group within 7 days of the dispute. A fee of £100.00 must accompany the letter. The fee will be refunded if the dispute is found in favour of the disputant.

#### **R. Appeals**

1. There shall be the right of appeal to the Competitions Working Group against the ruling of the Lead.
2. The final right of appeal against the decision of the Competitions Working Group shall be to the Disciplinary Committee. Any appeal must be submitted to the Volleyball England Hub within 10 days of the Appeal decision date. Please refer [here](#) for more details.

#### **S. Entry Fees**

1. For the 2023-2024 Season teams will need to pay an entry fee for each Grand Prix they compete in.
2. Entry is £80.00 per individual event.
3. If you wish to purchase entry to all 6 Grand Prix's and the Sitting Cup in one transaction its £490 which works out at £70 per event.
4. There is an entry deadline of 2 weeks before each Grand Prix, entry afterwards will incur a £10 fee.
5. Each team will need to purchase entry through [VolleyZone](#). Please consult the separate instructions for the process.
6. Wild card entries may have to pay in advance of entry. This is at the discretion of the Competitions Working Group.
7. Teams that fail to pay their entry fees will not be permitted to participate in future Grand Prix's.

#### **T. Loaning Players**

1. Players registered to a Club may be loaned to another Team (including a Wildcard entry) for the duration of a specified Grand Prix.
2. Loans need to be confirmed on the Team Sheet handed in before the start of each Grand Prix, which will be no later than 30 minutes before the start of the first match of any given Grand Prix.
3. In exceptional circumstances, loans may be allowed outside of the regulations set out above, including allowing for a player to play for more than one Team at a particular Grand Prix. In these circumstances the appointed lead / event manager on the day will decide as to whether the loaning of a player will be allowed. These loans will be considered:
  - i) Where the loaning of a player(s) allows a Team to complete a match during a Grand Prix, where the match would not otherwise have been played/concluded.
  - ii) Where in Tier 2 it allows for player development.

#### **U. Photos and Filming**

1. Volleyball England may film and/or take photographic images during the Sitting Grand Prix Series. It is agreed that you, your club and its players authorise and give permission for Volleyball England and its authorised associates to have:
  - (a) Permission to use any video footage and photographic images taken at any events for exclusive use/broadcast by Volleyball England and or its associates at no cost in perpetuity in all territories worldwide.
  - (b) Permission to use any photographic images on any online platform as deemed appropriate for promotional or marketing purposes. This will include social networking sites.
  - (c) Grant permission for Volleyball England to use any images taken from the events for any other marketing or promotional material in perpetuity in all territories.