

Competition Finalisation for 2019-2020 Season

I hope everybody is safe and well in these interesting times.

Last night the competitions working group met to decide how to close out the 2019-20 Season. This document covers the process we went through, the rationale and the outcome. It is important to understand that in these extraordinary times the finalisation of the league does not automatically determine promotion and relegation (we know we won't have play offs for instance). We are sharing this document so that you are aware of the information we considered, the process we followed and the results. We are circulating this paper to team secretaries for the purposes of consultation on the season finalisation.

We considered carefully the following information as part of the process

- 1) What other sports have done (18 organisations)
- 2) What the input from our membership was (via email, conversations, webcast, etc.)

We would normally determine the league structure for next season

- a) after the play-offs
- b) after we get new entrants
- c) after we are told who are dropping out

at our mid-May competitions meeting so the meeting focussed on determining how to close out the season and NOT to consider promotion relegations decisions as we didn't have the information to support that yet.

Constraints

- 1) Unlike many sports we decided that we couldn't restart the season after lockdown as for example
 - a. The beach/outdoor season clashes and prevents us doing so
 - b. Uni teams - many of the players have gone home (many abroad) and won't be available over the summer

Scope

- All NVL leagues
- NVL Cup and Shield
- Age group competitions
- Sitting Grand Prix

Out of Scope

- Inter-regional competitions
- Beach competitions
- Sitting Cup

Process

- 1) We firstly thought about the principles we should apply to this process and decided that the following.
 - a. The decision needs to be transparent
 - b. Apply the same across all Volleyball England leagues

- c. Apply the same across all Volleyball England cup competitions
 - d. Fairness
- 2) We then considered a few key questions
- a. Which is better i) Null and Void the season, ii) Find a way to conclude the season.
We decided that as we were so far through the season with a number of divisions already clear in terms of winners that we should find a way to conclude the season.
 - b. Which is better i) use judgement or ii) use a mathematical formula to determine the result of matches un-played due to the premature end to the season. We concluded that using a mathematical formula was the best option to avoid subjectivity.
- 3) We then looked at the options we had and using the principles and answers to the key questions we decided earlier to choose the option.
- a. Finish the season as it stands – Not chosen as unequal games played meant it was unfair.
 - b. Finish the season and roll back matches in date order until we get to an equal number of matches played – Not chosen as depending on the sequence of matches and the strength of teams played to date this wouldn't be fair.
 - c. Score each un-played fixture as a draw splitting the available points equally – This was the option chosen.**
 - d. Score each un-played fixture as the same as the reverse fixture if played otherwise as a draw – Not chosen as we felt that the assumption is not valid and hence unfair (e.g. teams who had played fewer home games could be disadvantaged).
 - e. Score each un-played fixture as a draw plus $\frac{1}{2}$ a point if the team is above the other and draw – $\frac{1}{2}$ a point if below – Not chosen as depending on the sequence of matches and the strength of teams played to date this wouldn't be fair.
 - f. Finalise the league by using the average point per match played and apply this to any un-played matches – Not chosen as depending on the sequence of matches and the strength of teams played to date this wouldn't be fair.
 - g. Each Divisional lead to use their knowledge of a division to determine the likely outcome of remaining fixtures -not chosen as was subjective.
 - h. Any variations on the above.
- 4) We then applied that decision to each league and reviewed the final standings and concluded that this did indeed a fair and reasonable outcome to the league.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE FINAL STANDINGS 2019-20

Division:

Super League		
Pos	Team	Pts
1	Polonia SideOut London	39
2	Durham Palatinates Women	30.5
3	TeamBU Wessex	29.5
4	Malory Eagles UEL	27.5
5	University of Nottingham Volleyball Women	17.5
6	Tendring (Essex) Ladies	24
7	London Inter Orcas	21
8	Bristol VC 1	9
9	Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University	6

Division 1		
Pos	Team	Pts
1	DARKSTAR Derbyshire	46
2	London Inter Orcas 2	44
3	Richmond VB	41
4	Oxford Ladies	40
5	Birmingham Volleyball Club	40
6	Leeds RGA VC	39
7	Team South Wales	28
8	Team Sunderland	27
9	Dartford	26
10	Herts VC	26

Division 2 North		
Pos	Team	Pts
1	Coventry & Warwick Riga	47
2	York Falcons	36
3	City of Salford VC	36
4	Tameside	35
5	Leicester Athena	33
6	Manchester Marvels 1	30
7	Black Country VC	26
8	Chester Amazons	23
9	Newcastle Staffs	22

Division 3 North		
Pos	Team	Pts
1	Urmston Grammar Volleyball	44
2	Liverpool	42
3	Sheffield Honeybees	40
4	Leeds RGA Panthers	32
5	Manchester Marvels 2	32
6	Hull Thunder	30
7	York Vipers	26
8	Ashfield Vipers	22
9	The Miners Doncaster Volleyball Club	20

Division 2 South		
Pos	Team	Pts
1	London Lionhearts	48
2	Bristol VC 2	43
3	Cardiff Falcons	42
4	Reading Aces	40
5	Wessex W2	40
6	Team Essex Trinity SR	36
7	Sussex Dolphins 1	32
8	Norwich Spikers	27
9	Ipswich Ladies	26
10	Ashcombe Dorking 1	26

Division 3 Central		
Pos	Team	Pts
1	MK City	42
2	Tamworth Spartans	40
3	Lincoln Cannons	38
4	Coventry & Warwick Riga 2	34
5	Telford Ladies	32
6	Nottinham Rockets	30
7	UK Armed Forces Ladies	28
8	Loughborough Students	24
9	Northampton	20

Division 3 South East		
Pos	Team	Pts
1	London Giants	32
2	Portsmouth	29
3	Richmond VB 2	28
4	South Hants	25
5	Sussex Dolphins 2	20
6	Urbond Volleyball Club Portsmouth	19
7	Maidstone	15

Division 3 South West		
Pos	Team	Pts
1	Southampton Volleyball Club Ladies 1	39
2	City of Bristol Ladies	32
3	Plymouth	31
4	Plymouth Mayflower VC	28
5	Yeovil	28
6	New Forest Ladies	26
7	Southampton Volleyball Club Ladies 2	20
8	PETROC Beach Academy (North Devon)	20

MEN'S NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE FINAL STANDINGS 2019-20

Division:	Super League			Division 1			Division 2 North			Division 3 North		
	Pos	Team	Pts	Pos	Team	Pts	Pos	Team	Pts	Pos	Team	Pts
	1	IBB Polonia London	43	1	Leeds RGA VC	42	1	University of Nottingham Volleyball Men	48	1	Liverpool VC	34
	2	Durham Palatinates Men	36.5	2	Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University	36	2	Manchester Marvels 1	43	2	Lincoln Cannons	30
	3	Malory Eagles UEL	27.5	3	Cardiff Celts	34	3	DARKSTAR Derbyshire	42	3	Wombourne VC	30
	4	Richmond Docklands	25.5	4	The Miners Doncaster Volleyball Club	34	4	Leicester Volleyball Club	41	4	Newcastle Staffs 2	25
	5	Sheffield Hallam	24.5	5	City of Bristol	34	5	Black Country Men 2	38	5	Loughborough Students	20
	6	TeamBU Wessex	25	6	Stockport Volleyball Club	33	6	Hull Thunder	35	6	Nottingham Rockets 1	16
	7	Tendring (Essex) Men	22	7	London Aces	28	7	Haughton Darlington	33	7	Manchester Marvels 2	12
	8	Team Sunderland	21	8	Team Essex Estonians	25	8	Sheffield 2	28			
	9	Newcastle Staffs	17	9	Intervolley Manchester	20	9	Tamworth Spartans	26	Division 3 Central		
	10	Team Essex Blaze SR	13				10	York VC	24	Pos	Team	Pts
										1	Coventry & Warwick Riga	34
										2	Stowmarket	27
										3	Cambridge VC (M2)	26
										4	Norwich Spikers	22
										5	Rhinos Volleyball Cambridge	20
										6	England Cadet Boys	19
										7	Tendring Academy	18
										Division 3 South		
										Pos	Team	Pts
										1	UK Armed Forces Men	47
										2	London Giants	46
										3	Surrey Spikers	42
										4	London Baks	40
										5	Southampton Volleyball Club Men	38
										6	Wiltshire Mavericks	33
										7	Dartford	30
										8	Gloucester Eagles	30
										9	South Hants	28
										10	Richmond VB 2	24

- 5) Sitting Competition. This is run on a grand prix basis, so all the teams had an equal opportunity to play the same number of games. We concluded that the best option would be to conclude the season with the current grand prix standings being the final results. We are considering running the sitting cup subject to team desire, venue availability and other considerations after the lockdown is lifted as a return to volleyball event.
- 6) Age Group Finals. With the exception of the U15's and one match in the U18's the only remaining matches to be played are the finals. We didn't feel it was right to award joint winners. We felt it was right that if teams wanted to arrange a final then this would be a good option. VE would appoint and pay for officials and provide medals for winners and runners up. The first named team would be the home team and the other costs should be shared between the teams. For the U18's outstanding match this would need to be played between the teams at their own cost (with Volleyball England covering the costs of Officials), then the finals would then follow. For the U15's competition as this competition has not reached the same stage as the other competitions it is again not possible to declare winners. We are looking into possibility of holding a one-day tournament (per gender) which would be formatted to enable the competition to be concluded and welcome feedback on this option. Any players that were eligible to play on the original date would continue to be eligible on the re-arranged date.
- 7) National Cup and Shield. The only remaining match to be played are the finals. We didn't feel it was right to award joint winners. We felt it was right that if teams wanted to arrange a final then this would be a good option. VE would appoint and pay for officials and provide medals for winners and runners up. The first named team would be the home team and the other costs should be shared between the teams.
- 8) We then discussed what appeals we would consider and on what basis and who would hear those appeals. As we have not yet determined the promotion and relegation decisions, we don't have all the information, so appeals based on promotion and relegation would be considered at a later stage. Appeals on the process or option chosen to determine final standings in competitions would be considered by a judicial panel in line with NVL Regulation G7.

Next Steps & Timetable

- Send out this document to clubs for consultation – Any replies are required by 17:00 on 23rd April 2020
- Review the responses to the consultation and change if required 24th April 2020
- Submit to board for approval 27th April 2020
- Publish finalised tables (subject to appeal) 30th April 2020
- Any appeals to be submitted by 17:00 on 7th May 2020
- Appeals process
- Publish finalised tables (after appeal)