NVL Promotion and Relegation for 2019-2020 Season

The competitions working group agreed a staged process for finalising the 2019/2020 season;

Stage 1 – finalisation of the NVL league tables (this was published on 30 April 2020)

Stage 2 – determination of promotion and relegation, and league structure for season 2020/2021

The competitions working group met this week to determine promotion and relegation for 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 we have had to make difficult choices, however we have maintained the values of Volleyball England, in particular being Open and Respectful in our discussions and recommendations. 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 promotion and relegation.

At the same time as determining promotion and relegation we need to determine the league structure for next season, this is impacted by teams discontinuing (both those who have already dropped out this season and for those planning to drop out for the upcoming season) and at the lower divisions by teams entering the league.

We realise that it very difficult for all of us to make firm commitments in these uncertain times however for us to determine the best league structure and start planning for an on-time season start (government allowing) we need teams to give a clear indication as to their intentions as part of this consultation otherwise we will be left with potential gaps in divisions and teams unnecessarily unpromoted.

We are also in parallel with this considering contingency planning in case through government decisions we have to delay either the planning or the start to the season. Our default planning assumption for now is an on-time start; expect to hear more on this in the coming weeks.

We carefully considered the following information as part of the process

1) What other sports have done
2) What the input from our membership was (via email, conversations, webcast, etc.)
3) Any information previously submitted in relation to team's promotion or relegation as part of the consultation and appeal process.
4) Regulation I4 Promotion and Relegations from the NVL regulations

Constraints

a. No Play-offs – this has already been communicated
b. We need to make this decision now so that we can plan for our default assumption
c. Number of teams entering/leaving

Scope

- All NVL leagues
Process

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

2) We then considered a few key questions
   a. Do we want to get a result or is null and void an option? Or put another way do we want to reward success and ensure those that struggle play at the right level (Promotion and Relegation). We felt that sufficient matches had been played that it was important that the teams who had earned promotion were promoted.
   b. Would promotion without relegation be OK? No – we felt that sufficient matches had been played to determine which teams should be relegated to maintain fairness to all teams. Therefore, their position should be relegated even in these extraordinary times.
   c. Do we want to apply our expert judgement or have no subjectivity – We decided that we should not apply subjectivity. The main reason for this is that although some decisions would be clear many would be finely nuanced and therefore divisive, we felt that continuing to be respectful and fair to all teams, we should not use subjectivity.

3) We then looked at the options we had and using the principles and answers to the key questions above we decided earlier to choose option b. **Option in Bold was the chosen option.**
   a. No promotion or relegation – No
   b. **Promote top and follow relegation rules.**
   c. Promotion only (top of each league), no relegation – No
   d. Promotion only (top of each league), relegation only when teams want – No
   e. Promotion only (top of each league), relegation only when teams want, or they have lost every match – No
   f. Promotion and relegation based on performance and CWG expertise? – We decided that we should not apply subjectivity.

4) We then applied that decision to each league and reviewed the final standings and concluded that this did indeed result in a fair and reasonable outcome for promotion and relegation based on our key questions and principles above.
### WOMEN'S NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE STRUCTURE 2020-21 PROPOSAL

#### Super League
- Bristol VC 1
- Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University
- DARKSTAR Derbyshire
- Durham Palatinate Women
- London Inter Orcas
- Malory Eagles UEL
- Polonia SideOut London
- TeamBU Wessex
- Tendring (Essex) Ladies
- University of Nottingham Volleyball Women

#### Division 1
- Birmingham Volleyball Club
- Coventry & Warwick Riga
- Dartford
- Leeds RGA VC
- London Inter Orcas 2
- London Lionhearts
- Oxford Ladies
- Richmond VB
- Team South Wales
- Team Sunderland

#### Division 2 North
- Black Country VC
- Chester Amazons
- City of Salford VC
- Herts VC
- Leicester Athena
- MK City
- Northampton
- Reading Aces
- Southampton Volleyball Club Ladies 1
- Team Essex Trinity SR
- Wesssex W2

#### Division 2 South
- Bristol VC 2
- Cardiff Falcons
- Ipswich Ladies
- London Giants
- Norwich Spikers
- Reading Aces
- Southampton Volleyball Club Ladies 1
- Team Essex Trinity SR
- Wesssex W2

#### Division 3 North
- Ashfield Vipers
- Hull Thunder
- Leeds RGA Panthers
- Liverpool
- Manchester Marvels 2
- Sheffield Honeybees
- The Miners Doncaster Volleyball Club
- York Vipers

#### Division 3 Central
- Coventry & Warwick Riga 2
- Lincoln Cannons
- Loughborough Students
- Newcastle Staffs
- Northampton
- Nottingam Rockets
- Tamworth Spartans
- Telford Ladies
- UK Armed Forces Ladies

#### Division 3 South East
- Ashcombe Dorking 1
- Portsmouth
- Richmond VB 2
- South Hants
- Sussex Dolphins 2
- Urbond Volleyball Club Portsmouth

#### Division 3 South West
- City of Bristol Ladies
- New Forest Ladies
- PETROC Beach Academy (North Devon)
- Plymouth
- Plymouth Mayflower VC
- Southampton Volleyball Club Ladies 2
- Yeovil

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**Key:**
- **Promoted team**
- **Relegated team**

**League Structure notes:**
1) New NVL teams are still to be added.
2) Geographical split for Division 2 and 3 is still to be considered and finalised.
3) The competitions working group reserves the right to change the league structure if required e.g. if teams chose to leave or if government guidance requires it.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
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<th>Division 1</th>
<th>Division 2 North</th>
<th>Division 3 North</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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5) We then discussed what appeals we would consider and on what basis and who would hear those appeals. Appeals could be made on the process followed or option decided and not on how when applied this impacted teams. E.g. teams can’t appeal and say they agree on the process followed and the option chosen but feel that they should not have been relegated as they feel that if the remaining matches had been played, they would not have been relegated. Appeals would be considered by a judicial panel in line with NVL Regulation G7.

6) It is important to note that the competitions working group reserves the right to change the league structure if required e.g. if teams chose to leave, to adjust geographically for new teams entering, or if government guidance requires it.

Next Steps & Timetable
- Send out this document to clubs for consultation – Any replies are required by 17:00 on 14th May 2020
- Teams to indicate their intention to play in their allotted league in the NVL next season - All replies are required by 17:00 on 14th May 2020
- Review the responses to the consultation and change if required 15th May 2020
- Submit to board for approval 18th May 2020
- Publish League Structure for 2020-21 (subject to appeal) 22nd May 2020
- Any appeals to be submitted by 17:00 on 29th May 2020
- Appeals process
- Publish finalised League Structure for 2020-21 (after appeal)