

## **Amendments to the NVL Regulations for the 2021-2022 season**

Coronavirus has given several challenges this season and we have tried to add some information in case we have similar challenges next season. However, at the time of writing it is quite likely that we will require further regulation changes to support return to sport and we reserve the right to make these changes whenever required.

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.

Any set of regulations can only cover the normal matters that arise within the competitions. We have added clarity on how we will deal with matters that are not directly covered by the regulations. These will be dealt with in line with the VE guiding principles and values.

This year there are significant updates due to the introduction of VolleyZone. 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.

Another important change is to do with club member debt. Volleyball England wants as many people playing volleyball to their highest potential and would hope that teams and members to find suitable fair solutions to prevent money being the reason a member cannot play. At the same time clubs need to look after the interests of their members and should not allow a member to incur a debt that is unsustainable. Clearly this is a matter for the members and their club; we believe that teams need to manage indebtedness of players on an ongoing basis and not let it get to unmanageable levels. We believe this is the fairest way for both Club and Player so in future maximum debt VE will consider when disputes arise over player transfers is 1 month's fees.

We have updated 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. E.g. 2 if a team wants to play a double header.

Updated the various dates for this season.

Updated numbering as required.

Updated links and references where required.

Updated references to 'qualified and registered' to read as 'registered'. Only individuals with qualifications can register to be a coach or referee on VolleyZone.

## Introduction to the Regulations

Competitions regulations should assume the following cascade; FIVB rules of the game unless modified by NVL regulations, unless modified by specific Cup & Shield regulations, unless modified by specific competition regulations.

### Section A. Administrative Matters.

**Regulation A 3. Before competing in any Volleyball England competition, each team must:**

iv. Have a registered coach (minimum Level 2) committed to supporting that Team.

~~To help clubs become compliant with the regulation, the full implementation of the rule has been staggered: Clubs who currently have a level two registered coach must remain compliant. All teams in the Super League and Division 1 need to have a Level 2 qualified coach by the beginning of the 2018/19 season. For Division 2 teams, their deadline is the start of the 2019/20 season. Division 3 teams have an extra year and must have a Level 2 coach by the start of the 2020/21 season.~~

**Regulation A 4. Conditions of Entry to the National K.O. Cup**

i. Entry into the National KO Cup will **not** be assumed for NVL teams, **entry must be processed via VolleyZone ([www.volleyzone.co.uk](http://www.volleyzone.co.uk)).**

ii. Non NVL teams must be competing in a recognised league or approved for entry by the Competitions Working Group. **Players must register on VolleyZone ([www.volleyzone.co.uk](http://www.volleyzone.co.uk)).**

**Regulation A 9. Club Structure**

vii. All NVL correspondence will be forwarded to the relevant team secretaries named in **VolleyZone ([www.volleyzone.co.uk](http://www.volleyzone.co.uk))**. Any Club specific matters will be addressed to the Club Secretary / Chairperson, as detailed on **VolleyZone**.

### Section B. Organisation of Fixtures

**Regulation B 2. During the Season**

i. Matches must be played on the date, at the time and at the venue specified **in the National Volleyball League fixtures section of the Volleyball England website**, and not any other publication. If there is an error or a fixture has been agreed to be changed by the Competitions Working Group, then the correct details will be updated onto the website.

v. A rearrangement will only be approved when a fully justifiable reason is provided, and a new date has been arranged and agreed by the teams involved. **Match start times do not need agreement from both teams, unless they are outside of the times specified in the NVL Regulations.** Where teams cannot agree a new date then the appropriate Working Group Lead will specify a date on which the rearranged match will be played, or the original date will stand.

### Section C. Registration

**Regulation C 1. Players**

i. All teams should register a minimum of 8 players by the 1st September before the start of the season. A valid registration requires **a player to register via VolleyZone ([www.volleyzone.co.uk](http://www.volleyzone.co.uk)) for the appropriate NVL Player Registration. The player must also be aligned to their NVL Team by completing the join team process.** Failure to adhere to the deadline may result in a £25 administration charge.

ii. It is the responsibility of the team or club **of a newly** registering a player to ensure the eligibility of the player to be registered. Players who are subject to transfer requirements must be correctly transferred. Player registration information for the previous seasons is available on the Volleyball England website, **recorded in VolleyZone ([www.volleyzone.co.uk](http://www.volleyzone.co.uk))** and from the Volleyball England Hub.

iii. Clubs with more than one team may delay allocating their players to a specific team **on VolleyZone ([www.volleyzone.co.uk](http://www.volleyzone.co.uk))** until a week before their Club's first match. **It is the club's responsibility to ensure that the players are correctly registered for the team that they will play for**

in the NVL on VolleyZone before they play. Using the team leave / join requests players and clubs can move players between their NVL teams.

vi. A junior player (Under 18 on 1 September of the current season) playing in a junior competition may also play for their Club in a senior competition, **providing that they have registered for the correct NVL Junior Player Registration.**

### **Regulation C 2. Technical Members of the team**

i. Any other personnel needing to sit on the team bench under FIVB International Rule 4 must be registered **on VolleyZone ([www.volleyzone.co.uk](http://www.volleyzone.co.uk)).**

iii. Only a registered Coach with Volleyball England will be able to undertake the role of Head Coach during a match.

v. Registered players who wish to assist another team/club as Bench Personnel are required to hold a ~~separate~~ Bench Personnel registration for the team(s) they will be assisting, and this must be presented to the Scorer.

vi. All Bench Personnel (including Coaches) must register with Volleyball England **via VolleyZone ([www.volleyzone.co.uk](http://www.volleyzone.co.uk)) for their team.**

### **Regulation C 3. Transfers**

v. International Transfers;

(3) It is the responsibility of Teams to ensure that **any player requiring an International Transfer completes this before playing in the NVL.**

vii. Transfers will not be allowed if any of the following circumstances apply:

(2) The player has not discharged any documented indebtedness to the current club, e.g. subscription arrears (**limited to one month's fees maximum**), kit etc.

## **Section D. Preparation for Matches**

### **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 between **11:30 & 16:00hrs**

(2) Double matches on Saturdays and Sundays between **11:30 & 14:00hrs**

(3) Triangulars between 11:30 & 12:30hrs

v. Facilities

~~(3) Height Clearance-minimum 7.5m above playing surface~~

~~(6) Lighting-adequate, even, minimum 500 lux~~

vii. Supplying a competent Scorer **and a visual scoreboard in all Divisions** and at least two competent Lines Judges in Division 2 and above.

### **Regulation D 2. Playing kit**

iii. Compression - must be **black or white or** the same as the corresponding part of the sleeves and uniform, for example red shirt, red compression sleeves, shorts black shorts, black cycling shorts.

### **Regulation D 3. Expenses for Match Officials:**

Note: Travel expenses are to be claimed as either actual expenses (public transport) or at current Volleyball England rate (£0.25 per mile private car). **The fee for all 3 matches of a triangular is 3 times a single match fee.**

### **Regulation D 5. Cup Fixtures**

ii. The home team in Cup and Shield fixtures must inform both the Cup Lead and the NVL Officials Group Member of the date, venue and warm-up time of the fixture, **within 4 days of the home team being aware of hosting their next match.** Failure to do so will result in a £25 fine being levied.

**Matches are to be played on the date published in the draw. They can only be moved if both teams agree and with the permission of the Cup Lead.**

## Section E. Arrangements at Matches

### Regulation E 1. Regulations of play

ii. Technical timeouts will be used in all Super League and Division 1 NVL matches. In Divisions 2 and 3 they are optional. They will be used by default unless both teams request they are not used. ~~If the third match of a Triangular starts more than 5 Hours after the Warm Up Time of the First match, then TTOs will not be allowed.~~

### Regulation E 3. The Schedule

i. The times listed ~~on the Volleyball England website~~ specify the start of the official warm up period, and the match start time. The official warm up period shall be 30 minutes before the match start time. The scoresheet shall record the actual start time of the match i.e. the first service.

### Regulation E 4. Arrival of teams

i. It is advised that a team allows an hour contingency plan whether travelling by public or own transport, with an arrival time of at least 30 minutes before the warm-up is due to start. Should a team not be able to fulfil its fixture, then a member of the team will need to contact the opposition as soon as possible, utilising numbers ~~available on VolleyZone or website~~ for Secretary, Coach, other personnel and venue as required. Home teams should then advise the referees, Volleyball England Hub and Divisional Working Group Lead immediately. Should a fixture not be played then the Competitions Working Group shall consider the available evidence and rule as to whether the match should be replayed, forfeited, declared null and void and any sanctions applicable.

iv. ~~Away teams are responsible for planning their route of travel and are responsible for any charges or fines resulting from tolls, low emission or congestion charging zones.~~

### Regulation E 6. The Players

i. Only players who are correctly registered with Volleyball England ~~via VolleyZone~~ ([www.volleyzone.co.uk](http://www.volleyzone.co.uk)) may play in competitions.

~~ii. Any missing player registration details will need an explanation; 'With Volleyball England' will not be accepted. Any player without registration details at a match must have an email from Volleyball England (and present photographic identification e.g. driver's licence, passport, etc.) to confirm registration.~~

ii. All players in a team, apart from the Libero(s), must wear a strip of identical colour and design with regulation size numbers on the front and back. The numbers 1-20 only may be used. The Libero(s) shall wear a different coloured, easily identifiable, numbered shirt (1-99); ~~if a team has 2 Liberors, their shirts do not have to match each other.~~

iii. Teams may register players on the day of the game ~~via VolleyZone~~ ([www.volleyzone.co.uk](http://www.volleyzone.co.uk)), providing that NVL Transfer and International Transfer regulations are adhered to.

~~(1) This shall be done by means of presenting a correctly completed registration form, including photograph affixed (or proof of photo emailed to [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org)), the appropriate fee, and completed transfer certificate, if required, to the match Referees. A player will not be allowed to play unless all the above is produced. If satisfied with the completion of the form, the First Referee shall record the registration in the 'remarks' box of the scoresheet recording details of all items presented.~~

~~(2) The team registering the player shall forward the completed form by first class post at the end of the game. The appropriate fee plus a £5.00 administration fee must accompany the registration. The match will be forfeited if the player is not registered (form & payment) within the stated time.~~

~~(3) Confirmation that a player's registration is with the Volleyball England Hub must be obtained if the players details do not appear on the website within 7 days of submission. Failure to obtain this confirmation will make this player ineligible to play until the completed documentation has been received.~~

~~(4) Teams registering players on the day of a game are making a clear and binding statement that the player can be registered. This means that the player involved is either an existing bona fide member of the club, is a free agent under the terms of transfer regulations or is being properly transferred. In the case of transfer, the transfer certificate should be presented to the First Referee at the match. A player who is subject to transfer must have a completed transfer certificate present to be able to register on the day. A player in breach of this regulation will be deemed ineligible and the team forfeits any matches the player is involved in and may be subject to disciplinary action. (Player information for the preceding 2 seasons is available on the Volleyball England website or from the Volleyball England Hub).~~

~~(5) In case of any doubt teams should contact their Divisional Working Group Lead and provide written details of the facts and obtain advice.~~

iv. NVL Player registration details (as shown on the Volleyball England website) accompanied by a Volleyball England NVL Team Sheet and Bench personnel registration details are to be presented to the Scorer at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the match. Referees must check identity and validity of player and bench personnel registration details and note all irregularities on the scoresheet. A new Team Sheet must be presented for every match.

#### **Regulation E.10 Post Match Refreshments (NVL and Cup/Shield)**

Post-match hospitality is expected at all NVL matches including the Cup and Shield, unless agreed otherwise between the teams and officials. If post-match hospitality is not provided where desired, a fine of £100 will be levied on the host team. It is the responsibility of the Away team to inform Home teams of any allergies and dietary requirements etc, and if the Home team cannot meet these then they should advise them in the Match Confirmation.

### **Section F. After the Match**

#### **Regulation F 1. Scoresheet and Match day protocol**

- i. Notifying by email the Volleyball England Hub via [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org), Result Co-ordinator via [ve.resultsservice@btinternet.com](mailto:ve.resultsservice@btinternet.com) and the Referee Co-ordinator and the Divisional / Cup Lead if the match did not take place or that the match was unfinished.
- ii. Sending the top copy of the Scoresheet. ~~Libero Control sheet (as necessary) and for Super League matches only, a copy of the match day programme to the Volleyball England Hubby first class post on the first working day after the match. In the event of late arrival of this copy at the Volleyball England Hub, the date of cancellation of the first class stamp will be used to see whether a team should be fined.~~ An email with a legible photo or pdf sent to [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org) is also acceptable. (if you choose to email the information you should keep the hard copy of the scoresheet until the start of the following season in case of any queries).

#### **Regulation G 7. Competitions Disciplinary Committee**

- i. There shall be a right of appeal of the decision of the Competitions Working Group to the Volleyball England 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.

### **Section H. Misconduct**

#### **Regulation H 7. Conduct**

- i. The Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee is empowered to discipline a player, coach, club, team or team follower whose actions are considered to bring the game into disrepute. The Sub Committee is empowered within its absolute discretion to suspend or fine a coach, player, club or team in circumstances where it considers it appropriate. These provisions apply to NVL/KO Cup Competitions, Student, Junior, Sitting, Beach tournaments and any other competition

in which Volleyball England registered players may participate. The Officials Group is responsible for any disciplinary action relating to match Referees.

### Section I. End of Season

**Regulation I 1.** Any club or team not entering for the ensuing season must notify the Competitions Working Group **by 30<sup>th</sup> April in any given season**; otherwise all fees and goodwill deposit will be retained.

~~**Regulation I 2.** Teams are required to notify the Volleyball England Competitions Department of players registered at the start of the season, who no longer play for that team.~~

### Regulation I 4. European Competition Entry

i. If teams are considering entering European Competitions, teams must indicate their intention in writing to the Competitions Working Group by **30th April**.

### Section J. Regulations for Specific Competitions

#### Regulation J 1. Volleyball England K.O. Cup

iv. Players must be registered with their respective **teams on VolleyZone** ([www.volleyzone.co.uk](http://www.volleyzone.co.uk)). ~~Non-NVL teams whose players cannot produce a Local League player registration (photo) card must provide a list of all players who will play in the Competition to the [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org) at least a week prior to playing in the competition. This will need to be verified by the Local League, and email confirmation will be provided to the team. Teams must present the email approval to the match officials, and players must produce photo ID (e.g. Passport, Driving Licence) to verify their identity at the match.~~

### Section M. Blood Injuries

#### Regulation M1.

It is **required** that Teams equip themselves with a small box with disposable gloves, antiseptic wipes, disinfectant, cloths and nappy sacks for safe disposal. All contaminated material including any used gloves should be doubled bagged before appropriate disposal.

### Section N. Minimum Operating Standards

Please refer to the table below for when and how each MOS is expected. ~~For this season only where an MOS has increased there will be no penalty for failing to meet this MOS to enable clubs to plan and budget for this implementation. Penalties will still apply where the MOS is either the same or lower than last season.~~

	<b>Super League</b>	<b>Div1</b>	<b>Div2</b>	<b>Div3</b>
Team List	Y	Y	Y	Y
Subs Equip	Y	Y	Y	R
Paddles & Buzzer				
<u>Kit</u>				
Shirts 1-20	Y	Y	Y	R (1-99)
Shorts	Y	Y	Similar	Similar
Socks	Y	Y	R	R
<u>Line Judges</u>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>R</b>
Live Stream	Y (with scores)	Y (no scores reqd)	R	N
Match Programmes	Y	R	N	N
Match Reports	R	N	N	N

R = Recommended

## Section P. Appendices

### Appendix A – Procedure for Player Transfers

1. Player Transfers are required to be completed via VolleyZone ([www.volleyzone.co.uk](http://www.volleyzone.co.uk)) using the Team Leave / Team Join request process.
2. On a Player request to leave old Team, the old Team are required to approve the request on VolleyZone or inform the Hub via [competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto: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 proper notification to the Competitions Working Group or reasons for objection will result in a fine of £20.00 and thereafter, such penalty as the Competitions Working Group may decide. Failure to approve the request and/or failure to give proper notification will result in the Hub being able to approve a player being transferred irrespective of the lack of consent from the Team.
3. Releasing clubs should refer to Regulation C 3 regarding reasons for objecting to the proposed transfer.
4. Teams must manage indebtedness of their players within season. The Competitions Working Group will only accept player debts to a maximum of one month's fees with appropriate evidence.
5. On a Player request to join new Team, the new Team are required to approve the request on VolleyZone to complete the process.
6. There will be a £22.00 transfer fee applied at the time of joining the new Team on VolleyZone.

#### NOTES:

The Competitions Working Group is empowered to approve transfers, provided that the process is complete and in accordance with the above.

The onus is on the club holding the player registration to advise of any reason why the transfer cannot be completed as requested.

Once approval has been given in VolleyZone and the process or in the absence of approval within specified timescales, the transfer will be approved by the Hub. A current club refusing to release a player MUST provide proof of indebtedness or contract within 7 days of receipt of request to leave. In the event of dispute, the Divisional Lead will decide.

### Appendix C – Pre Match Protocol

f), -13 mins, Presentation of teams. Teams to line up on the side lines near the scorer's table from the third meter line towards the respective baselines. Captain, followed by starting libero, then players in number order, and second libero. On the first referee whistle 12 players to enter the court lining up laterally in the middle of the court facing (the scorer table or the main TV camera). Referees to walk towards the first referee chair. The players of the two teams shake hands and return to their respective benches. Referees to return to the scorer's table.

### Appendix E – Guidance in the event that a season ends prematurely

Although the exceptional circumstances may require the Competitions Working Group to modify the guidance below, we thought it important that teams are aware of how we would most likely treat this circumstance

- a. Season likely to be completed if at least 60% of scheduled matches in all divisions have been played.
- b. All un-played matches will be awarded as a draw.
- c. If the season is not completed there will be no promotion or relegation.

- d. For all Cup competitions unless the competition has reached the finals stage the competitions will likely be voided and no winners. If semis having been played then teams will have the option to play the final; VE will support by trying to appoint referees and paying for those they appoint and providing medals.