

LIVESTREAM GUIDANCE

NVL



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 **VOLLEYBALL
ENGLAND**



STREAMING GUIDANCE FOR NVL TEAMS

This document outlines basic principles and best practice for livestreaming NVL games.

As outlined in Section D, 5.4 of the NVL regulations - "Equipment Standards", teams from Division 1 and the Super League are required to produce a livestream of their game, with Division 2 teams having this as a recommendation.

This document aims to act as general guidance for teams, rather than a strict instruction manual on live streaming. Teams will have varying budgets, spaces and resources available to them, so it's important for teams to adapt this to their circumstances. They should also refer to instructional material provided by their streaming software in the first instance for troubleshooting.

You can get in touch with any questions or issues by emailing Calum Travers (c.travers@volleyballengland.org) or communications (communications@volleyballengland.org) in the event of absence.

LIVESTREAMING PRE-REQUISITES

Before purchasing or setting up any physical equipment, you will need the following:

YouTube Channel

If not already set up, it's recommended to bind this to a generic club Google account, so it can be handed over in the event of changes in club staffing.

For a YouTube channel to have access to mobile livestreaming, you need at least 50 subscribers to unlock this feature - if you don't have 50 subscribers, get everyone in and around the club (players, staff, fans etc) to subscribe to unlock this feature.

Strong internet connection

An ideal internet speed for 1080p streaming is 10-20Mbps upload speed. To test your connection, stand in the area your streaming device would be, and visit <https://www.speedtest.net/> or google "Speed test".

We recognise that not all clubs will have access to a strong, consistent internet connection. Below are some potential solutions.

In the first instance, contact the venue management to see if they can set up a password protected network for you to use, or if they have any equipment you could use.

4G Travel Router

A cost-effective way to create your own network is to use a [4G Mobile Router](#), which can be purchased from Amazon or most electronics retailers. You will also need a 4G enabled SIM Card - ideally one with a high / unlimited data plan to allow for streaming multiple games per month - [here is a website](#) you can use to check SIM-only deals.

External router

If your venue has an Ethernet port, you can plug an external internet router into it to create a new network. **If your venue is inside of a school / external institution, please check with them before doing this as it may contravene an IT policy or mess with their IT systems.**

Good view of the court

It's ideal to position the camera central at the rear of the court, as shown in Figures 1 and 2.



Figure 1



Figure 2

LIVESTREAMING – PHYSICAL EQUIPMENT

To produce a livestream with a scoreboard as required by the NVL Regulations, the following equipment will be suitable to help you achieve this:

2x Smartphones

Almost all modern phones (2021 onwards) can capture footage at 1080p - if you are unsure if your device can record in this quality, please email communications@volleyballengland.org.

One phone will act as a **streaming phone**, and one phone will act as a **scoring phone**.

You can use your own devices / devices of club staff or purchase refurbished devices from the website [BackMarket](#) at a lower cost.

Tripod

The height needed will depend on whether your venue has a higher level to record from, so please make your own assessment for height needed to get a good view of the court on stream. Figures 1 and 2 are shots from 2 metres off the ground, and Volleyball England uses [these tripods](#) for livestreaming from court level.

Phone mount

The most common screw size for tripods (including the one linked above) is ¼” screws, so please make sure the phone mount you source can hold the device used to stream securely, as well as having a ¼” screw hole.

Charger / Power Bank

The charging cable for the streaming device should be able to reach from the phone on the tripod at streaming height, as well as the distance to the plug. If there is no plug nearby, you can connect a power bank at the bottom of the tripod. Any power bank between 5,000 - 10,000 mAh should be sufficient to stream two to three games.

LIVESTREAMING - SOFTWARE

As outlined in the 26-27 NVL Regulations, the livestream of the match is required to have a scoreboard overlaid on the footage. There are a number of softwares which you can use to achieve this, laid out below:

[SportsCam](#)

A free software which allows you to stream your game with an embedded scoreboard. The free tier of SportsCam may come with a watermark, but SportsCam have indicated that their free tier will allow editable team names “in the near future”.

[Swish Live](#)

An alternative to SportsCam, and the software used by Volleyball England for all non-Super League Live events. The software is free to use with a watermark, and prices for its’ Pro tier start at £13.99 per month or £56.99 for the year. This is a significant price reduction from previous years, aimed at allowing clubs easier access to livestreaming software.

A new update has allowed for multi-camera setups if you have multiple iPhones, which clubs may find useful to experiment with and upgrade their experience – but this is not a requirement.

They also offer numerous tutorials and resources on their website for clubs to use - some of which you can read [here](#).

As Volleyball England use this software for events, you may find that more detailed support can be provided should your club decide to use Swish Live.

Other software alternatives may be available, and you are welcome to use whichever software fits the needs of your club, provided they don't impose a huge watermark blocking the game, or list themselves as a "sponsor" of the game.

LIVESTREAMING – ON THE DAY

Once you have set up your **streaming phone**, you will need to link the second device as a **scoring phone / remote**.

The linking process is different depending on the software you use, and you should refer to the process outlined by your software of choice.

Once the scoring phone is linked to the stream, adjust the score a few times and check the phone / stream to make sure the score updates. If the score updates - great! Bring the phone to the scorer's desk and show them how to adjust the score and point out which team's score is which.

If using Swish Live, please make a point to tell the scorers to **avoid the two red buttons at the bottom of the scoring phone**. These buttons, if accidentally pressed, will end the stream.

Once you get the stream set up with your software of choice, you can use YouTube Studio to check the current feed and shot of the live stream, as well as edit the title and description. Below are some template titles and descriptions to use:

Title:

Home Team v Away Team | Gender's NVL Division X Region

e.g.

Stockport v Nottingham Rockets | Men's NVL Division 2 North

Oxford Eagles v Bristol | Women's NVL Division 1 South

Description:

All the action live from (Venue) as (Home Team) take on (Away Team) in the National Volleyball League (Division & Region).

Club website: *Club website link*

Instagram: *Home team Instagram link*

Facebook: *Home team Facebook link*
Any other social media you may have below

E.g.

All the action live from Avanti Gardens School, as Bristol take on Onyx London in the National Volleyball League Division 1 South.

You do not have to use these specific styles and can add in whatever information you find relevant to your club. You could put tickets to upcoming club events in the description, links to your website and anything else. The core information that needs to be communicated is that the match is part of the National Volleyball League, as well as the teams, gender and division of the match.

During the stream

If possible, assign a volunteer to watch the stream via YouTube studio to make sure the feed is OK and transmitting properly. It is also a good idea to watch the livestream chat, to ensure you can reply to any questions or comments from fans as well as being able to remove spam or hateful messages.

Keep an eye on the scoreboard and ensure it reflects the real score - if there are any issues, have a look at the scoring phone in the first instance.

After the stream

You can end the stream from YouTube Studio or the streaming phones. Be sure to pack away equipment in a way which can be stored safely and securely.

If you have any further questions you can email Calum Travers (c.travers@volleyballengland.org) if you have issues not covered in the software's resources or questions about best practice.

LIVESTREAMING - TROUBLESHOOTING

In the first instance of troubleshooting, you should refer to instructional resources provided by the software.

Otherwise, here are some common issues encountered and potential solutions.

Stream has stopped transmitting

The streaming phone has died or lost connection. Lower the device down from the tripod, and check if the battery has died or if the phone has lost connection. If you catch this issue quickly, you can usually press the "Start" button to restart the stream and keep the link to the scoring phone

Stream angle has changed or shows the ceiling

The streaming phone has likely been hit by a ball. Readjust and carry on.

Remote does not work

The scoring phone may have lost internet connection. Check the device and relink to the stream. The stream will also be on a delay so bare this in mind.

If you have any questions regarding information in this document, please contact Calum Travers (c.travers@volleyballengland.org).