

VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND NVL REGULATIONS

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Introduction to the Regulations

These Regulations govern competitions organised by the Competitions Working Group of Volleyball England (VE) for the period of 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024. These Regulations are the only regulations specified and no other publication is applicable, save the FIVB Rules of the Game ([Regulation E 1](#)) and the relevant Codes of Conduct. Competitions Working Group reserves the right to issue appropriate amendments.

For Under 14's, Under 15's, Under 16's, Under 18's, Inter Regional, Student Cup and Sitting indoor volleyball competitions, please refer to the Volleyball England website for current regulations.

These are the regulations applicable to indoor volleyball organised by Volleyball England. Volleyball England will issue further regulations applicable to Volleyball England Beach Competitions.

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.

It is important to note that not every circumstance can be covered in these regulations and in that event the appropriate Divisional Lead will make the necessary decision. This decision can be appealed.

In writing these Regulations we have tried to ensure that the result of any volleyball match is decided on court and within the spirit of the game.

If you believe that the regulations are unclear, please ask for a ruling in writing before making any decision, as stating the regulations are unclear will not be grounds for appeal.

Section A. Administrative Matters.

Regulation A 1. To enter the National Volleyball League (NVL), each team must;

- i. Have paid a goodwill deposit of £100.00.
- ii. Have no outstanding debts with Volleyball England (English Volleyball Association Ltd) from previous playing seasons. Teams in debt to the Association may not be permitted to play fixtures if the previous playing season's debts are not cleared by the 31st May. Teams / Clubs with historic debts to Volleyball England will not be permitted entry to the NVL until the debts are cleared and the matter resolved by the Competitions Working Group.
- iii. Have a name that
 - a) permits easy geographical recognition of where they are from / play
 - b) is unique in the NVL
 - c) is agreed and approved by the Competitions Working Group.
- iv. Agree to abide by the Minimum Operation Standards ([See Section N](#)).

Regulation A 2. Withdrawing from the National Volleyball League

- i. Any club or team withdrawing from the NVL, and then wishing to re-enter later, must re-apply as a new entrant. New entrants will be placed in the lowest available division geographically as decided by the Competitions Working Group.
- ii. Any team withdrawing from the NVL during the competition season or after their entry has been accepted by the 1st May will forfeit their goodwill deposit.

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

- i. Be part of a club properly affiliated to Volleyball England.
- ii. Have its coach, players and authorised bench personnel appropriately registered with Volleyball England on [VolleyZone](#).
- iii. Have paid any further competitions fees that may be in force by the specified deadlines. Late entries will only be accepted at the discretion of the Competitions Working Group and will be subject to a £25 administration charge.
- iv. Have a registered coach (minimum Coach Award or equivalent) committed to supporting that team. To be considered compliant with the rule, a team must have a coach who is at least registered as a learner on a Coach Award coaching course, appearing on their team's Volleyball England page.
Teams which fail to meet the deadline will be sanctioned and deducted one league point for each match it plays until they become compliant.

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

- i. Entry into the National K.O. Cup will not be assumed for NVL teams, entry must be processed via [VolleyZone](#).
- 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](#). "Amalgam" teams, with players from more than one non NVL team, must have a demonstrable affinity e.g., playing in the same local league or living in the same geographical area etc. Teams with any doubt as to eligibility to play in the Cup should contact the relevant Cup Lead or Competitions Department for clarification.
- iii. NVL clubs can enter "Amalgam" teams. If a club enters "Amalgam" team(s), they will be recognised in the K.O. Cup as the club's highest-level team(s). Refer to [Section J Regulation 1](#) Volleyball England K.O. Cup for further clarification.

- iv. NVL players may not play for another NVL Club in any Cup competition other than the one they are registered for.
- v. NVL teams may contain non-NVL registered players if they can demonstrate an affinity with the NVL team they represent.

Regulation A 5. Conditions for a New Entrant into the National Volleyball League will normally include:

- i. Proven playing ability of the team in a recognised Regional / Area League over more than one season.
- ii. Club having been affiliated to Volleyball England for the last two seasons.
- iii. Club constitution to be acceptable in that it shows:
 - (1) The name of the club.
 - (2) The way its constitution may be amended.
 - (3) The financial control.
- iv. The Regional or Area Association to provide a letter of support for the entry.
- v. The Regional / Area Association or club should provide name(s) and letter(s) of support from evidence of referee development such that a minimum of one registered referee(s), minimum Grade 3 Regional, who are from there, not currently officiating in the National League, but are prepared to do so.
- vi. The club's financial accounts provide evidence of the financial support for competition at National level.
- vii. A team must have a registered coach (minimum Coach Award or equivalent) committed to supporting the NVL team.
- viii. Club being able to nominate at least 10 players who are prepared to commit to playing for the team. If any such players are with an existing NVL team, then it must be shown that the team holding the NVL registration would agree to the transfer should the team requesting entry to the NVL be accepted.
- ix. The club having a suitable home venue and equipment for NVL matches in the location indicated by their team name and specified as their normal home venue.
- x. If necessary, the team winning play-off games against other teams applying for entry.
- xi. The Competitions Working Group has the absolute right and discretion to accept or refuse any club or team admission to the league.

Regulation A 6. No club can alter its name or location to gain admission into any of the divisions of the NVL, and no official can act as Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer of more than one NVL club, or hold any combination of these offices for more than one club.

Note: The place in the NVL is the right of the club as evidenced by its constitution, and not the right of any player or group of players. To assist clubs, a draft constitution is available [online and from the Volleyball England Hub](#).

Regulation A 7. No team may alter its name during the competition season without the prior written approval of the Competitions Working Group.

Regulation A 8. Clubs/teams playing in any competition governed by these regulations are required to notify the Volleyball England Hub of the name, period and type of any sponsorship that they may have. The value of any sponsorship is a matter confidential to the club/team and its Sponsor. Tobacco sponsorship is not allowed. Failure to register details of sponsorship within 14 days of a

contract being completed will result in a fine of £100.00, and additional penalties, thereafter, within the discretion of the Competitions Working Group if details are not registered.

Regulation A 9. Club Structure

- i. Clubs may be membership based and run with a democratic style constitution with elected officers, or they may be proprietorial in nature.
- ii. No proprietor (whether as an individual, company, by way of shareholding or as nominee) may have an interest or hold office in more than one club.
- iii. Where clubs seek to amalgamate then the Volleyball England Hub shall be supplied with full details including detailed minutes, details of who attended meetings, and such other information as the Volleyball England Hub may require. Volleyball England has a role in ensuring that clubs are formed correctly and with the consent of those involved.
- iv. Where a democratic/membership-based club seeks to become proprietorial, as for example where a commercial concern wishes to run a club, then the Association (through its appropriate Officers) shall ensure that the club membership has voted thereon and that the provisions of that club's constitution have been observed.
- v. No club, individual or group, whether membership based or proprietorial, has a right to a particular place in Volleyball England's National League, entry for which is requested each competition season.
- vi. Any alterations to a club's Constitution are to be advised to the Volleyball England Hub on behalf of the Competitions Working Group within 14 days of such alteration and amendment.
- vii. All NVL correspondence will be forwarded to the relevant club and Team Secretaries named in [VolleyZone](#). Any club specific matters will be addressed to the club Secretary / Chairperson, as detailed on [VolleyZone](#).

Regulation A 10. Disputes

- i. The Competitions Working Group has the full authority to deal with disputes involving clubs, players, administrators and non-qualified person acting in the capacity of coach or referee, and to sanction clubs and their members, both playing and non-playing, when deemed to be in contravention of any of the NVL regulations or relevant codes of conduct.
- ii. A Competitions Working Group member has the delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the Competitions Working Group to facilitate the day to day running of a competition.
- iii. Where appropriate the Competitions Working Group member can impose fines and / or deadlines to facilitate the smooth running of a competition.

Regulation A 11. Match Venues

- i. Matches played in Men's and Women's Super League, Quarter Finals and Semi Finals of all Cup Competitions shall be played at venues approved by the Competitions Working Group. Clubs competing must obtain such approval from the Competitions Working Group where required.

Regulation A 12. NVL Mandatory Meeting

There will be a virtual mandatory meeting, all teams are required to have at least one attendee. The meeting will take place as specified in the VE NVL Timeline for the 2023-24 Season. Failure to attend will result in a fine of £100.

Section B. Organisation of Fixtures

Regulation B 1. Pre-playing Season Fixture Arrangements

Teams will be provided with the draft fixtures well in advance. Volleyball England reserves the right to host, or have hosted, any fixtures centrally, and these will be advised at the time of the draft fixture publication. On receipt of the draft fixtures, teams may enter mutual discussions and request agreed amendments to the proposed fixtures in [VolleyZone](#). Any such proposals must be formally agreed by both teams confirming the new date, time, and venue, in line with the NVL Timeline for the season. No fixture that is scheduled outside of those permitted will be accepted by VE unless accompanied by the formal agreement of the opposition. Any such changes will need to be approved by the Competitions Working Group, who shall seek to ensure that teams do not gain a competitive advantage by delaying matches, delaying the start or conclusion of the playing season, or a team playing significantly more, or less, matches than other teams in the Division by key dates.

No team entered in the Cup/Shield will arrange an NVL match onto any Cup/Shield date during the draft fixture process. Any matches being moved onto a Cup/Shield weekend require the approval of the Cup Lead. Match rearrangements during the playing season (e.g., due to adverse weather) will be considered by Divisional Leads considering the teams continued participation in the Cup/Shield. After the amended draft fixtures have been returned to the Volleyball England Hub, no other changes will be allowed except under very exceptional circumstances.

Regulation B 2. During the Playing 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 on the website.
- ii. Where a club has two or more teams in the same NVL Division, the Competitions Working Group reserves the right to schedule both fixtures between the teams as early in the playing season as possible.
- iii. Only under very exceptional circumstances, fixtures may be rearranged with prior consent of the appropriate Divisional Lead and the opposition. Any such proposals must be agreed in writing by both teams, and confirms the new date, time and venue. Requests for rearrangement must be made to the Divisional Working Group Lead at least 21 days prior to the original fixture date. Requests with less than 21 days' notice will only be considered in the most extreme circumstances. The Volleyball England Hub and the Referee Co-ordinator must be kept informed of the changes. Teams must be aware that sourcing Referees for changed fixtures may well be problematic and must be prepared to source their own. Requests to re-arrange a fixture due to holiday arrangements is not considered to be a very exceptional circumstance.
- iv. Where a team has 2 or more players involved in international competition, application may be made to the Competitions Working Group for rearrangement. Application must be made as soon as any conflict is known and, in any event, no later than 21 days prior to a match. It is stressed that this rearrangement is discretionary. This provision does not apply to International Beach fixtures.
- 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 Divisional Lead will specify a date on which the rearranged match will be played, or the original date will stand.

- vi. Where a fixture is postponed due to exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the teams, then any additional costs incurred in restaging the fixture shall be equally shared between the teams i.e., Sports hall costs, Referees and actual travel costs. Travel costs are to be based on travelling from your closest home venue.
- vii. Where match Referees were appointed by Volleyball England, and the date, time or venue is changed, the original home team becomes responsible for notifying those Referees and the NVL Officials Group Member of the change and for appointing suitable replacement Referees, if necessary. Such changes to date, time or venue must be approved in writing by the appropriate Divisional Lead. Normal Match Confirmation procedures will then apply.
- viii. Where a match is cancelled at short notice then the home team is responsible for ensuring the Officials are aware of the cancellation and communication has been received to acknowledge this. If the Referee travels to the match, then full remuneration shall be made as if the match took place.
- ix. Normally NVL fixtures cannot be played after the end of playing season date of 7th April 2024. Any such requests will be under truly exceptional circumstances and will be decided by the competitions working group.
- x. COVID is not normally seen as an exceptional circumstance.

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 playing season. A valid registration requires a player to register via [VolleyZone](#) for the appropriate NVL Player Registration. The player must also be aligned to their NVL Club, and the Club's specific Team Roster on [VolleyZone](#). 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 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](#) and from the Volleyball England Hub.
- iii. Clubs with more than one team may delay allocating their players to a specific Team Roster on [VolleyZone](#) until a week before their club's first match. However, players must all be registered by 1st September. It is the club's responsibility to ensure that the players are correctly registered on the Club's specific Team Roster for the team that they will play for in the NVL on [VolleyZone](#) before they play.
- iv. Players cannot be registered after 1st March during the playing season, except with the express approval of the appropriate Divisional Lead. (This will only be permitted in emergencies to enable games to take place e.g., where less than seven registered players are medically fit or are available to play. Written confirmation of registered players non-availability will be required before agreeing to an Emergency Registration). The [emergency registered player](#) will be eligible to play for the team for the remainder of the playing season but will not be able to play up for another team.
- v. In any competition season, no player may play for more than one club in the same competition unless they are officially transferred. Except under very exceptional circumstances a player may only transfer once during any NVL competition season. No player may play for different teams in a cup competition (Cup and Shield are a single competition), under any circumstances. Where clubs have two or more teams in the same competition, a player will become 'Cup tied' to the team they played their first cup match with, regardless of transfers and the playing up regulation. Transfer regulations apply to movement of players between different teams within the same club.
- vi. A junior player (Under 18 on 1st September of the current competition 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.
- vii. Teams can have up to 12 players and additionally up to 2 Liberos listed on their Team Sheet (there is no limit to the number of players registered on the Club's specific Team Roster on [VolleyZone](#)).
- viii. Player photos on [VolleyZone](#) must conform to [UK passport standards](#). Failure to meet this standard can lead to a fine of £10 per photo per match. Photos can be tested [here](#).
- ix. For the Super League, Player photos must be of the players wearing the same kit as the kit worn on the opening weekend. Photos must be high quality and zoomed in to show head, shoulders and team badge only, and must be produced on a white background.

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](#).

- ii. All Bench Personnel (including Coaches) must register with Volleyball England in the Club's specific Team Roster on [VolleyZone](#) for their team.
- iii. Only a registered Coach with Volleyball England will be able to undertake the role of Coach during a match.
- iv. Should a registered Coach with Volleyball England not be available at the match then the team captain shall assume the role Coach, in this scenario the team captain must be selected as a Team Official on the Team Sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)). Any other authorised Bench Personnel may act only as an Assistant Coach, with the associated restrictions and limitations of duties.
- v. Technical and professional personnel from one club are permitted to form the authorised Bench Personnel of another club, providing they are registered as authorised Bench Personnel for the team/club they are to assist on their specific Team Roster on [VolleyZone](#), so that they can be selected into the matchday Team Sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)), which must then be presented to the Scorer. Any Bench Personnel that are assisting at another club must have the written permission of their original club. To be able to assist another club, please email volleyzone@volleyballengland.org with the details, so that a dual membership for the other club can be applied to your account in [VolleyZone](#).
- vi. Registered players who wish to assist another team/club as Bench Personnel are required to hold a Bench Personnel registration for the team(s) they will be assisting on their specific Team Roster in [VolleyZone](#), so that they can be selected into the matchday Team Sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)), and this must be presented to the Scorer. To be able to assist another club, please email volleyzone@volleyballengland.org with the details, so that a dual membership for the other club can be applied to your account in [VolleyZone](#).

Regulation C 3. Transfers ([See Appendix A – Procedure for Player Transfers](#))

- i. Subject to the provisions below, players may transfer between clubs prior to 1st March each playing season. Only in exceptional circumstances will a player be allowed to transfer more than once during the NVL/K.O. Cup playing season. The NVL competition season shall run from 1st September to 31st August each year. Players who are playing up and reach 11 sets, are deemed to be automatically transferred to the higher team. It is the responsibility of the club to keep account of the number of sets each player plays up. This will also apply if this occurs after 1st March and will be an exception to the transfer deadline. Players having reached the maximum number of sets should be moved from one Team Roster to the other by the club in [VolleyZone](#).
- ii. Where a club has more than two teams playing in the NVL the player will be deemed to have transferred to the team for which they have played up most for. Players having reached the maximum number of sets should be moved from one Team Roster to the other by the club in [VolleyZone](#).
- iii. If a team or club withdraw from the NVL, its players are still deemed to belong to that club. Therefore, they need to transfer before being permitted to play for another club. This is to protect clubs and their assets.
- iv. Unless under contract, a player is deemed to become a free agent if they have not played in the NVL in the preceding two competition seasons and have no documented indebtedness to a previous NVL club. Teams are strongly advised to consult the available player registration information available from the [Volleyball England website](#) to confirm the status of a player.

- v. International Transfers;
- (1) Any player that has previously been registered (the player has been registered to play in a Volleyball competition (in either form) for a club, team, school or other volleyball entity) with another Volleyball Federation above the age of 14 before being registered with Volleyball England will require an International Transfer. International Transfers are bound by the Regulations set out by the FIVB. International Transfers can be initiated by the Volleyball England Hub or the Receiving club.
 - (2) Any team found to play anyone who does not have the 'approved' International Transfer certificate (ITC) for that team will forfeit any match 3-0 (25-0, 25-0, 25-0) and if applicable will lose match points gained from the match and may be fined in line with fines for forfeiting the fixture
 - (3) It is the responsibility of teams to ensure that any player requiring an International Transfer completes this before playing in the NVL.
 - (4) All Divisions within the NVL are bound by the FIVB International Transfer Regulations.
 - (5) Any team who play in any CEV European Competition are required to have International Transfers for all players that require them. This applies to all Volleyball England approved Competitions including the National Cup and Shield.

- vi. National Transfers;
- Clubs registering new players should always be aware of the possibility of the need to formally transfer, and should take the following steps:
- a) Establish from the player if they have ever been to any NVL club in the past. They may not have played, but could have registered, or simply been for training, and may have forgotten to return items.
 - b) If they have been at previous NVL club(s), which are still in existence, contact the Club and obtain confirmation that they are in good standing i.e., they do not owe the club anything and are able to register for the new club.
 - c) If they have been to previous NVL club(s), which are not in existence consult the available previous NVL registration data on the [Volleyball England website](#), and contact competitions@volleyballengland.org to clarify that no indebtedness or impediment has been lodged with the Volleyball England Hub.

Clubs playing ineligible players will be considered for disciplinary action. Clubs are advised to ensure they take all reasonable steps, as above, to ensure the eligibility of players being registered.

Players found to have documented indebtedness to previous NVL club(s), who seek current NVL registration, and who may not have provided the new club or Volleyball England with all material information may be liable to suspension from playing until the matter is resolved.

- vii. Transfers will not be allowed if any of the following circumstances apply:
- (1) The player is under valid contract to the current club unless that contract is terminated by mutual consent ([See CONTRACTS Appendix B](#)).
 - (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. Teams are advised to ensure that players are made fully aware of their commitments and fees due. These should be detailed in writing and signed by the player wherever possible to avoid any confusion or subsequent doubt arising.

- (3) The current club would be left with less than 8 available registered players during the NVL / K.O. Cup playing season.
- viii. A club having 2 or more teams competing in the NVL shall be entitled to transfer player(s) between teams. Players transferred to the lower team within a club after the start of the competition season cannot use the playing up regulation. Transferring would be achieved by the club transferring the player from one Team Roster to another and paying the required Transfer fee (in [VolleyZone](#)).
- ix. Any player wishing to leave their club to take up a different post at another club (i.e., Coach etc.), may do so only with the agreement of the club holding their registration, and abide by the transfer provisions. Disputes will be referred to Competitions Working Group for arbitration.

Section D. Preparation for Matches

Regulation D 1. The Home Team is responsible for:

- i. Arranging for the availability of the venue (facilities) – [see D1.v.](#) and the equipment – see [D1.vi.](#) For all Volleyball England competitions, only equipment deemed suitable, fit for purpose and safe, or which has FIVB approval may be used unless the Competitions Working Group gives prior agreement. The playing conditions must conform to those laid down in the current FIVB Official Volleyball Rule Book.
- ii. Booking a minimum period of three hours for single matches, five hours for a double header and seven hours for triangular matches. If less is booked and time runs out, the home team will forfeit the last match in which they played. If, after the recommended hours booked the matches have not been completed, the teams concerned will rearrange the outstanding fixture at an agreed venue and date approved by the Divisional Lead as acceptable to the teams involved. The teams involved will share total costs (i.e., the cost of travel of the away team, (from their closest home venue), the venue and Referees costs) of the new match equally. This ruling includes unfinished matches.
- iii. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the opposition, start times for matches must be:
 - (1) Single matches on Saturdays and Sundays
 - a. For Super League and Division 1 between 12:30 & 15:00hrs
 - b. For Division 2, 3 or K.O. Cup / Shield between 11:30 & 16:30hrs
 - (2) Double matches on Saturdays and Sundays between 11:30 & 14:00hrs
 - (3) Triangulars between 11:30 & 12:30hrs
- iv. The first referee shall decide upon the adequacy of the court and equipment at the time of the match.
- v. Facilities
 - (1) Court Surface – flat, smooth, non-slippery and safe
 - (2) Free Zone – minimum 3m around court with preferably 5m to rear
 - (3) Court Markings – correct, unbroken as per FIVB court layout
 - (4) Temperature – minimum 10°C
 - (5) Team Bench – size, and safely positioned
 - (6) Warm-up area – 3m x 3m, correctly positioned
 - (7) Spectator seating – available
- vi. Equipment
 - (1) Net – correct length (9.5-10m) depth (1m) mesh unbroken, correctly tensioned, height easily adjustable
 - (2) Sidebands – correctly positioned
 - (3) Antennae – correctly positioned
 - (4) Posts – smooth, safe and height adjustable
 - (5) Post Pads – correctly applied to posts (refer to [Section N – Minimum Operating Standards](#)).
 - (6) Balls – Only Mikasa approved FIVB balls must be used in all NVL competitions (see [NVL Accepted Balls](#)) (Two identical balls are required for a one ball system and 4 for a three ball system, See [FIVB Rules of the Game](#), page 16).
 - (7) 3 ball system – identical characteristics, where system used
 - (8) Visual scoreboard – operable
 - (9) Scoresheet – Volleyball England approved scoresheet
 - (10) Line Up Sheets – available

- (11) 2 sets of paddles – numbered 1-20 (refer to [Section N – Minimum Operating Standards](#))
- (12) Buzzer – available (refer to [Section N – Minimum Operating Standards](#))
- (13) Pressure Gauge – available
- (14) Ball Pump – available
- (15) Referee Stand – stable, safe, and adjustable
- (16) 4 x Line Judge flags (40 x 40cm) – available

Note: Failure to provide adequate equipment cannot be attributed to a sports centre or the staff thereof, it is the sole responsibility of the home team. Failings in the facilities are also the responsibility of the home team unless matters arise, exceptionally, during or in the days approaching a match that are outside the control of the venue. e.g., electrical, mechanical or safety failures.

Any delay to the start of a match attributed to lack of equipment, the home team will be penalised in accordance with regulation [E 5. Late Arrival](#); this does not apply to equipment failures during the Warm-up or the match; these shall be dealt with in accordance with the Rules of the Game as Exceptional Delays.

- vii. Supplying a competent Scorer and a visual scoreboard in all Divisions and at least two competent Lines Judges in Division 2 and above. All Technical Officials should be competent in the performance of their duties. The Scorer must be the same person throughout the match and must be present at least 30 minutes before the start of the match. Line Judges should be present at least 20 minutes prior to the start of the match. Failure to provide the Technical Officials will result in a minimum of a £10 fine for the first offence, £20 for the second offence, £30 for the third offence, and £30 for every subsequent offence thereafter.
- viii. Confirming in writing to the Secretary of the visiting team, the match Referees, the Volleyball England Hub and the Divisional Lead **at least 14 days**, and not more than 21 days (according to the email delivery receipt) prior to the date of the match, in the same email;
 - (1) The date of the match.
 - (2) The venue and travel directions for the match, for both public and private transport.
 - (3) The time of the availability of the court.
 - (4) The time of the start of the warm-up.
 - (5) The time of the start of the match.
 - (6) The names of the Referees; TBC is not acceptable; Away Teams must know who is scheduled to Officiate.
 - (7) Where the match is the 2nd match of a Double header (only two NVL League/Cup/Shield fixtures and *not* any other preceding match) then it must be made clear in the match confirmation that this is the case and that the match start time may be subject to delay based on the finish time of the previous match.
 - (8) Triangular matches will be played in the order set out on the website fixture list with the home team playing in the first and third matches unless mutually agreed in writing at least 10 days (according to the email delivery receipt) prior to the date of the match.
 - (9) Where confirmation is sent by e-mail, it should be acknowledged by the away team and the match officials. If the home team secretary does not get the

message acknowledged they should chase the confirmation using all other contacts available.

- (10) Any team failing to send the appropriate match confirmations shall be fined £10 per occurrence.
- ix. Any visiting Team Secretary or Referee who has not received confirmation within the stipulated time should contact the Volleyball England Hub or Divisional Lead for guidance.
 - x. The payment of any entrance fees at the venue for visiting teams and Referees. It is suggested that to avoid difficulties, Sports Centres should be contacted beforehand.

Regulation D 2. Playing kit

(Refer to [Section N – Minimum Operating Standards](#))

- i. Shirts – uniform colour/design, clean. Sleeve length may differ
- ii. Shorts – uniform colour/design. Shorts do not have to be numbered but all the team must wear the same (either all numbered, matching the shirt number or all without). Short lengths/styles may differ
- 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, black shorts, black cycling shorts.
- iv. Numbers – correctly positioned, contrasting colour to shirts (front & back) as per FIVB ruling. All shirt numbers must be numbered 1 – 20.
- v. Captain – identified by a stripe throughout the match (tape permissible).
- vi. Libero player – different coloured shirt, easily identifiable, numbered as part of team number sequence (1-99).
- vii. All teams are required to be in full match kit prior to the official warm-up at the net.

Regulation D 3. Expenses for Match Officials:

Expenses for Match Officials should be paid on the day, preferably by electronic transfer, or by electronic transfer within 3 Working Days of the match (i.e., by Thursday morning for a weekend match).

Per match	Super League	£30
	Div 1	£27
	Div 2	£27
	Div 3	£25
Matches 1 & 3 of a triangular	Div 2	£60
Matches 1 & 3 of a triangular	Div 3	£56
Cup	Rounds	£27
	Semis	£30
All Competitions Finals (except where Tournament fees apply)	Finals	£35
Volleyball England Tournament	Day Rate	£50

Note: Travel expenses are to be claimed as either actual expenses (public transport) or at current Volleyball England rate (£0.30 per mile private car). The fee for all 3 matches of a triangular is 3 times a single match fee.

Regulation D 4. Referees

- i. First Referee – qualified, registered
- ii. Second Referee – qualified, registered
- iii. Scorer – competent
- iv. Line Judges – competent
- v. Ball Retrievers – competent, preferably six, where used
- vi. The use of Referees who are directly connected with the teams playing is discouraged. Where used the connection should be noted in the confirmation to visiting teams. If requested a neutral referee should act as First Referee.
- vii. Where the NVL appointments Sub-Committee of the Officials Group has not appointed Referees for the match, the home team is responsible for appointing them, and should start this process after the playing season's fixtures and Referee appointments have been published. The Officials Group Appointment committee will continue to actively try and appoint Referees up to 4 weeks before the fixture is played; after that the home team is solely responsible for sourcing Officials, except in cases where the match is only confirmed within that 4-week window (e.g., re-arrangements or Cup and Shield Fixtures). Where a team appoints its own Referee, it must notify the NVL Officials Group Member that the appointment has been made. The Referee must sign up for a [VolleyZone](#) account as a non-panel Referee to enable them to be assigned to the match. They must then undertake the responsibilities assigned to a Referee. If the visiting team objects to the Referee appointments made by the home team, then this should be referred to the NVL Officials Group Member.
- viii. Teams are not permitted to cancel any Referee appointed by the NVL Appointment Sub-Committee and appoint their own.
- ix. Details of Referee appointments are available from [VolleyZone](#). Club / Team Secretaries must use the system when sending out appointment confirmations. Club / Team Secretaries are also responsible for ensuring that the details held on [VolleyZone](#) are correct and inform the NVL Officials Group Member or Volleyball England Hub as appropriate of any inaccuracies.
- x. In case of difficulty finding Referees the Secretary should contact the Regional Referee Co-ordinator and the NVL Officials Group Member with details of efforts made so far for advice and information. Evidence of the home teams' efforts to obtain referees must be made available to the Divisional Lead and the NVL Officials Group Member in case of a complaint.
- xi. Where only 2 Officials have been appointed to a Triangular Fixture, they will be expected to officiate all 3 matches. If the home team wishes to officiate the middle Fixture, then both Officials must be currently registered with VE, and the First Referee must be at least Grade 3 Regional.
- xii. If a home team has not been able to source two registered match officials, then they should notify their opponents, Divisional Lead and NVL Officials Group Member. Whilst it is always preferable to have registered officials it is recognised that there is insufficient referee availability on occasions. The home team should look to source a qualified referee to fulfil the fixture with someone who is not on the NVL Panel this competition season but may be officiating regularly in local leagues. Failing that the home team should source the most competent, experienced and suitable person e.g., player or coach, to act as second official, again advising opposition and Divisional Lead. The Referee must sign up for a [VolleyZone](#) account as a non-panel Referee to enable them to be assigned to the match. They must then undertake the responsibilities assigned to a Referee.

Note. Referees who hold referee qualifications from other countries may become 'Volleyball England recognised' after applying to the Officials Working Group Lead. For Overseas equivalency enquiries, please follow the information on the [Volleyball England website](#).

Regulation D 5. Cup Fixtures

- i. The Officials Group will endeavour to appoint the 1st and 2nd referees to K.O. Cup and Shield matches.
- 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.
- iii. If a home team has not been able to source two registered match officials, then they should notify their opponents, Divisional Lead and NVL Officials Group Member. Whilst it is always preferable to have registered officials it is recognised that there is insufficient referee availability on occasions. The home team should look to source a qualified referee to fulfil the fixture, someone who is not on the NVL Panel this competition season but may be officiating regularly in local leagues. Failing that the home team should source the most competent, experienced and suitable person e.g., player or coach, to act as second official. Again, advising opposition and relevant Competitions Lead. The Referee must sign up for a [VolleyZone](#) account as a non-panel Referee to enable them to be assigned to the match. They must then undertake the responsibilities assigned to a Referee.
- iv. The Competitions Working Group reserves the right to stage Semi-Final matches at a central venue. Where this option is exercised, all teams will be advised before the Quarter Final stage. Teams involved in the Semi-Finals may be required to pay a supplementary levy.

Section E. Arrangements at Matches

Regulation E 1. Regulations of play

- i. All matches will be played to the best of five sets (unless altered by the Competitions Working Group prior to the match date).
- ii. The Rules of the Game that will apply to all competitions will be those currently issued by the [FIVB](#). In the event of a Regulation change being required in any competition, the Competitions Working Group must first give agreement.
- iii. Except in exceptional circumstances, and with the express approval of the Officials Working Group, the Referees must hold recognised qualifications and be registered with Volleyball England.

Regulation E 2. Golden Set

- i. Where Competitions Working Group have directed that a 2-legged match will be decided by a Golden Set then the following will be applied;
- ii. A Golden Set will only be played where each leg has been won by a different team. This is irrespective of any set or points difference between the 2 legs.
- iii. The Divisional Lead is to ensure that the Referee of the Second Leg knows who won the First Leg, so the requirement of the Golden Set may be determined.
- iv. The interval between the end of the Second Leg and the Golden Set shall be 5 minutes.
- v. The Golden Set shall be played as if it were the 5th Set of a normal game, i.e., first to 15 points with an advantage of 2. All other rules relating to a 5th Set shall be applied to the Golden Set.
- vi. Any sanctions applied in the Second Leg shall carry forward to the Golden Set.
- vii. The Golden Set Scoresheet is to be used – any players or Team Officials sanctions by Disqualification in the Second Leg may not take part in the Golden Set, neither may any player who left the Second Leg through injury.
- viii. Equally any player or Team Official serving a suspension during the Second Leg may not take part in the Golden Set.

Regulation E 3. The Schedule

- i. The times listed on the Volleyball England website specify 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.
- ii. Triangular Match Schedule.
 - (1) The following will apply to matches that are headed accordingly in the match schedule:
 - (2) A v B in accordance with schedule e.g., 12:00 warm-up, 12:30 match start
 - (3) B v C ready for warm-up to commence no later than 1 hour after the first match advertised start time, e.g., 13:30 warm-up, 14:00 match start.
 - (4) A v C ready for warm-up to commence no later than 2 hours after the first match scheduled start time, e.g., 14:30 warm-up, 15:00 match start.
- iii. In the event that on arrival at the venue there has been a mistake with the venue booking then the home team has 1 Hour in which to arrange for the match warm-up to start at that venue or another one. If it is a Triangular Fixture, then the first match is defaulted after 1 Hour and they have a further 30 minutes to allow the warm-up of the Second match. If the home team is unable to book the requisite amount of time for the scheduled fixture(s) any uncompleted matches will be awarded to the opposition.

Note: As the home team alone is responsible for the venue and equipment, venue changes, double bookings, missing equipment will not normally be considered to be outside the control of the team.

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 Lead immediately. Should a fixture not be played then the Divisional Lead shall consider the available evidence and rule as to whether the match should be replayed, forfeited, declared null and void and any sanctions applicable.
- ii. Where a problem arises on match day or on the way to the match, the team must make every effort to contact the opposition and Divisional Lead to explain and resolve the problem.
- iii. Where a team is delayed by factors that are wholly out of a team's control (e.g., public transport breakdown on the day) and can be backed up by professional and independent reports of confirmation (e.g., Public transport company, Police, Motoring organisation, MET Office) indicating driving conditions and advice, this can be considered by the Divisional Lead as an extenuating circumstance. However, every attempt must be made to travel and play matches as scheduled. Additional travel time requirements would not be a reason not to play, and teams cannot “postpone” matches without the approval of the relevant Divisional Lead. Delays such as traffic problems, vehicle breakdowns (unless by public transport) are not normally considered as factors outside of a team’s control. Teams are expected to inform the Divisional Lead, the home team and the Referees of the delay as soon as possible.
- 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.
- v. If a fixture or competition is cancelled by Volleyball England then any expenses incurred by the participating Teams or Referees will not be refunded.

Regulation E 5. Late arrival

Providing the court is available, and one team is ready to commence play

- i. Any team failing to appear on court, ready to commence play, within 20 minutes of the published start time shall forfeit the first set. The set shall be lost 25-0. The time available up to the 20 minutes may be available for warm-up subject to agreement from the team already present and ready to play (who will have already warmed up for up to 30 minutes).
- ii. The second set shall commence 20 minutes later; i.e., 40 minutes after the published start time. A team arriving between the start times shall be able to use the available time for warm-up. If a team is not on court ready to play 40 minutes after the published start time, then they shall lose the second set 25-0.
- iii. The third set shall commence 20 minutes later; i.e., 60 minutes after the published start time. A team not on court ready to play at that time shall lose the third set 25-0, and thus loses the match 3-0.
- iv. The defaulting team may forfeit the match, be fined and lose league points consequently.
- v. The time should be taken from the referees if there is a dispute between teams over the exact time.

Note: If a team arrives (ready to play) 19 minutes after the official match start time they are still entitled to play the first set, but they forgo their warm-up, if however, the team arrives (ready to play) 20 minutes or later, after the official match time that team loses the first set 25-0. The late team could use the remaining minutes as warm-up before starting the second set if play commences within the 40 minutes of the scheduled match start time.

Regulation E 6. The Players

- i. Only players who are correctly registered with Volleyball England via [VolleyZone](#) may play in competitions.

Guidance on gender eligibility in Volleyball England competitions can be found in [Volleyball England's Transgender Policy](#).

Referees are not expected to prevent a player playing if the team believes him/her to be correctly registered, providing that the player's identity can be proven by suitable photographic identification. Should such a player play, this is at the team's own risk, since playing with an ineligible player will lead to forfeiting the match ([see v below](#)).

- 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 Liberos, their shirts do not have to match each other. In all respects, kit must conform to Volleyball England Official Volleyball Rules requirements. Referees are empowered to prevent players from taking part in a match if they do not comply with this rule. If, however, the referee does allow the player to participate it should be indicated on the scoresheet.
- iii. Teams may register players on the day of the game via [VolleyZone](#), providing that NVL Transfer and International Transfer regulations are adhered to. Players must be added to the Club's specific Team Roster for that team (or to another NVL Team within the Club, if Playing up) to be available to be selected on a Team Sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)).
- iv. NVL Player and Bench Personnel registration details as confirmed in the matchday Team Sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)) 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 (produced in [VolleyZone](#)) must be presented for every match.
- v. Any team found to have used ineligible players shall forfeit all matches in which such players have participated.
- vi. If a player is not physically present at the start of the match, when Referees check the identity of the players the following shall apply:
 - (1) Notice of the expected late arrival shall be given to the First Referee before the match begins.
 - (2) A player or coach who arrives during the match may not take part in the set in progress; they may, however, be permitted to play/ coach in subsequent sets once their arrival has been properly recorded and their identity checked.
 - (3) If the expected player or coach does not arrive, this name should be deleted from the scoresheet.

vii. Playing Up

- (1) A club, having two or more teams competing in the NVL, once having nominated players to its Team Rosters identifying which team each player belongs, shall be entitled to play a lower team player in that club's higher team for up to (and including) 11 sets during the current competition season (i.e., an appearance in that set whether for 1 point or the whole set and if a Libero player, whether they enter the court or not) without the necessity of transfer. It is the club's responsibility to notify both Referees and Scorer before the start of the match as to which players are involved. If a player is found to have played for the lower team after passing the 11-set threshold, then that player will be considered an ineligible player and the team will forfeit the game. During the current competition season, any player playing up who reaches 11 sets, or more, during a match, will be deemed to be transferred to the higher team. This will also apply to matches after 1st March.
- (2) There is no restriction on the number of sets a junior player may play up (A player is deemed a junior if they are under the age of 18 on September 1st of the current competition season).
- (3) Note: 'Playing up' does not constitute a transfer, until 11 sets are reached. Cup tie provisions apply in all K.O. Cups.
- (4) A club having more than one team in the same division cannot use the playing up regulation. To change teams will require an official National transfer. This transfer will require the Club to move the player from on Team Roster to another and for the National Transfer Fee to be paid.
- (5) When a player is deemed to be transferred by the playing up regulation, they may no longer play up again for the remainder of the competition season.
- (6) Teams must inform the Referees and Scorer of the fact that a player is playing up and the number of sets that have already been played up (unless a junior).
- (7) The Scorers must record the playing up details on the Scoresheet.
- (8) The 1st Referee must record the playing up details in [VolleyZone](#) following the match.

Regulation E 7. Other team Officials

- i. At all Volleyball England matches, a team shall nominate a Coach for the match. This can be either a Coach, who must be registered with Volleyball England as a Coach, or a playing member (of that team). They must be added to the Club's specific Team Roster, and then selected as a Team Official on the Team Sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)). Their name and registration number shall appear legibly on the scoresheet. Only a registered Coach with Volleyball England shall be recorded as Coach on the scoresheet and must present their Bench Personnel details.
- ii. In the absence of a registered Coach then the Team Captain shall assume the role. In this instance, the Team Captain must be added as a Team Official on the Team Sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)). Any other authorised Bench Personnel will only be able to act as Assistant Coach, with the associated restrictions and limitations.
- iii. A Coach from a team who wishes to act as Coach for another team must be as registered as a Bench Personnel for that team by being added to that Club's specific Team Roster, and then be selected as a Team Official on the Team Sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)). To be able to assist another club, please email volleyzone@volleyballengland.org with the details, so that a dual membership for the other club can be applied to your account in [VolleyZone](#).
- iv. Only team players and authorised Bench Personnel who are presented on the Team Sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)) may sit on the team bench during the match.

- v. All parties on a team bench are subject to the disciplinary code of the game and must have appropriate registration details present.
- vi. The nominated Coach must produce their coach registration details at all matches.
- vii. For all Cup Finals and Super League Finals all Team Officials requiring to sit on the bench must be suitably attired, i.e., Smart, Casual, **no Jeans**, matching training suits, suitable footwear i.e., Trainers, Shoes, no flip flops or open toe Sandals.

Regulation E 8. Match Officials

- i. Should only one of the appointed Referees arrive for the match, they will appoint a person to act as the second Referee. They will do this from any available persons based on qualification, registration, and competence.
- ii. Should neither of the appointed Referees arrive the home team will provide both Referees for the match, and the match will be played. The responsibility for selection of Referees under these circumstances' rests with the home team only. Again, the most appropriate persons must be appointed considering qualification, current registration, competence, and experience. A full report of the events should be sent to the Volleyball England Hub and the result will be considered by the Competitions Working Group, in the light of qualifications/experience of the Referees used. Should a rematch be decided upon, the expenses may be borne by Volleyball England where Volleyball England appointed the Referees or by the home team where the home team were responsible for appointing the Referees.
- iii. Where any qualified Referee fails to appear at a match, then the home team shall, within 7 days, send a report to the Divisional Lead and the NVL Referee Liaison. Where an appointed referee fails to appear for a match without prior notice, this should be recorded on the scoresheet. Where an appointed official withdraws from a fixture, after giving notice, it is the responsibility of the home team to re-appoint Referees, after consultation with Officials Working Group.
- iv. The scorer must be available 30 minutes prior to the match start time and complete the whole match. The team lists on the scoresheet must be fully completed by the time the captains are called for the toss (at least 16 minutes before first service time). The scorer must complete the scoresheet before it is presented to officials for signature at the end of the match.

Regulation E 9. Bad Weather

- i. In the event of bad weather, teams should make every effort to play their fixtures whilst taking responsibility for their own safety. If either team feels they are unable to complete the fixture they must ensure they have professional and independent evidence (e.g., Weather (MET Office), Public transport company, Police, Motoring organisation, Sports Hall) indicating travel conditions and advice or hall closure notice. Teams are expected to call and email the opposition, the Referees and the relevant Divisional Lead as soon as possible and at the same time agree a date for the match to take place.

Section F. After the Match

Regulation F 1. Scoresheet and Match Day protocol

The 1st Referee will be required to;

- i. Notify by email the Volleyball England Hub via competitions@volleyballengland.org, Result Co-ordinator via ve.resultsservice@btinternet.com, the Referee Co-ordinator and the Divisional / Cup Lead if the match did not take place or that the match was unfinished.
- ii. Take a photo of the scoresheet and upload it through the [VolleyZone](#) (SportLoMo) Game Official App, by 10pm.
- iii. Submit the match scores (including set scores), and provide information on sanctions, Playing Up and MVPs, by 10pm.

The home team will be required to;

- i. Keep the hard copy of the scoresheet until the start of the following competition season in case of any queries.

If the appointed match official does not turn up on the day, then the photo of the scoresheet should be emailed to Volleyball England Hub via competitions@volleyballengland.org, Result Co-ordinator via ve.resultsservice@btinternet.com.

If there are any discrepancies with the results, please contact competitions@volleyballengland.org.

Note: This is required so that results can be passed onto the press etc., and so that league tables etc. may be kept up to date.

Section G. Penalties, Protests and Appeals

It is anticipated that teams will abide by both the letter and the spirit of these competition regulations, and the Official Volleyball Rules and that defeat will not be an excuse for making a complaint.

Before making any decision, Competitions Working Group members, must declare an interest in any matter that they are remotely associated with.

Following the decision of the relevant Divisional Lead, all parties have a right to appeal the decision. [See G 6.](#)

Regulation G 1. Penalties

- i. Penalties can be applied to all breaches of the regulations. Where not actually stipulated in the regulations, the penalty will be determined by the Competitions Lead, for the event.
- ii. In the Super League Divisions, breaches which result in a game not being played and/or forfeited will have a minimum fine of £500 and a review by the Competitions Working Group, as to the future of that team within the League. The defaulting team can also be deducted 3 league points.
In Divisions 1, 2 and 3, breaches which result in the fixture not being played and/or forfeited can have a minimum fine of £100 for a first offence, £200 for a second and any subsequent offence and a review by the Competitions Working Group, as to future of that team.
In Divisions 1, 2 and 3 where a team fails to play either of its last two fixtures of the playing season the fine can be £200 (A set of triangular matches equals one fixture).
- iii. In the Super League Divisions, breaches of safety conditions where the referee allows the game to take place will have a maximum fine of £500.
In Divisions 1, 2 and 3, breaches of safety conditions where the referee allows the game to take place will have a maximum fine of £100.
- iv. In the Super League Divisions, breaches that bring the game into disrepute will have a minimum fine of £250.
In Divisions 1, 2 and 3, breaches that bring the game into disrepute will have a minimum fine of £50.
- v. In the Super League Divisions, breaches which interfere with the running of the event will have a maximum fine of £250.
In Divisions 1, 2 and 3, breaches which interfere with the running of the event will have a maximum fine of £50.
- vi. In the Super League Divisions, administrative failures will incur a fine of £100 for each offence.
In Divisions 1, 2 and 3, administrative failures will incur a fine of £20 for each offence. Administrative fines will be notified by the Volleyball England Hub.
- vii. Failure to pay any fine levied within the timescale stated will be reported to the Competitions Working Group, who will consider imposing further sanctions including, but not limited to, financial penalties, points deduction, relegation or expulsion from the NVL.
- viii. Should, during the competition season, a team be issued with a fine an invoice will be sent to the team via email addressed to the Team Secretary. This must be paid within 21 days from the date on the invoice.

Regulation G 2. Administrative Disputes

Disputes relating to administrative matters and interpretation of competition regulations shall be the responsibility of the Competitions Working Group.

- i. Disputes arise only where teams are unable to resolve difficulties amicably between themselves, and they are urged to make every endeavour to do so. It is intended that matches should be decided on the court of play. Therefore, in all but the most exceptional administrative cases, and unless a penalty is otherwise stipulated, any team found to have broken the regulations will be fined, and their match result may stand. However, teams must be aware that breaches of the Regulations may mean forfeiture of matches.
- ii. The Competitions Working Group, however, has the right to deduct points, fine and suspend any team should the situation warrant it.

Regulation G 3. Technical Disputes

Those relating to the match itself under areas covered by the match Referees.

- i. If, prior to the start of a match, a dispute arises, this should be noted on the scoresheet by the Scorer (under the direction of the first referee) in the 'remarks' section before the match commences. If no such entry is made, it is assumed that up to that point all events and conditions are satisfactory. The referee may also note at this point any breaches of competition regulations.
- ii. If, during a match, a dispute arises, the first referee's decision is final. Any legitimate protest is to be recorded on the scoresheet after the end of the match by the scorer (under the direction of the first referee).
- iii. All disputes must be referred in writing to the Volleyball England Hub as soon as possible prior to the scheduled match date, or within five days after the match took place. Disputes beyond this period shall not be entertained.
- iv. A party to a match wishing to make a protest to the Volleyball England Hub must also copy their protest to their opponents and the referees, within five working days of the match, so that they may give their account.
- v. Following the submission of these documents a decision on the dispute will be made by the Competitions Lead responsible.
- vi. Any party that disagrees with the decision of the Competitions Lead has the right to Appeal the decision.

Regulation G 4. Remarks on the Scoresheet

- i. Comments relating in any way to the competence of the match Referees must not be recorded on the scoresheet.
- ii. Any complaints about the competence of the officials must be forwarded within 5 days of the match:
 - (1) Where the Official(s) is/are unqualified, the relevant Competitions Lead will deal with the dispute.
 - (2) Where the Official(s) is/are qualified then any protest will be dealt with by the Officials Working Group. Any comments should be sent to the Volleyball England Hub.

Regulation G 5. Protests

- i. All disputes must be referred in writing to the Volleyball England Hub as soon as possible prior to the scheduled match date, or within five days after the match took place or when the decision was made. Disputes beyond this period shall not be entertained.
- ii. A party to a match wishing to make a protest to the Volleyball England Hub must also copy their protest to their opponents and the referees, within five working days of the match, so that they may give their account.
- iii. Following the submission of these documents a decision on the dispute will be made by the relevant Competitions Lead responsible.
- iv. Only disputes regarding the technical application of the Regulations and Rules will be considered. This does not cover the award of Red Cards.
- v. Any party that disagrees with the decision of the relevant Competitions Lead has the right to Appeal the decision.

Regulation G 6. Appeals

An appeal will only be considered if (acting reasonably) that one or more of the following grounds has been met:

- The decision of the relevant body was based on error of fact or could not have reasonably been reached by a relevant body when faced with the evidence before it;
- There was injustice because of a serious procedural or other irregularity in the proceedings before or during the relevant body; and/or
- The sanction imposed by the relevant body was manifestly unreasonable in the light of the facts presented to the body.

If significant and relevant new evidence has come to light which was not available before the conclusion of the findings from the relevant body but, had it been available, may have caused the relevant body to reach a materially different decision then the matter should first be re-visited by the relevant body before referral:

- i. On filing an appeal with the Volleyball England Hub against the decision of a Competitions Lead, a copy of the appeal shall be sent to any other affected party at the time of submission. A deposit of £100 must be paid when lodging any appeal, with such deposit to be returned if the appeal is successful. The Volleyball England Hub should give out the relevant documents to each affected party. No appeal will be considered unless a copy of the appeal submission and the £100 deposit is received by Volleyball England within the 14-day deadline.
- ii. The Volleyball England Hub will issue written confirmation of acceptance of the appeal.
- iii. The Competitions Working Group will respond within 5 working days with details of the hearing, which will normally be a minimum of a further 10 days hence, to enable any documents to be submitted and circulated.
- iv. The appeal should be heard by the Competitions Working Group within 28 days of receipt, and such appeal shall be chaired by the Competitions Working Group Lead, or their appointed deputy, and each Divisional Lead shall be able to ask any party questions concerning the subject of the appeal.
- v. The appeal panel will normally consist of at least 3 Competitions Working Group members who will either sit in person or by conference call. In exceptional circumstances the panel may sit with two Competitions Working Group Leads. Any Lead with a personal or prejudicial interest will not be allowed to sit on the panel.
- vi. Any party to an appeal shall have the right to an oral hearing (face to face or via conference call).

- vii. Any party wishing to refer to any document or letter shall submit copies of such items to all parties concerned at least 7 days prior to the appeal being heard. All parties will have a right to reply within a deadline of 3 days
- viii. At the end of the appeal hearing, the Chair shall announce the decision, but shall be entitled to reserve the decision for further consideration and later announcement/communication to the parties.
- ix. Failure to comply with these procedures may result in a further fine being imposed by the Competitions Working Group.
- x. No appeals of any description whatsoever shall be considered unless filed within 14 days of notification of the original decision and the relevant deposit paid. Original decisions are those made by the relevant Lead at the time and on the available information. Once the decision is made no further information will be considered, nor decisions reviewed, except under appeal. Therefore, teams are reminded that they must submit all information for consideration when asking for a Divisional Lead ruling.

Regulation G 7. 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 1. Sanctions

The first Referee will ensure that all sanctions issued to players, coaches and authorised bench personnel are recorded on the scoresheet.

Regulation H 2. Disqualification

In the case of expulsion or disqualification, the first referee will submit a full report (RC9) to the Volleyball England Hub and to the NVL Officials Group Member after the match.

Regulation H 3. Penalty Points

(These do not apply to delay sanctions)

- i. A player, coach or authorised bench personnel who receives a penalty for misconduct (red card) will be charged 3 disciplinary points.
- ii. A player, coach or authorised bench personnel who is expelled (red and yellow card jointly) for repetition of a misconduct offence during the match will be charged 5 disciplinary points.
- iii. A player, coach or authorised bench personnel who is expelled (red and yellow card jointly) for a single offence during the match will be charged 5 disciplinary points.
- iv. A player, coach or authorised bench personnel who is expelled (red and yellow card jointly) following a penalty for a different offence during a match will be charged 5 disciplinary points. These five points are in addition to the 3 disciplinary points where a person has received a previous penalty.
- v. A player, coach or authorised bench personnel who is disqualified (red and yellow card separately) during a match will be charged 9 disciplinary points. Where disqualification results from aggressive conduct, these 9 points will add to any previous disciplinary points received during the match. If disqualification occurs because of other misconduct following an expulsion, the 9 points will replace the 5 points awarded for expulsion.
- vi. If disqualification occurs due to aggression, then a minimum 1 match suspension will be incurred. This matter will then be automatically referred to the Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee ([See Regulation H7](#))

Regulation H 4. Suspensions

- i. The following penalties shall apply when a player, coach or authorised bench personnel accumulates disciplinary points in the same competition season:
8 disciplinary points - 1 match suspension
16 disciplinary points - a further 3 match suspension
It is the team's responsibility to ensure that suspended players do not participate in matches.
- ii. The points are cumulative during the competition season and anyone receiving additional disciplinary points shall have their case reviewed by the Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee. The Sub Committee shall be entitled to impose further penalties, as it deems appropriate. The Sub Committee may require the attendance at an appropriate meeting of any player, coach or authorised bench personnel concerned. Equally, the person concerned has the right to attend or be represented at any meeting discussing their case.

- iii. A Player, Coach or Authorised Bench Personnel shall have the right of appeal to the Competitions Working Group from the decision of the Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee.
- iv. Player suspensions apply to the next fixture played in any competition covered by these regulations. All matches in which a suspended person participated will be forfeited. Such suspensions must be for either the same team or, if transferred, the new team in such competitions. The onus rests with the team to ensure that the suspension is served correctly.
- v. In the case of triangular fixtures, both matches will count as one fixture and the suspension will take effect in the first match of the next fixture.
- vi. Coaches and Authorised Bench Personnel who receive suspensions will serve their ban in their next scheduled League / Cup match with the team they accumulated the points with regardless of their role within that team.
Note: Any person who is required to serve a suspension cannot attend the suspended match(es) under another team role (e.g., a Coach/Bench Personnel who is serving a suspension cannot attend the suspended match as a player and vice versa)
- vii. Disciplinary points shall not carry forward from one competition season to the next. If suspensions must be served and there is no opportunity to do so in the current competition season, then such suspension shall be served in the next available match/matches of the following competition season.

Regulation H 5. Illegal Approaches

- i. No official from any other club shall approach a player with a view to inducing them to leave that club, unless permission has been granted in writing by a duly authorised representative of the club for which the player is currently contracted or registered.
- ii. This restriction applies to all club Officials, including coaches and players or other persons acting on behalf of or purporting to act on behalf of a club. Infringements of this regulation will be referred to the Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee as being liable to bring the game into disrepute and may be dealt as misconduct.
- iii. The Competitions Working Group shall receive any allegations of breaches of this regulation. The Competitions Working Group shall have the right to seek evidence and testimony from all parties involved, and a record of all complaints made shall be kept and reviewed.
- iv. Where it is felt there is a case to answer, it shall be referred to the Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee for investigation and resolution. Sanctions may include reprimand, fine or suspension. No transfer will be approved until the conclusion of the disciplinary process.
- v. Coaches are reminded of their obligations under their [Code of Conduct](#).
- vi. If a player approaches a club seeking transfer, without having requested to leave their club, the club which the player seeks to join must notify the existing club of the player concerned in writing within 7 days. An infringement of this regulation would be referred to the Disciplinary Sub Committee as being liable to bring the game into disrepute.

Regulation H 6. Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee

- i. The Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee shall consist of members nominated by the Competitions Working Group and/or the Officials Working Group. A member of Competitions Working Group shall chair the Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee.

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/K.O. 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.
- ii. The Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee, Competitions Working Group or Volleyball England Disciplinary Committee is empowered to discipline any registered player, coach, club, team, or team follower. The penalties imposed shall be within the absolute discretion of the Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee, Competitions Working Group as appropriate.
- iii. Club Officials and NVL Referees must respond, within a reasonable specified period of time, to legitimate requests for information made by the Volleyball England Hub, Competitions Working Group or Officials Group when conducting preliminary investigations. Failure to do so may result in a fine and will be taken into consideration when complaints and appeals are being considered.
- iv. The Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee shall be entitled in its absolute discretion to impose penalties for the following:
 - (1) Aggressive behaviour to players/spectators
 - (2) Aggressive behaviour towards Referees
 - (3) Threatening behaviour
 - (4) Abusive conduct
 - (5) Behaviour likely to undermine the authority of match Referees
 - (6) Conduct likely to bring the game into disrepute
- v. In the event of the Competitions Disciplinary Sub Committee considering alleged behaviour as above, then the player/coach/club official/ spectator may be required to attend a disciplinary hearing.
- vi. There shall be a right of appeal to the Volleyball England Disciplinary Committee of any decision made by the Competitions Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
 - (1) If the reason for the sanction is safeguarding, then the sanction remains in place until after the appeal is finalised.
 - (2) For other circumstances the sanction maybe suspended if requested in writing however if the appeal is unsuccessful then the sanction will be increased.

Section I. End of NVL Playing Season

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

Regulation I 2. National League positions

- i. In all Divisions, three points will be awarded to the team winning a match should the score be 3-0 or 3-1. Two points will be awarded to the winning team and one point to the losing team should the score be 3-2.
- ii. In the event of a tie at the end of the playing season in any division, the teams will be classified in the order of:
 - (1) Set quotient; number of total sets won / number of total sets lost
 - (2) Point's quotient; number of total points scored / number of total points conceded (during all sets)
- iii. If two teams are still tied, they will be classified in terms of the matches between the two teams.

Post NVL Playing Season

Regulation I 3. Super League Playoffs

- i. Dates of all playoff matches will be detailed in the Volleyball England calendar.
- ii. The hosts / venue for playoff matches will be selected by Volleyball England following an application process and submissions made by the Super League Teams. If a host is not found, Volleyball England reserves the right to host, amend the Playoffs, or cancel them, as required.
- iii. The top 4 teams in the Super League at the end of the Regular Season Division will take part in the Super League Playoffs.
- iv. Where a host Super League Team does not finish in the top 4 teams in the Regular Season Division, Volleyball England reserves the right to replace the 4th Placed Team from the Regular Season Division with the selected host Super League Team.
- v. The Playoffs will have the following format, Semi-Finals played on the Saturday (1st vs 4th and 2nd vs 3rd based on the Regular Season Division finishing positions), Medal matches played on the Sunday (Bronze medal (loser of SF1 vs loser SF2), and Gold medal (winner of SF1 vs winner of SF2)).
- vi. The order of matches will be confirmed by Volleyball England ahead of the event.
- vii. Matches will be played at the venue of the selected host with the costs shared between the teams in line with the agreement made with the selected host Super League team by Volleyball England.

Regulation I 4. Promotion and Relegation

This regulation covers all NVL Divisions, Men and Women. Promotion and Relegation Playoff matches will be played at a central venue organised by Volleyball England with the costs shared between the teams. Promotion and relegation is as follows:

- i. Dates of all play-off matches will be detailed in the Volleyball England calendar.
- ii. If a team does not wish to accept promotion, they must formally apply to the CWG for their consideration. This will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances and must always be a last resort.
- iii. Any scenarios not mentioned will be at the discretion of the appropriate Divisional Leads.

- iv. **Men's and Women's Super League**
 - a. The winners of the Super League will be the team that wins the Super League Playoffs.
 - b. The winners of the Regular Season Division will win be recognised for their achievement.
 - c. The team finishing 10th will be relegated to Division 1.
 - d. The team finishing 9th will playoff against the 2nd placed team in Division 1. The winner will play in the Super League the following season and the losers in Division 1.
 - e. In the unlikely event that winning team of Division 1 applies for permission to not accept promotion and the CWG grants this, the 9th placed team will playoff against the 2nd & 3rd place teams in Division 1. The top two teams will play in the Super League in following season and the loser in Division 1.
- v. **Men's and Women's Division 1**
 - a. The winners of the Division will be promoted to the Super League for the following season.
 - b. The team finishing 2nd will play off against the 9th placed team in the Super League. The winner will play in the Super League in the following season and the losers in Division 1.
 - c. The teams finishing 8th, 9th & 10th will be relegated to Division 2.
 - d. In the unlikely event that a winning team applies for permission to not accept promotion and the CWG grants this, the 3rd placed team will be given the opportunity to play off in a triangular against the team finishing 9th in the Super League & 2nd place team in Division 1. The top two teams will play in the Super League in the following season and the loser in Division 1.
 - e. In the unlikely event that a winning team from Division 2 applies for permission to not accept promotion and the CWG grants this, the 8th placed team in Division 1 will playoff against the 2nd placed team in the corresponding Division 2, with the winner of the playoff playing in Division 1 for the following season and the loser in Division 2.
- vi. **Men's and Women's Division 2**
 - a. The winners of each Division will be promoted to Division 1 for the following season.
 - b. In the unlikely event that a winning team from Division 2 applies for permission to not accept promotion and the CWG grants this, the 8th placed team in Division 1 will playoff against the 2nd placed team in the corresponding Division 2, with the winner of the playoff playing in Division 1 for the following season and the loser in Division 2.
 - c. The teams finishing 7th, 8th (and 9th for Women's 2 South) will be relegated to Division 3 for the following season.
 - d. In the unlikely event that a winning team from Division 3 applies for permission to not accept promotion and the CWG grants this, another place will be available for the corresponding Division 3 in the Division 3 promotion playoffs.
- vii. **Men's and Women's Division 3**
 - a. The winners of the Division will be promoted to Division 2 for the following season.
 - b. The 2nd place teams in the Divisions will playoff against the other 2nd placed teams in the Division for the remaining 2 places in Division 2. Two teams will be promoted to Division 2, and the other 2 teams will remain in Division 3.
 - c. In the unlikely event that a relevant winning team from Division 3 applies for permission to not accept promotion and the CWG grants this, an extra Playoff

place will be available to the corresponding Division 3 Division and an extra promotion place will be available for the next highest playoff team.

- viii. Should teams drop out of any of the Divisions during the competition season, then the Competitions Working Group reserves the right to alter the Promotion/Relegation regulations e.g., to cancel a play-off if not required.

League Structure for following Season

- ix. If teams do not fill their respective places in the NVL in the following season, the Competitions Working Group will fill those places with existing teams.
- x. If the playing season has completed normally then usually these gaps will be filled from teams from the lower division (however the competitions working group reserve the right to alter this if in their sole opinion this is unreasonable).
- xi. if the playing season has not completed normally then usually these gaps will be filled from teams that were previously in the higher division (however the competitions working group reserve the right to alter this if in their sole opinion this is unreasonable).
- xii. In the lowest division due teams entering and leaving there is often a need to rebalance the league geographically and numerically. Therefore, teams may find themselves in a different division that they might have expected. The CWG works hard to make this difficult decision based on geography, travel time, travel distance to make it as fair as possible on average for all teams and sometimes this means one team will end up with more travel but overall, for all teams there is less. Teams do not have the right to appeal in this case.
- xiii. All teams in a promotion position must take their place in the appropriate division if permitted to do so by other regulations. However, in exceptional circumstances the Competitions Working Group may review the situation if a written submission is received by 1st May during the current competition season.

Regulation I 5. European Competition Entry

- i. If teams are considering entering European Competitions, teams must indicate their intention in writing to the Competitions Working Group by 1st May.

Section J. Regulations for Specific Competitions

Regulation J 1. Volleyball England K.O. Cup

- i. Entry is included for all NVL teams and is open to all affiliated clubs.
- ii. Clubs are to ensure that they keep the scheduled dates for the Cup and Shield free of local League fixtures; failure to do so will not be an acceptable reason for playing on a different date to that scheduled.
- iii. The Cup and the Shield are a single competition, and no player may play for more than one team under any circumstances.
- iv. Clubs which have multiple teams in the NVL, can combine their NVL teams to compete in the Cup and Shield on the understanding that;
If a club enters amalgam team(s), they will be recognised in the K.O. Cup as the club's highest-level team(s). This will impact the seeding of the team, and their ability to play in the shield in some cases;
 - (1) If the club has won the shield in the previous season, none of the club's amalgam teams are permitted to compete in the shield that season.
 - (2) Players who have competed in the Super League cannot participate in the shield competition for an amalgam team.
- v. NVL clubs cannot form "Amalgam" team(s) with other clubs.
- vi. Players must be registered with their respective teams on [VolleyZone](#) in that Club's specific Team Roster for the Cup Team.
- vii. An NVL registered player may choose to play for a non NVL team in the Cup different from the club/team which holds his/her NVL registration, provided:
 - (1) The NVL team agrees and is not left with less than eight players to compete in the cup competition themselves;
 - (2) It is the non NVL team that the player plays for in the local / regional league.
 - (3) That the player is listed in that Club's specific Team Roster on [VolleyZone](#), to be selectable in the matchday Team Sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)). This will likely require Dual Membership to both clubs.
 - (4) Where this regulation is abused, the player and team(s) involved will be subject to disciplinary action.
 - (5) "Amalgam" teams must be able to demonstrate some common affinity e.g., playing in the same local league or living in the same geographical area. Any doubts over eligibility must be clarified with the relevant Cup Lead or the Volleyball England Competitions Team.
 - (6) NVL registered players cannot play for another NVL team, other than the one that holds their registration at the time of the fixture, and subject to "cup tie" regulations.
 - (7) NVL teams may contain non-NVL registered players subject to that player having membership of the club in [VolleyZone](#).
- viii. To take part in the semi-final or final, a player must either have taken part in a previous round for their team or have been registered with the Club (or in a Club's specific Team Roster (if the Club enter more than one team)), from before the first NVL game of the season. Non NVL teams may register players up to, and including, the day of the Quarter Finals.
- ix. All clubs/teams are required to play their allocated fixture(s) on the date(s) specified by the Competitions Working Group.
- x. Teams defaulting from National Competitions may be debarred from such competitions for a period of one year.
- xi. If a team withdraws after the draw, the Competitions Working Group reserves the right to amend the draw.

- xii. Teams who are eliminated from the Volleyball England K.O. Cup at designated rounds shall be entered into the Volleyball England Shield as advertised by the Competitions Working Group, except for Super League Teams who will not be entered into the Shield.
- xiii. Shirt numbers must be numbered as per the requirements in the minimum operating standards (refer to [Section N – Minimum Operating Standards](#)).
- xiv. Matches must be played on the scheduled date unless agreed in writing by the Cup Lead.
- xv. The Winners of the Shield will be ineligible for Shield the following season only.

Section K. Instructions to Referees

Regulation K 1. Instructions to Referees

- i. Referees who have not received a match confirmation by 7 days prior to the match should contact the Volleyball England Hub or relevant Divisional Lead for advice ([Regulation D1. viii](#) refers).
- ii. Referees are to confirm as soon as possible that they are attending the match and are requested to let the home team know their likely match fees and expenses.
- iii. First referees are required to notify the Competitions Working Group of any inadequacies in playing conditions by recording them on the scoresheet ([Regulation D 1](#)).
- iv. First referees who issue an expulsion or disqualification penalty are required to submit a Form RC9 to the Volleyball England Hub and NVL Officials Group Member after the match ([Regulation H 2](#). refers).
- v. First referees should ensure that any legitimate protest is recorded in the Remarks box of the scoresheet at the first opportunity after the event arises ([Regulation G 3. ii](#) refers).
- vi. Referees should not allow anyone other than the scorer or themselves to write in the Remarks box of the scoresheet.
- vii. Referees should only allow players, coaches, or bench personnel, in possession of a valid, current registration for that team, as confirmed by the Team Sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)), to sit on a team bench or otherwise participate in a match ([Regulation E7. iii](#) refers).
- viii. Where the second match of a Double Header involves a change of Net Height then the 30-minute warm-up shall start from when the new net height has been set and confirmed by the Referees.
- ix. Referees who do not get paid promptly i.e., on the day, or within 3 working days by electronic transfer, should contact the relevant Divisional Lead and the Officials Group Member ([Regulation D3](#). refers).
- x. Referees are to record on the scoresheet if an incorrect match ball is used or any equipment required is not provided ([Regulation D1. vi](#) (5)).
- xi. Referees are to record on the scoresheet if Line Judges are not provided in Divisions 2 and above.
- xii. Referees are to submit a copy of the Scoresheet along with playing up information, sanctions, and MVPs via the VolleyZone (SportLoMo) App ([Regulation F1](#). refers).

Note: Player registrations and transfers cease as of 1st March unless in exceptional circumstances where permission is granted by the Divisional Lead prior to the match ([Regulation C1.iv](#) & [Regulation C3. i](#) refers).

Section L. Anti-doping (Drug Taking) Regulations

Regulation L 1. Anti-doping rules apply to all volleyball players and athlete support personnel at all levels of the game for a minimum of 12 months.

Regulation L 2. A copy of the Volleyball England Anti-Doping Policy and regulations for doping control is available [here](#).

Regulation L 3. Doping Controls may be carried out at any time during or out of competition.

The anti-doping rules of Volleyball England are the UK Anti-Doping Rules published by UK Anti-Doping. These rules can be amended from time to time, such rules shall take effect and be construed as the rules of Volleyball England.

Section M. Blood Injuries

Regulation M 1. A player is not allowed to play with a bleeding wound, regardless of the seriousness of the injury. Any blood on a player's skin, playing kit, floor or equipment must be dealt with immediately. Referees should stop the game immediately after realising that blood is an issue and instruct the player to receive the appropriate medical intervention to stem the blood flow, and clean any blood from the player, and the floor / equipment, as required. Safe and sterile cleaning materials must be used at all times. It is the team's responsibility to clean any blood from the floor / equipment.

Although the player does not have to be substituted immediately, they should leave the court for treatment. An assessment of the likelihood of the player returning within 3 minutes (in blood free kit) should then be made. During this period the floor and any equipment should be cleaned.

If the bleeding has stopped and the player is in blood free kit, then the match should resume as soon as it is possible. If the blood flow cannot be stemmed or dealt with within the 3-minute period, then the player may have to be substituted legally or exceptionally. This may, in time, mean teams taking their time outs to prolong this period. If a player does not recover and a substitution cannot be made in accordance with Rule 17.1.2 then the team will be considered incomplete.

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

Minimum Operating Standards are detailed below to work towards driving up the standards of delivery of the National League. The aim of the MOS are to increase the presentation of matches, increase participant satisfaction and create an aspirational pathway through the leagues, to lower barriers to entry into the NVL and reduce unplanned costs.

Please refer to the table below for when and how each MOS is expected.

All teams are encouraged to meet all MOS as and when possible e.g., if you are in Div 3 and are purchasing new kit this kit should have shirt numbers 1-20.

	Super League	Div1	Div2	Div3
Team Sheet (produced in VolleyZone)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Subs Equip Paddles & Buzzer	Y	Y	Y	R
<u>Kit</u>				
Shirts 1-20	Y	Y	Y	R (1-99)
Shorts	Y	Y	Similar	Similar
Socks	Y	Y	R	R
Line Judges	Y	Y	Y	R
Live Stream	Y (with scores)	Y (no scores reqd)	R	N
Match Reports	R	N	N	N
Hudl Match Footage	Y	N	N	N
Post Pads	Y	R - Required by 2024-25 Season	R - Required by 2024-25 Season	R - Required by 2025-26 Season, or new Teams on application.

R = Recommended

Video Capture of Match Footage

In the Super League the home team is required to capture the entire match footage and upload to the Hudl platform within 24 hours of the match start time. Further information will be provided to Super League Teams in a separate guidance document. Volleyball England will be able to use the footage for highlights on social media, and therefore we encourage all teams to upload the footage as soon as possible after matches. To avoid a single point of failure, the expectation is that both the home and away team record each match. Stats league tables will be produced and updated each game week, so it is in the interest of all teams to ensure that all matches are recorded and uploaded without fail.

Substitution Equipment

Where required paddles and buzzers to be provided by the home team for all matches.

Paddles – each team will be required to have two sets of paddles numbered 1-20.

Buzzers – the minimum requirement for these is one buzzer to be used by the scorer to indicate substitutions and Timeouts.

Kit

Shirt sleeve length may differ, and short lengths and styles may differ

Super League & Division 1 All kit (shirts & shorts) must be uniform as per the current rules.

All teams will be required to wear shirt numbers 1-20 for matches as per FIVB rules (as per previous communication).

Shorts do not have to be numbered but all must contain no number, or all must contain the player number.

Division 2 & 3; All shirts must be uniform as per current rules; all shorts must be the same/similar colour.

Shorts & Sock length. Same colour only Super League, Div 1, similar colour Div2, Div 3.

Match Reports

Creating match reports is an important way of publicising your club's team and should be published across your social media platforms. A brief synopsis with available photos should be sent to communications@volleyballengland.org as soon as is possible after the match. The information will then be used as a round-up for the Super League on Monday or Tuesday following the match.

Team Sheets (produced in [VolleyZone](#))

All divisions – Teams are to present the scorer with a Team Sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)) specifying Players Name, Shirt No. and Position, Captain and Libero and the numerical part of the VE registration number. Any Senior players that are playing up should be selectable through the Team Sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)).

Non-compliance with the MOS will be subject to a fine under [Regulation G1.](#); repetitive non-compliance will be reviewed by the Competitions Working Group.

Section O. Sports Betting

Regulation O 1. Sports Betting

- i. No player or club/team representative shall place or attempt to place a bet on a match or other event or competition in which they or their club participates.
- ii. No player or club/team representative shall solicit or facilitate, or attempt to solicit or facilitate, another person to bet on a match or other event or competition in which they or their club participates.
- iii. No player or club/team representative shall offer, or attempt to offer, a bribe to fix or contrive a result or the progress of a match or other event or competition in which they or their club participates.
- iv. No player or club/team representative shall receive, seek or attempt to receive or seek a bribe to fix or contrive a result or the progress of a match or other event or competition in which they or their club participates.
- v. A player or club/team representative shall report any approach or other activity which contravenes, or which may contravene, the sport's rules on betting to their respective Divisional Lead, co-operate with any investigation and/or request for information including the provision of documentation (e.g., telephone/betting records to officials engaged in the investigation of suspected integrity issues in the sport in relation to betting).
- vi. A player or club/team representative shall perform to the best of their ability in any match or other event in which they participate in.
- vii. Any breach of this regulation will be dealt with under [Regulation H 7 Conduct](#).

Section P. Appendices

Appendix A – Procedure for Player Transfers

1. Player Transfers are required to be completed via [VolleyZone](#) using the NVL Transfer Event process which includes paying the Transfer fee. Players can access the NVL Transfer Event [here](#), click on “NVL Transfer Fee xxxx-xx Season”, and complete the process.
2. The old team are required to provide evidence of approval for the Player to submit via the NVL Transfer Event process that they agree for the Transfer to go ahead.
3. In the event a team wishing to object they must inform the Hub via 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 provide proper notification and reasons for objection will result in a fine of £20.00 and thereafter, such penalty as the Competitions Working Group may decide.
4. Failure to provide evidence of approval to the player or failure to give proper notification of any objection to competitions@volleyballengland.org will result in the Hub being able to approve a player being transferred irrespective of the lack of consent from the team.
5. Releasing clubs should refer to [Regulation C 3](#) regarding reasons for objecting to the proposed transfer.
6. 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.
7. Once the Transfer fee has been paid and approvals have been gained, Volleyball England will then approve the Transfer.
8. The deadline for Transfers ahead of a weekend fixture is 12:00 noon on Thursday.

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 evidenced in [VolleyZone](#) or in the absence of approval within specified timescales, and the transfer fee has been paid, 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 B – Player Contracts

1. Where a club and player enter into a form of contract, then such contracts shall be registered within 14 days of execution by both parties, by sending a certified copy to the Volleyball England Hub. The Volleyball England Hub will provide an acknowledgement of registration by issuing a contract number.
2. Any such contract must amongst other things provide for commitment from the club concerned to:
 - provide proper and adequate coaching facilities
 - provide proper and adequate match facilities
 - ensure due entry to the National League and K.O. Cup
 - conduct its affairs in a proper manner as required from time to time by the Competitions Working Group.
3. Such contract must amongst other things provide for commitment from the player to:
 - train as directed by the club's appointed coach
 - attend matches as required by the club's appointed coach
 - adhere to club rules (a copy of which must be supplied to the player)
 - observe the code of conduct as laid down by the Competitions Working Group.
4. Any such contract must be for a stated and limited period and cannot be for more than 2 years. On expiry of such contract, a player shall be free to transfer to another club, subject to the provisions concerning transfers.
5. In the event of dispute between a player and club, then either party may apply in writing to the Competitions Working Group for arbitration. Such application must give basic details of the dispute stating the breaches of contract alleged. A copy of any application made to the Competitions Working Group must be sent at the same time to the parties involved. The Competitions Working Group shall if requested by either of the parties concerned hold an oral hearing. In the event of an oral hearing then the parties concerned must file at the Volleyball England Hub 7 days prior to such hearing a list with copies of all correspondence notes and written material to which reference is to be made.
6. The Competitions Working Group shall be entitled if the club is at fault to release the player from the terms of the contract and to permit (in its absolute discretion) the transfer of such player to another club. Such relief shall only be granted in circumstances where there has been a lack of proper commitment from the club in fulfilling its obligations under the terms of contract.

Appendix C – Pre-Match Protocol

	The total warm-up will last for 30 minutes. <i>Prior to the start of the 30 minutes the Home Team prepares the court (See NVL Regulation D 1) and erects the posts and net. NOTE: The preparation of the court and the correct erection of the net is <i>not</i> the responsibility of the referees; they are only responsible for checking the facility and equipment. The NVL warm-up protocol is as follows:</i>	
a)	- 45 mins	Referees courtside and in uniform.
b)	- 30 mins	Net ready for initial height check by Referees. Home team to adjust net height if necessary.
c)	- 30 mins	Scorer to be present. Team and Referee registration details submitted to the scorer. Scorer commences scoresheet.
		Home team provides the match balls. Second Referee checks match balls conform to the rules and are at the correct pressure.
d)	- 15 mins	First referee calls team captains to the scorer's table and checks whether captains agree for their teams to share the net warm-up, or whether one team prefers separate warm-ups (Rule 7.2.2).
		NOTE: (i) A captain still has the right to ask for separate warm-ups up to the time of the whistle to begin the warm-up. (ii) If it has not already been established teams should confirm whether they will be using a Libero and, if so, whether the Libero is likely to replace the team captain. In the latter case, it is helpful if referees are informed who is likely to be the game captain in such situations.
		The toss is taken in the presence of the two <i>team captains</i> . Each captain will be allocated a side of the coin which shall be caught and not allowed to hit the floor.
		After the toss, team captains go to the scorer's table to sign the scoresheet. The scorer is informed of the result of the toss.
e)	- 14 mins	Both coaches check and sign the scoresheet. <i>If they have not already done so, all players change into <u>full</u> playing kit prior to the net warm-up.</i>
f)	-13 mins	Presentation of teams. Teams to line up on the side lines near the scorer's table from the 3-metre line towards the respective baselines. Captain, followed by starting libero, then players in number order, and second libero. On the first referee whistle 14 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.
g)	- 12 mins	Begin official net warm-up: this takes the format of 4 minutes through position 4, then 4 minutes through position 2, then 2 minutes serving – but this can be varied, if both teams agree.
		(If one team chooses to warm-up separately then the serving team will have the court for the first 5 minutes. The receiving team should remain at their bench. NOTE; They are not allowed to use balls or any part of the free zone for warming up.

		<p>Coaches submit line up sheets for the first set to the second referee. <i>The line-up sheet</i> must have the <i>name of the team</i> and the <i>set number</i> and must be <i>signed by the coach</i>, not the assistant coach. <i>It is no longer obligatory to include the Libero on the line up sheet for the first set.</i> The 'Libero' is only excluded from the match if he/she is not named in the space provided on the scoresheet.</p> <p>Second referee ensures that the scorer has both team line-up sheets. Scorer must ensure each team does not see the opposition's line-up sheet or the line-up recorded on the scoresheet.</p>
h)	- 2 mins	<p>First referee whistles to signify the end of the warm-up. Referees ensure all is in order and ready for commencement of play.</p> <p>Line judges go to their positions.</p>
i)	- 1 min	<p>First referee goes to the stand. Second referee stands at the post on their side of the court. The first referee calls teams to line up on their baseline, then onto the court.</p> <p>Second referee checks each team's line up. Libero may not enter the court until his/her team line up has been checked.</p>
j)	0 min	Start match.

Appendix D – Expectations for Volleyball England sanctioned matches

Note - Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents/carers of players, coaches, technical officials, volunteers and spectators.

No person(s) attending a match shall:

- a. Use offensive or obscene language to any player, coach, referee, technical official or other spectator or anyone else present;
- b. Enter the field of play during a match without the prior approval of the court manager appointed by the home club and/or league;
- c. Dispute the decision of a match official either during or after a match;
- d. Assault or act with aggression to any person/s;
- e. Behave in a way contrary to the spirit of the game;
- f. Behave in a way which disturbs the enjoyment of the match by any other person/s, or brings discredit to the home club, away club and/or league and/or the game of volleyball;
- g. Act in such a way as to exhibit intolerance towards individuals or groups, due to their gender, age, race, disability, religion, faith, sexual orientation or any other visible or non-visible difference, either by language or other conduct, to any other person/s;
- h. Refuse to accept the reasonable direction of the court manager, official of the home club and/or league, or official of the team/club which that person/s is supporting.

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 unplayed 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.

Appendix F – Emergency Player Registration Process – For Registrations after 1st March

For an emergency registration the following steps are required.

- 1) Get approval in writing from the appropriate Divisional Lead.
- 2) Create [VolleyZone](#) profile for the player (if not already created).
- 3) Use [VolleyZone](#) to purchase an NVL registration (this can be done by the player or relevant club official).
- 4) Add the player to the Club's specific Team Roster for the team they will play for.
- 5) Select the player on the Team Sheet (produced in [VolleyZone](#)) as required for matches.

All steps are required to be completed before a player's registration is complete.

Appendix G – New Team Entrants

Guidance notes to help with [Regulation A 5](#).

When requesting support from the Regional or Area association you should provide a copy of your completed NVL application form, so the association is aware of the full details of your application.

If a team already has a team in the NVL then they do not have to provide your club constitution (unless it has changed since the last team applied).

Please remember [Regulation H 5](#) if you are intending to have players that previously played for another NVL team.

Please ensure that if you have players that have played for another NVL team that the player has notified their previous team of their decision before adding their name to your application.

Appendix H – VolleyZone

Please use the following VolleyZone URL to login to the most appropriate area of [VolleyZone for you](#).

All Membership, Event Entry and National Transfer Fees are as per the prices listed on VolleyZone. The stated fees will have a Service Fee of 3.2% + 50p added per Transaction.

Refer to the [Volleyball England website for more guidance on VolleyZone](#).

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