



# Players' Handbook 2014

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## **WELCOME MESSAGE**

Welcome to the 2014 edition of the Volleyball England Beach Tour (VEBT) Players' Handbook.

The VEBT is fully established as a showcase for the sport of beach volleyball and is continuing to make a huge contribution to the development and growth of beach volleyball and all disciplines of volleyball in England.

With beach volleyball still at the forefront of Volleyball England's strategy for the nationwide development of volleyball in all its disciplines, Volleyball England is now ready to take the VEBT to the next level.

All VEBT events will feature Volleyball England's 'Go Spike' courts. The 'Go Spike' courts will give the chance for anyone to come and give volleyball a go and they provide a great opportunity to promote the sport and increase participation.

On behalf of Volleyball England, I would like to wish all players, officials, tournament promoters, volunteers, sponsors and supporters the very best for a highly successful 2014 VEBT.

I hope you all have a great summer on the sand!

**Lisa Wainwright**  
**Volleyball England Chief Executive**

## **1. AIMS OF THE TOUR**

The Volleyball England Beach Tour (also referred to as “VEBT” or “Tour”) has been established by Volleyball England (“VE”) with the following goals:

- to provide top level national competition for England's elite and developing players;
- to showcase beach volleyball to audiences across England;
- to attract new players to the sport and encourage them to develop their skills;
- to provide an important stage in the progression of athletes to ‘higher level’ tours such as the European and World Tours;
- to engage new, existing and previous tournament promoters across England;
- to provide exposure and marketing opportunities for the sport’s commercial partners;
- to establish a platform for the implementation of the longer-term objectives of the VEBT and beach volleyball in general – including expansion to new geographical areas and the development of more separate competition tiers to suit the abilities and skill levels of all players.

The purpose of this Players’ Handbook and the Code of Conduct is to:

- guarantee the integrity of beach volleyball and the VEBT;
- ensure that the interests of all players, spectators, promoters, officials and commercial partners are afforded maximum levels of protection; and
- provide all involved parties with the opportunity to reap the benefits of a successful Tour.

## **2. TOUR PROMOTER**

2.1 The VEBT is promoted and managed by Volleyball England.

2.2 Volleyball England approve and oversee the calendar of tournaments, the rules and regulations of the VEBT, the publicity and promotion of tournaments, overall administration of the VEBT and the fulfillment of all requirements included in this Handbook.

2.3 All correspondence relating to the VEBT should be addressed to:

Volleyball England  
SportPark  
Loughborough University  
3 Oakwood Drive  
Loughborough  
LE11 3QF

Email: [info@volleyballengland.org](mailto:info@volleyballengland.org)  
Telephone: 01509 22 7722

### **3. VEBT OFFICIALS**

#### Volleyball England Team

Major Events and Commercial Manager	Sanjib Sahota
Competitions Manager	Jonathan Moore
Competitions Officer	Will Westwood
Competitions Administrator	Laurence Shenker

### **4. TOUR CALENDAR**

The 2014 Tour Calendar can be found in Appendix A and at [www.volleyballengland.org](http://www.volleyballengland.org). The VEBT Calendar may be amended during the season at the discretion of the Volleyball England.

### **5. RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- 5.1 All VEBT players agree to abide by the VEBT Players' Handbook, the VEBT Code of Conduct (see Appendix D) and, where applicable, individual tournament rules and regulations.
- 5.2 Except where specifically excluded or amended by this Players' Handbook, the VEBT Regulations or at the Technical Meeting preceding an event, all playing rules will be as per the FIVB Beach Volleyball Official Rules (available at [www.fivb.org/EN/beachvolleyball/Rules/rules.htm](http://www.fivb.org/EN/beachvolleyball/Rules/rules.htm) ).

### **6. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

#### **6.1 Technical Committee**

At all VEBT events, the Technical Committee will rule on all disputes or protests arising during the tournament which are not strictly related to play. At each tournament the Technical Committee will consist of the Event Manager and the Chief Referee.

For all matters, protests or disputes that *are* strictly related to play, the event's Chief Referee's decision will be final.

#### **6.2 VEBT Judicial Panel**

The VEBT Judicial Panel will rule upon any disputes or protests arising *after* the conclusion of an event and will act as an avenue of appeal on disputes and protests arising during an event.

### **7. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for entry into a VEBT event, players must meet the following conditions:

- 7.1 Players living in England must be registered with Volleyball England as beach volleyball players. Registration takes place via the Volleyball England website (see "Player Registration" in the "Beach" section of [www.volleyballengland.org](http://www.volleyballengland.org)).
- 7.2 Players wishing to play in the VEBT and originate from a European or International country other than England must seek approval from their respective National/International federations to play on the tour. Written confirmation must be shown to Volleyball England.

## **8. TOURNAMENT ENTRY**

- 8.1 Entry to all tournaments, including payment of the tournament entry fee, must be completed via the "Beach" section of the Volleyball England website ([www.volleyballengland.org](http://www.volleyballengland.org)).

### **8.2 Entry Deadlines and Fees**

The entry deadlines and fees for all tournaments shall be posted on the Volleyball England website. The male and female entry lists do not always reflect the final entry list. On some occasions pairs will be added to the entry lists after the deadline (e.g technical errors that may have hindered registration prior to the deadline). Late entries will be at the discretion of Volleyball England. Subsequently, we advise that travel and accommodation is booked after confirmation emails for respective events have been distributed. Any bookings made prior to this are done so at your own risk.

### **8.3 Entry**

There will be 24 teams per gender at each event. This will consist of the top 20 seeded teams entered and the 4 wildcards. All teams who do not make the top 20 will automatically be put forward for a wildcard position. All other entries received after the limit is reached shall be held in a waiting list. A qualifier may be run upon agreement with Volleyball England. The number of teams entered at each event is subject to change at the discretion of Volleyball England.

## **9. WITHDRAWALS/CHANGES TO PLAYING PARTNERS**

- 9.1 If a team withdraws from a tournament at any time after the applicable entry deadline has lapsed, that team shall forfeit its entire entry fee. A refund may be agreed to at the discretion of the National Office, however a 10% administration charge will be applied to the refund transaction.
- 9.2 If a team's late entry is accepted and that team subsequently withdraws, it shall forfeit its entire entry fee. A refund may be agreed to at the discretion of the National Office, however a 10% administration charge will be applied to the refund transaction.
- 9.3 A team that withdraws from a tournament before the entry deadline lapses shall be entitled to a refund of its entry fee less a 10% administration charge
- 9.4 A team will only be permitted to change playing partner after entry due to medical grounds. A medical certificate from a Doctor must be presented to Volleyball England to approve any changes. Any team arriving at an event with a non-

approved player will not be permitted to play and the team will be withdrawn from the competition. (Entry fees will not be returned) Volleyball England or the Event Manager will make all necessary rulings on player changes. Player changes may impact overall rankings of the pair and adjustments may be made.

## **10. WILDCARDS**

- 10.1 The top 20 ranked pairs for each event will automatically qualify. The remaining entrants are automatically entered for a wildcard position and will be allocated a space if available accordingly. Wildcards may be requested to provide details of their results and playing level to the Volleyball England Beach Advisory Group (BVAG) to assist in the selection process. The BVAG's decision will be final.
- 10.2 A maximum of 4 wildcards may be issued per gender at each event.
- 10.3 In exceptional circumstances Volleyball England may consider awarding more wildcards at an event.
- 10.4 Unsuccessful wildcard applicants will be entitled to a full refund of their entry fee.

## **11. VEBT FINALS**

### **11.1 Eligibility**

For a team to be eligible to enter and compete in the VEBT Finals, it must consist of players who have played a minimum of 1 VEBT tournament during the season.

### **11.2 Entry Limits**

Entry to the VEBT Finals will be limited to the top ranked teams in the VEBT Champions Race based on Ranking Points and not based on Player Ratings. The number of teams in the VEBT Finals shall be a maximum of 8 per gender. A second division event will be organised to accommodate entries that fall outside the top 8 rankings. The number of entries in the second division will be at the discretion of Volleyball England.

### **11.3 Wildcards and Seeding**

11.3.1 Top 7 teams and 1 wildcards/reserved entries will be issued for the VEBT Finals for each gender. These Wildcards may be awarded to teams that do not meet the VEBT Finals eligibility criteria.

11.3.2 The basis of seeding for this tournament will be as for all other events (see Tournament Seeding Policy below).

### **11.4 Awards Evening**

11.4.1 There will not be an awards evening at the end of the 2014 Tour. The 2014 VEBT Awards will be celebrated at the 2015 Annual Awards evening.

## **12. VENUES**

- 12.1 In all instances, the tournament site will be under the control of the Event Manager and, where applicable, a representative of the host venue. Players and their associated coaches, team officials and spectators are expected to treat each venue with respect and in accordance with any host venue guidelines or regulations that may be in place.
- 12.2 If deemed necessary and appropriate, the Technical Committee may impose sanctions against players for any contraventions of host venue guidelines or regulations by players or their associated coaches, team officials or spectators.
- 12.3 While every effort is made to ensure the suitability of each playing venue, they are public beaches so Volleyball England cannot be held responsible for an injury caused as a result of any type of debris on the playing surface.

## **13. REGISTRATION AND THE TECHNICAL MEETING**

- 13.1 All VEBT events will be preceded by a Technical Meeting to be held on the morning of the first day of the event, unless otherwise advertised.
- 13.2 All teams will be required to “register” upon arrival on the morning of the first day of the event and prior to the Technical Meeting.
- 13.3 All players must be in attendance at the Technical Meeting.
- 13.4 In cases where exceptional circumstances prevent a team from registering or a player from attending the Technical Meeting, it will be the team’s or the player’s responsibility to notify the Tournament Director in advance of the inability to register or attend and to demonstrate the existence of such exceptional circumstances.
- 13.5 The Technical Committee may impose sanctions for teams failing to register or for players failing to attend the Technical Meeting if the requirements of paragraph 13.4 are not met.

## **14. COMPETITION FORMAT**

The draw format will be advised at the Technical Meeting prior to each tournament. Generally, events will be played under a double elimination format, although pool play may be used in some instances.

### **14.1 Double Elimination**

- 14.1.1 All teams commence the competition in the “winners’ bracket” (WB) where they remain until registering a loss.
- 14.1.2 A team losing a match in the WB will move into the “contenders’ bracket” (CB) where they remain until registering a second loss, at which time they are eliminated from the competition.
- 14.1.3 This format continues until 4 teams remain in the competition: 2 teams in each of the WB and CB. At this point, teams will compete in the semi-finals where each WB team will play a CB team. Winners of these matches will progress to the final.



14.1.4 Due to the nature of the elimination process, multiple teams are eliminated from the competition at the same time. These teams will be awarded the same final ranking for the event.

## **14.2 Pool Play**

14.2.1 Teams are divided into pools of 4 according to their seeding.

14.2.2 Each team plays one match against each of the other teams in the pool (total of 3 matches).

14.2.3 Within each pool teams are ranked by:

- (i) Matches won
- (ii) Sets for / against ratio
- (iii) Points for / against ratio
- (iv) Winner of the match between otherwise equally ranked teams.

14.2.4 The highest ranked team(s) from each pool advance to the next phase of the tournament, which may be played in double elimination, single elimination or pool play format.

14.2.5 The final four teams will compete in the semi finals. Winners of these matches will progress to the gold medal match.

## **15. MATCH TIMING AND SCORING**

### **15.1 Intervals Between Matches**

15.1.1 A maximum 5-minute interval between matches, unless otherwise indicated, is to be strictly enforced.

15.1.2 For teams required to complete back-to-back games or teams playing straight after refereeing, a minimum 10-minute interval will be permitted. A maximum period will be determined by the Event Manager and applied where required.

### **15.2 Variation of Match Format**

15.2.1 In conjunction with Volleyball England, the Event Manager may decide to use a reduced scoring format in some or all matches of a tournament.

15.2.2 At the discretion of the Event Manager, matches may be played without the inclusion of a technical time-out.

15.2.3 Any variations to the standard match format as provided for in the FIVB Beach Volleyball Official Rules will be announced at the Technical Meeting.

### **15.3 Alterations to Match or Tournament Format during an Event**

- 15.3.1 Where necessary, the Technical Committee may alter the match format or the tournament format during an event in order to ensure player safety and/or the completion of the event.
- 15.3.2 Any match or tournament format changes will be announced immediately upon such decision being made.
- 15.3.3 Any matches that are still incomplete at the time of such decision being announced will be played under the originally advertised match and tournament format.
- 15.3.4 If 50% or less of matches in that round are completed, all remaining matches in that round will be completed according to the adjusted format.
- 15.3.5 If more than 50% of matches in that round are completed, all remaining matches in that round will be completed according to the originally advertised format.

#### **15.4 Playing Under Lights**

- 15.4.1 Where lights are unavailable, no matches will commence after 30 minutes prior to sunset time unless directed by the Tournament Director.
- 15.4.2 Where suitable court lighting is available, it may be used to assist in the completion of the competition draw.

#### **15.5 Light Disputes**

In the event that the level of lighting may interfere with the completion of a match, the following steps will be taken:

- 15.5.1 The Chief Referee and Technical Supervisor will be called to review the situation and may choose to either instruct the match to continue or reschedule the match.
- 15.5.2 In the case of the match being rescheduled, it will commence at the next suitable match time prior to the next advertised match for the tournament.
- 15.5.3 If the decision to reschedule the match is made during an incomplete set or at the completion of a set, then FIVB regulations will apply, specifically:
  - (i) Should one or several interruptions occur not exceeding 4 hours in total, the match is resumed with the score acquired, regardless of whether it continues on the same court or another court. The sets already played will keep their scores.
  - (ii) Should one or several interruptions occur, exceeding 4 hours in total, the whole match shall be replayed.

#### **16. INCOMPLETE OR CANCELLED EVENTS**

- 16.1 The Technical Committee has the right to stop or cancel play, as it deems necessary for player safety.

- 16.2 If a tournament is not started or the first round is incomplete and the event cannot be resumed with adequate time to complete the event, the tournament will be declared "cancelled".
- 16.3 Where possible a "cancelled" tournament will be rescheduled to another date. Teams will be notified as soon as possible where a cancellation occurs.
- 16.4 Teams may need to re-enter for any rescheduled tournaments. Those teams that do not re-enter will have their entry fee refunded.
- 16.5 If a tournament is "cancelled" after the first round but before all subsequent rounds are completed, then the number of rounds played will determine the ratings, points and prize money made available. These will be allocated in proportion to the number of completed rounds. For example, if half the scheduled matches are played before the tournament is "cancelled" then 50% of ratings, points and prize money will be made available.
- 16.6 In the event of a "cancelled" tournament, Volleyball England will not be responsible for any loss incurred by a player due to the cancellation.

## **17. OFFICIAL COMPETITION BALL**

The ball to be used at all tournaments is the Mikasa VLS 300.

## **18. OFFICIAL COMPETITION UNIFORMS**

- 18.1 All players must wear the official competition uniform at all times whilst on any competition court. This includes the warm-up period and the post-tournament awards ceremony.
- 18.2 Players shall not in any way modify the official players' uniform.
- 18.3 Players may wear cold weather kit with the permission of the Event Manager. Both players must wear matching cold weather kit. The only exception is where such kit is worn by one player for medical reasons. The Event Manager reserves the right to request a medical report as evidence.
- 18.4 Matching shorts/bikini bottoms are compulsory for all teams competing in the VEBT. Teams' shorts and bikini bottoms shall be presented upon registration for approval by the Event Manager or his/her designated representative. If a team's shorts or bikini bottoms are not approved, the team shall not be permitted to participate until this is rectified.
- 18.5 Teams are not permitted to wear sponsored uniform at any stage of the competition without prior authorization from Volleyball England.

## **19. PLAYER RATINGS**

- 19.1 The Player Ratings are designed to rate individual players according to their ability. This is the primary basis for seeding in tournaments.
- 19.2 Player Ratings are earned according to final placement in tournaments and remain valid for a player for 12 months. When this period of time has lapsed, the player's

rating will become the next highest rating that he or she has earned in the latest 12 months.

19.3 If a player does not compete during the 12 month rating period, the player will be downgraded to the next lower Player Rating level.

19.4 Player Ratings will be awarded according to the Player Rating Schedule (see Appendix C).

## **20. RANKING POINTS**

20.1 The Ranking Points are intended to support an overall ranking of beach volleyball players in England.

20.2 Ranking Points can be earned at all VEBT tournaments, certain VE licensed beach volleyball tournaments (pending provision of results to VE), and FIVB World Tour tournaments (see appendix B)

20.3 Ranking Points will be awarded according to the Ranking Points Schedule (see Appendix D).

20.4 All teams / individuals eliminated at the same point in the tournament will be allocated the same points. For example, in a double elimination draw 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> are eliminated together so both teams will be allocated the points for 7<sup>th</sup> place.

20.5 The Ranking Points shall be applied against two ranking lists:

- i) VEBT Champions Race
- ii) Volleyball England National Ranking

## **21. VEBT CHAMPIONS RACE**

21.1 Only Ranking Points earned in VEBT events apply to the VEBT Champions Race.

21.2 Only VEBT Champions Race Points are used in the VEBT Seeding Policy.

21.3 The VEBT Champions Race Points are used in determining qualification for entry into the VEBT Finals.

21.4 The VEBT Champions Race Points start from zero at the beginning of each season and accumulate at each event in which a player competes.

## **22. VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND NATIONAL RANKING**

22.1 Points earned at VEBT tournaments, certain VE licensed beach volleyball tournaments (pending provision of results to VE), and FIVB World Tour tournaments apply to the Volleyball England National Ranking.

22.2 FIVB World Tour points have a multiplier of 6 applied to them to map those points to equivalent VEBT earned Ranking Points. This multiplier effectively correlates a tournament win on the VEBT to making the main draw in an FIVB Open.

- 22.3 The Volleyball England National Ranking is determined by Player Rating firstly (i.e. AAA, AA, A etc), then by Ranking Points.
- 22.4 The Volleyball England National Ranking is calculated on a rolling 12 month basis. The Points are not reset at the start of the season, but reflect every event from the last 365 days.

### **23. TOURNAMENT SEEDING POLICY**

- 23.1 Firstly, seeding will be based on the combined Player Rating (i.e. AAA, AA etc) of the team members.
- 23.2 Secondly, teams with the same combined Player Rating will be seeded by the combined total of Ranking Points gained by team members during the current season. Points from the previous season will not be used for seeding except at the first VEBT event of the season.
- 23.3 Should two or more teams still remain tied they will be separated according to the lowest placing of a player in either team.
- 23.4 Teams receiving a wildcard may be seeded at the discretion of the **Tournament Director**, in consultation with Volleyball England.

#### Seeding Example

Player 1	Player Rating	Ranking Points	Player 2	Player Rating	Ranking Points	Combined Rating	Combined Points	<b>Seeding</b>
Smith	AAA	20	Stoklos	AA	20	AAAAA	40	<b>1</b>
Kiraly	AA	10	Steffes	AAA	20	AAAAA	30	<b>2</b>
Hovland	AA	40	Dodd	AA	30	AAAA	70	<b>3</b>

### **24. TOURNAMENT PRIZE MONEY AND TROPHIES**

- 24.1 A minimum of £750 prize money which will be split equally between both genders. £250 for the winners (Men and women) and £125 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed teams (Men and Women).
- 24.2 All players from the top two ranked teams in each gender must attend the presentation ceremony at the conclusion of the event, where the approved player's uniform must be worn.
- 24.3 In cases where exceptional circumstances prevent a player or team from attending the presentation ceremony, it will be the team's or the player's responsibility to notify the Event Manager in advance of the inability to attend and to demonstrate the existence of such exceptional circumstances.
- 24.4 The Technical Committee shall impose sanctions for teams failing to attend the presentation ceremony if the requirements of paragraph 24.3 are not met. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, the withholding of prize money, medals/trophies and any other prizes.

## **25. VEBT PRIZE MONEY AND TROPHIES**

### **25.1 VEBT Champions Race**

Prize money and/or prizes will be awarded to the players with the highest number of Ranking Points earned from all events during the season, including the VEBT Finals.

## **26. MATCH OFFICIATING**

- 26.1 In all matches where tournament appointed referees are not supplied, teams will be expected to referee and second referee / score (i.e. do "duty").
- 26.2 In double elimination format, "loser-duty" will generally apply. This means that the team that lost the previous match on that court must referee the next match. In pool play format, "duty" teams will be pre-allocated.
- 26.3 Players doing "duty" shall be situated on opposite sides of the court (1st referee and 2nd referee), and shall both be standing.
- 26.4 In the case of tournament appointed referees being present, the "duty" team may still be expected to second referee and/or score.

## **27. PLAYER OBLIGATIONS**

By registering as a beach volleyball player with VE, all players agree to the following Player Obligations:

- 27.1 The player ensures that they are in good health to participate in beach volleyball competitions and hereby assumes total responsibility for any health problems that may occur.
- 27.2 The players undertake to take out their own insurances in relation to all and any matters arising from participation in the VEBT (except public liability insurance which is provided by Volleyball England for up to £5 million).
- 27.3 The player agrees to be bound by the WADA (World Anti-Drug Agency) and UK Sport anti-doping policies.
- 27.4 The player agrees to keep Volleyball England indemnified from any claims, actions, suits and proceedings whatsoever arising out of the actions or omissions of the player.
- 27.5 The player acknowledges that Volleyball England is not responsible for the safety of the player or his / her property during a tournament or at any other time.
- 27.6 The player acknowledges that nothing in this Player Handbook or the VEBT Regulations constitutes an agency or employer-employee relationship.
- 27.7 The player hereby authorises and grants Volleyball England and its appointed agents the right to use their name, voice, likeness and biographical material for the purposes of publicising, promoting and advertising the VEBT and other sanctioned Volleyball England events, and for filming, televising, broadcasting, web casting and other related presentations in perpetuity.

- 27.8 The player agrees that all rights granted under paragraph 27.7 above are granted without compensation and hereby waives any right to such compensation.
- 27.9 By registering as a VEBT player and entering a VEBT event, the player indicates that they have read, understood and agreed to the contents and terms and conditions of the VEBT Players' Handbook and the VEBT Code of Conduct (see Appendix C).
- 27.10 Volleyball England accept no responsibility for any injury caused to players at VEBT events

### APPENDIX A – PLAYER RATINGS SCHEDULE

VEBT Finals					
Number of Teams Entered	25+	17 to 24	13 to 16	9 to 12	7 to 8
Rank					
1	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA
2	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA
3	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AA
4	AAA	AAA	AAA	AA	A
5	AAA	AAA	AA	A	B
7	AA	AA	A	B	C
9	AA	A	B	C	
13	A	B	C		
17	B	C			
25	C				

VEBT					
Number of Teams Entered	25+	17 to 24	13 to 16	9 to 12	7 to 8
Rank					
1	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA
2	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA
3	AAA	AAA	AAA	AA	AA
4	AAA	AAA	AAA	AA	A
5	AA	AA	AA	A	B
7	AA	AA	A	B	C
9	A	A	B	C	
13	A	B	C		
17	B	C			
25	C				
33	C				
49	C				

<b>Beach Volleyball Event</b>	
<b>Rank</b>	
<b>1</b>	B
<b>2</b>	C
<b>3</b>	C
<b>4</b>	C
<b>5</b>	C
<b>7</b>	C
<b>9</b>	C
<b>13</b>	C
<b>17</b>	C
<b>25</b>	C
<b>33</b>	C
<b>49</b>	C

**APPENDIX B – RANKING POINTS SCHEDULE**

The Ranking Points are calculated using percentages as specified in the following tables.

		<b>VEBT Finals</b>	<b>VEBT</b>	<b>Beach Volleyball event</b>
<b>Rank</b>	<b>%</b>			
<b>1</b>	100%	360	240	48
<b>2</b>	80%	288	192	38
<b>3</b>	70%	252	168	34
<b>4</b>	65%	234	156	31
<b>5</b>	60%	216	144	29
<b>7</b>	50%	180	120	24
<b>9</b>	45%	162	108	22
<b>13</b>	35%	126	84	17
<b>17</b>	25%	90	60	12
<b>25</b>	15%	54	36	7
<b>33</b>	10%	36	24	5
<b>49</b>	5%	18	12	2
<b>65</b>	2.5%	9	6	1



## APPENDIX C – VEBT CODE OF CONDUCT

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#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this document is to specify the Code of Conduct that is applicable to and binding upon all Players, Coaches and Officials participating in any event of, or any activity associated with, the Volleyball England Beach Tour (VEBT).

#### 2. GENERAL

- 2.1. Every Player shall, during all matches and at all times whilst within the tournament site, conduct himself / herself in a professional manner, in accordance with the provisions outlined in this Code of Conduct.
- 2.2. For the purpose of this Code of Conduct, the tournament site shall be defined as all sections of the beach / venue which are under the control of the Tournament Promoter.

#### 3. SCHEDULING & PUNCTUALITY

- 3.1. It is the Players' responsibility to regularly check on the tournament's order of play, which shall be displayed in a visible place in the tournament administration area.
- 3.2. Teams are required to commence play at the instruction of the Referee.
  - 3.2.1. If either team is not ready to commence play at the allocated match start time it shall:
    - (a) forfeit 1 point for every minute, or part thereof, that they are late after the official match starting time; and

(b) be declared in default of a set if, after 5 minutes, it is not ready to play.

The same process as outlined in (a) & (b) shall be repeated for the second set (if the playing format allows for multiple sets).

3.2.2. The Event Manager, after due consideration of all relevant circumstances, may elect under extraordinary circumstances not to declare a default (loss of set). Such decision will be made immediately.

#### **4. ATTIRE, PRESENTATION & SPONSORSHIP**

- 4.1. Players shall dress and present themselves in a professional manner.
- 4.2. Players' attire must meet the standards of common decency, be clean and appropriate for beach volleyball competition.
- 4.3. Players are not permitted to promote or advertise, during the course of an event, any alcohol or tobacco companies unless prior written agreement is obtained from Volleyball England.
- 4.4. The player shall not be permitted to display conflicting branding to any Tour or tournament sponsors at any tournament, unless prior permission has been obtained from the Volleyball England.
- 4.5. Players are free to wear / use headwear, arm and wristbands, socks, shorts, swimwear bottoms, drink bottles, towels, bags, transferable tattoos, etc to display their own personal sponsorship at their own discretion – always subject to paragraphs 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 above.
- 4.6. Players' personal accessories should not be placed or positioned as to cover any branding or signage of VEBT or event sponsors.

#### **5. LEAVING THE COURT**

- 5.1. A Player shall not leave the immediate playing area during a match without the permission of the Referee or other tournament official.

#### **6. BEST EFFORTS**

- 6.1. A Player must use his / her best efforts to win a match.
- 6.2. If, in the opinion of the Technical Committee, a player has failed to do so, he / she may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including disqualification from the event or the VEBT.

#### **7. FAILURE TO COMPLETE A MATCH**

- 7.1. A Player must complete a match in progress unless he / she is reasonably unable to do so.

- 7.2. Violation of rule 7.1 shall cause a team to automatically forfeit the match in question.

## **8. CEREMONIES & PRESENTATIONS**

- 8.1. When accepting awards, prize money and/or prizes, players are required to thank the VEBT sponsor, the event sponsor, Volleyball England and the host venue, including (where applicable) the local council.

## **9. MISCONDUCT**

- 9.1. During competition, the following misconduct categories, sanctions and sanction scale shall apply.

9.1.1. Unsportsmanlike conduct – argumentation, intimidation, etc.

9.1.2. Rude conduct – acting contrary to good manners or moral principles, expressing contempt.

9.1.3. Offensive conduct – defamatory or insulting words or gestures.

9.1.4. Aggression – physical attack or intended aggression.

9.1.5. Theft – Taking something that is not yours.

- 9.2. Audible Obscenity

9.2.1. Players shall not use an audible obscenity within the tournament precinct.

9.2.2. For the purpose of this rule, “audible obscenity” shall be defined as the use of language commonly known and understood to be profane and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard by the Referee, opponents or spectators.

- 9.3. Visible Obscenity

9.3.1. Players shall not make obscene gestures of any kind within the tournament “precinct”.

9.3.2. For the purpose of this rule, “visible obscenity” shall be defined as any actions or gestures by a player that commonly have an obscene meaning, understood by a reasonable person, or of an inappropriate nature.

- 9.4. Abuse of the Ball

9.4.1. Players shall not violently, dangerously, in frustration or anger, throw or kick the ball except in the reasonable pursuit of a rally.

9.4.2. For the purpose of this rule, “abuse of the ball” shall be defined as intentionally striking, kicking or throwing a ball out of the immediate area of the playing court, or striking a ball dangerously or recklessly.

9.5. Abuse of the Net or Court Fixtures

9.5.1. Players shall not violently, dangerously, recklessly, in frustration or anger, hit or pull on the net, other court fixtures, signage or other facilities.

9.6. Theft of VEBT / Tournament Equipment

9.6.1. Volleyball England imposes a zero tolerance policy in relation to the theft of any equipment. Players found to be in breach of this provision shall be liable to automatic suspension from the VEBT.

9.7. Verbal Abuse

9.7.1. Players shall not at any time abuse the match officials, their teammates, opponents, spectators or tournament officials.

9.7.2. For the purpose of this rule, “verbal abuse” shall be defined as statements that imply dishonesty or lack of integrity, or are derogatory, insulting or otherwise abusive.

9.8. Physical Abuse

9.8.1. Players shall not at any time physically abuse or intend physical harm to any match official, teammate, opponents, spectators or Tournament official.

9.9. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

9.9.1. Players shall at all times conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner, giving due regard to the authority of all tournament officials and the rights of teammates, opponents and spectators.

9.9.2. For the purpose of this rule, “unsportsmanlike conduct” shall be defined as any conduct by a player that is clearly abusive, detrimental to the success of the tournament or the sport.

9.9.3. This shall include “sledging” by players both on and off the court area and any attempts to influence the referee’s decisions or interfere with an opponent’s play.

**10. DOPING & ALCOHOL**

10.1. Volleyball England has a zero tolerance policy in relation to violations of this provision. Players found to be in breach of this provision shall be liable to automatic suspension from a tournament or the VEBT.

10.2. Players shall at no time consume alcohol whilst:

- (i) involved in playing or officiating in a match;
- (ii) remaining in the Tournament competition draw; and/or

- (iii) within the Tournament precinct unless in an area designated by the Tournament Promoter.

### 10.3. Illegal or Banned Substances

- 10.3.1. Players shall at no time use any illegal substances whilst within the tournament precinct.
- 10.3.2. Players shall at no time compete whilst under the influence of any illegal or banned substances as specified by the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA).
- 10.3.3. Testing for illegal substances may be carried out at events. Players found in breach of the WADA policy will be subject to sanctions outlined in the WADA policy and in Volleyball England's anti-doping policy.

## 11. SANCTIONS

- 11.1. Any player who has accrued two (2) "red cards", as prescribed in the FIVB Misconduct Scale, during the course of a tournament shall automatically lose the match in which the third penalty occurs.
- 11.2. If a Player is excluded from the remainder of a tournament, he or she shall receive no VEBS Ranking Points for that tournament.
- 11.3. A Player excluded from a tournament must show cause to Volleyball England as to why they should be allowed to continue their participation in the VEBS during the current season.
- 11.4. Any Player excluded from two (2) tournaments throughout the course of the VEBS shall be ineligible to compete in any remaining events of the season, including the VEBS Finals.
- 11.5. The VEBS Judicial Panel will rule upon any disputes or protests arising *after* the conclusion of an event and will act as an avenue of appeal on disputes and protests arising *during* an event.
  - 11.5.1. Players or teams wishing to appeal to the VEBS Judicial Panel must lodge their appeal in writing with the Volleyball England office within fourteen (14) days of the incident giving rise to the appeal.

## 12. ADMINISTRATION OF THE CODE

- 12.1. The Technical Committee is empowered to enforce the rules and any subsequent sanctions, as outlined in this Code of Conduct, at any time during the course of an event.
- 12.2. Any sanctions imposed by recognised governing bodies in other local, regional, national or international competitions, tours or series, shall carry over and have full effect on the VEBS.

### **13. OFFICIALS' CODE OF ETHICS**

- 13.1. Paid officials, volunteer officials and competitors who take on official roles (e.g. refereeing duty) are subject to this Code of Ethics.
- 13.2. The duty of the sports official is to act as an impartial judge of sporting competition. This duty carries with it an obligation for the official to perform with accuracy, consistency, objectivity and the highest sense of integrity. In order to preserve and encourage confidence in the professionalism and integrity of officiating, officials must first foster ethical behaviour.
- 13.3. The overriding objectives for Officials are to:
- (a) Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
  - (b) Accept responsibility for all actions taken.
  - (c) Be impartial.
  - (d) Avoid any situation, which may lead to a conflict of interest.
  - (e) Be courteous, respectful and open to discussion and interaction.
  - (f) Value the individual in sport.
  - (g) Seek continual self-improvement through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies.
  - (h) Encourage inclusiveness and access to all areas of officiating.
  - (i) Be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance.
  - (j) Refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes.
  - (k) Refrain from any form of harassment towards athletes.
  - (l) Show caution and concern towards sick and injured athletes.
- 13.4. Officials have the right to expect that:
- (a) Their health and safety are paramount.
  - (b) They are treated with respect and openness.
  - (c) They are appointed to a level of competition appropriate to their level of competence.
  - (d) They have access to self-improvement opportunities.

### **14. FILMING & PHOTOGRAPHIC RELEASE AGREEMENT**

- 14.1. Volleyball England and/or its authorised production company and personnel will be filming and taking photographic images during the Volleyball England Beach Tour 2014. It is agreed that you authorise and give permission for Volleyball England and its authorised associates to have:
- (a) Permission to use any video footage and photographic images taken at any events for exclusive use/broadcast by Volleyball England and or its associates at no cost in perpetuity in all territories worldwide.
  - (b) Permission to use any photographic images on any online platform as deemed appropriate for promotional or marketing purposes. This will include social networking sites.
  - (c) Grant permission for Volleyball England to use any images taken from the event for any other marketing or promotional material in perpetuity in all territories.
  - (d) If you are under 18 to seek the permission of your parent and guardian.