

# JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

## Competitions Working Group

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General Regulations applied to all Junior Competitions and Events organised by the Volleyball England. Exceptions can be applied to any Competition or Event in the specific Regulations of that Competition or Event.

#### **Definitions:**

1. In this document "Organisation" means School, College, Club, or Region. The constituted organisation to which teams belong.
2. Unless explicitly described otherwise, "Lead" means, the individual named by the Competitions Working Group as being in charge of the event at any particular location. It could be the organiser of a round, a deputy for the Competition Lead or the Competition Lead him/herself.

#### **A. Eligibility:**

1. All Organisations must be currently affiliated to Volleyball England.

#### **B. Multiple Entries**

1. An Organisation may enter more than one team in same competition.
2. Teams will be named 'A', 'B' in order of strength
3. Once a team has been knocked out, a player may play up, but may not play down.
4. No player may play for more than one team in any one round of a competition.
5. Matches between 'A' 'B' 'C' etc teams from the same Organisation in the same pool are played first.

#### **C. Withdrawal of Teams**

1. Any Organisation wishing to withdraw from any competition it has already entered, at whatever stage of the competition, must give at least 14 days' prior notice, in writing, to the relevant Competition Lead and the Volleyball England HUB.
2. Failure to do so may result in that Organisation being required to pay a fine together with a surety for the following season's competitions.
3. Teams failing to arrive on the day of the competition will be fined £50.00 and have any grant or financial assistance already awarded withdrawn, dependent on relevant circumstances.

#### **D. Coaching Staff**

1. All individual schools, academies, and colleges that enter the Age Group competitions must either be coached by a member of staff from that school, academy or college or by a qualified coach who is registered with Volleyball England. It is strongly recommended that any member of a school, academy or college staff who chooses to coach should obtain the Level 2 Volleyball England coaching qualification.
2. A qualified coach who is registered with Volleyball England should coach all club teams. It is recommended that the coach should hold at least a Level 2 qualification.
3. Coaches must produce their current Volleyball England registration card or number when handing in their team list at the start of each round.
4. All coaches and bench personnel whether teachers or club coaches should have a completed DBS check, ideally through Volleyball England. Information and guidance about DBS checks is available from [Volleyball England](http://Volleyball England), please email [safeguarding@volleyballengland.org](mailto:safeguarding@volleyballengland.org) for more information.

#### **E. Player Age:**

1. Ages are as at 1st September in the season of the competition, e.g. U15 on 1st September etc.

#### **F. Players**

1. Separate competitions for Boys and Girls will be held in all age groups.
2. Girls may NOT play in Boys competitions (and vice versa).
3. All players must be bona fide members of their Organisation. (i.e. they must play/train regularly with that Organisation, normally weekly).
4. All players must be listed on the team sheet presented at the start of each round, with their date of birth clearly shown.
5. Schools and colleges shall have first call on players before club and academy teams.
6. No player may play for more than one Organisation / Team in each competition.
7. Players may play for different Organisations in different competitions (e.g. school 'X' in Under 16 & club 'Y' in the Under 18's).
8. If a player is not in attendance at any specific round they must have their name deleted from the team list at the end of the round.
9. Players will become cup tied if their name appears on any team sheet, whether they play or not.
10. Only players who have been on a validated team sheet in a previous round or, have been registered as a named player for the Organisation since the start of the season, may play in the Final of any Competition.

#### **G. Libero Players**

1. Teams may list multiple Liberos, and these can be changed between matches. However only 2 can be used in any given match.

#### H. Team Kit

1. Ideally, shirts (numbered front & back) and shorts shall be uniform.
2. Numbers shall normally be as per FIVB rules.
3. In the earlier stages of competitions, players not in uniform shorts and numbered shirts may be allowed to play at the discretion of the Competition Lead.

#### I. Balls and First Aid Kit:

1. Teams should bring their own warm-up balls. If a match ball is not provided, the teams playing should provide a match ball.
2. Each Team should bring a first aid kit to all rounds.

#### J. Rules of Play

1. The games will be played under FIVB rules except where modified by the Volleyball England Regulations of Competition, or the regulations of individual Competitions as indicated below.

#### K. Net Heights

Under 14 Girls	2.15 metres		Under 14 Boys	2.15 metres
Under 15 Girls	2.17 metres		Under 15 Boys	2.24 metres
Under 16 Girls	2.24 metres		Under 15 Boys IR / Under 16 Boys	2.35 metres
Under 17 Girls	2.24 metres		Under 17 Boys	2.43 metres
Under 18 Girls	2.24 metres		Under 18 Boys	2.43 metres

#### L. Match Points

In all pool matches, match points will be awarded as follows:

1. Win 2 points.
2. Lose 0 points.
3. Draw (Where appropriate) 1 point.

#### M. Final Pool Order (including Round Robins)

1. Shall be decided on total match points.
2. Sets Difference (sets for minus sets against).
3. Points Difference (points for minus points against).
4. Match between the two teams.

#### N. Venue Rules

1. All participants should respect the rules of venues in use for events.
2. These rules can include:
  - The wearing of footwear with non-marking soles.
  - Taking food into the arena.
  - Drinks should only be carried in non-spill containers.
  - All venues should be left in the same tidy state as found.

#### O. Non-payment of Fines

1. Failure to pay an issued fine may lead to entry being refused from future Volleyball England competitions.

#### P. Discipline & Code of Conduct

1. It is a condition of entry to all Junior Competitions that teams shall adhere to the [Players Code of Conduct](#).
2. Players, Coaches, Bench Personnel and Team Managers of all competing teams shall behave in a manner that is not likely to bring the game of Volleyball into disrepute.
3. The Competitions Working Group shall have the power to take appropriate action against any affiliated Organisation, Player, Coach, Bench Personnel or Team Manager within its jurisdiction.
4. Suspensions shall be valid throughout all Volleyball England competitions in England.
5. Any Player, Coach, Bench Personnel or Team Manager expelled or disqualified at any stage of any Junior Competition shall be automatically suspended for the next match in any of the competitions and the matter shall be referred to the Competitions Working Group.
6. Each Organisation that enters competitions is also responsible for the behaviour of its spectators and may be given a sanction or fine by the Competitions Working Group in the case of unacceptable behaviour by those spectators.

#### Q. Disputes

1. In tournament or multi-round style competitions where more than one round is played on either the same day or weekend, in order to complete the day/weekend matches, the decision of the Competition Lead shall be final.
2. Any team wishing to dispute the results of matches at any stage of any competition must bring it to the attention of the Competition Lead at the time the result is handed in, and at that time make their protest in writing.
3. Any Team that wishes to dispute the results of matches (or other matters) at any stage of any competition, shall forward its complaint, in writing, to the Competition Work Stream Lead within 7 days of the dispute. A fee of £100.00 must accompany the letter. The fee will be refunded if the dispute is found in favour of the disputant.

## **R. Appeals**

There shall be the right of appeal to the Competitions Working Group against the ruling of the Competition Lead. The final right of appeal against the decision of the Competitions Working Group shall be to the English Volleyball Association Judicial Panel under item 7 of the EVA Framework Document whose decision shall be final.

## **S. Late arrival of teams**

1. Teams arriving less than 20 minutes late for a pool match will forfeit the right to a warm-up and time outs in the first set that will be played immediately.
2. Teams arriving more than 20 minutes late for a pool match will forfeit the first set 25-0. If the team is not ready within a further 20 minutes then they will forfeit the match 2-0, 25-0 and 25-0.

## **T. Non-arrival of teams because of bad weather**

1. On the day: If the weather makes travel impossible, the coach should contact the Lead for the Competition by phone as soon as possible.
2. If a team fails to arrive at a preliminary, first / regional or second / divisional round Pool because of bad weather, it will be eliminated, but may appeal under the following conditions:
  - a) If only one team qualifies from that pool, then there is no appeal.
  - b) If more than one team qualifies from that pool, then a play-off against the last qualifier may be arranged provided that:
    - i) The host team has been informed of the absentee team's non-arrival.
    - ii) The relevant Competitions Lead is notified in writing within 48 hours.
    - iii) The appeal letter includes a contact telephone number, written/photocopied confirmation from the AA or RAC that it was inadvisable to travel and a surety of £100 (payable to the English Volleyball Association).
3. The Competitions Working Group will then decide whether the appeal is valid. If the appeal rules in favour of the appellant team then the bottom qualifier will then be asked to arrange a play-off at its chosen time and venue; and the appellant team will pay the full cost of the match - (Court hire, travel, Officials etc.) (The surety will go towards this cost).
4. If a team fails to arrive at a Last Eight's, Inter Regionals or Finals, it will be eliminated.

## **U. Adverse Weather Conditions**

1. In the event of a competition being cancelled or a team(s)/player's inability to attend a competition(s) due to circumstances beyond the control of Volleyball England, the Association will not be liable for any costs associated to the team(s) or individuals as a consequence of the cancellation or non-attendance (venue hire, hotel accommodation or transportation etc).
2. Volleyball England will advise participants as soon as possible of any cancellations or amendments to competitions due to severe weather conditions, safety concerns or any other reason resulting in a competition being cancelled.
3. It is the club's responsibility to ensure that any concern over safety and the inability to attend a competition is notified immediately to Volleyball England. Should an event be cancelled, all affected persons must be notified immediately.
4. If unsure as to the course of action to take, please seek advice from the Volleyball England Competition and Events team.

## Specific Regulations for the Under 15 National Championships

### A. 2 Set Pool Matches (Regional Rounds)

1. Matches should ideally be best of 2 sets to 25 with 2 clear points.

### B. 3 Set Pool Matches (Regional Rounds)

1. Matches should ideally be best of 3 sets to 25 with 2 clear points (but to 15 with 2 clear points in Set 3).
2. If a team wins 2 sets to nil, the 3<sup>rd</sup> set will not be played.

### C. Regional Round

1. The format of the Regional Round will be formulated by the Event Organiser, taking into account the court space and time available.
2. The Event Organiser shall send details of the round to all teams entered in advance.
3. The team lists must be handed in prior to the start of the first match. No amendments may be made to the team sheet after submission (except deleting any players who did not arrive).
4. These team lists should be sent, with the results, to the National Office.
5. The top 2 teams in the Regional Round will advance to the Divisional Round.
6. If one of these teams is unable to play in the Divisional Round, the Coach / Secretary should inform the Volleyball England HUB and the Competition Lead as soon as possible.
7. Should there be only one team entered in a Region, that team will usually travel to a neighbouring region to compete in their competition.
8. The number of Divisional Qualification Places will also be adjusted accordingly, if this happens.

### D. Divisional Round

1. The team lists must be handed in prior to the start of the first match. No amendments may be made to the team sheet after submission (except deleting any players who did not arrive).
2. These team lists should be sent, with the results, to the National Office.
3. 2 Courts will be available for each of the Boys' & Girls' Divisional Rounds.
4. The top 2 teams in the Divisional Round will advance to the Final (Last Sixes) Round.
5. If one of these teams is unable to play at the Final Round, the Coach / Secretary should inform the VE Hub and Under 15 Lead (details above) as soon as possible.
6. The better third placed team (calculated as per Sections "E" or "F") will normally be invited to replace the withdrawn team, unless there are any other extenuating circumstances.
7. Teams will be divided into 2 Pools of 3, playing 3 set matches.
8. Should insufficient court time be available, pool matches will be best of 2 sets.
9. These will be followed by cross-over Semi Finals & a Final (played simultaneously with the 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> Place Play Off.)
10. There will be no 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> Playoff match. These teams will finish equal 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### E. Last Sixes (Quarter, Semi and Final Rounds)

1. The team lists must be handed in prior to the start of the first match. No amendments may be made to the team sheet after submission.
2. Shirts (numbered front & back) and shorts shall be uniform at the Last Sixes.
3. Teams will be divided into 2 Pools of 3, playing 3 set matches.
4. These will be followed by cross-over Semi Finals & a Final (played simultaneously with the 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> Place Play Off)
5. There will be no 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> Play Off Match. These teams will finish equal 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Specific Regulations for the Under 16 & 18 National Championships

### A. Pool Qualifiers in Preliminary, Rounds 1 & 2

1. Pool Winners will automatically qualify for the next round.
2. Runners-up (where there is more than one qualifier designated in advance) will also progress.

### B. Preliminary, First & Second Rounds

1. Preliminary Rounds will only be used when the number of entries requires another round and entries shall be divided geographically into pools of 3 to 6 teams. These will normally be limited to novice teams.
2. Round 1 entries will be divided geographically into pools of 3 to 6 teams. These will normally be limited to less experienced teams but if no preliminary round is staged, novice teams will also enter the competition in this round.
3. Round 2 will consist of 4 pools with 2 seeded teams in each. The seeded teams will be:
  - a) In the Under 16 Competition, the four semi-finalists from the previous season's Under 15 & Under 16 Competitions.
  - b) In the Under 18 Competition, the four semi-finalists from the previous seasons Under 16 & Under 18 Competitions.
4. The Competitions Lead shall nominate a school, college, club or individual to organise these pools on behalf of the Competitions Working Group.
5. No pool shall commence before 11am without the written consent of all participating teams.
6. Hosts are asked to seek free facilities if possible, if not, costs must be discussed with the relevant Competitions Lead in advance.
7. Ideally First Officials should be Volleyball England Grade 3 or higher. As the costs of Officials in these rounds are borne by the competing teams, however, suitably experienced persons may officiate instead. Players may not act as 1<sup>st</sup> Officials.
8. Second Officials, Linespersons and Scorers shall be provided from the neutral teams in the pool.
9. Ideally, courts in these rounds should conform to Volleyball England specifications as in the Official Rule Book. Because of cost implications, however, a good gymnasium may be used.

### Recommended Format for Pool matches in Preliminary and Round 1 (using 1 court)

Teams in Pool	Matches	Recommended Time
3	3 set matches	4 hours
4	3 set matches	5 hours
5/6	2 sets. Match stops at 35 minutes. (This includes a 5-minute warm-up) 1 Pool point per set won. Half a Pool point for a drawn or unplayed set.	6 hours

### Recommended Format for Pool matches in Round 2

3 team Pool - Best of three sets

4 team Pool - Best of three sets

Round Organisers may deviate from the above only with the prior permission of the relevant Competitions Lead. The most important factor, however, is that all matches are completed within the available time.

### C. Last Eights (Quarter & Semi-Final Rounds)

1. No Pool shall commence before 10.00am without the written consent of all participating teams.
2. The 8 qualifiers shall be divided into 2 Quarter Final Pools of 4 teams each.
3. All teams in the Pool shall play each other, using the following format:

#### Pool 1

A = Runner Up Group B

B = Winner Group A

C = Runner Up Group D

D = Winner Group C

#### Pool 2

A = Runner Up Group A

B = Winner Group B

C = Runner Up Group C

D = Winner Group D

The playing order shall be:

A v B	Officials C
C v D	Officials A
B v C	Officials D
A v D	Officials B
B v D	Officials C
A v C	Officials D

4. The winners of each Pool shall stay on their own court and play the Runners Up of the opposite Pool in the Semi-Finals on the same day.
5. All matches shall be played to the best of three sets.
6. There shall be no play-offs for minor places.
7. Semi-Final losers shall be equal third.
8. Thirds in Pools shall be equal fifth.
9. Fourths in Pools shall be equal seventh.



10. Volleyball England will provide qualified 1<sup>st</sup> officials if possible. Teams may be expected to provide competent 2<sup>nd</sup> officials, scorers and at least 2 competent linespersons in neutral matches.
11. The team finishing fourth in their Pool will be expected to provide the linespersons and scorers for the semi-finals.

**D. Finals**

1. All Finals shall be the best of 5 sets as per FIVB Rules.
2. Volleyball England will provide all Officials after consultation with the Officials Working Group.
3. The "3 or 5 ball system" will normally be used.
4. The venue shall be decided annually by the Competitions Working Group.
5. A Team trophy shall be awarded to the Champions for which they shall be responsible for safe keeping & returning in time for presentation to the following years winners.

## Specific Regulations for the Inter Regional Championships U15 and U17 Boys and Girls

### A. **Players**

1. The competition will be 6 v 6 players.
2. Players must have a connection to the Region they play for. Either, residence, attending a school, or being registered as a player with a club in the Region.

### B. **Format**

1. Each region can enter a maximum of one team per age group / gender.
2. The competition format will depend on the number of Teams entered.
3. The competition will commence with teams playing in pools. Each team will play each other in a round robin format. The top 2 teams in each pool will progress to a knock out phase to determine overall winners.
4. The knockout phase may consist of cross over matches between groups as outlined in the match schedule.
5. Matches will immediately follow on from each other. If there is a walk over (due to a region not entering a team), the court will be unavailable for access for 30 minutes after which time the next two teams can use it for warm-up and the next match will begin at the time agreed by the Competition Manager and the 1<sup>st</sup> Referee for the next match.
6. After each match, it will be the winning Captain's responsibility to get the score sheet to the Competition Manager.
7. For each 20 minutes, a team is not ready to play, after the preceding match has finished, the team will forfeit the set 25-0. The one exception being if a team is playing or officiating on another court.
8. Teams will be asked to provide line judges and scorers and in exceptional circumstances a second official when not competing. All should remain neutral in all circumstances.
9. Teams will get 10 minutes to warm up on court. 5 minutes general and then 5 over the net. However, at the discretion of the Event Lead this may change taking into account the overall running of the tournament.
10. Team lists must be handed in prior to the start of the first match. No amendments may be made to the team sheet after submission.