

Volleyball England

**STUDENT CUP COMPETITION
REGULATIONS**

2026-27

Introduction

The competition is open to all teams based in institutions for full-time higher education or Association of Colleges of Sport (AOC) affiliated institution and schools with sixth forms.

These regulations outline the departures from the National Competition Regulations in relation to the Volleyball England National Student Cup. The National Competition Regulations regulations can be found [here](#).

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DEFINITIONS:

CWG - Competitions Working Group

Match Official - First and Second Referees

NVL - National Volleyball League

OWG - Officials Working Group

Technical Official - Scorer, Line judge

The Hub - Volleyball England Hub, competitions@volleyballengland.org

VE - Volleyball England

SECTION A. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

For a student to be eligible to represent their institution in the Volleyball England Student Cup, they shall:

- 1.1 Be an internally registered student (that is a student classified by the university/college registrar as a student who is studying at the member institution or assigned campus in an internal classification) at an institution of Higher Education or an AOC affiliated institution and schools with sixth forms that holds current affiliation to Volleyball England and
- 1.2 Be registered on a credit rated course (e.g. Degree or HND, as under the Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme) or enrolled on a full-time course at an AOC affiliated institution and
- 1.3 Be undertaking a study programme equivalent to at least 120 credits per year (i.e. full time student), or in the case of a postgraduate or AOC student be undertaking a study programme of no less than that equivalent to that of the full-time student programme, and
- 1.4 Have the support of the Athletic Union or Sports office, and
- 1.5 Must produce either a valid photographic University ID card or Full time NUS or College card at the beginning of the tournament as proof of membership of the institution they are representing (library, ISIC and BUCS cards are not acceptable). Cards on an official university application presented on a device will be accepted as well. Failure to produce a valid card will result in players being ineligible to play and/or a £5 administration fee being charged on the day of the tournament, and
- 1.6 Must have purchased a £13.50 (plus 3.2% and 50p VolleyZone admin fee) [Student Cup Player Registration \(26-27\)](#) through [VolleyZone](#) and
- 1.7 Must be listed as a player on the [Team Roster](#) on [VolleyZone](#).

SECTION B. INELEGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

- 1.1 Students at “franchised” colleges unless recognised as fully registered internal students of the member institution they are representing.
- 1.2 Externally registered students, as determined by the University’s or AOC Institution’s Registrar.
- 1.3 Members of staff are not permitted to play under any circumstances.
- 1.4 Part time students
- 1.5 Students without a valid identity card (see rule 5 above)
- 1.6 Any team found to have fielded an ineligible player, will forfeit all games played and face a possible fine and disqualification from future competitions.**

SECTION C. WITHDRAWALS

- 1.1 Teams that withdraw within seven days of the tournament taking place will be subject to a £25 fine.
- 1.2 The above (1.1) will also apply to any teams withdrawing on the Sunday of Student Cup Finals.

SECTION D. AFFILIATIONS

- 1.1 All clubs (Colleges, Universities and and schools with sixth forms must be [affiliated to Volleyball England](#) to enter the Student Cup. Each institution will need to [complete their affiliation through VolleyZone](#) before entering the competition.

SECTION E. COMPETITION RULES

- 1.1 No player may compete for more than one institution or team in this competition under any circumstances.
- 1.2 An institution may enter more than one team. These teams will be named 'A', 'B' in order of strength.
- 1.3 Once a team has been knocked out, a player may play up but may not play down.
- 1.4 No player may play for more than one team in any one round of a competition.

1.5 Teams shall be categorised Adult Open / Adult Women for eligibility please consult the Volleyball England Transgender Policy, a copy of which can be found [here](#).

1.6 All team kits must be matching, with shirt numberings on both front and back. In line with [National Competition Regulations](#), Section D.5.2. numbers are permitted from 1-99.

1.7 The closing date will be strictly adhered to, and applications will only be accepted via [VolleyZone](#). The organiser reserves the right to extend the entry deadline (competitions@volleyballengland.org) Late entry will incur a £25 admin fee.

1.8 Entry to the competition implies acceptance of the Volleyball England National Competition Regulations, as approved of, or amended by the CWG's Senior Competitions Group.

1.9 Each team will be given a ten-minute warm up for the first game played for each day. For subsequent games, a five-minute warm up will be given to each team. Matches will have a five minutes shared use of the net. Match times advertised, other than first games of the day are indicative only and all matches will follow on from the conclusion of the previous match.

1.10 Teams not present at the start time of the match may lose one point per minute leading to ultimate forfeiture.

1.11 In the situation where the programme is running behind schedule, the competition organisers may take action to modify the scoring format to ensure the competition finishes on time.

1.12 No points will be awarded for losing games. Two pool points will be awarded for a win in the pools. Placing will be decided by;

- Pool points,
- number of matches won,
- sets for less sets against,
- points for less points against,
- results between the tied teams.
- If two teams are still tied, they will be classified in terms of the matches between the two teams.

1.14 When officiating, teams are required to provide **two competent officials, a scorer, and at least two line Judges**. A first official will be supplied where possible. However provision of a first official may not always be possible. Therefore, teams are asked to ensure that a suitable, competent official is available as part of the condition of entry. Please ensure that officials are aware of the games where they are required to officiate.

1.15 Teams failing to provide officials under rule 1.14 or fail to fulfil any fixture over the weekend will be liable to penalty by means of fine and/or suspension.

1.18 Teams will be placed into pool groups based upon the following factors

- Availability to play
- BUCS/AOC divisions and results
- Prior history
- Second/third team entries.
- Teams Geography

1.19 The organisers reserve the right to include teams which did not originally qualify for the finals if for any reason a team which did qualify gives up its place in the finals or if a team is disqualified before the finals weekend. The team that gives up its place or is disqualified will be replaced by the highest placed available team.

1.20 In line with [National Competition Regulations](#), C.1.8 Team Sheets must be completed on VolleyZone in numerical order, e.g. no.1-99 surname, first name, prior to the team's first match of the competition. Please see [this video](#) which explains the process of adding members to a Team Sheet. There may be a fine imposed if the team sheet is not submitted before the specified deadline for the Volleyball England Student Cup Regulations 04.09.26

competition.

1.21 All teams are required to produce two printed out, copies of their VolleyZone Team Sheets upon registration on the day of the competition for scoresheet purposes.

1.22 Upon online player registration, players will be required to upload a photo of their student ID cards.

1.23 On the day of competition, player ID cards will be collected and cross-checked with online form submissions. Should there be any form of discrepancy, the organisers reserve the right to deny progression to the finals.

1.24 The organisers reserve the right to amend the programme. The decision of the referee is final in regard to playing matters. The decisions of the Competition Organiser in regard to the event are final.

1.25 In the event of a competition being cancelled or a team(s)/players' inability to attend a competition(s) due to circumstances beyond the control of Volleyball England, the organisers 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). 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. 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. If unsure as to the course of action to take, please seek advice from the Volleyball England Competitions and Events team.

SECTION F. FINAL QUALIFICATION

1.1 The two finalists from the previous season will gain an automatic slot in the finals.

1.2 The first placed teams from each qualifier pool will qualify for the finals, pending any necessary eligibility checks.

1.3 Any remaining slots in the finals will be filled by the best second placed teams from the qualifier pools. This is determined through a calculation of the average of points scored in each set as illustrated below:

Sets to 21

- Winning set scored above 21 have been rounded down to 21
- Losing set scores above 19 have been rounded down to 19

Sets to 15

- Winning set scores above 15 have been rounded down to 15
- Losing set scores above 14 have been rounded down to 13
- All 3rd set scores have been multiplied by 1.4 to give an equivalent full set score.

1.4 Teams who have qualified for the finals must confirm their slot at the finals through entry on VolleyZone by 16th December 2026. Any team that fails to enter by this deadline will have their slot passed to the next ranked team.

SECTION G. FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION

1.1 QUALIFIERS

Pool	Warm up	Number of Sets	Played to	Golden Point
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4 Team Pools	Teams' 1 st match 10 mins, Teams 2 nd Matches onwards 5 mins	Best of 3 sets	Set 1&2- Rally point to 21 Third set- 15 points	Sets 1&2- 23 points Set 3- 17 Points
5 Team Pools	Teams' 1 st match 10 mins, Teams 2 nd Matches onwards 5 mins	Best of 2 sets	Rally point to 21	23 points

1.2 5 Team pools - two sets only to 21 points, 2 clear with golden point at 23, a third set will NOT be played. In the event of a 1-1 draw, the winner will be determined by total accumulated points across the 2 sets.

1.3 4 team pools - best of three sets, all sets will be rally point with the first two sets to 21 points, two clear with golden point at 23. The third set to 15 points, two clear, with golden point at 17.

2.1 FINALS

Stage	Warm up Time	Number of Sets	Played to	Golden Point
Pool Stages	Teams' 1 st match 10 mins, Teams 2 nd Matches onwards 5 mins	Best of 3 sets	Set 1&2- Rally point to 21 Third set- 15 points	Sets 1&2- 23 points Set 3- 17 Points
Positions 9-16 *	Teams' 1 st match 10 mins, Teams 2 nd Matches onwards 5 mins	Best of 2 sets	Rally point to 25	27 points
Positions 3-8	Teams' 1 st match 10 mins, Teams 2 nd Matches onwards 5 mins	Best of 3 sets	Sets 1&2- Rally point 25 Third set- 15 points	N/A N/A

Finals Positions 1-2	15 mins	Best of 3 sets	Sets 1&2- Rally point 25 Third set- 15 points	N/A N/A
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*Positions 9-16 In the event of a 1-1 draw, the winner will be determined by total accumulated points across the 2 sets.

2.1 Pool Stages - best of three sets, all sets will be rally point with the first two sets to 21 points, two clear with golden point at 23. The third set to 15 points, two clear, with golden point at 17.

2.2 In the knockout rounds - positions 1-8 will be best of three sets, all sets will be rally point with the first two sets to 25 points, two clear. The third set to 15 points, two clear, with no ceiling.

2.3 Positions 9-16 will two sets to 25 points, 2 clear with golden point at 27. In the event of a 1-1 draw, the winner will be determined by total accumulated points across the 2 sets.

2.4 Finals (gold medal matches) - best of three sets, all sets will be rally point with the first two sets to 25 points, two clear. The third set to 15 points, two clear

SECTION H. SANCTIONS AND MISCONDUCT

Players who receive a sanction for misconduct during matches will be sanctioned as follows.

1.1 Penalty If a player receives 2 Red Cards in separate games, they will be suspended for the next match.

1.2 Expulsion and Disqualification If a player receives a Red and Yellow Card in the same hands (Expulsion) or in separate hands (Disqualification) they will automatically be suspended for the next match.

1.3 All players must adhere to the [Volleyball England Code of Conduct](#).