

JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

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Competition Philosophy

Volleyball England has a competition pathway for juniors aged 7 to 18 years old irrespective of ability, disability, gender, ethnicity, or beliefs.

The nature of competition is passionate, committed and, on occasions, controversial however an environment of respect, responsibility and reflection must be created and maintained by all involved in every aspect of competition.

The interaction between players, coaches, officials, organisers, volunteers, and spectators, both on and off court, must always be:

Respectful: in the language used, support given, actions taken and the care towards the surroundings

Responsible: in the care of everyone to ensure a safe environment and a positive experience for all

Reflective: in a calm, constructive, progressive, and affirming manner aware that not everyone will be able to perform to the best of their ability all of the time.

Through competition juniors are learning the various roles, whether player, coach, official or spectator, and the standards and expectations associated with these roles. It is for everyone to respect, reflect and be responsible so they continue to enjoy and grow through the challenge of competition in their journey to becoming volleyballers for life. We ask that all hosts, clubs, schools, and organisations make every effort to ensure all those associated with them are made aware of the competition's philosophy.

This document refers to National Junior Competitions.

The FIVB Rules of the Game will apply unless modified by the Regulations below.

Please see [this page](#) for details of other relevant governance documents.

Please also note that the [Volleyball England NVL regulations](#) also apply to junior competitions except where modified below.

Teams in national junior competitions are to be entered via VolleyZone www.volleyzone.co.uk, details of which will be sent to all interested teams.

The following Regulations are designed to ensure integrity, fairness and give the maximum competitive playing opportunities for our juniors.

B. Definitions:

1. In this document "Organisation" means School, Academy, 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.

C. Eligibility:

1. All Organisations must be currently affiliated to Volleyball England. Which can be done at time of entry

D. Multiple Entries

1. Each Grand Prix is part of a series of events for Tier and Age Group (this is inclusive of Last 8 competitions).
2. An Organisation may enter more than one team in the same Grand Prix (see Appendix B).
3. Teams will be named 'A', 'B' in order of strength.
4. No player may play for more than one team in any one round / weekend of a Grand Prix from the same age group.
5. Matches between teams from the same Organisation in the same pool are played first.

E. Player Age:

1. Ages are as of 1st September in the season of the competition, e.g. U15 on 1st September etc. This is in line with School Years. For further details see Appendix B.

F. Players

1. For each age group there will be 2 competitions: Boys/Open and Girls. Please refer to the [Transgender Policy](#) for eligibility into the Girls competition.
2. The Boys/Open competition is open to all players of a specific age group.
3. Teams can list up to 12 players in a single match. They are permitted to bring a larger squad to a Grand Prix. If the squad size exceeds 12 the team must submit an individual team sheet for every match.

4. All players must be individually registered for the 2022-23 season and aligned to the team on www.volleyzone.co.uk. The cost of registration is £5 per player.
5. All players must be listed on the team sheet presented at the start of each Grand Prix, with their date of birth clearly shown.
6. No player may play for more than one Team in each Grand Prix round (per age group).
7. Players may play in more than one age group.
8. In Tier 2 – Players can play in different Grand Prix for different Teams/Clubs/Organisations.
9. In Tier 1 – Players may not play in different Grand Prix for different Clubs/Organisations.*
10. A Tier 2 Player may play in Tier 1 – If 2 rounds are played in Tier 1, the player may not return to Tier 2 within the same age group.
11. A Tier 1 Player may only play in Tier 2, if only 1 round has been played as Tier 1 with in the same age group.
12. It is the organisations responsibility to ensure the eligibility of their players competing in the Junior Grand Prix Series. If a team is found to have played an ineligible player in a match that match will be defaulted 25-0, 25-0. It is the responsibility of the team to keep records of all players competing until the next competition season.
13. If a player is not in attendance at any specific Grand Prix, they must have their name deleted from the team list at the end of the Grand Prix.
14. Only players who have been on a validated team sheet in a previous Grand Prix may play in the Last 8's or Final of any Competition for that Team.

* Except in exceptional circumstances which must be submitted in writing at least 14 days in advance of the next Grand Prix. This would be decided by the Competition's Working Group.

G. 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. The refund will incur an administration fee of £10.
2. Failure to notify of withdrawal before the 14 days deadline will result in that Organisation being required to pay for their share of the hosting costs and no return of the entry fee.
3. Teams failing to arrive on the day of the competition will be fined £50.00 dependent on relevant circumstances, be required to pay for their share of the hosting costs and no return of the entry fee.

H. 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 Grand Prix.
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 [Safeguarding & Welfare \(volleyballengland.org\)](http://Safeguarding & Welfare (volleyballengland.org)) or email safeguarding@volleyballengland.org for more information.
5. For tier 2 Grand Prix events the team must be accompanied by a competent adult.

I. Libero Players

1. In 6v6 competition, teams may list multiple Liberos, and these can be changed between matches. However only 2 can be used in any given match.

J. Team Kit

1. Tier 1, shirts (numbered front & back) and shorts should be uniform.
2. Tier 2, ideally as above, however, players not in uniform shorts and numbered shirts will be allowed to play.
3. If a Team is in the National Final team kit must be numbered 1-20. (Libero can be 1-99)

K. Balls and First Aid Kit:

1. Teams should bring their own warm-up balls. Unless stated otherwise in Grand Prix confirmation by the host.
2. If a match ball is not provided, the teams playing should provide a match ball.
3. To ensure that the young people get maximum enjoyment it is recommended that an FIVB approved ball is used. For under 15 tier 2 competitions reduced weight balls are permitted (see U15 Tier 2 adaptations).
4. Tier 1 Match balls must comply with the NVL Match ball regulations ([NVL Accepted Balls \(1\).pdf \(volleyballengland.org\)](http://NVL Accepted Balls (1).pdf (volleyballengland.org))).
5. Each team should bring a first aid kit to all Grand Prix.

L. 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.

M. Net Heights

	Girls	Boys/Open
U15	2.17 metres	2.24 metres
U16	2.24 metres	2.35 metres
U17	2.24 metres	2.43 metres
U18	2.24 metres	2.43 metres

N. Match Points

1. Starting point best of 3 sets, 25, 25, 15.
2. Tier 1 must be played to best of 3 sets.
3. For Tier 2 - Competition leads are able to vary this depending on pool size, hall booking and other factors but best of 3 sets is preferred.
4. In all pool matches, match points will be awarded as follows:
 - a. Win 2 points.
 - b. Lose 0 points.
 - c. Draw (Where appropriate) 1 point.

O. Venue Rules

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

P. Non-payment of Fines

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

Q. Discipline & Code of Conduct

1. 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.
2. Any organisation or organisation representative breaching these regulations may be subject to disciplinary action.
3. Please refer to NVL Regulations (Section G. Penalties, Protests and Appeals) for further information.

R. 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. In the spirit of the competition, we do not expect to see many if any disputes. The primary scenario in which a protest may be entertained is in regards to the age or eligibility of a player.
4. 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. Due to the limited time between Grand Prix event, there will be no opportunity to appeal the Competition Work Stream Lead.

S. Appeals

1. Please refer to NVL Regulations (Regulation G 6. Appeals) for further information.

T. Late arrival of teams

1. If a team is likely to be late, they must notify the Competition Lead at the earliest possible opportunity.
2. Where possible the Competition Lead will adapt the order of play to compensate for late arrivals.
3. Teams arriving less than 20 minutes late for their first pool match will forfeit the right to time outs in the first set.
4. Teams arriving more than 20 minutes late for their first pool match will forfeit the first set to nil. If the team is not ready within a further 20 minutes, then they will forfeit the match to nil.

U. 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 Grand Prix #1, #2 or #3 or Last 8's event because of bad weather, it will finish bottom of the pool.
3. If a team fails to arrive at the Inter Regionals or Finals, it will be eliminated.

V. Adverse (Weather, etc.) 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. The Competition Lead 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 the competition lead and 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 Competitions Team.

Specific Regulations for the Tier 1 Under 15, 16 & 18 Junior Grand Prix Series

W. Definitions

Grand Prix event – A round robin competition where every team will play each other once. Each age group can compete in up to three Grand Prix events across the series.

Pool points – The points earned during a Grand Prix event which contribute to the team's position in the Grand Prix.

Grand Prix points – The points assigned to each team at the end of each Grand Prix event based on their final position.

Grand Prix Series standings – The overall ranking of teams based on their number of accumulated Grand Prix Points

Gold/Silver/Bronze Pools – After Grand Prix #1 teams will be assigned into ranked tiers based on their Grand Prix Series standings. Gold being the top tier, silver medium and bronze lower. NB more Pools maybe created if entries warrant it.

Weightings – The multiplication of Grand Prix points to reward teams competing in higher ranked pools as they will be playing stronger opponents

X. How pools are decided

- Grand Prix #1 – U18 and U16 Teams will be seeded into pools based on last year's final rankings. U15 Teams will be placed into geographical pools.
- Grand Prix #2 (including U15's) – Teams will be allocated into ranked pools based on Grand Prix points from Grand Prix #1.
- Grand Prix #3 / Last 8's – Teams will be allocated into ranked pools based on accumulated Grand Prix points from Grand Prix #1 and Grand Prix #2
- Teams will be allocated into pools of four where possible. If the entries result in a pool of three or five teams, they will be assigned to the lowest ranked pool.

Y. Grand Prix points

- The below table illustrates how Grand Prix points are allocated to teams' final standings in Grand Prix 1.

Position	3 team pool	4 team pool	5 team pool
1 st	8 points	8 points	8 points
2 nd	6 points	6 points	6 points
3 rd	4 points	4 points	4 points
4 th		2 points	2 points
5 th			1 point

Z. Grand Prix Series standings

- Shall be decided on total Grand Prix points accumulated across the series.
- If teams are tied, they will be ranked based on sets difference per matches played.
- If teams are tied, they will be ranked based on points difference per sets played.
- If teams are still tied, they will be ranked based on the result between the teams.
- In 4 above the teams haven't played each other the order will be decided on a toss of a coin.

AA. How pools are tiered and weighted in Grand Prix 2 and 3 (for those not competing in last 8's)

- 1st – 4th ranked teams based on Grand Prix points will be allocated into the gold pool.
- 5th – 8th ranked teams based on Grand Prix points will be allocated into the silver pool.
- 9th – 12th ranked teams based on Grand Prix points will be allocated into the bronze pool.
- Below is an example of how weighted points are practically applied to a four-team pool

Position	Bronze pool	Silver pool	Gold pool	Platinum Pool*
1 st	8 points	12 points	16 points	20 points
2 nd	6 points	10 points	14 points	18 points
3 rd	4 points	8 points	12 points	16 points
4 th	2 points	6 points	10 points	14 points

*If more than 15 teams are entered into a Grand Prix event a fourth tier may be added as a platinum pool. As additional groups of 4 teams enter further pools of bronze, silver and gold may be created in that sequence.

Specific Regulations for the Tier 2 Under 15, 16 & 18 Junior Grand Prix Series

BB. How pools are decided

1. Teams will be seeded into pools based on:
 - a. The geographical location of teams – aiming for the least combined travel time.
 - b. The availability of hosts to accommodate the pool.
2. Teams will be allocated into pools of four where possible, however in some circumstances it may only be possible to be a pool of 3 or 5.
3. For Grand Prix #3 teams may have the option to be allocated into pools covering a larger (sub regional) distance to enable them to compete against different teams. If you wish to do this please contact the Competitions Team.

CC. U15 Tier 2 adaptations

1. The U15 Tier 2 competition will played as in a 4 v 4 format.
2. It is recommended that matches are played on badminton courts using the outside tramlines (approx. 13.4m x 6.1m)
3. Due to the number of matches being played at once (up to 4 matches in a standard sports hall) we advise the competitions to run using a timed format:
 - a. The timed format will be 3 sets, each of 8 minutes, teams win 3-0 or 2-1. Timing can be adjusted as required.
 - b. One time out is permitted per set when the first team reaches 8 points.
 - c. No substitutions are permitted in the last 3 minutes of the set.
 - d. When the whistle is blown to signify the end of the set, if the ball is in play the point shall be concluded and counted.
 - e. If the teams are tied at the end of the set, a final point will be played to decide the winner of that set.
4. Teams with more than 4 players in their squad can choose one of the below options for substitutions:
 - a. The traditional substitute rule i.e., Player A replaces B and then Player B can only go back on for A.
 - b. A rotation system where players rotate off and then rotate back on to serve.
5. If a player scores 3 successive serves the team will rotate but keep the serve.
6. If a team scores 6 successive serves they will pass the ball to the opposition, the score doesn't change.
7. Contact the ball is allowed with any part of the body, the ball is allowed to strike the foot, but kicking is forbidden. A kick will result in a loss of a point.
8. Roles are not specialised to individual players.
9. The server is a backcourt player.
10. To provide a positive experience to the players we advise the use of reduced weight balls.

DD. Hosting Grand Prix series events

1. Teams entering the Junior Grand Prix Series are asked to voluntarily determine which of the fixed competition dates that they can host.
2. All Grand Prix series event expect Tier 1 Last 8's will be hosted by organisations. The Last 8's events will be held at the National Volleyball Centre, Kettering.
3. The costs of hosting will be supported by visiting teams. They will pay the host an amount based on the below criteria:
 - a. 1 court booking - 3 team competing = £25 or 33% of the hall hire. Whichever is the cheapest amount.
 - b. 1 court booking - 4 team competing = £25 or 25% of the hall hire. Whichever is the cheapest amount.
 - c. 1 court booking - 5 team competing = £25 or 20% of the hall hire. Whichever is the cheapest amount.
 - d. 2 court booking - 5 team competing = £50 or 20% of the hall hire. Whichever is the cheapest amount.
 - e. 2 court booking - 6 team competing = £50 or 16% of the hall hire. Whichever is the cheapest amount.
 - f. 2 court booking - 7 team competing = £50 or 14% of the hall hire. Whichever is the cheapest amount.
 - g. 2 court booking - 8 team competing = £50 or 12% of the hall hire. Whichever is the cheapest amount.
 - h. For Tier 2 U15's the sports hall cost will be split as the lower of, £25 or equal percentage for all teams competing.
4. The visiting teams are required to pay the hosting fee directly to the host in accordance with the hosts confirmation.
5. Tier 1 Last 8's will be hosted by Volleyball England.

EE. Entry costs excluding hosting fees

	Tier 1			Tier 2		
	Grand Prix #1	Grand Prix #2	Grand Prix #3 / Last 8's	Grand Prix #1	Grand Prix #2	Grand Prix #3
Under 15	£31	£31	£31/£67	£15.50	£15.50	£15.50
Under 16	£31	£31	£31/£67	£15.50	£15.50	£15.50
Under 18	£31	£31	£31/£67	£15.50	£15.50	£15.50

*All Prices have been increased by Volleyball England's inflation rate of 3% (6% below the UK's inflation rate).

1. The Competitions Lead shall nominate an organisation to host each pool group on behalf of the Competitions Working Group.
2. Tier 1 competitions shall not commence before 11am and Tier 2 competitions shall not commence before 10am without the written consent of all participating teams.
3. Officials, Linespersons and Scorers shall be organised by the competition host selected from the teams in the pool
4. 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.

FF. Recommended Format for Grand Prix Events

Teams in Pool	Matches	Recommended Minimum Time
3	3 set matches	4 hours
4	3 set matches	5 hours
5	3 set matches reduced to 21 points	6 hours
6 (2 pools of 3)	3 set matches	4 hours
6 (2 pools of 3) with crossover	3 set matches	6 hours

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

GG. Last 8's (Tier 1 teams ranked 1-8)

1. Will be hosted by Volleyball England at the National Volleyball Centre in Kettering.
2. No Pool shall commence before 10.00am without the written consent of all participating teams.
3. The top eight teams from the Grand Prix Series standings.
4. The Last 8's will be split into 2 pools based on Grand Prix ranking position.
 - a. Pool A – 1st, 4th, 5th and 8th
 - b. Pool B – 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th
5. All teams in the Pool shall play each other in a round robin format.
6. All matches shall be played to the best of three sets.
7. On the completion of the pools, crossover semi finals will take place: 1st Pool A v 2nd Pool B. 1st Pool B v 2nd Pool A. The winners will progress to the National Final.
8. Volleyball England will provide qualified 1st officials if possible. Teams may be expected to provide competent 2nd officials, live stream scorers, scorers and at least 2 competent linespersons in neutral matches.

HH. Grand Prix #3 (Tier 1 teams ranked 9 onwards)

1. Will be hosted by one of the teams involved in the pool (dependant on entries).
2. Grand Prix points will be awarded to decide positions 9 and below.

II. Finals

1. The 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/Open and Girls

JJ. Players

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

KK. Format

1. Each region can enter a maximum of one team per age category.
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 knockout 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 Organiser and the 1st 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 Organiser.
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. Volleyball England will provide qualified 1st officials if possible. Teams may be expected to provide competent 2nd officials, live stream scorers, scorers and at least 2 competent linespersons in neutral matches.
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 during registration. Teams can list up to 12 players in a single match, including up to 2 Liberos. A new team list may be created for every match played.

Appendix A

LL. Basic Volleyball Rules for Playing the Game (for tier 2 reference)

1. 6 players on court, 3 on the front row and 3 on the back row.
2. Maximum of three contacts per side (excluding the block).
3. A player may not hit the ball twice in succession (A block is not considered a hit).
4. The ball may be played off the net during a rally and on a serve.
5. A ball hitting a boundary line is "in".
6. A ball is "out" if it hits an antennae, the floor completely outside the court, any of the net or cables outside the antennae, the referee stand, the ceiling, or any object outside the court.
7. It is legal to contact the ball with any part of a player's body (except in U15, see U15 Tier 2 adaptations).
8. It is illegal to catch, hold, or throw the ball (refer to refereeing in Tier 2).
9. If two or more players contact the ball at the same time, it is considered one play and either player involved may make the next contact (provided the next contact isn't the teams 4th hit).
10. A player cannot block or attack a serve from on or inside the 3m line.
11. After the serve, front line players may switch positions at the net.
12. It is not a fault if the ball contacts the net during a serve.
13. A back court player cannot play an attacking shot whilst in the front court (3m line) when the ball is played above the height of the net.

MM. Refereeing for Tier 2

1. The first principle of refereeing is to enable the game to flow. As such the referee should set a level of handling that facilitates game play. The officials for each match will come from the teams competing in the pool and they will be able to pitch the level of refereeing to match the players development capabilities. This should ensure the game flows without too many interruptions whilst maintaining the critical aspects of the game.

Appendix B

The below table illustrates the age criteria for the competitions.

Age Group	Not born before	Up to school year
Under 15	01/09/2007	10
Under 16	01/09/2006	11
Under 17	01/09/2005	12
Under 18	01/09/2004	13