

Key Regulation Amendments 2025-2026:

Volleyball England have made some amendments to the NVL Regulations for the 2025-26 season. These changes have come from the learnings of previous seasons the teams feedback and VE subgroups and the board.

Key Changes are:

1. International transfers
2. Overseas Players VISA status checks
3. Role of the Level 2 Coach
4. Super League Division 1 promotion relegation
5. Division 3 Relegation
6. Post Padding
7. Registration Deadline
8. Playing in the Playoffs

1. C.3 Transfers v. International Transfers

C.3 Transfers v. International Transfers	
2024-25 wording	NEW 2025-2026
<p>(3) Throughout the 24-25 season Volleyball England will be conducting random spot check to ensure that players are following regulations. Any team found to play anyone who does not have the 'approved' International Transfer Certificate (ITC) for that team will be imposed with a £100.00 fine per ineligible player. The International Transfer Certificate (ITC) is automatically sent to players once they have completed their international transfer via email.</p>	<p>(3) From the start of the 2025–26 National Volleyball Season, all International Transfer Certificates (ITCs) for players whose Federation of Origin is not England will be centrally administered by Volleyball England.</p> <p>There will be three categories within the ITC process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. ITC Continuation – For players renewing their ITC with existing FIVB clearance still valid. These will be processed at no additional cost.2. New ITC Applications – For players initiating an ITC for the first time. An administration fee of £35.00 will apply. <p>Players requiring an ITC under category 2 must purchase the relevant event via VolleyZone to initiate the process.</p>

<p>(4) It is the responsibility of teams to ensure that any player requiring an International Transfer completes this before playing in the NVL.</p>	<p>(4) It is the responsibility of teams to ensure that any player requiring an International Transfer completes the process before playing in the NVL. Any team found to be playing a player who hasn't registered correctly i.e. by selecting NVL (Federation of Origin – England) will be subject to an Administrative Dispute as outlined in regulation G 2 where the CWG, has the right to deduct points, fine and suspend any team should the situation warrant it.</p>

Reason for change: At the end of last year VE established that there was widespread non-compliance regarding ITC'S with notice that spot checks would be undertaken throughout the 2024-25 season. Despite this year of grace, an investigation in March resulted in 15 ITC fines being issued to teams. Highlighting the urgent need for central administration and monitoring of ITCs.

2. C.3. Visa status of overseas players in the NVL

2024-25 wording	25-26 wording
<p>N/A</p>	<p>X. Overseas players must declare their UK Visa status.</p> <p>Process</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Players to select one of 4 NVL player membership categories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. British Nationality – Federation of Origin England b. British Nationality – Federation of Origin Not England c. Non-British Nationality – Federation of Origin England d. Non-British Nationality – Federation of Origin Not England 2. If player is 'Non-British Nationality' they are required to follow the below steps

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Players will declare their VISA status b. Players to evidence using Gov. Website - https://www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status c. Screenshot and upload d. VE to check the VISA type & status as part of the registration and approval status e. Where required, players may be required to supply additional information. <p>Standard Visitor Visa – From the start of the 2025-26 season, no individual on a Standard Visitor Visa will be permitted to play in the NVL.</p> <p>UK asylum seekers and refugees may be licensed as British Players if the player has been granted asylum or refugee status in the UK, proof of being granted asylum or refugee status is required to be uploaded in the membership portal, in the Visa section. This will be at the sole discretion of Volleyball England and reconsidered on an annual basis.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of teams to ensure that players register correctly. Any team found to be playing a player who hasn't registered correctly will be subject to an Administrative Dispute as outlined in regulation G 2 where the CWG, has the right to deduct points, fine and suspend any team should the situation warrant it.</p>
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Reason for change: To ensure legal compliance, protect the integrity of the league

3. C 2. Technical Members of the team

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<i>2024-25 wording</i>	<i>25-26 wording</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Any other personnel needing to sit on the team bench under FIVB International Rule 4 must be registered on VolleyZone. ii. All Bench Personnel (including Coaches) must register with Volleyball England in the Club's specific Team Roster on VolleyZone for their team. iii. Only a registered Coach with Volleyball England will be able to undertake the role of Coach during a match. iv. Should a registered Coach with VE not be available at the match then the team captain shall assume the role Coach, in this scenario the team captain must be selected as a Team Official on the Team Sheet (produced in VolleyZone). Any other authorised Bench Personnel may act only as an Assistant Coach, with the associated restrictions and limitations of duties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A maximum of five Bench Personnel are permitted. ii. Bench Personnel must be registered with Volleyball England and included in the Team Sheet for the match iii. The role of the Coach during a match can only be performed by an individual with a Club Coach (L2) qualification and active coach registration who meets criteria C2 ii above. iv. If a Coach with a Club Coach (L2) qualification is not included in Bench Personnel the Team Captain must be designated as the Coach.

E.7 Bench Personnel	
<i>2024-25 wording</i>	<i>25-26 wording</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. At all VE matches, a team shall nominate a Coach for the match. This can be either a Coach, who must be registered with VE as a Coach, or a playing member (of that team). They must be added to the Club's specific Team Roster, and then selected as a Team Official on the Team Sheet (produced in VolleyZone). Their name and registration number shall appear legibly on the scoresheet. Only a registered Coach with VE shall be recorded as Coach on the scoresheet and must present their Bench Personnel details. ii. In the absence of a registered Coach then the Team Captain shall assume the role. In this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Only Players and Bench Personnel who are registered with Volleyball England and included on the Team Sheet for the match may sit on the bench during a match. ii. The role of the Coach during a match can only be performed by an individual with a Club Coach (L2) qualification and active coach registration who meets criteria C2 ii above.

<p>instance, the Team Captain must be added as a Team Official on the Team Sheet (produced in VolleyZone). Any other authorised Bench Personnel will only be able to act as Assistant Coach, with the associated restrictions and limitations.</p> <p>iii. A Coach from a team who wishes to act as Coach for another team must be as registered as a Bench Personnel for that team by being added to that Club’s specific Team Roster, and then be selected as a Team Official on the Team Sheet (produced in VolleyZone). To be able to assist another club, please email VolleyZone@volleyballengland.org with the details, so that a dual membership for the other club can be applied to your account in.</p> <p>iv. Only team players and authorised Bench Personnel who are presented on the Team Sheet (produced in VolleyZone) may sit on the team bench during the match.</p> <p>v. All parties on a team bench are subject to the disciplinary code of the game and must have appropriate registration details present.</p> <p>vi. The nominated Coach must produce their coach registration details at all matches. vii. For all Cup Finals and Super League Finals all Team Officials requiring to sit on the bench must be suitably attired, i.e., Smart, Casual, no Jeans, matching training suits, suitable footwear i.e., Trainers, Shoes, no flip flops or open toe Sandals.</p>	<p>iii. If a Coach with a Club Coach (L2) qualification is not included in Bench Personnel the Team Captain must be designated as the Coach.</p> <p>iv. The Coach must produce their coach e-registration card at every match</p> <p>v. Bench Personnel must abide by the Competition Regulation and Codes of Conduct.</p> <p>vi. At Cup Finals and Super League Finals Bench Personnel must be suitably attired wearing matching clothing either smart casual (no jeans) or track suits and suitable footwear (no flip flops or open toe sandals).</p>
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Reason for change: To ensure that all clubs operating in the league have a Level 2 qualified match day Head Coach. This clarification of the requirements has been conducted with Volleyball For Life, to regulate a standard that has been gradually implemented into the league. The ultimate aim is to ensure coaching deployment standards to support better welfare of players in the league.

4. I 4. Promotion and Relegation – Super League

Position	Action
1 st - 4 th	Progress to Super League Final 4
6 th - 7 th	Elimination Playoff

	Losing team from Elimination Playoff is relegated to Division 1
8 th	Relegated to Division 1

I 4.v. Promotion and Relegation – Division1

Position	Action
1 st	1 st place in Division 1 North and 1 st place in Division 1 South will be automatically promoted
7 th & 8 th	Relegated to Division 2 in each conference.

Reason for change: Ensures that those that win their respective leagues in Division 1 are promoted whilst at the same time ensuring all games in the Super League matter right up to the end of the season.

The recommended option does mean that two Teams will ultimately be relegated from the Super League on a yearly basis but it will incentivise the teams to invest into their squads from the start of the season to ensure that they are not in the Elimination Playoff game.

I 4.vii . Promotion and Relegation- Division 3

Position	Action
1 st	Promoted to Division 2 from all conferences
2 nd	The 4, 2 nd placed teams will enter a playoff. The schedule will be as follows: <p style="text-align: center;">Match 1: SE VS SW Match 2: NC VS NW</p> The 2 winning teams will be promoted into Division 2, the 2 losing teams will remain in Division 3.
9 th	Will be relegated from the NVL. Relegated teams will be permitted to apply as a ‘new team entrant’ for the following season.

Reason for change: As the NVL has reached its capacity, this provides an opportunity for new teams to be admitted into the league. Teams at the bottom of the pyramid will need to reapply, alongside non-NVL applicants. There continues to be a high demand to enter the NVL. This season there have been 37 applicants for 11 spaces. The quality of the applications is of a higher standard to some of the current NVL teams.

5. D.3 Equipment MOS ii. Court Equipment

2024-25 wording	25-26 wording
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<p>(13) Post Pads – correctly applied to posts, Required in divisions 1 & 2 this season, and in all divisions by 2025-2026 season.</p> <p>(22) Referee Stand – stable, safe, and adjustable</p>	<p>(13) Post Pads – to enhance player safety by reducing the risk of injury from impacts with the posts and base during play. It shall be correctly fitted before the warmup.</p> <p>(14) Base Padding- If the posts have anchor points, then base padding is required to ensure all components of the base are entirely covered.</p> <p>(15) Referee Stand – stable and safe. Step ladders, jump boxes and other devices not specifically designed as referee stands shall not be used.</p>
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Reason for change: In response to ongoing safety concerns regarding post padding throughout the season, it has now been clarified that **base padding must also be in place**. After consulting with USA Volleyball, we have chosen to retain wording consistent with previous regulations. This requirement is now **mandatory across all NVL divisions**.

Ensuring player safety is a top priority, and exposed post bases present a significant risk of injury during matches. By requiring base padding in addition to standard post padding, we are taking a proactive step to reduce hazards on court. Aligning with established best practices, such as those used by USA Volleyball, helps reinforce a consistent and professional standard across all levels of competition within the NVL.

6. Player registration deadline (K 1. Instructions to Referees)

2024-25 wording	25-26 wording
<p>Note: Player registrations and transfers cease as of 1st March unless in exceptional circumstances where permission is granted by the Divisional Lead prior to the match (Regulation C1.iv & Regulation C3. i refers).</p>	<p>Player registrations and transfers cease as of 31st January unless in exceptional circumstances where permission is granted by the CWG Senior Competitions committee.</p>

Reason for change:

Due to the season coming to an end earlier the registration deadline has been brought forward to reflect this change.

7. Post NVL Playing Season I 3.ix Playoffs

2024-25 wording	25-26 wording

N/A	viii. To be able to play at the NVL Play-offs, a player must have played in a minimum of three league matches in the current season for the team they are representing. In exceptional circumstances the CWG may waive this requirement.
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Reason for change: This rule is designed to maintain the integrity and fairness of the competition by ensuring that only players who have been active contributors to their team's season can participate in the NVL Playoffs. It prevents teams from introducing new or previously inactive players solely for the finals, which could give them an unfair competitive advantage and undermine the efforts of teams that have built success through consistent squad development over the course of the league. The exceptional circumstances are to take account for teams that have returning players who have had long term injuries or illness.