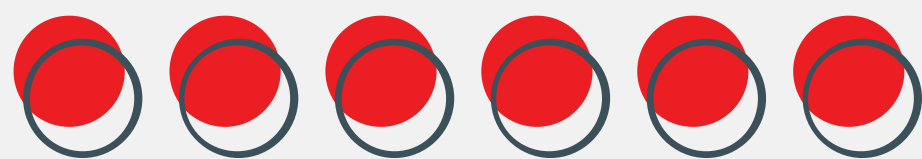




# NEW CLUB STARTER PACK





**YOUR CLUB STARTS  
HERE—LET'S HELP IT  
GROW, THRIVE, AND  
MAKE AN IMPACT**

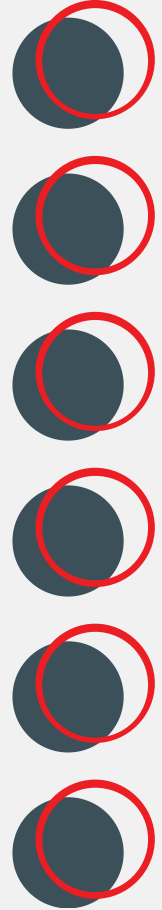




Starting a volleyball club is an exciting opportunity to bring people together, create pathways for new players, and strengthen the sport within your community.

This starter pack gives you everything you need to begin with confidence—from defining your vision and shaping your club’s identity to navigating governance, safeguarding, facilities, and building a sustainable membership base.

Whether you’re launching a grassroots group, expanding local opportunities, or turning a passion project into a fully established club, this guide walks you through each key step clearly and practically.



## **VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND VALUES**

**CONNECTED  
INNOVATIVE  
INCLUSIVE  
RESPECTFUL  
OPEN**

These are not just our organisational values. We believe that these are the values which should characterise every single volleyball-related relationship or interaction across our entire community; something that transcends geography, competition, ability or disciplines.



Creating your own values should reflect your clubs purpose, vision and aims which create a positive club culture.

You can use the prompts below to help start your discussions. Involve as many people as possible, to ensure that every voice is heard:

- What's your club's purpose?
- What values might help you achieve this purpose?
- How do you want others to see you?
- What experience do you want to offer your participants, volunteers, and wider stakeholders?
- What experience do you think they currently have?

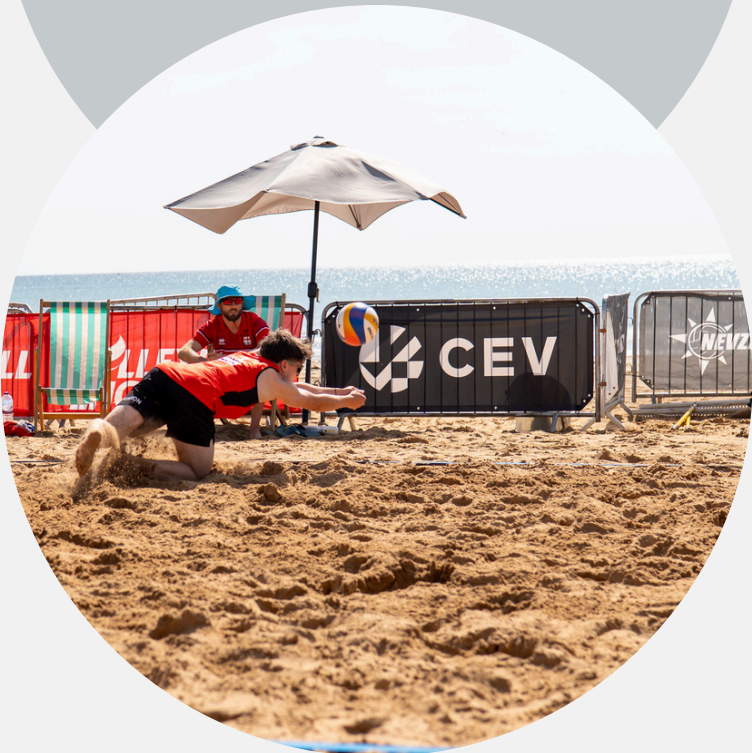
Once you have your values you will need to ensure these are embedded across your club and will help you to establish positive culture. Continue to promote your values within your club and monitor the success of your efforts.



# GOOD GOVERNANCE



Ensuring good governance procedures are in place will help your club to make the right decisions and to ensure sustainability in the future, in terms of both club finances and player numbers.



# POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

## Create a Club Constitution

This should outline:

- Club purpose
- Membership structure
- Roles & responsibilities
- Decision-making processes
- Meeting procedures

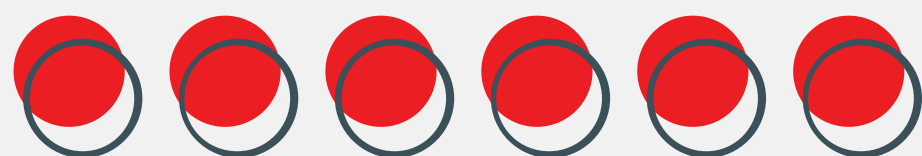
## Put Policies & Procedures in place

Mandatory policies:

- Safeguarding (adults & juniors) - see page 19.
- Code of Conduct
- Equality policy (template coming soon)
- Risk assessment

Essential procedures:

- Incident reporting
- Disciplinary process





# CLUB COMMITTEE

A strong club needs committed people.

## Essential Committee Roles

- Chair – leads the club
- Secretary – administration and communication
- Treasurer – finances
- Club Welfare Officer – safeguarding lead

Role descriptions linked above.

Optional Roles (recommended as the club grows)

Further role descriptions can be found on the [Volleyball England Club Hub](#).

- Coaching Lead
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Communications/Marketing
- Junior Development Officer
- Team Manager

# CLUB MEETINGS

Strong clubs are built on clear communication and good decision-making. Regular meetings help ensure the club is well run, transparent and sustainable.

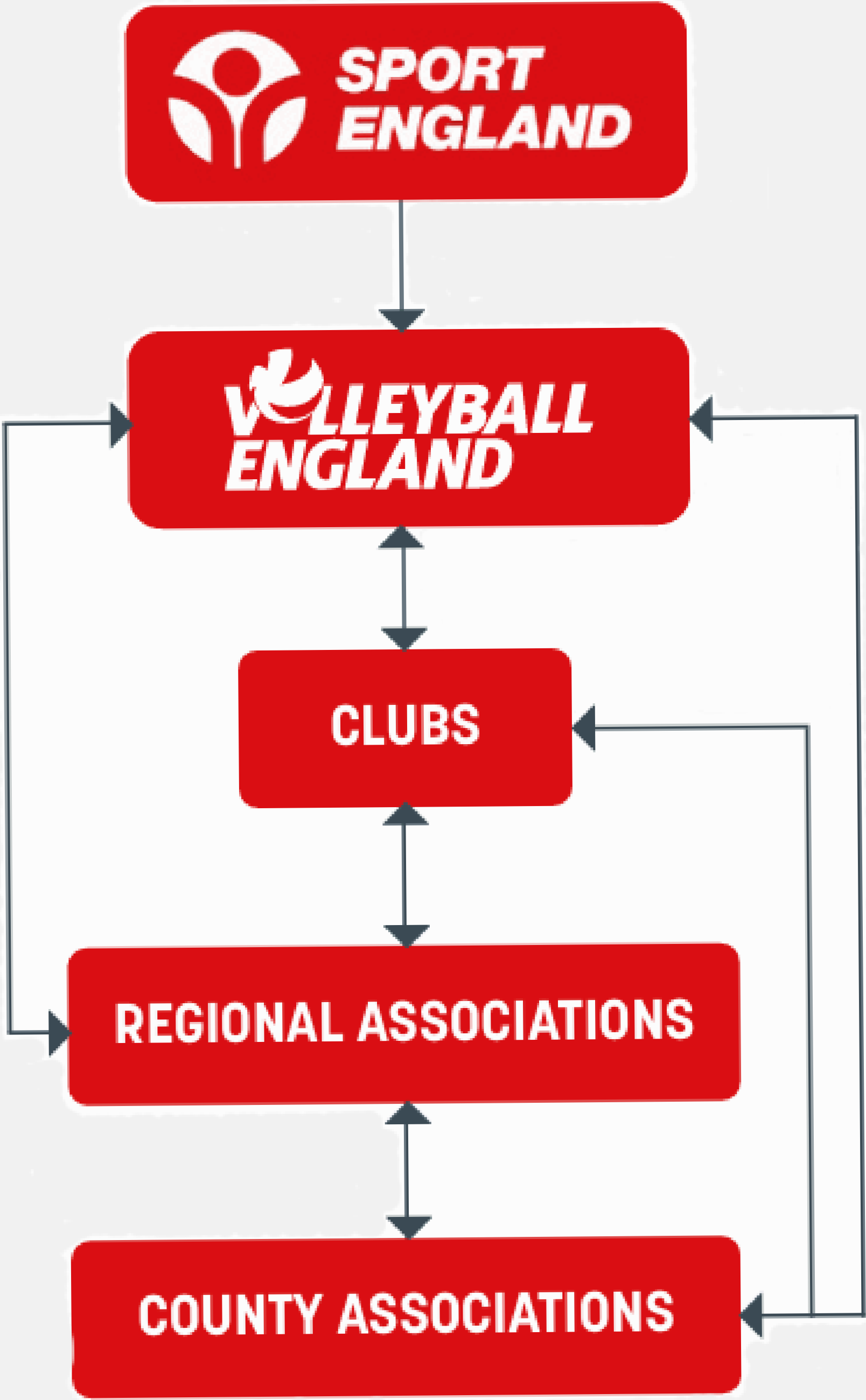
The club committee should meet regularly throughout the year, ideally at least four times annually to oversee the running of the club.

Clear agendas and actions should be recorded to support continuity and accountability.

An AGM should be held once a year and be open to all members. The AGM provides an opportunity to review club activities and give members a voice into how the club is run.



# VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND STRUCTURE



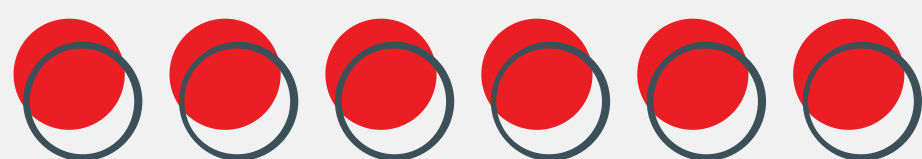
# REGIONS AND COUNTIES

Each regional association oversees volleyball activity in their area covering competition, talent, workforce education, increasing participation and promoting volleyball.

These association are run by a regional committee with valuable volunteers who support the clubs and members within their association.

Under each region, there are numerous county associations and their responsibilities include administering local leagues, organising competitions, and conducting referee and coaching courses.

More information about Regions & Counties can be found on our website [here](#).





## 1. **Estimate your costs**

Begin by estimating your costs, including venue hire, payments for coaches and officials, equipment, competition entry fees, and affiliation and membership costs.

## 2. **Plan your income**

Plan your income by considering membership fees, session fees, sponsorship, fundraising, and grants or funding opportunities at local, regional, and national levels.

When setting membership fees, committees should recognise that adults and juniors have different needs, with junior fees typically lower to support affordability, accessibility and long-term participation, while adult fees may reflect higher levels of use or competition.





### 3. **Set up the right account**

A club requires a bank account with at least 2 signatories from your club committee (these committee roles should be held by different individuals who are not related).

## **FUNDING**

Funding helps clubs move from short-term delivery to long-term sustainability.

Access to funding plays a vital role in helping clubs start, sustain and grow volleyball activity. Volleyball England provides clear guidance and practical support to help clubs navigate funding opportunities with confidence and develop stronger, more resilient programmes.

# FUNDING

## **Funding Guide & Example Application Answers**

Designed to support clubs through the funding process, including identifying suitable funders, developing strong project plans, and structuring effective funding applications.

## **Volleyball England Foundation**

Can provide support to access the right opportunity for you (local or national funding pots and support with reviewing draft applications helping clubs maximise impact and confidence.



# SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE



Volleyball England believes that all participants, staff and volunteers should feel safe while participating in volleyball. Delivering a positive safeguarding culture is everyone's responsibility to ensure we create 'A safe place that protects people from harm'.



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- Clubs should understand that safeguarding
- is not just about managing concerns – it is about setting standards, preventing issues and embedding a wellbeing and welfare culture into everyday club activity from day one.


Mandatory safeguarding roles:

Club Welfare Officer (role description linked on page 6).

Committees must ensure that coaches are suitable trained and the appropriate checks are in place before activity begins, this includes:

- Safeguarding Training
- DBS checks
- Risk Assessments

Clubs should have the correct policies and procedures in place (see page 7).



A strong safeguarding culture goes beyond policies and procedures. It is about setting clear expectations for behaviour, promoting respect on and off the court, and creating an environment where concerns can be raised and addressed appropriately.

Your club should actively promote positive behaviour in line with your club values, including the Volleyball England ‘Let the Player Play’ campaign. This ensures everyone **‘support the game, respects the officials and encourages the players.’**

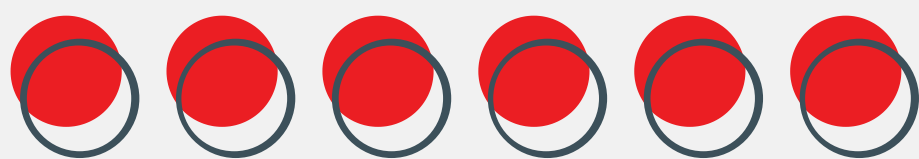
Player wellbeing should sit at the heart of everything your club does. A focus on wellbeing not only supports performance and enjoyment but also helps retain players and build a healthy, sustainable club community.

Volleyball England has developed two safeguarding policies to protect all participants.

Our Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy provides a range of guidance and resources to help safeguard from any risk of harm to children & young people are provided with the best support available. You can download a template [here](#).

Our Safeguarding Adults Policy supports Adults at Risk to have an enjoyable experience of volleyball in a safe environment. You can download a template [here](#).


Once your club is affiliated to Volleyball England, you can have access to a portal for your club where concerns are reported and managed by the club welfare officer. This is free for affiliated clubs. Contact [safeguarding@volleyballengland.org](mailto:safeguarding@volleyballengland.org) for more information.



# MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION

Clear, consistent communication helps clubs attract players, retain members and demonstrate value.





Effective marketing and communication play a key role in helping clubs grow and sustain volleyball activity. By clearly promoting opportunities, sharing success stories and keeping members informed, clubs can build stronger connections with their communities and increase participation. Volleyball England has a commercial toolkit to support you.

Clubs do not need complex strategies or large budgets. Simple, regular communication using the right channels can make a significant difference when aligned to club priorities and capacity.

Examples include:

Social Media | Facebook | Instagram |  
TikTok | Website | Newsletters | emails |  
WhatsApp | Spond

# VOLUNTEERS

Strong volunteer support helps clubs run effectively, grow participation and provide safe, enjoyable experiences for everyone involved. By valuing, supporting and developing volunteers, clubs can build resilience, share responsibility and ensure volleyball continues to thrive.



# RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

Engaged volunteers are the heartbeat of a thriving club. Build your team by reaching out through the right networks and welcoming people into meaningful roles.

There are multiple different roles which help to run a club. Outside of the committee club should have:

- Coaches
- Referees
- Other volunteers to help run sessions

There is further information on the [Volleyball England Club Hub](#).





## Where and how to recruit:

- Look within your club:
  - Member
  - Young people
  - Parents
- Outside of your club:
  - Volleyball England website/social media/newsletters
  - Regional/County website/social media
  - Your clubs website/social media
  - Schools, colleges and universities (HEVO Network)
  - Your local Active Partnership.

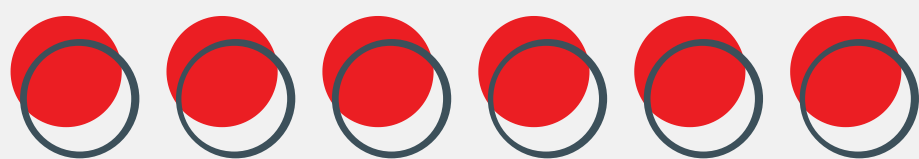
Use case studies to showcase volunteer journeys and impact.

# REWARDING VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are essential to your club's success – taking time to recognise their contribution keeps them motivated, appreciated, and engaged for the long term.

## Simple ways to reward volunteers


- Say thank you often – personal messages, shout-outs, and public recognition
- Celebrate achievements – certificates, awards, or volunteer spotlights
- Create positive experiences – support them in their roles and listen to their feedback
- Offer development opportunities – training, upskilling, and new responsibilities
- Show appreciation at events – socials, end-of-season gatherings, or thank-you moments



# JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

Starting a junior section is one of the most exciting steps a club can take. It creates opportunities for children and young people to enjoy the sport, supports the long-term future of your club, and helps you connect more strongly with your local community.





Before you begin, it's important to be clear about who you are as a club, why you want a junior section, and what success will look like.

The Club Sandwich: a simple way to plan

The top slice – Your Reason (WHY)

Why do you want a junior section?

Common reasons include:

- Giving young people the chance to play and enjoy the sport
- Growing future players, coaches and volunteers
- Engaging parents and carers
- Generating additional income
- Strengthening links with schools and the local community

The bottom slice – Your Outcome (WHAT)

What will success look like?

- A welcoming beginner offer?
- A clear development pathway?
- A thriving, inclusive junior community?

Being clear on your reason and outcome will help you overcome challenges and keep everyone aligned.

## **Turning your vision into action**

Once your reason and outcome are clear, it's time to focus on the actions that will bring your junior section to life.

- Create a child-friendly environment
- Create a safe environment
- Staffing your session (Qualified coaches, CWO, volunteers)
- Fun, age appropriate sessions
- Growing and sustaining your sessions
  - Recruitment
  - Finances
  - Competition opportunities

Build your junior section with purpose, patience and a child-first approach, and it will become one of your club's greatest strengths.

Volleyball England has a document to support you to develop a junior section on the Club Hub.



# SITTING VOLLEYBALL



Sitting volleyball enables clubs to attract new audiences, retain participants through inclusive delivery, and grow long-term membership and impact.





**Don't be fooled by the name, Sitting Volleyball is far from stationary! It's fast-paced and, despite the court being smaller, the net lower, and the players closer together, requires agility of thought as well as movement.**

While the game appears similar, there are some subtle differences, including: being able to block the serve and the requirement to have one buttock or an extension of the torso in contact with the floor when touching the ball.

As it is an adapted version of the indoor game, it means disabled players can also participate which makes it one of a small number of sports that is truly inclusive.

Never played sitting volleyball? Not sure what the sport is all about? Not sure of the rules of the game or how to get started?

The Volleyball England Sitting Volleyball Starter Pack can help!

**Ball:** You can use a volleyball or lightweight balls, slower-moving balls such as beach ball, or even balloons, to suit the needs of the participants.

- **Court size:** The court is usually 10m by 6m, but you can set the size depending on your venue and space.
- **Players:** Each team can have up to six players on court.
- **Contact:** Players must keep their pelvis in contact with the floor at all times.
- **Passes:** Teams have three passes to form an attacking play before the ball must go over the net.
- **Service order:** Players must serve in a set order.



#### 4. PLAYING A GAME

To play sitting volleyball, you need to know the rules. Like with other aspects of the sport, games can be adapted.

- **Teams:** Divide into two teams.
- **Court:** Define your court.
- **Contact:** Players must keep their pelvis in contact with the floor at all times. When hitting the ball, at least one buttock or an extension of the torso must be on the floor.
- **Serving:** The first player serves the ball with their buttocks behind the service line at the back of the court.
- **Passing:** Teams have three passes to form an attacking play before the ball must go over the net.
- **Scoring:** The first team to win 25 points wins a set, but they must win by two points. The first team to win three sets wins the match.
- **Movement:** Players move around the court by sliding or shuffling.

## SITTING VOLLEYBALL STARTER PACK

LEYBALL  
LAND



#### SITTING VOLLEYBALL STARTER PACK

##### DESIGN

Never played sitting volleyball? Not sure what the sport is all about? Not sure of the rules of the game or how to get started? This Volleyball England guide is for you – and give you the means to find out more – also be inclusive, hence the hashtag #inclusivebyde

##### WHAT IS SITTING VOLLEYBALL?

Sitting volleyball is an inclusive, fast-paced, fun sport that can be played by people with an impairment... this sport is for everyone can enjoy.

Sitting volleyball was introduced to the Netherlands in 1956 as a core sport. It was introduced by the Dutch / German in 1967 in Flensburg, Ger



# BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Having a beach volleyball offer is an exciting way to broaden your club's reach. It is a fast-growing, energetic sport that welcomes players of all levels acting as a highly social, lower-impact alternative to indoor volleyball.





Beach volleyball offers a flexible, accessible format that attracts new players, support retention, and encourage participation from different age groups and backgrounds.

Things to consider:

- Diversified income streams to support financial resilience.
- Utilising outdoor spaces allows the opportunities to build strong relationships with local communities.

Working with local councils and leisure providers can help you identify suitable spaces, support local activity objectives, and raise your club's profile within the community.

# FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT



Sitting volleyball enables clubs to attract new audiences, retain participants through inclusive delivery, and grow long-term membership and impact.



# FACILITIES

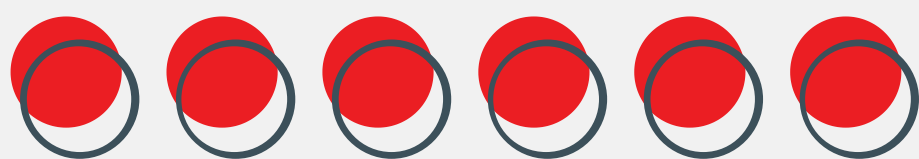
Finding facilities in the right area, with the right type of space, which are affordable and aren't already fully booked, can be challenging.

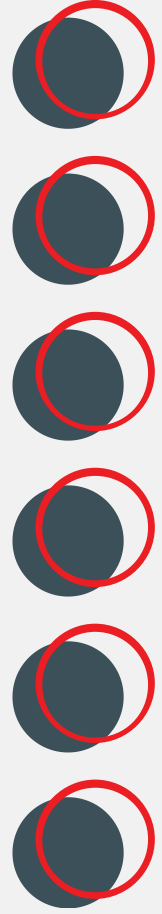
When looking to find the right venue for your club, don't just look at leisure centre, explore schools, colleges, universities and private leisure operators.

Ensure the facilities you are looking at has the suitability you need such as court markings, equipment availability, accessibility, parking and transport links.

When you are ready to book, agree the session times based on frequency (weekly/bi-weekly) and day and time that fits your participants.

Volleyball England has a venue finder [here](#).





## EQUIPMENT

Now you more to get your club set up it's time to check that you have all the equipment you may need to run your sessions.

- Posts that are fitted to the floor
- A wall net slider
- Net
- Antenna x2
- Referee Stand
- Volleyballs
  - Mikasa MVA 200 (minimum of 10)

The equipment can be found on [VolleyStore](#).

# AFFILIATING TO VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND

Affiliating to Volleyball England gives your club access to a wide range of benefits, from essential insurance cover to expert guidance that support sustainable growth demonstrating your commitment to strong governance and safe environments.

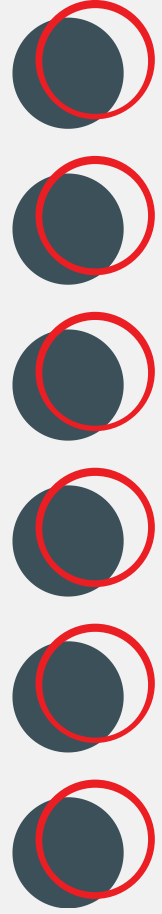


# THE AFFILIATION PROCESS

1. Have the following requirements in place:
  - a. Club Constitution
  - b. Club Committee
  - c. Safeguarding Policies
2. Email Volleyball England on [Volleyzone@volleyballengland.org](mailto:Volleyzone@volleyballengland.org) so we can get you set up on VolleyZone.
3. Complete your club affiliation process on VolleyZone using the guide [here](#).
4. Wait for your club affiliation to be approved. Once your club has completed the affiliation process, your application will be reviewed and approved by Volleyball England.
5. Download your affiliation certificate from VolleyZone & insurance document from Club Hub.

More details can be found [here](#).





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