



## BEACH VOLLEYBALL REFEREE GRADING STRUCTURE

Volleyball England's Referee Commission recognises the following Beach Referee Grades:- National, 1; 2; 3N; 3R (Regional) Beach and Grade 4 Beach. In addition there are the FIVB awards of National, International Candidate and International Referee.

### GRADE 4 BEACH

This grade is for candidates who successfully complete a Beach Grade 4 Award Course, normal duration 8 hours (minimum duration 7 hours), and pass a theory examination on the rules of Beach Volleyball and the basic elements of the International score sheet. The course comprises both theory and a practical session(s) but there is no practical assessment. It contains instruction on the rules of Beach Volleyball and their interpretation, basic match procedures, line judging and scoring. The pass mark for the theory examination is 80%.

The cost of the Beach Grade 4 course is currently £20, a fee which includes tuition, exam entry and a copy of the International Rule Book (available in advance). Candidates under 16 require Referee Commission permission to attend an award course. Referees who are under 18 are awarded Beach Grade 4 (Junior).

Details of arrangements for Grade 4 Beach Courses and other Clinics should be obtained from the Beach Commissioner responsible for Refereeing: Debra Smart [debra.smart@sky.com](mailto:debra.smart@sky.com)

### GRADE 3R Beach (Regional)

This is the basic grade of practical refereeing, a recommended minimum standard for officiating in BeachFest, regional or local Beach events, and Beach Student Cup. To achieve Grade 3R Beach a candidate must be observed (by an approved member of the Beach Staff Team) officiating as a 1st Referee, at least, at a match and must be in appropriate referee uniform. Candidates may make a direct approach to any staff on the current list, in order to arrange an assessment. Whereas Grade 4 is awarded for theoretical knowledge of the rules, the Grade 3R Beach Award is made solely on the basis of practical refereeing. Prior to assessment a candidate must have qualified as a Grade 4 Beach Referee and have registered or be committed to registering as a referee with Volleyball England. The award will not be ratified until registration is received by the National Office.

There is no charge for single Grade 3R Beach assessments. It is recommended that BeachFest and other Beach event organisers encourage assessments at their events and contact Beach Commissioner Debra Smart to arrange for a member of the Beach Staff to attend and conduct assessments of Grade 4 referees for Grade 3R Beach. Referees who fulfil the criteria and are under 18 are awarded Grade 3R Beach (Junior).

All Advanced Grade Awards, i.e. Grade 3 National and above, are ratified by Referee Commission on receipt of a body of Observation/Assessment reports, which show the Candidate has consistently fulfilled the criteria for the grade over an extended period of time, and when the candidates have fulfilled the criteria set out below.

### GRADE 3 National Beach



Grade 3R Beach Referees who have gained experience at BeachFest and other Beach events can apply for inclusion on the VEBT Panel. Referees on the Panel are appointed by the Beach Commissioner with responsibility for Refereeing. Prior to being awarded

Grade 3 National the Panel referees will be required to :-

- a) Know how to complete a Score Sheet
- b) Demonstrate the ability to line judge
- c) If required to score and line judge at VEBT events

Upgrading to 3 National will normally be by practical assessment involving a number of Observations/Assessments, with follow-up debriefs, by Beach Staff Observers/Assessors. Candidates for upgrading will be expected to be maintaining the standards of behaviour, administrative efficiency and professionalism listed in the Referee Code of Conduct.

Grade 3 National status is retained for as long as the official remains active as a referee, continues to register annually and remains on the VEBT Panel. A referee who fails to accept appointments for two consecutive seasons, or regularly fails to fulfil his/her commitment to Panel appointed matches, will normally be returned to Grade 3R Beach, unless there are extenuating circumstances of which Referee Commission has been notified. A Panel referee who fails to register for two consecutive seasons will normally be removed from the Volleyball England referee register and lose their grade status. On re-registering the referee must apply to Referee Commission for reinstatement if wishing to return at Grade 3 National, and may be required to be observed/assessed.

## **GRADE 2 BEACH**

Applicants for Grade 2 must be registered Grade 3 National referees (normally with at least two years of refereeing experience) and must be able to demonstrate a consistently high standard of officiating in appointed VEBT matches and Volleyball England recognised Beach competitions. To be considered for upgrading, a candidate should apply to the Beach Commissioner responsible for Refereeing, at least three months prior to the start of the season in which Observations are to be made. Candidates for Grade 2 Beach must maintain the standards of behaviour, administrative efficiency and professionalism required by the Referee Code of Conduct. Practical Training will consist of detailed debriefs, immediately following Observations. Referee Commission will only consider for upgrading to Grade 2 VEBT a candidate who has:-

- a) 'above baseline' Observations from at least two different Senior Beach Staff Officials or Referee Commission appointed Beach Referee Observers,
- b) successfully completed a Scorer Award Course,
- c) attended a line judge clinic, and
- d) demonstrated the ability to score accurately and line judge efficiently at VEBT or higher level events

Where there are sufficient candidates, training may include a Beach Referee Theory Clinic. Currently, the charge for a referee Clinic is £10 per day. It is the individual referee's responsibility to keep a log of his/her activity and the dates of Observations and upgradings.

## **GRADE 1 BEACH**

Applications for Grade 1 Beach are considered from Grade 2 Beach registered referees, usually with at least two years experience as a VEBT Panel Referee. The candidate must be able to demonstrate competence at the highest level of officiating and must be committed to an extensive programme of VEBT matches each season. To be considered for upgrading, a candidate must apply to the Beach Commissioner responsible for Refereeing, at least three months prior to the start of the season in which Observations are to be made. Candidates must maintain the standards of behaviour, administrative efficiency and professionalism required by the Referee Code of Conduct. Practical Training will consist of detailed debriefs, immediately following Observations. Referee Commission will only consider for upgrading to Grade 1 Beach a candidate who has:

- a) achieved 'above baseline' Observations (e.g. in VEBT and approved tournament Finals and Semi-Finals,) from at least two different Senior Beach Staff Officials or Referee Commission appointed Beach Referee Observers,
- b) demonstrated the ability to Line Judge and Score at the highest level in VEBT and International events. Where there are sufficient candidates, training may include a Beach Referee Theory Clinic. Currently the charge for a Referee Clinic is £10.00 per day.

It is the individual referee's responsibility to keep a log of his/her activity and the dates of Observations and Upgradings.

### **NATIONAL REFEREE**

As required by FIVB, from within the ranks of the current most senior referees, each season where there are candidates who have achieved the required level, will be selected a panel of officials designated with the FIVB category National Referee - Beach. As the number of National Grade referees is determined by FIVB this is not a 'lifetime grade.' Priority for this grade goes to referees who may prove to be future International Candidates and those who may be appointed to International matches and events. It is not possible for referees to apply for this grade

### **INTERNATIONAL REFEREE**

Applicants for an FIVB Beach Candidate International Referee Course are chosen by Referee Commission. To qualify they must hold a British passport and be resident in England, Wales or the Channel Islands. It is not possible for referees to apply for this grade. Any individual(s) selected by Referee Commission must be over 25 and under 41 years of age during the year they are attending the International Course, and have been on the governing body's list of nominated National Beach Referees for a minimum of three of the previous five years. FIVB are proposing that future Candidates for the International Course will be required to have a B.M.I. (Body Mass Index)\* of 25 or less and will have to complete a medical which satisfies the FIVB Medical Commission. Once achieved, the status of International Referee is awarded for a four year period and is only renewed by FIVB subject to activity and yearly reports. International Referees may be required by FIVB to submit themselves for a medical at any time. On reaching the age of retirement (55) a referee is not permitted to use the title 'International Referee'.

**\*B.M.I. calculation: EITHER: Weight in pounds multiplied by 730 – Divided by height in inches<sup>2</sup> OR: Weight in kilograms divided by height in metres<sup>2</sup>**

### **AGE LIMITS.**



The minimum age for VEBT refereeing is normally eighteen. After the age of sixty a referee must re-apply annually to Referee Commission to remain on the VEBT Panel. Those who wish to continue registering after retirement from active refereeing may do so, at the lowest rate currently available.

### **JUNIOR REFEREE AWARDS**

Under 18s may be awarded Grade IV (Junior) Beach and Grade 3R (Junior) Beach.

### **ACCELERATED PROMOTION SCHEME**

By special application, a player or coach with significant experience of VEBT, International Beach Volleyball, Volleyball or Sitting Volleyball may be considered for accelerated training, following success on the Grade 4 Beach course which must be completed by all. In such cases it is possible to shorten the normal period of qualification for Grades 3R Beach, Grade 3 National, 2, and 1 – although it should be noted that the same standards of competence, the same pass marks, and the same criteria must be met. For further details applicants should contact Beach Commissioner (Refereeing). Accelerated promotion, will also be considered for Referees displaying exceptional ability and progress

**Referees on the VEBT Panel may be subject to Observation at any time, without prior notification. Panel Referees may also at any time be required to sit a theoretical examination, which will require a knowledge of the FIVB Beach Rules, Referee Guidelines and Casebook examples. At least two months notification will be given of a theoretical examination.**

**All Referees holding Advanced Grades may be required to attend special training clinics. VEBT Panel Referees are expected to attend the Beach Referees' Conference, failure to do so for two years may result in downgrading or other disciplinary action, unless Referee Commission have been notified of extenuating circumstances. All referees and are expected to abide strictly by the Code of Conduct for referees.**