

These rules cover all Junior Events organised by the Volleyball England. Exceptions can be applied by any event in writing in the rules of that event.

A. Definitions:

1. In this document "Organisation" means School, College, Club, or Region. The constituted organisation to which teams belong.
2. Unless explicitly described otherwise, "Commissioner" means, the individual named by the Competitions Commission as being in charge of the event at any particular location. It could be the organiser of a round, a deputy for the Event Commissioner or the Commissioner him/herself.

B. Age: Ages are as at 1st September in the season of the competition.

C. Eligibility:

1. All Organisations must be currently affiliated to Volleyball England.

D. 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 Commissioner.
2. Failure to do so may result in that Organisation being required to pay a fine together with a surety for the following season's competitions.
3. Teams failing to arrive on the day of the competition will be fined £50.00 and have any grant or financial assistance already awarded withdrawn.

E. Coaching Staff

1. All individual schools and colleges that enter the Age Group competitions must either be coached by a member of the P.E. Department staff from that school or college or by a qualified coach who is registered with Volleyball England. It is strongly recommended that any P.E. staff who chooses to coach should obtain the full Volleyball England coaching qualification.
2. A qualified coach who is registered with Volleyball England must coach all club teams. It is recommended that the coach should hold at least a Level II qualification.¹
3. Coaches must produce their current Volleyball England registration card or number when handing in their team list at the start of each round. Failure to comply will bar the coach from carrying out the technical roles of a coach.²
4. ALL COACHES AND BENCH PERSONNEL WHETHER TEACHERS OR CLUB COACHES MUST HAVE COMPLETED THE DBS PROCESS THROUGH VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND.

F. Players

1. Separate competitions for Boys and Girls will be held in all age groups.
2. Girls may NOT play in Boys competitions (and vice versa).
3. All players must be bona fide members of their Organisation. (i.e. they must play/train regularly with that Organisation).
4. All players must be listed on the team sheet presented at the start of each round, with their date of birth clearly shown.
5. Schools/colleges shall have first call on players before club teams.
6. No player may play for more than one Organisation / Team in each competition
7. Players may play for different Organisations in different competitions (e.g. school 'X' in Under 16 & club 'Y' in the Under 18's)
8. If a player is not in attendance they must have their name deleted from the team list at the end of the round.
9. Players will become cup tied if their name appears on any team sheet, whether they actually play or not.
10. Only players who have been on a validated team sheet in a previous round or, have been registered as a named player for the Organisation since the start of the season, may play in the Final of any Competition.

G. Libero Players

1. Each team may register two Libero's player for each match.
2. The Libero can be changed between points.

H. Team Dress

1. Shirts (numbered front & back) and shorts shall be uniform.
2. Number shall be as per FIVB rules.
3. Teams NOT in uniform shorts and numbered shirts may be fined £5 per player.
4. In the later stages of competitions, players NOT in uniform shorts and numbered shirts may be allowed to play at the discretion of the Commissioner.

¹ Requirements 1 & 2 are for Child protection and insurance purposes.

² Checks that the approved people are in charge of the teams on the day.

I. **Multiple Entries**

1. An Organisation may enter more than one team in same competition.
2. Teams will be named 'A', 'B' in order of strength
3. Once a team has been knocked out, a player may play up, but may not play down.
4. No player may play for more than one team in any one round of a competition.
5. Matches between 'A' 'B' 'C' etc. teams from the same Organisation in the same pool are played first.

J. **Rules of Play**

1. The games will be played under FIVB rules except where modified by the Volleyball England Rules of Competition, or the rules of individual Competitions as recorded below.

K. **Match Points**

In all pool matches, match points will be awarded as follows:

1. Win 2 points.
2. Lose 0 points.
3. Draw (Where appropriate) 1 point.

L. **Final Pool Order**

1. Shall be decided on total match points.
2. If two or more teams are equal on match points at the end of their pool, the winner shall be decided by considering the games between those teams.³
 - 1) If match points in the games between tied teams produce a clear leader that team will take the top place.
 - 2) If there is still a tie, then sets average will be used (sets for divided by sets against).
 - 3) If there is still a tie, then point average will be used (points for divided by points against).
3. Only if the tie break procedure does not resolve the tie will overall sets average and points average be used to resolve the tie.
4. Play-off as decided by the Competitions Commissioner.

M. **Venue Rules**

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

N. **Non-payment of Fines**

1. Non-payment of fines may lead to entry being refused from future competitions.

O. **Discipline & Code of Conduct**

1. It is a condition of entry to all Junior Competitions that teams shall adhere to the Players Code of Conduct.
2. Players, Coaches and Managers of all competing teams shall behave in a manner that is not likely to bring the game of Volleyball into disrepute.
3. The Competitions Commission shall have the power to take appropriate action against any affiliated Organisation, Player, Coach or Manager within its jurisdiction.
4. Suspensions shall be valid throughout all competitions in England.
5. Any Player, Coach or 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 Commission.
6. Each Organisation that enters competitions is also responsible for the behaviour of its spectators.

P. **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 Commissioner 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 Commissioner at the time the result is handed in, and at that time make their protest in writing.
3. Any Club 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 President of the Competitions Commission within 7 days of the dispute. A fee of £75.00 must accompany the letter. The fee will be refunded if the dispute is found in favour of the disputant.

Q. **Appeals**

1. There shall be the right of appeal to the Competitions Commission against the ruling of the Commissioner.
2. The final right of appeal against the decision of the Competitions Commission shall be to the English Volleyball Association Judicial Panel under paragraph 13.3 of the EVA Constitution whose decision shall be final.

³ Head to head process is preferred to avoid the effect of a strong leader, playing bench players in later rounds giving an advantage to the team that plays against the bench players.

R. Adverse Weather Conditions

1. 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 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. 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.
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 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 Competition and Events

Specific Rules for the Inter Regional Championships

These rules are subject to change and will incorporate the Junior Competition Rules for 2015-16 as stated above. The Commissioner may make alterations to the specific rules or the competition rules. Organisations must adhere to all changes and will be notified of any changes.

A. Net Heights

Under 14 Girls	2.15 metres	Under 15 Boys	2.35 metres
Under 16 Girls	2.24 metres	Under 17 Boys	2.43 metres

B. Late arrival of teams

1. Teams arriving less than 15 minutes late for a pool match will forfeit the right to a warm-up and time outs in the first set that will be played immediately.
2. Teams arriving more than 15 minutes late for a pool match will forfeit the first set 25-0. If the team is not ready within a further 15 minutes then they will forfeit the match 2-0, 25-0 and 25-0.

C. Non-arrival of teams because of bad weather

1. If a team fails to arrive at a preliminary, first or second round Pool because of bad weather, it will be eliminated, but may appeal under the following conditions:
 - a) If only one team qualifies from that pool, then there is no appeal.
 - b) If more than one team qualifies from that pool then a play-off against the last qualifier may be arranged provided that:
 - i) The host team has been informed of the absentee team's non-arrival.
 - ii) The relevant Competitions Commissioner is notified in writing within 48 hours.
 - iii) The appeal letter includes a contact telephone number, written/photocopied confirmation from the AA or RAC that it was inadvisable to travel and a surety of £75 (payable to the English Volleyball Association).
2. The Competitions Commission will then decide whether the appeal is valid. If the appeal rules in favour of the appellant team then the bottom qualifier will then be asked to arrange a play-off at its chosen time and venue; and the appellant team will pay the full cost of the match - (Court hire, travel, Officials etc.) (The surety will go towards this cost).
3. If a team fails to arrive it will be eliminated.

Under 14 Girls

A Players

1. Minimum number of players per squad ('A' or 'B') is 4, maximum is 6.
2. The competition will be 4 v 4 players.
3. Players MUST have a connection to the Region they play for. Either, residence, attending a school, or being registered as a player with a club in the Region.

B Format

1. The competition will commence with teams playing in a pools. Each team will play each other in a round robin format. The top teams in each pool will progress to a knock out phase to determine an overall winner. The top 2 teams in each pool will progress to a knock out phase to determine overall winners.
2. The knockout phase will consist of cross over matches between groups as outlined in the match schedule.
3. The format of the competition may change depending on the number of teams in the group. This will be at the discretion of the Commissioner.
4. 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 Manager and the 1st Referee for the next match.
5. After each match it will be the winning Captain's responsibility to get the score sheet to the Competition Manager.
6. All players must be involved in each game, under the following guidelines:
 - a) Players will rotate onto the court with the service, thus the player returning to position one leaves the court to be replaced by another player each time the team rotates.
 - b) In the case of an injury, the next player in line to enter the court following the rotation will replace the injured player, and the number of rotating players will reduce from 6 to 5 etc.
 - c) If a squad has only 4 fit players they will just continue to rotate naturally.
 - d) If an injury occurs reducing a squad from 4 to 3 players, the coach will be able to transfer a player from their region's 'A' or 'B' squad into the other squad to maintain the competition. This transfer will be completed in agreement with the Competition Manager. If a player has to be transferred between squads they may return to their original squad, but no further transfers can be made involving those players.
7. If a team wins 3 consecutive points on their serve the attacking team shall rotate the server. The defending team shall remain in their rotation order.
8. No libero players are permitted

9. For each 15 minutes a team is not ready to play, after the preceding match has finished, the team will forfeit the set 25-0. The exception to this rule being a delay due to officiating or playing on another court.
10. 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 15 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 Manager and the 1st referee for the next match.
11. Teams will be asked to provide a line judges and scorers when not competing and in exceptional circumstances may be asked to provide a second referee. All should remain neutral in all circumstances. Failure to comply with this rule without the prior consent of the Competition Manager will result in the loss of 1 pool point.
12. Teams will get 5 minutes to warm up on court. 2 minutes general and then 3 over the net.
13. It is the responsibility of the winning Captain to return the completed score sheet to the Competition Manager's desk.
14. The team list must be handed in prior to the start of the first match. No amendments may be made to the team sheet after submission.
15. All coaches must be registered with Volleyball England and carry their registration card to the event.
16. All coaches, managers and bench personnel must have completed the Volleyball England's Safeguarding process (Self-Declaration documentation) and fully understand both the Volleyball England's Child Protection Policy and the Coaches Code of Conduct.
17. Any disputes should be put in writing, as soon as possible and passed to the Commissioner on the day of the event. Disputes will be dealt with in accordance with the complaints procedure. The decision of the Event Management Staffing Group will be final.
18. Each region can enter a maximum of one team per age group / gender with the exception of the U14 girls where two entries are allowed (A & B)

U16 Girls, U15 and U17 Boys

A. Players

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

B. Format

1. 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 knock out phase to determine overall winners.
2. The knockout phase may consist of cross over matches between groups as outlined in the match schedule.
3. The format of the competition may change depending on the number of teams in the group. This will be at the discretion of the Commissioner.
4. 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 Manager and the 1st Referee for the next match.
5. After each match it will be the winning Captain's responsibility to get the score sheet to the Competition Manager.
6. Teams may play 1 or 2 Liberos in each of these age groups. The Liberos **CAN** be changed for each point.
7. For each 15 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. Teams will be asked to provide line judges and scorers and in exceptional circumstances a second official when not competing. All should remain neutral in all circumstances. Failure to comply with this rule without the prior consent of the Competition Manager will result in the loss of 1 pool point.
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 Competition this may change taking into account the overall running of the tournament.
10. The team lists must be handed in prior to the start of the first match. No amendments may be made to the team sheet after submission.
11. All coaches must be registered with Volleyball England and have their registration card at the event.
12. All coaches, managers and bench personnel must have completed the Volleyball England's Child Protection process (Self-Declaration documentation) and fully understand both the Volleyball England's Child Protection Policy and the Coaches Code of Conduct.
13. Any disputes should be put in writing, as soon as possible and passed to the Commissioner on the day of the event. Disputes will be dealt with in accordance with the complaints procedure. The decision of the Event Management Staffing Group will be final.
14. Each region can enter a maximum of one team per age group / gender with the exception of the U14 girls where two entries are allowed (A & B)