

Amendments to the NVL Rules for the 2011-12 season

(All changes are highlighted in **bold**)

Please note that "Rule / Rules" has been changed to "Regulation / Regulations" – any changes that only refer to this have not been included in the Amendments list.

Section A – Administration Matters

Regulation A 1.

- ii. Should, during the season, a team be issued with a fine an invoice will be sent to the Team, **addressed to the team secretary**. This must be paid within 14 days from the date on the invoice.
- iv. Have a name that permits easy geographical recognition **of where they are from / play**, agreed and approved by the Competition Commission.
- v. **Agree to abide by the Minimum Operation Standards (See Section M)**

Regulation A 3

- i. Be **part of a Club properly** affiliated to VE.

Regulation A 5

- vii. The Club having a suitable home venue **and equipment** for NVL matches in the location indicated by their team name **and specified as their normal home venue**.

Regulation A 9

- vii. All **NVL** correspondence will be forwarded to the **relevant** team **secretaries** named in the Handbook, or as amended in writing to the VE National Office, who will advise all team secretaries in that competition as soon as practicable of the change of team secretary. **Any Club specific matters will be addressed to the Club Secretary / Chairperson, as detailed on the Club's Affiliation form for the season.**

Regulation A 10

The Competitions Commission has the full authority to deal with disputes involving clubs, players, administrators and non qualified persons acting in the capacity of coach or referee, **and to sanction clubs and their members, both playing and non playing, when deemed to be in contravention of any of the NVL regulations or relevant codes of conduct.**

Regulation A 11. Match Venues

- i. **Matches played in Men's Super 8s, Women's Super 8s and Quarter Finals and Semi Finals of all Cup Competitions shall be played at venues approved by the Competitions Commission. Clubs competing must obtain such approval from the Commission where required.**

Section B – Organisation of fixtures

Regulation B1 Pre Season Fixture Arrangements

Teams will be provided with the draft fixtures well in advance. At that time teams may enter mutual discussions and request agreed amendments to the proposed fixtures. Any such proposals must be agreed in writing by both teams, and confirm the new date, time and venue. **Any such changes will need to be approved by the Competition Commission, who shall seek to ensure that teams do not gain a competitive advantage by delaying matches, delaying the start or conclusion of the season, or a team playing significantly more, or less, matches than other teams in the Division by key dates.** After the amended draft fixtures have been returned to VE National Office, no other changes will be allowed except under very exceptional circumstances.

During the Season

- iii. Only under very exceptional circumstances, fixtures may be rearranged with prior consent of the appropriate Commissioner and the opposition. Requests for rearrangement must be made to the Divisional Commissioner at least 21 days prior to the original fixture date. Consideration of requests with less than 21 days notice will only be considered in the most extreme circumstances The National

Office **must be kept** informed of the changes. Requests to re-arrange a fixture due to holiday arrangements is not considered to be a very exceptional circumstance

vi. Where a fixture is postponed due to exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the teams, then any additional costs incurred in restaging the fixture shall be equally shared between the teams i.e. Sports Hall Costs, Referees and actual Travel costs.

viii. Under no circumstances (other than with prior consent of the Competitions Commission) can fixtures be played after the close of the NVL season, the date of which is published as part of the VE calendar. The NVL end of season date is the **15th April 2012**.

Section C – Registration

Regulation C 2

iii. Coaches and Authorised Bench Personnel require one licence per team they wish to assist. **Only a qualified and registered Coach with VE will be able to undertake the role of Head Coach during a match.**

iv. **Should a qualified and registered Coach with VE not be available at the match then the team captain shall assume the role. Any other Authorised Bench Personnel may act only as an Assistant Coach, with the associated restrictions and limitations of duties.**

Regulation C 3 Transfers (see appendix A)

i. Subject to the provisions below, players may transfer between clubs prior to 1st February each season. **Only in exceptional circumstances will a player be allowed to transfer more than once** during the NVL/KO Cup playing season. The NVL season shall run from 01 September to 31 August each year. Players who are playing up, and reach eleven sets, or more, in a match are deemed to be automatically transferred to the higher team. **It is the responsibility of the club to keep account of the number of sets each player plays up.** This will also apply if this occurs after 1st February, and **will be an** exception to the transfer deadline.

iv. Unless under contract, a player is deemed to become a free agent if they have not played in the NVL in the preceding two seasons, and have **no** documented indebtedness to a previous NVL Club. Teams are strongly advised to consult the available player registration information available on the VE website or held in the VE National Office to confirm the status of a player.

Section D – Preparation for matches

Regulation D 1. The home team is responsible for

i. Arranging for the availability of the venue (facilities) – see D1.v and the equipment – see D1.vi. For all VE competitions, only equipment deemed suitable, fit for purpose and safe, or which has FIVB approval may be used unless the Competitions Commission gives prior agreement. Posts must be to a minimum specification of EN1271. The playing conditions must conform to those laid down in the current VE **Official Volleyball** Rule Book.

v. Facilities

(10) Sanctions box **with seat** - 1m x1m on the scorer's side of the court, outside of the free zone and beyond the end line.

vi. Equipment

(10) 2 sets of paddles **Standards)** - numbered 1- **20 (refer to Section M – Minimum Operating**

(11) Buzzer - available **(refer to Section M – Minimum Operating Standards)**

vii. Supplying a Scorer, at least two competent Lines Judges and a visual scoreboard in all cases. All minor Officials should be competent in the performance of their duties. The Scorer **must** be the same person throughout the match and be present at least 30 minutes before the start of the match. Line Judges should be present at least 20 minutes prior to the start of the match.

Regulation D 2. Playing kit

ii. Shorts - uniform colour. Shorts do not have to be numbered but all the team must **wear** the same. (either all numbered, matching the shirt number or all without).

vi. All teams are required to be in full match kit prior to the **official** warm up **at the net**.

Regulation D 3. Expenses for Match Officials should be paid prior to the start of the match (or as previously agreed by the Referees), and in all cases on the day of the match(es) concerned.

Note: Travel expenses are to be claimed as either actual expenses (public transport) or at current VE rate (£0.25 per mile private car @ 21/05/11).

Regulation D 4. Referees

vii. Where the **NVL appointments Sub-Committee** of the Referee Commission has not appointed Referees for the match, the home team is responsible for appointing them. If the visiting team objects to the Referee appointments made by the home team then this should be referred to the Referee Appointment Committee.

Section E – Arrangements of matches

Regulation E 1. Regulations of Play

v. The **Rules of the Game that will** apply to all competitions will be those currently issued by the **FIVB**. In the event of a **Regulation** change being required in any competition, the Competitions Commission must first give agreement.

Regulation E 5. The players

iii. All players in a team, apart from the Libero(s), must wear a strip of identical colour and design with regulation size numbers on the front and back. The numbers 1-20 only may be used. The Libero(s) shall wear a different coloured, easily identifiable, numbered shirt. In all respects, kit must conform to VE **Official Volleyball** Rules requirements. Referees are empowered to prevent players from taking part in a match if they do not comply with this rule. If, however, the referee **does** allow the player to participate it should be indicated on the score sheet.

v. NVL Player registration cards accompanied by an **NVL Team Sheet and** Bench personnel cards are to be presented to the Scorer at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the match. Referees must check identity and validity of registration cards and note all irregularities on the scoresheet.

viii. Playing Up

(1) A club, having two or more teams competing in the NVL, once having nominated the team to which each player belongs, shall be entitled to play a lower team player in that club's higher team for up to 10 sets during the current season (i.e. appearance in that set whether for 1 point or the whole set **and if a Libero player, whether they enter the court or not**) without the necessity of transfer. It is the Club's responsibility to notify both Referees and Scorer before the start of the match as to which players are involved. If a player is found to have played for the lower team after automatically being transferred up, then that player will be considered an unlawful player. The first referee is to record the appropriate sets on the player's card **except where that player is a Junior – see (2) below**. During the current season any player playing up who reaches eleven sets, or more, during a game will automatically be deemed to be transferred to the higher team. This will also apply to matches after 1 February.

Regulation E 6 Other team officials

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 player member (of that team). Their name and registration number shall appear legibly on the scoresheet. **Only a qualified and registered Coach with VE shall be able to be recorded as Coach on the scoresheet.**

ii. **In the absence of a qualified and registered Coach then the team captain shall assume the role. Any other Authorised Bench Personnel will only be able to act as Assistant Coach, with the associated restrictions and limitations.**

Regulation E 7 Match Officials

i. Should only one of the appointed Referees arrive for the match, they will appoint a person to act as the second Referee. They will do this from **any** available persons based on qualification, registration and competence.

iv. The scorer **must** be available 30 minutes prior to the match start time and complete the whole match. The team lists must be fully completed by the time the captains are called for the toss (at least 16 minutes before first service time). The scorer must complete the scoresheet before it is presented to officials for signature at the end of the match.

Section F – After the match

Regulation F 1. Scoresheet and Match day protocol sheet etc

i. Sending the top copy of the Scoresheet, Libero Control sheet (as necessary) and Match day protocol sheet to the National Office by first class post on the first working day after the match. In the event of late arrival of this copy at the National Office, the date of cancellation of the first class stamp will be used to see whether a team should be fined.

ii. Submitting a match report (Super 8s and Division One teams)

Section G – Penalties, Protests & Appeals

It is anticipated that teams will abide by both the letter and the spirit of these competition **regulations**, and of VE **Official Volleyball** Rules and that defeat will not be seen as an excuse for making a complaint.

Regulation G 3 Technical Disputes

Those relating to the match itself under areas covered by the match Referees.

i. If, prior to the start of a match, a dispute arises, this should be noted on the scoresheet by the Scorer **(under the direction of first referee)** in the 'remarks' section before the match commences. If no such entry is made, it is assumed that up to that point all events and conditions are satisfactory. The referee may also note at this point any breaches of **competition regulations**.

ii. If, during a match, a dispute arises, the first referee's decision is final. Any **legitimate protest is to be recorded** on the scoresheet after the end of the match by the scorer **(under the direction of the first referee)**.

Regulation G 4 Remarks on the scoresheet

ii. Any complaints about the competence of the officials must be forwarded within 5 days of the match:-

(a) Where the Official(s) is/are unqualified, the Competitions Commissioner will deal with the dispute in accordance with Regulation D 4 viii.

(b) Where the Official(s) is/are qualified then any protest will be dealt with by the Referee Commission any comments should be sent to the VE National Office.

Regulation G 5 Protests

iii. Any protest upheld against an individual sanction will only be applied to the disciplinary outcome and will not affect the result of the match.

iv. When considering the outcome of any dispute it should be remembered that the sanction could be increased rather than reduced.

v. Only disputes regarding the technical application of any sanction will be considered. This will not include yellow cards.

Regulation G 6 Appeals

v. The appeal panel will normally consist of at least 3 Competitions Commissioners who will either sit in person or by conference call. In exceptional circumstances the panel may sit with two Commissioners. **Any Commissioner with a personal or prejudicial interest will not be allowed to sit on the panel.**

Section H – Misconduct

Regulation H 3 Penalty Points

(These do not apply to delay sanctions)

i. A player, coach or authorised bench personnel who receives a penalty for misconduct (yellow card) will be charged 3 disciplinary points.

ii. A player, coach or authorised bench personnel who is expelled (red card) for repetition of a misconduct offence during the match will be charged 5 disciplinary points

iii. A player, coach or authorised bench personnel who is expelled (red card) for a single offence during the match will be charged 5 disciplinary points

iv. A player, coach or authorised bench personnel who is expelled (red card) following a penalty for a different offence during a match will be charged 5 disciplinary points. These five points are in addition to the 3 disciplinary points where a person has received a previous penalty.

vi. If disqualification occurs due to aggression then a minimum 1 match suspension will be incurred. This matter will then be automatically referred to the Disciplinary Sub Committee (See Regulation H7)

Regulation H 4 Suspensions

i. The following penalties shall apply when a player, coach or authorised bench personnel accumulate disciplinary points in the same season:

8 disciplinary points	-	1 match suspension
16 disciplinary points		a further 3 match suspension

Regulation H 6 Disciplinary Sub-Committee

i. The Disciplinary Sub Committee shall consist of members nominated by the Competitions Commission and/or the Referee Commission. . A member of Competitions Commission shall chair the Disciplinary Sub Committee.

Section I – End of season

Regulation I 1 Penalty Points

Any club or team not entering for the ensuing season must notify the Competitions Commission at least 2 weeks prior to the end of the current NVL season; otherwise all fees and goodwill deposit will be retained.

Regulation I 4 Promotion and Regulation

This regulation covers all NVL Divisions, Men and Women. Promotion and relegation is as follows.

iv. All teams in a promotion position must take their place in the appropriate division if permitted to do so by other regulations. However, in exceptional circumstances the Competitions Commission may review the situation if a written submission is received by 1st March during the current season.

v. Men's and Women's Super 8s

(2) The team finishing 7th in the Super 8s will play off against the 2nd placed team in Division 1. The winner will play in the Super 8s in **2012-13** and the losers in Division 1. This match will be played at a **central venue organised by VE with the costs shared.**

(3) The team finishing 8th will be relegated to Division 1 for **2012-13.**

vi. Men's and Women's Division 1

(1) The winners of the Division will be promoted to the Super 8s for **2012-13.**

(2) The team finishing 2nd will play off against the 7th placed team in the Super 8s. The winner will play in the Super 8s in **2012-13** and the losers in Division 1. This match will be played at a **central venue organised by VE with the costs shared.**

(3) The team finishing 8th in Division 1 will play off in a triangular against the two 2nd placed teams in Division 2. The winner will play in Division 1 in **2012-13** and the losers in Division 2. The fixture will take place at a **central venue organised by VE** with the costs shared.

(4) The teams finishing 9th & 10th will be relegated to Division 2 for **2012-13.**

vii. Men's and Women's Division 2

(1) The winners of each Division will be promoted to Division 1 for **2012-13.**

(2) The 2nd place teams in the Divisions will play off in a triangular against the 8th place in Division 1. The fixture will take place at a **central venue organised by VE** with the costs shared. The winner will play in Division 1 in **2012-13** and the losers in Division 2.

(3) The teams finishing 9th & 10th will be relegated to Division 3 for **2012-13.**

- viii. Men's Division 3
(1) The winners and Runners Up of the Division will be promoted to Division 2 for **2012-13**.
(2) The bottom two teams in each Division maybe required to seek re-entry and maybe required to participate in playoffs
- ix. Women's Division 3
(1) The winners of the Division will be promoted to Division 2 for **2012-13**.
(2) The 2nd place teams in the Divisions will playoff in a triangular against each other. The fixture will take place at a **central venue organized by VE** with the costs shared. The winner will play in Division 2 in **2012-13** and the losers in Division 3.

Section J – Regulations for Specific Competitions

Regulation J 1 VE K.O Cup

- iii. Players must be registered with their respective clubs. Non-NVL **teams whose** players cannot produce a Local League player registration (**photo**) card must **provide a list of all players who will play in the Competition to the VE Competitions Officer at least a week prior to playing in the competition. This will need to be verified by the Local League, and email confirmation will be provided to the team. Teams must present the email approval to the match officials, and players must produce photo ID (e.g. Passport, Driving Licence) to verify their identity at the match.**
- v. To take part in the semi-final or final, a player must either have taken part in a previous round for their team or have been registered with the team from before the first NVL game of the season. **Non NVL teams may register players up to, and including, the day of the Quarter Finals.**

Section K –Instructions to Referees

- iii. First referees are required to **ensure that** the number of sets played by a player, who it is advised is playing up from one team to another, **is recorded** on both the players registration card and the scoresheet (**Unless a Junior – see Regulation E5 viii (2)**).
- vi. First referees should **ensure that any legitimate protest is recorded** in the Remarks box of the scoresheet at the first opportunity after the **event** arises. (**Regulation G 3. ii** refers)
- viii. Referees should only allow players, coaches or bench personnel, in possession of a valid, current registration card for that team, to sit on a team bench or otherwise participate in a match. (**Regulation E6. iii** refers).

Section M –Minimum Operating Standards

Minimum Operating Standards are detailed below to work towards driving up the standards of delivery of the National League. The aim of the MOS are to increase the presentation of matches, increase participant satisfaction and create an aspirational pathway through the leagues.

Accreditation

All current NVL teams must have completed at least Sideout accreditation by end of 2011-12 season (where a club has a junior section Volley1 is preferred).

All new entrants must register to complete accreditation by end of their first season.

If a club loses its accreditation status it must be re-completed within one year.

More information on what this entails is available from the VE Club Development Officer.

National Technical Officials

VE will endeavour to appoint all line judges & scorers to Super 8 matches.

From 2011-12 Division 1 teams will be required to use “recognized” scorers and a minimum of two “recognized” Line Judges per match.

From 2012-13 Division 2 & 3 teams will be required to use “recognized” scorers and a minimum of two “recognized” Line Judges per match.

Substitution Equipment

All Super 8s & Division 1 matches will require paddles and buzzers to be provided by the home team for all matches.

From 2011-12 Division 2 - paddles and buzzers to be provided by the home team for all matches.

From 2012-13 Division 3 - paddles and buzzers to be provided by the home team for all matches.

Paddles – each team will be required to have two sets of paddles numbered 1 -20.

Buzzers – the minimum requirement for these is one buzzer to be used by the scorer to indicate substitutions and timeouts.

Kit

Super 8's & Division 1 All kit (shirts & shorts) must be uniform as per the current rules.

All teams will be required to wear shirt numbers 1-20 for matches as per FIVB rules (as per previous communication).

Shorts do not have to be numbered but all have to contain no number or all have to contain the player number.

Division 2 & 3 All shirts must be uniform as per current rules, all shorts must be the same colour.

Match Programmes

All Super 8's teams are required to produce programmes for all home matches.

A template for these will be sent out to all NVL teams for use if required.

The programmes must contain the following:

- National League & Volleyball England Logo
- Mikasa Logo
- Match Number, Division, Date & Time, Team Names
- Venue
- Squad names & numbers

Match Reports

All Super 8s home teams are required & Division 1 home teams encouraged to send VE a 200 word match report by 12noon on Tuesday following match for publication on the VE website.

VE are looking for a volunteer for each division to act as a Match Report Coordinator. This doesn't have to be a player or coach, just a willing volunteer. These volunteers would receive free player registration, 2 free tickets to the National Cup Finals and a free ticket to the Annual Awards Evening.

Team Lists

All divisions – Teams are to present the scorer with a Team List specifying Players Name, Shirt No. and Registration No., and any Libero Player(s).

Non compliance with the MOS will result in a fine; repetitive non compliance will be reviewed by the Competitions Commission.

Appendix B – Pre Match Protocol

The total warm-up will last for 30 minutes. Prior to the start of the 30 minutes the Home Team prepares the court (See NVL **Regulation D 1**) and erects the posts and net. NOTE: The preparation of the court and the correct erection of the net is not the responsibility of the referees; they are only responsible for checking the facility and equipment. The NVL warm-up protocol is as follows:

f) If one team chooses to warm up separately then the serving team will have the court for the first 5 minutes. The receiving team should remain at their bench **NOTE They are not allowed to use balls or any part of the free zone for warming up.**