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Introduction to the Regulations

These Regulations govern competitions organised by the Competitions Commission of Volleyball England (VE) for the season of 1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016. These Regulations are the only regulations specified and no other publication is applicable, save the current Volleyball England Official Volleyball Rules and the FIVB Rules of the Game (Regulation E 1) and the relevant Codes of Conduct. Competitions Commission reserves the right to issue appropriate amendments.

For Under 15's, Under 16's, Under 18's, Inter Regional, Student Cup and Sitting indoor volleyball competitions, please refer to the Volleyball England website for current rules.

These are the regulations applicable to indoor volleyball organised by Volleyball England. Volleyball England will issue further regulations applicable to the Volleyball England Beach Competitions.

In writing these Regulations we have tried to ensure that the result of any volleyball match is decided on court and within the spirit of the game.

Section A. Administrative matters.

Regulation A 1. To enter the National Volleyball League (NVL), each team must;

- i. Have paid a goodwill deposit of £100.00
- ii. Have no outstanding debts with Volleyball England (English Volleyball Association Ltd) from previous seasons. Teams in debt to the Association may not be permitted to play fixtures if the previous season's debts are not cleared by the 31st May. Teams / Clubs with historic debts to Volleyball England will not be permitted entry to the NVL until the debts are cleared and the matter resolved by the Competitions Commission
- iii. Have a name that permits easy geographical recognition of where they are from / play agreed and approved by the Competition Commission.
- iv. Agree to abide by the Minimum Operation Standards (See Section N)
- v. Super 8 Teams must give a commitment to playing in the Challenge Series and field a side in the spirit of the competition

Regulation A 2. Withdrawing from the National Volleyball League

- i. Any club or team withdrawing from the NVL, and then wishing to re-enter at a later date, must re-apply as a new entrant. New entrants will be placed in the lowest available division geographically as decided by the Competitions Commission.
- ii. Any team withdrawing from the NVL during the course of the season or after their entry has been accepted by the 1st May will forfeit their goodwill deposit.

Regulation A 3. Before competing in any Volleyball England competition, each team must:

- i. Be part of a Club properly affiliated to Volleyball England.
- ii. Have its coach, players and authorised bench personnel appropriately registered with Volleyball England.
- iii. Have paid any further competitions fees that may be in force by the specified deadlines. Late entries will only be accepted at the discretion of the Competition Commission, and will be subject to a £25 administration charge.
- iv. Have a qualified and registered coach (minimum Level 2) committed to supporting that Team. (Where a current NVL team does not meet this requirement they have until the start of the 2018/19 season in which to comply)

Regulation A 4. Conditions of Entry to the National K.O. Cup

- i. Entry into the National KO Cup will be assumed for NVL teams unless a written request to withdraw is received with League Entry.
- ii. Non NVL teams must be competing in a recognised league, or approved for entry by the Competition Commission. Players with Local League or Regional Registration cards will not be required to register with Volleyball England. "Amalgam" teams, with players from more than one non NVL team, must have a demonstrable affinity e.g. playing in the same local league or living in the same geographical area etc. Teams with any doubt as to eligibility to play in the Cup should contact the relevant Cup Commissioner or Competitions Officer for clarification.
- iii. NVL players may not play for another NVL team in any Cup competition other than the one they are registered for. Refer to Section J Regulation 1 Volleyball England K.O. Cup for further clarification.
- iv. NVL Teams may contain non-NVL registered players as long as they can demonstrate an affinity with the NVL Team they represent.

Regulation A 5. Conditions for a New Entrant into the National Volleyball League will normally include:

- i. Proven playing ability of the team in a recognised Regional / Area League over more than one season.
- ii. Club having been affiliated to Volleyball England for the last two seasons.
- iii. Club constitution to be acceptable in that it shows :

- (1) The name of the Club.
 - (2) The manner in which its constitution may be amended.
 - (3) The financial control.
- iv. The Regional or Area Association to provide a letter of support for the entry.
 - v. The Club's financial accounts provide evidence of the financial support for competition at National level.
 - vi. A Team must have a qualified and registered coach (minimum Level 2) committed to supporting the NVL team.
 - vii. Club being able to nominate at least 10 players who are prepared to commit to playing for the team. If any such players are with an existing NVL team then it must be shown that the team holding the NVL registration would agree to the transfer should the team requesting entry to the NVL be accepted.
 - viii. 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.
 - ix. If necessary the team winning play-off games against other teams applying for entry.
 - x. The Competitions Commission has the absolute right and discretion to accept or refuse any club or team admission to the league.

Regulation A 6. No club is allowed to alter its name or location in order to gain admission into any of the divisions of the NVL, and no official can act as Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer of more than one NVL club, or hold any combination of these offices for more than one club.

Note: The place in the NVL is considered to be the right of the Club as evidenced by its constitution, and not the right of any player or group of players. To assist Clubs, a draft constitution is available online and from the Volleyball England National Office.

Regulation A 7. No team may alter its name during the season without the prior written approval of the Competitions Commission.

Regulation A 8. Clubs/teams playing in any competition governed by these regulations are required to notify the Volleyball England National Office of the name, period and type of any sponsorship that they may have. The value of any sponsorship is a matter confidential to the Club/Team and its Sponsor. Tobacco sponsorship is not allowed. Failure to register details of sponsorship within 14 days of a contract being completed will result in a fine of £100.00, and additional penalties, thereafter, within the discretion of the Competitions Commission if details are not registered.

Regulation A 9. Club Structure

- i. Clubs may be membership-based, and run with a democratic style constitution with elected officers, or they may be proprietorial in nature.
- ii. No proprietor (whether as an individual, company, by way of shareholding or as nominee) may have an interest or hold office in more than one club.
- iii. Where clubs seek to amalgamate then Volleyball England (through its appropriate Officers) shall be supplied with full details including detailed minutes, details of who attended meetings, and such other information as the Volleyball England's Officers may require. Volleyball England has a role in ensuring that clubs are formed correctly and with the consent of those involved.
- iv. Where a democratic/membership-based club seeks to become proprietorial, as for example where a commercial concern wishes to run a club, then the Association (through its appropriate Officers) shall ensure that the club membership has voted thereon and that the provisions of that club's constitution have been observed.
- v. No club, individual or group, whether membership based or proprietorial, has a right to a particular place in Volleyball England's National League, entry for which is requested each season.
- vi. Any alterations to a club's Constitution are to be advised to the Volleyball

England National Office on behalf of the Competitions Commission within 14 days of such alteration and amendment.

- vii. All NVL correspondence will be forwarded to the relevant team secretaries named in the Handbook, or as amended in writing to the Volleyball England 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. Disputes

- i. The Competitions Commission has the full authority to deal with disputes involving clubs, players, administrators and non-qualified person 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.
- ii. A Competitions Commissioner has the delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the Competitions Commission to facilitate the day to day running of a competition.
- iii. Where appropriate the Competitions Commissioner can impose fines and / or deadlines to facilitate the smooth running of a competition.

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 B 1. 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 Competitions 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. No team entered in the Cup/Shield will arrange an NVL match onto any Cup/Shield date during the draft fixture process. Match rearrangements during the season (e.g. due to adverse weather) will be considered by divisional commissioners taking into account the teams continued participation in the cup/shield. After the amended draft fixtures have been returned to Volleyball England National Office, no other changes will be allowed except under very exceptional circumstances.

Regulation B 2. During the Season

- i. All matches must be played on the date, at the time and at the venue specified in the National Volleyball Competitions Handbook fixture lists, and not any other publication. If there is an error in the handbook or a fixture has been agreed to be changed by the Competition Commission then the correct details will be updated onto the NVL page of the website.
- ii. Where a club has two or more teams in the same NVL Division, the Competitions Commission reserves the right to schedule both fixtures between the teams as early in the season as possible.
- 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. 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. Teams must be aware that sourcing Referees for changed fixtures may well be problematic and must be prepared to source their own. *Requests to re-arrange a fixture due to holiday arrangements is not considered to be a very exceptional circumstance.*
- iv. Where a team has 2 or more players involved in international competition, application may be made to the Competitions Commission for re-arrangement. Application must be made as soon as any conflict is known and in any event no later than 21 days prior to a match. It is stressed that this re-arrangement is **discretionary**. This provision does not apply to International Beach fixtures.
- v. A re-arrangement will only be approved when a fully justifiable reason is provided, and a new date has been arranged and agreed by the teams involved. Where teams cannot agree a new date then the appropriate Commissioner will specify a date on which the rearranged match will be played, or the original date will stand.
- 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.
- vii. Where match Referees were appointed by Volleyball England, and the date, time or venue is changed, the original home team becomes responsible for notifying those Referees and the NVL Referee Commissioner of the change and for appointing suitable replacement Referees, if necessary. Such changes to date, time or venue must be approved in writing by the appropriate Divisional Commissioner. *Normal Match Confirmation procedures will then apply.*
- viii. Under no circumstances can NVL fixtures be played after the end of season date of 24th April 2016.

Section C. Registration

Regulation C 1. Players

- i. All teams must register a minimum of 8 players by the 1st August before the start of the season. A valid registration requires a completed NVL registration form, with photo attached (or emailed to the Competitions Officer or Administrator) and the required registration fee complete with player signature. Failure to adhere to the deadline will result in a £25 administration charge.
- ii. It is the responsibility of the team or club registering a player to ensure the eligibility of the player to be registered. Players who are subject to transfer requirements must be correctly transferred. Player registration information for the previous seasons is available on the Volleyball England website and from the Volleyball England National Office.
- iii. Clubs with more than one team may delay allocating their players to a specific team until a week before their Club's first match, informing the National Office which team a player will play for, but the players must all be registered by 1st August. Until the required allocation is made, all players will be deemed to be registered with the lower/lowest team.
- iv. Players cannot be registered after 1st March during the season, except with the express approval of the Divisional Commissioner. (This will only be permitted in emergencies to enable games to take place e.g. where less than seven registered players are medically fit or are available to play. Written confirmation of Registered Players non-availability will be required before agreeing to an Emergency Registration). The emergency registered player will be eligible to play for the team for the remainder of the season, but will **not** be able to play up for another team.
- v. In any season, no player may play for more than one Club in the same competition unless they are officially transferred. Except under very exceptional circumstances a player may only transfer once during any NVL season. No player may play for different teams in a cup competition, under any circumstances. Where Clubs have two or more teams in the same competition, a player will become 'Cup tied' to the team they played their first cup match with, regardless of transfers and the playing up regulation. Transfer regulations apply to movement of players between different teams within the same Club.
- vi. A junior player (Under 18 on 1 September of the current season) playing in a junior competition may also play for their Club in a senior competition.

Regulation C 2. Technical Members of the team

- i. Any other personnel needing to sit on the team bench under FIVB International Rule 4 must be registered with the Volleyball England National Office.
- ii. Technical and professional personnel from one Club are permitted to form the authorised Bench Personnel of another Club, providing they are registered as authorised Bench Personnel for the team/club they are to assist, which must be presented to the Scorer. Any Bench Personnel that is assisting at another Club must have the written permission of their original Club.
- iii. Coaches and Bench Personnel require one licence per team they wish to assist. Only a qualified and registered Coach with Volleyball England will be able to undertake the role of Head Coach during a match.
- iv. Should a qualified and registered Coach with Volleyball England 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.
- v. Registered players who wish to assist another team/club as Bench Personnel are required to hold a separate Bench Personnel registration for the team(s) they will be assisting, and this must be presented to the Scorer.
- vi. All Bench Personnel (including Coaches) must register with Volleyball England and submit a photo when applying for their Bench Personnel registration.

Regulation C 3. Transfers (See Appendix A)

- i. Subject to the provisions below, players may transfer between clubs prior to **1st March** 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 1st September to 31st 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 March, and will be an exception to the transfer deadline.
- ii. Where a Club has more than two teams playing in the NVL the player will be automatically transferred to the team for which they have played up most for.
- iii. If a team or Club withdraw from the NVL, its players are still deemed to belong to that Club. Therefore, they need to transfer before being permitted to play for another club. This is to protect clubs and their assets.
- 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 from the Volleyball England National Office to confirm the status of a player.

Clubs registering new players should always be aware of the possibility of the need to formally transfer, and should take the following steps:

- a) Establish from the player if they have ever been to any NVL Club in the past. They may not have played, but could have registered, or simply been for training, and may have forgotten to return items.
- b) If they have been at previous NVL Club(s), which is still in existence contact the Club and obtain confirmation that they are in good standing i.e. they do not owe the Club anything, and are able to register for the new Club.
- c) If they have been to previous NVL Club(s), which are not in existence consult the available previous NVL registration data on the Volleyball England website, and contact the Competitions Officer to clarify that no indebtedness or impediment has been lodged with the Volleyball England National Office.

Clubs playing ineligible players will be considered for disciplinary action. Clubs are advised to ensure they take all reasonable steps, as above, to ensure the eligibility of players being registered.

Players found to have documented indebtedness to previous NVL Club(s), who seek current NVL registration, and who may not have provided the new Club with all material information may be liable to suspension from playing until the matter is resolved.

- iv. Transfers will **not** be allowed if any of the following circumstances apply:
 - (1) The player is under valid contract to the current club unless that contract is terminated by mutual consent. (See CONTRACTS Appendix B)
 - (2) The player has not discharged any documented indebtedness to the current club, e.g. subscription arrears, kit etc. Teams are advised to ensure that players are made fully aware of their commitments and fees due. These should be detailed in writing and signed by the player wherever possible to avoid any confusion or subsequent doubt arising.
 - (3) The current club would be left with less than 8 available registered players during the N.V.L. / K.O. Cup playing season.
- v. A Club having 2 or more teams competing in the NVL shall be entitled to transfer player(s) between teams. Players transferred to the lower team within a Club after the start of the season cannot use the playing up regulation.
- vi. Any player wishing to leave their Club in order to take up a different post at another Club (i.e. Coach etc.), may do so only with the agreement of the Club holding their registration, and abide by the transfer provisions. Disputes will be referred to Competitions Commission for arbitration.

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 Volleyball England 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. The playing conditions must conform to those laid down in the current Volleyball England Official Volleyball Rule Book.
- ii. Booking a period of three hours for single matches and seven hours for triangular matches. If less is booked and time runs out, the home team will forfeit the last match in which they played. If, after the recommended hours booked the matches have not been completed, the teams concerned will rearrange the outstanding fixture at an agreed venue and date approved by the Divisional Commissioner as acceptable to the teams involved. The teams involved will share total costs (i.e. the cost of travel of the away team, venue and Referees costs) of the new match equally. This ruling includes unfinished matches.
- iii. Start times for matches must be:
 - (1) Single matches on Saturdays between 12pm & 7.30pm
 - (2) Single matches on Sundays between 11:30am & 4.00pm
 - (3) Double matches on Saturdays between 12pm & 4.00pm
 - (4) Double matches on Sundays between 11.30am & 2.00pm
 - (5) Triangulars between 11:30am & 12:30pmUnless otherwise agreed in writing by the opposition
- iv. The first referee shall decide upon the adequacy of the court and equipment at the time of the match.
- v. Facilities
 - (1) Court Surface - flat, smooth, non-slippery and safe
 - (2) Free Zone - minimum 3m around court with preferably 5m to rear
 - (3) Height Clearance - minimum 7.5m above playing surface
 - (4) Court Markings - correct, unbroken as per FIVB court layout
 - (5) Temperature - minimum 13°C
 - (6) Lighting - adequate, even, minimum 500 lux
 - (7) Team Bench - size, and safely positioned
 - (8) Warm up area - 3m x 3m, correctly positioned
 - (9) Spectator seating - available
 - (10) Sanctions box - 1m x1m on the scorer's side of the court, outside of the free zone and beyond the end line.
- vi. Equipment
 - (1) Net - correct length (9.5-10m) depth (1m) mesh unbroken, correctly tensioned, height easily adjustable
 - (2) Sidebands - correctly positioned
 - (3) Antennae - correctly positioned
 - (4) Posts - smooth, safe and height adjustable
 - (5) Balls - Only approved FIVB balls must be used in all competitions (see FIVB Sports (Regulations Page 144 Annexe page 8).
(Two identical balls are required for a one ball system and 4 for a three ball system).
 - (6) 3-ball system - identical characteristics, where system used
 - (7) Visual scoreboard - operable
 - (8) Scoresheet - Volleyball England approved scoresheet in triplicate
 - (9) Line Up Sheets - available
 - (10) 2 sets of paddles - numbered 1- 20 (refer to Section N – Minimum Operating Standards)
 - (11) Buzzer - available (refer to Section N – Minimum Operating Standards)

- (12) Pressure Gauge - available
- (13) Ball Pump - available
- (14) Referee Stand - stable, safe, and adjustable
- (15) 4 x Line Judge flags (40 x 40cm) – available

Note: Failure to provide adequate equipment cannot be attributed to a sports centre or the staff thereof - it is the sole responsibility of the home team. Failings in the facilities are also the responsibility of the home team unless matters arise, exceptionally, during or in the days approaching a match that are outside the control of the venue. E.g. Electrical, mechanical or safety failures.

Any delay to the start of a match attributed to lack of equipment, the home team will be penalised in accordance with regulation E 4. Late Arrival.

- vii. Supplying a Scorer, at least two competent Lines Judges and a visual scoreboard in all cases. All Technical 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. Failure to provide the Technical Officials will result in a £10 fine.
- viii. Confirming in writing to the Secretary of the visiting team, the match Referees, the National Office and the Divisional Commissioner **at least 14 days**, and not more than 21 days (according to the postmark, or email delivery receipt) prior to the date of the match, in the same letter or email
 - (1) The date of the match.
 - (2) The venue and travel directions for the match, for both public and private transport
 - (3) The time of the availability of the court
 - (4) The time of the start of the warm up
 - (5) The time of the start of the match
 - (6) The names of the Referees
 - (7) The availability of post-match hospitality
 - (8) Where the match is the 2nd match of a Double header then it must be made clear in the match confirmation that this is the case and that the match start time may be subject to delay based on the finish time of the previous match.
 - (9) Triangular matches will be played in the order set out in the handbook fixture list with the home team playing in the first and third matches unless mutually agreed in writing at least 10 days (according to the postmark or email delivery receipt) prior to the date of the match.
 - (10) Where confirmation is sent by e-mail, it should be acknowledged by each recipient. If the home team secretary does not get the message acknowledged they should post a confirmation.
 - (11) Any team failing to send the appropriate match confirmations shall be fined £10 per occurrence.
- ix. Any visiting team Secretary or referee who has not received confirmation within the stipulated time should contact the Volleyball England National Office or Divisional Commissioner for guidance.
- x. The payment of any entrance fees at the venue for visiting teams and Referees. It is suggested that to avoid difficulties, Sports Centres should be contacted beforehand.

Regulation D 2. Playing kit

- i. Shirts - uniform colour/design, clean
- ii. Shorts - uniform colour/design. 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).
- iii. Numbers - correctly positioned, contrasting colour to shirts (front & back) as per FIVB ruling. All shirt numbers must be

- iv. Captain - numbered 1 – 20. identified by a stripe throughout the match (tape permissible)
- v. Libero player - different coloured shirt, easily identifiable, numbered as part of team number sequence
- 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.

Single match	Super 8's	£19
	Div 1	16
	Div 2	£16
	Div 3	£14
Matches 1 & 3 of a triangular	Div 2	£38
Matches 1 & 3 of a triangular	Div 3	£34
All three matches of a triangular (exceptional circumstances only)	Div 2	£56
All three matches of a triangular(exceptional circumstances only)	Div 3	£52
Cup	Rounds	£16
	Semis & Finals	£19

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

Regulation D 4. Referees

- i. First Referee - qualified, registered
- ii. Second Referee - qualified, registered
- iii. Scorer - competent
- iv. Line Judges - competent
- v. Ball Retrievers - competent, preferably six, where used
- vi. The use of Referees who are directly connected with the teams playing is discouraged. Where used the connection should be noted in the confirmation to visiting teams. If requested a neutral referee should act as First Referee.
- 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, and should start this process after the season's fixtures and Referee appointments have been published. Where a Team appoints its own Referee it must notify the NVL Referee Commissioner that the appointment has been made. If the visiting team objects to the Referee appointments made by the home team then this should be referred to the Referee Appointment Committee.
- viii. Teams are not permitted to cancel any Referee appointed by the NVL Appointment Sub-Committee and appoint their own.
- ix. Details of Referee appointments and vacancies are available from www.WhosTheRef.com.
- x. In case of difficulty finding Referees the secretary should contact the Regional Referee Administrator or NVL Referee Commissioner with details of efforts made so far for advice and information. Evidence of the home teams' efforts to obtain referees must be made available to the Divisional Commissioner and the NVL Referee Commissioner in case of a complaint.
- xi. The same Referee should not be expected to officiate in all three matches of a triangular.

- xii. If a home team has not been able to source two qualified and registered match officials then they should notify their opponents, Divisional Commissioner and NVL Referee Commissioner. Whilst it is always preferable to have qualified and registered officials it is recognised that there is insufficient referee availability on occasions. The home team should look to source a qualified referee to fulfil the fixture with someone who is not on the NVL Panel this season, but may be officiating regularly in local leagues. Failing that the home team should source the most competent, experienced and suitable person e.g. player or coach, to act as second official, again advising opposition and Commissioners.

Regulation D 5. Cup Fixtures

- i. The Referee Commission will endeavour to appoint the 1st and 2nd referees to K.O. Cup and Shield matches.
- ii. The home team in Cup and Shield fixtures must inform both the Cup Commissioner and the NVL Referee Commissioner of the date, venue and warm-up time of the fixture, within 4 days of completing the previous round. Matches are to be played on the date published in the fixtures list.
- iii. If a home team has not been able to source two qualified and registered match officials then they should notify their opponents, Divisional Commissioner and NVL Referee Commissioner. Whilst it is always preferable to have qualified and registered officials it is recognised that there is insufficient referee availability on occasions. The home team should look to source a qualified referee to fulfil the fixture, someone who is not on the NVL Panel this season, but may be officiating regularly in local leagues? Failing that the home team should source the most competent, experienced and suitable person e.g. player or coach, to act as second official. Again advising opposition and Commissioners.
- iv. The Commission reserves the right to stage Semi-Final matches at a central venue. Where this option is exercised, all teams will be advised before the Quarter Final stage. Teams involved in the Semi-Finals may be required to pay a supplementary levy.

Section E. Arrangements at matches

Regulation E 1. Regulations of play

- i. All matches will be played to the best of five sets (unless altered by the Competitions Commission prior to the match date).
- ii. Technical timeouts will be used in all Super 8 and Division 1 NVL matches . **In Divisions 2 and 3 they are optional. If either Teams requests the use of Technical Timeouts prior to the start of match then they will be used.**
- iii. Super 8 teams are encouraged to produce programmes for all home matches.
- iv. Women are ineligible to play in Men's competitions and vice-versa.
- v. Trans Gender – For details refer to Volleyball England's Policy
- vi. 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.
- vii. Except in exceptional circumstances, and with the express approval of the Referee Commission, the Referees must hold recognised qualifications and be registered with Volleyball England.

Note. Referees who hold referee qualifications from other countries may become 'Volleyball England recognised' after applying to Referee Commission of Volleyball England.

Regulation E 2. Golden Set

- i. Where Competitions Commission have directed that a 2-legged match will be decided by a Golden Set then the following will be applied;
- ii. A Golden Set will only be played where each leg has been won by a different Team. This is irrespective of any set or points difference between the 2 legs.
- iii. The Divisional Commissioner is to ensure that the Referee of the Second Leg knows who won the First Leg so the requirement of the Golden Set may be determined
- iv. The interval between the end of the Second Leg and the Golden Set shall be 5 minutes.
- v. The Golden Set shall be played as if it were the 5th Set of a normal game, i.e. first to 15 points with an advantage of 2. All other rules relating to a 5th Set shall be applied to the Golden Set.
- vi. Any sanctions applied in the Second Leg shall carry forward to the Golden Set.
- vii. The Golden Set Scoresheet is to be used – any players or Team Officials sanctions by Disqualification in the Second Leg may not take part in the Golden Set, neither may any player who left the Second Leg through injury.
- viii. Equally any player or Team Official serving a suspension during the Second Leg may not take part in the Golden Set.

Regulation E 3. The schedule

- i. The times listed in the Handbook shall specify the start of the official warm up period, and the match start time. The official warm up period shall be 30 minutes before the match start time. The scoresheet shall record the actual start time of the match i.e. the first service.
- ii. Triangular Match Schedule.
 - (1) The following will apply to matches that are headed accordingly in the match schedule:
 - (2) A v B in accordance with schedule e.g. 12.00 warm up, 12.30 match start
 - (3) B v C ready for warm up to commence no later than 1 hour after the first match advertised start time, e.g. 13.30 warm up, 14.00 match start.
 - (4) A v C ready for warm up to commence no later than 2 hours after the first match scheduled start time, e.g. 14.30 warm up, 15.00 match start.

Note: As the home team alone is responsible for the venue and equipment, venue changes, double bookings, equipment failure and start time changes will not normally be considered to be outside the control of the team.

Regulation E 4. Arrival of teams

- i. It is advised that a team allows an hour contingency plan whether travelling by public or own transport, with an arrival time of at least 30 minutes before the warm-up is due to start. Should a team not be able to fulfil its fixture, then a member of the team will need to contact the opposition as soon as possible, utilising numbers in the Handbook for Secretary, Coach, other personnel and venue as required. Home teams should then advise the referees, Volleyball England National Office and Divisional Commissioner immediately. Should a fixture not be played then the Commission shall consider the available evidence and rule as to whether the match should be replayed, forfeited, declared null and void and any sanctions applicable.
- ii. Where a problem arises on match day or on the way to the match, the team must make every effort to contact the opposition and Divisional Commissioner to explain and resolve the problem.
- iii. Where a team is delayed by factors that are wholly out of a team's control (e.g. bad weather on the day) and can be backed up by professional and independent reports of confirmation (e.g. local weather centre, Police, Motoring organisation) indicating driving conditions and advice, this can be considered by the Competitions Commission as an extenuating circumstance. However, every attempt must be made to travel and play matches as scheduled. Additional travel time requirements would not be a reason not to play, and teams cannot "postpone" matches without the approval of the relevant Commissioner. Delays such as traffic problems, vehicle breakdowns (unless by public transport) are not normally considered as factors outside of a team's control. Teams are expected to inform the Divisional Commissioner, the home team and the Referees of the delay as soon as possible.
- iv. If a fixture or competition is cancelled by Volleyball England then any expenses incurred by the participating Teams or Referees will not be refunded.

Regulation E 5. Late arrival

Providing the court is available, and one team is ready to commence play

- i. Any team failing to appear on court, ready to commence play, within 20 minutes of the published start time shall forfeit the first set. The set shall be lost 25-0. The time available up to the 20 minutes may be available for warm up subject to agreement from the team already present and ready to play (who will have already warmed up for up to 30 minutes).
- ii. The second set shall commence 20 minutes later; i.e. 40 minutes after the published start time. A team arriving between the start times shall be able to use the available time for warm up. If a team is not on court ready to play 40 minutes after the published start time, then they shall lose the second set 25-0.
- iii. The third set shall commence 20 minutes later; i.e. 60 minutes after the published start time. A team not on court ready to play at that time shall lose the third set 25-0, and thus loses the match 3-0.
- iv. The defaulting team may forfeit the match, be fined and lose league points as a consequence.
- v. The time should be taken from the referees if there is a dispute between teams over the exact time.

Note: If a team arrives (ready to play) 19 minutes after the official match start time they are still entitled to play the first set. If the team arrives (ready to play) 20 minutes after the official match time that team loses the first set 25-0. The late team could use the following 19 minutes as warm-up before starting the second set as long as play commences within the 40 minutes of the match start time.

Regulation E 6. The Players

- i. Only players who are correctly registered with Volleyball England may play in competitions. A player is not registered unless their registration fee together with all appropriate documents correctly completed are endorsed at the

National Office prior to the match except as specified in Regulation E 6.iv.

- ii. Any missing player registration details will need an explanation; 'With Volleyball England' will **not** be accepted. Any player without registration details at a match must have an email from Volleyball England (and present photographic identification e.g. driver's licence, passport, etc) to confirm registration.

Referees are not expected to prevent a player playing if the team believes him/her to be correctly registered, providing that the player's identity can be proven by suitable photographic identification. Should such a player play, this is at the team's own risk, since playing with an ineligible player will lead to forfeiting the match (see vii below).

- 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 Volleyball England 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.
- iv. Teams may register players on the day of the game providing they are within the constraints of Regulation C 1.iv
 - (1) This shall be done by means of presenting a correctly completed registration form, including photograph affixed (or proof of photo emailed to the National Office), the appropriate fee, and completed transfer certificate, if required, to the match Referees. A player will not be allowed to play unless all the above is produced. If satisfied with the completion of the form, the First Referee shall record the registration in the 'remarks' box of the scoresheet recording details of all items presented.
 - (2) The team registering the player shall forward the completed form by first class post at the conclusion of the game. The appropriate fee plus a £5.00 administration fee must accompany the registration. The match will be forfeited if the player is not registered (form & payment) within the stated time.
 - (3) Confirmation that a player's registration is with the Volleyball England National Office must be obtained if the player's details do not appear on the website within 7 days of submission. Failure to obtain this confirmation will make this player ineligible to play until the completed documentation has been received.
 - (4) Teams registering players on the day of a game are making a clear and binding statement that the player is able to be registered. This means that the player involved is either an existing bona-fide member of the club, is a free agent under the terms of transfer regulations, or is being properly transferred. In the case of transfer, the transfer certificate should be presented to the First Referee at the match. A player who is subject to transfer must have a completed transfer certificate present to be able to register on the day. A player in breach of this regulation will be deemed ineligible and the team forfeits any matches the player is involved in and may be subject to disciplinary action. (Player information for the preceding 2 seasons is available on the Volleyball England website or from the National Office).
 - (5) In case of any doubt teams should contact their Divisional Commissioner and provide written details of the facts and obtain advice.
- v. NVL Player registration details accompanied by an NVL Team Sheet and Bench personnel registration details 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 player and bench personnel registration details and note all irregularities on the scoresheet.
- vi. Any team found to have used ineligible players shall forfeit all matches in which such players have participated.
- vii. If a player is not physically present at the start of the match, when Referees check the identity of the players the following shall apply:

- (1) Notice of the expected late arrival shall be given to the First Referee before the match begins.
- (2) A player or coach who arrives during the match may not take part in the set in progress; they may, however, be permitted to play/ coach in subsequent sets once their arrival has been properly recorded and their identity checked.
- (3) If the expected player or coach does not arrive, this name should be deleted from 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 and the team will forfeit the game. 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 1st March. .
- (2) There is no restriction on the number of sets a junior player may play up. (A player is deemed a junior if they are under the age of 18 on September 1st of the current season)
- (3) Note: 'Playing up' does not constitute a transfer, until eleven sets are reached. Cup-tie provisions apply in all KO Cups.
- (4) A club having more than one team in the same division cannot use the playing up regulation. To change teams will require an official transfer.
- (5) When a player is automatically transferred by the playing up regulation, they may no longer play up again for the remainder of the season.

Regulation E 7. Other team Officials

- i. At all Volleyball England matches, a team shall nominate a coach for the match. This can be either a coach, who must be registered with Volleyball England as a Coach, or a playing member (of that team). Their name and registration number shall appear legibly on the scoresheet. Only a qualified and registered Coach with Volleyball England shall be able to be recorded as Coach on the scoresheet and must present their Bench Personnel details.
- 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.
- iii. A Coach from a another team who wishes to act as Coach for another team must be as registered asa Bench Personnel for that team. and.
- iv. Only team players and authorised Bench Personnel may sit on the team bench during the match.
- v. All parties on a team bench are subject to the disciplinary code of the game and must have appropriate registration details present..

The nominated Coach must produce their coach registration details at all matches, and sign the team list.

vi.

- vii. For all Cup Finals and Super 8 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.

Regulation E 8. 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.

- ii. Should neither of the appointed Referees arrive the home team will provide both Referees for the match, and the match will be played. The responsibility for selection of Referees under these circumstances rests with the home team only. Again the most appropriate persons must be appointed considering qualification, current registration, competence and experience. A full report of the events should be sent to the Volleyball England National Office and the result will be considered by the Competitions Commission, in the light of qualifications/experience of the Referees used. Should a rematch be decided upon, the expenses may be borne by Volleyball England where Volleyball England appointed the Referees or by the home team where the home team were responsible for appointing the Referees.
- iii. Where any qualified referee fails to appear at a match, then the home team shall, within 7 days, send a report to the Divisional Commissioner and the NVL Referee Commissioner. Where an appointed referee fails to appear for a match without prior notice, this should be recorded on the scoresheet. Where an appointed official withdraws from a fixture, after giving notice, it is the responsibility of the home team to re-appoint Referees, after consultation with Referee Commission.
- 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

The home team is responsible for:

Regulation F 1. Scoresheet and Match day protocol sheet, etc.

- i. Sending the top copy of the Scoresheet, Libero Control sheet (as necessary), Match day protocol sheet and for Super 8s only a copy of the match day programme 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).

Regulation F 2. Reporting Results

Advising the match result, including match number, teams, result and set scores, to the nominated Volleyball England results service immediately after the match by telephone or SMS; if possible by 8pm. Results should be reported to Geoff Hollows on **07918 636146**.

Failure to report results on time will result in a £10 fine per occurrence.

Note: This is required so that results can be passed onto the press etc., and so that league tables etc. may be kept up to date.

Section G. Penalties, Protests and Appeals

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

Before making any decision, Commission members must declare an interest in any matter that they are remotely associated with.

Regulation G 1. Penalties

- i. Penalties will be applied to all breaches of the regulations. Where not actually stipulated in the regulations, the penalty will be determined by the Commissioner for the event.
- ii. In the Super 8s Divisions, breaches which result in a game not being played and/or forfeited will have a minimum fine of £500 and a review by the Competitions Commission as to the future of that Team within the League. **The defaulting Team will also be deducted 3 league points.**
In Divisions 1, 2 and 3 breaches which result in the fixture not being played and/or forfeited will have a minimum fine of £100 for a first offence, £200 for a second and any subsequent offence and a review by the Competition Commission as to future of that Team.
In Divisions 1, 2 and 3 where a Team fails to play either of it's last two fixtures of the season the fine will be £200, **(A set of triangular matches equals one fixture).**
- iii. Breaches of safety conditions where the referee allows the game to take place will have a maximum fine of £100.
- iv. Breaches that bring the game into disrepute will have a minimum fine of £50.
- v. Breaches which interfere with the running of the event will have a maximum fine of £50.
- vi. Administrative failures will fine of £20 for each offence. Administrative fines will be notified by the National Office.
- vii. Failure to pay any fine levied within the timescale stated will be reported to the Competition Commission who will consider imposing further sanctions including, but not limited to, financial penalties, points deduction, relegation or expulsion.
- viii. 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 21 days from the date on the invoice.

Regulation G 2. Administrative Disputes

Disputes relating to administrative matters and interpretation of competition regulations shall be the responsibility of the Competitions Commission.

- i. Disputes arise only where teams are unable to resolve difficulties amicably between themselves, and they are urged to make every endeavour to do so. It is intended that matches should be decided on the court of play. Therefore, in all but the most exceptional administrative cases, and unless a penalty is otherwise stipulated, any team found to have broken the regulations will be fined, and their match result may stand. However, teams must be aware that breaches of the Regulations may mean forfeiture of matches.
- ii. The Competitions Commission, however, has the right to deduct points, fine and suspend any team should the situation warrant it.

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)
- iii. The first referee should then send a full report to the Volleyball England National Office as soon as possible after the match. A decision on the dispute will be made by the Commissioner responsible.

Regulation G 4. Remarks on the Scoresheet

- i. Comments relating in any way to the competence of the match Referees must not be recorded on the scoresheet.
- ii. Any complaints about the competence of the officials must be forwarded within 5 days of the match:-
 - (1) Where the Official(s) is/are unqualified, the Competitions Commissioner will deal with the dispute in accordance with Regulation D a viii.
 - (2) 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 Volleyball England National Office

Regulation G 5. Protests

- i. All disputes must be referred in writing to the Volleyball England National Office as soon as possible prior to the scheduled match date, or within five days after the match took place or when the decision was made. Disputes beyond this period shall not be entertained.
- ii. A party to a match wishing to make a protest to the Volleyball England National Office must also copy their protest to their opponents and the referees, within five working days of the match, so that they may give their account.
- 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 does not cover the award of Red Cards.

Regulation G 6. Appeals

- i. On filing an appeal with the Volleyball England National Office against the decision of a Commissioner, a copy of the appeal shall be sent to any other affected party at the time of submission. A deposit of £100 must be paid when lodging any appeal, with such deposit to be returned in the event that the appeal is successful. The Volleyball England National Office should give out the relevant documents to each affected party. No appeal will be considered unless a copy of the appeal submission and the £100 deposit is received by Volleyball England with the 14 day deadline.
- ii. The Volleyball England National Office will issue written confirmation of acceptance of the appeal.
- iii. The Competitions Commission will respond within 5 working days with details of the hearing, which will normally be a minimum of a further 10 days hence, to enable any documents to be submitted and circulated.
- iv. The appeal should be heard by the Competitions Commission within 28 days of receipt, and such appeal shall be chaired by the President of the Competitions Commission, or their appointed deputy, and each Commissioner shall be able to ask any party questions concerning the subject of the appeal.
- 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.
- vi. Any party to an appeal shall have the right to an oral hearing (face to face or via conference call).
- vii. Any party wishing to refer to any document or letter shall submit copies of such items to all parties concerned at least 7 days prior to the appeal being heard. All

- parties will have a right to reply within a deadline of 3 days
- viii. At the conclusion of the appeal hearing, the Chair shall announce the decision, but shall be entitled to reserve the decision for further consideration and later announcement/communication to the parties.
 - ix. Failure to comply with these procedures may result in a further fine being imposed by the Competitions Commission.
 - x. No appeals of any description whatsoever shall be considered unless filed within 14 days of notification of the original decision and the relevant deposit paid. Original decisions are those made by the Commissioner at the time and on the available information. Once the decision is made no further information will be considered, nor decisions reviewed, except under appeal. Therefore, teams are reminded that they must submit all information for consideration when asking for a Commissioner ruling.

Regulation G 7. Judicial Panel

- i. There shall be a right of appeal of the decision of the Competitions Commission to the Volleyball England Judicial Panel. Any appeal must be submitted to the Volleyball England National Office within 14 days of the Appeal decision date and be accompanied with a £100 deposit. Timescales for the Judicial Panel Review will be notified by the Chairperson of the Judicial Panel.

Section H. Misconduct

Regulation H 1. The first Referee will ensure that all sanctions issued to players, coaches and authorised bench personnel are recorded on the scoresheet.

Regulation H 2. In the case of expulsion or disqualification, the first referee will submit a full report (RC9) to the Volleyball England National Office and to the NVL Referee Commissioner after the match.

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 (red card) will be charged 3 disciplinary points.
- ii. A player, coach or authorised bench personnel who is expelled (red and yellow card jointly) 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 and yellow card jointly) 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 and yellow card jointly) 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.
- v. A player, coach or authorised bench personnel who is disqualified (red and yellow card separately) during a match will be charged 9 disciplinary points. Where disqualification results from aggressive conduct, these 9 points will add to any previous disciplinary points received during the match. If disqualification occurs as a result of other misconduct following an expulsion, the 9 points will replace the 5 points awarded for expulsion.
- 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 accumulates disciplinary points in the same season:

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

It is the team's responsibility to ensure that suspended players do not participate in matches.

- ii. The points are cumulative during the season and anyone receiving additional disciplinary points shall have their case reviewed by the Disciplinary Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee shall be entitled to impose further penalties, as it deems appropriate. The Sub-Committee may require the attendance at an appropriate meeting of any player, coach or authorised bench personnel concerned. Equally, the person concerned has the right to attend or be represented at any meeting discussing their case.
- iii. A Player, Coach or Authorised Bench Personnel shall have the right of appeal to the Competitions Commission from the decision of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
- iv. Player suspensions apply to the next fixture played in any competition covered by these regulations. All matches in which a suspended person participated will be forfeited. Such suspensions must be for either the same team or, if transferred, the new team in such competitions. The onus rests with the team to ensure that the suspension is served correctly.
- v. In the case of triangular fixtures, both matches will count as one fixture and the suspension will take effect in the first match of the next fixture.
- vi. Coaches and Authorised Bench Personnel who receive suspensions will serve their ban in their next scheduled League / Cup match with the team they

accumulated the points with regardless of their role within that team.

Note: Any person who is required to serve a suspension cannot attend the suspended match(es) under another team role (E.g. a Coach/Bench Personnel who is serving a suspension cannot attend the suspended match as a player and vice versa)

- vii. Disciplinary points shall not carry forward from one season to the next. If suspensions have to be served and there is no opportunity to do so in the current season then such suspension shall be served in the next available match/matches of the following season.

Regulation H 5. Illegal Approaches

- i. No official from any other club shall approach a player with a view to inducing them to leave that club, unless permission has been granted in writing by a duly authorised representative of the club for which the player is currently contracted or licensed.
- ii. This restriction applies to all club Officials, including coaches and players or other persons acting on behalf of or purporting to act on behalf of a club. Infringements of this regulation will be referred to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee as being liable to bring the game into disrepute and may be dealt as misconduct.
- iii. The Competitions Commission shall receive any allegations of breaches of this regulation. The Commission shall have the right to seek evidence and testimony from all parties involved, and a record of all complaints made shall be kept and reviewed.
- iv. Where it is felt there is a case to answer, it shall be referred to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee for investigation and resolution. Sanctions may include reprimand, fine or suspension. No transfer will be approved until the conclusion of the disciplinary process.
- v. Coaches are reminded of their obligations under their Code of Conduct.
- vi. If a player approaches a club seeking transfer, without a player release certificate, the club which the player seeks to join must notify the existing club of the player concerned in writing within 7 days. An infringement of this regulation would be referred to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee as being liable to bring the game into disrepute.

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.

Regulation H 7. Conduct

- i. The Disciplinary Sub-Committee is empowered to discipline a player, coach, club, team or team follower whose actions are considered to bring the game into disrepute. The Sub-Committee is empowered within its absolute discretion to suspend or fine a coach, player, club or team in circumstances where it considers it appropriate. These provisions apply to NVL/KO Cup Competitions, Student, Beach tournaments and any other competition in which Volleyball England registered players may participate. The Referee Commission is responsible for any disciplinary action relating to match Referees.
- ii. The Disciplinary Sub-Committee, Competition Commission or Volleyball England Judicial Panel is empowered to discipline any registered player, coach, club, team or team follower. The penalties imposed shall be within the absolute discretion of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, Competition Commission or the Judicial Panel as appropriate.
- iii. Club Officials and NVL Referees must respond, within a reasonable specified period of time, to legitimate requests for information made by the National Office, Competitions Commission or Referee Commission when conducting

preliminary investigations. Failure to do so may result in a fine and will be taken into consideration when complaints and appeals are being considered.

- iv. The Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall be entitled in its absolute discretion to impose penalties for the following:
 - (1) Aggressive behaviour to players/spectators
 - (2) Aggressive behaviour towards Referees
 - (3) Threatening behaviour
 - (4) Abusive conduct
 - (5) Behaviour likely to undermine the authority of match Referees
 - (6) Conduct likely to bring the game into disrepute
- v. In the event of the Sub-Committee considering alleged behaviour as above, then the player/coach/club official/ spectator may be required to attend a disciplinary hearing.
- vi. There shall be a right of appeal to the Volleyball England Judicial Panel of any decision made by the Disciplinary Sub-Committee

Section I. End of Season

Regulation I 1. 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 2. Teams are required to notify the Volleyball England Competitions Officer of players registered at the start of the season, who no longer play for that team.

Regulation I 3. National League positions

- i. In the Super 8s, three points will be awarded to the team winning a match should the score be 3-0 or 3-1. Two points will be awarded to the winning team and one point to the losing team should the score be 3-2.
- ii. In all other Divisions; three points will be awarded to the team winning a match, one point to the losing team, no points for a null and void or forfeited match.
- iii. In Divisions 1-3, any team forfeiting a match will be deducted 1 point and their opponents will be awarded 3 points and the match 3-0 25-0, 25-0, 25-0.
- iv. In the event of a tie at the end of the season in the Super 8s division, the teams will be classified in the order of:
 - (1) Set quotient; number of total sets won / number of total sets lost
 - (2) Point's quotient; number of total points scored / number of total points conceded (during all sets)
- v. In the event of a tie at the end of the season in all other divisions, the teams will be classified in order of the:
 - (1) Number of matches won
 - (2) Sets for less sets against
 - (3) Points for less points against
- vi. If two teams are still tied they will be classified in terms of the matches between the two teams.

Regulation I 4. Promotion and Relegation

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

- i. Should teams drop out of any of the Divisions during the season, then the Competitions Commission reserves the right to alter the Promotion/Relegation issues. The Commission reserves the right to favour teams from higher divisions.
- ii. If teams do not fill their respective places in the NVL in the following season, the Competitions Commission will fill those places with existing teams.
- iii. Dates of all play-off matches will be detailed in the Volleyball England calendar.
- 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 May during the current season.
- v. **Men's and Women's Super 8s**
 - (1) The winners of the Division will win the League Title.
 - (2) The team finishing 7th in the Super 8s will playoff against the 2nd placed team in Division 1. The winner will play in the Super 8s in 2015-16 and the losers in Division 1. This match will be played at a central venue organised by Volleyball England with the costs shared.
 - (3) The team finishing 8th will be relegated to Division 1 for 2016-17.
- vi. **Men's and Women's Division 1**
 - (1) The winners of the Division will be promoted to the Super 8s for 2016-17.
 - (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 2016-17 and the losers in Division 1. This match will be played at a central venue organised by Volleyball England with the costs shared.
 - (3) The team finishing 8th in Division 1 will playoff in a triangular against the two 2nd placed teams in Division 2. The winner will play in Division 1 in 2016-17 and the losers in Division 2. The fixture will take place at a central venue organised by Volleyball England with the costs shared.

- (4) The teams finishing 9th and 10th will be relegated to Division 2 for 2016-17.
- vii. **Men's and Women's Division 2**
 - (1) The winners of each Division will be promoted to Division 1 for 2016-17.
 - (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 Volleyball England with the costs shared. The winner will play in Division 1 in 2016-17 and the losing teams in Division 2.
 - (3) The team finishing 9th and 10th will be relegated to Division 3 for 2016-17.
- viii. **Men's Division 3**
 - (1) The winners of the Division will be promoted to Division 2 for 2016-17.
 - (2) The 2nd place teams in the Divisions will play off; format to be confirmed. The fixture will take place at a central venue organized by Volleyball England with the costs shared. The winner will play in Division 2 in 2016-17 and the losing teams in Division 3.
- ix. **Women's Division 3**
 - (1) The winners of the Division will be promoted to Division 2 for 2016-17.

Regulation I 5. European Competition Entry

- i. If teams are considering entering European Competitions, teams must indicate their intention in writing to the Competitions Commission by 1st April.

Section J. Regulations for Specific Competitions

Regulation J 1. Volleyball England K.O. Cup

- i. Entry is included for all N.V.L. teams and is open to all affiliated clubs.
- ii. No player may play for more than one team under any circumstances.
- 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 Volleyball England 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.
- iv. An NVL registered player may choose to play for a non-NVL team in the Cup different from the club/team which holds his / her NVL registration, provided:
 - (1) The NVL team agrees and is not left with less than eight players to compete in the cup competition themselves;
 - (2) It is the non-NVL team that the player plays for in the local / regional league.
 - (3) Where this regulation is abused, the player and team(s) involved will be subject to disciplinary action.
 - (4) "Amalgam" teams must be able to demonstrate some common affinity e.g. playing in the same local league, or living in the same geographical area. Any doubts over eligibility must be clarified with the relevant Cup Commission or Competitions Officer.
 - (5) NVL registered players cannot play for another NVL team, other than the one that holds their registration at the time of the fixture, and subject to "cup tie" regulations.
 - (6) NVL teams may contain non-NVL registered players subject to that player having an affinity with that team i.e. a player from the same Club.
- 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.
- vi. All clubs/teams are required to play their allocated fixture(s) on the date(s) specified by the Competitions Commission.
- vii. Teams defaulting from National Competitions may be debarred from such competitions for a period of one year.
- viii. If a team withdraws after the draw, the Competitions Commission reserves the right to amend the draw.
- ix. Teams who are knocked out of the Volleyball England K.O. Cup at designated rounds shall be entered into the Volleyball England Shield as advertised by the Competitions Commission.
- x. Shirt numbers must be numbered between 1 and 20
- xi. Matches must be played on the scheduled date unless agreed in writing by the Cup Commissioner.

Section K. Instructions to Referees

Regulation K 1.

- i. Referees who have not received a match confirmation by 7 days prior to the match should contact the Volleyball England National Office or relevant Divisional Commissioner for advice. (Regulation D1. viii refers)
- ii. First referees are required to notify the Competitions Commission of any inadequacies in playing conditions by recording them on the scoresheet. (Regulation D 1)
- iii. First referees who issue an expulsion or disqualification penalty are required to submit a report to the Volleyball England National Office and NVL Referee Commissioner after the match. (Regulation H 2. refers.)
- iv. 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).
- v. Referees should not allow anyone other than the scorer or themselves to write in the Remarks box of the scoresheet.
- vi. Referees should only allow players, coaches or bench personnel, in possession of a valid, current registration for that team, to sit on a team bench or otherwise participate in a match. (Regulation E7. iii refers)
- vii. Where the second match of a Double Header involves a change of Net Height then the 30 minute warm up shall start from when the new net height has been set and confirmed by the Referees,
- viii. Referees who do not get paid promptly i.e. on the day and have not agreed to be paid via BACS should contact the relevant Divisional Commissioner. (Regulation D3. refers)
- ix. Referees are requested to record on the scoresheet if an incorrect match ball is used. (Regulation D1. vi (5))

Note: Player registrations and transfers cease as of 1st March unless in exceptional circumstances where permission is granted by the Divisional Commissioner prior to the match. (Regulation C1.iv & Regulation C3. i refers.)

Section L. Anti-doping (Drug Taking) Regulations

Regulation L1. All players and participants are subject to the anti-doping rules and regulations of the English Volleyball Association.

Regulation L2. A copy of the Volleyball England Anti-Doping Rules and regulations for doping control is available on request from the Volleyball England National Office.

Regulation L3. Doping Controls may be carried out at any time during or out of competition.

Regulation L4. Competitors under the age of 18 are required to submit a duly completed and signed parental/guardian consent form agreeing to the competitor's participation in doping controls as a condition of eligibility for participating in the competitions governed by these regulations. This form must be submitted with their competition registration form (a proforma consent form is available from the Volleyball England National Office).

Regulation L5. Any player or participant providing a positive sample or violating the anti-doping rules and regulations will be subject the sanctions imposed by the appropriate authorities.

The Executive Board may take action against any registered participant, administrative group, commission, sub-committee, sponsor or affiliated organisation that it deems to have brought the Association into disrepute or have committed an act of misconduct as defined by the Anti-Doping Rules.

The Association shall take action, in accordance with its Anti-Doping Rules, against those of its membership found to have contravened the Anti-Doping Rules which comply with the World Anti-Doping Code and FIVB or their successors, in force at the time of the offence.

Section M. Blood Injuries

Regulation M1. A player is not allowed to play with a bleeding wound, regardless of the seriousness of the injury. Any blood on a player's skin, playing kit, floor or equipment must be dealt with immediately. Referees should stop the game immediately after realising that blood is an issue, and instruct the player to receive the appropriate medical intervention to stem the blood flow, and clean any blood from the player, and the floor / equipment, as required. Safe and sterile cleaning materials must be used at all times. It is the team's responsibility to clean any blood from the floor / equipment.

Although the player does not have to be substituted immediately they should leave the court for treatment. An assessment of the likelihood of the player returning within 3 minutes (in blood free kit) should then be made. During this period the floor and any equipment should be cleaned.

If the bleeding has stopped and the player is in blood free kit then the match should resume as soon as it is possible. If the blood flow cannot be stemmed, or dealt with within the 3 minute period then the player may have to be substituted legally or exceptionally. This may, in time, mean teams taking their time outs to prolong this period. If a player does not recover and a substitution cannot be made in accordance with Rule 15.5 -15.10 then the team will be considered incomplete.

It is recommended that Teams equip themselves with a small box with disposable gloves, antiseptic wipes, disinfectant, cloths and nappy sacks for safe disposal. All contaminated material including any used gloves should be doubled bagged before appropriate disposal.

Section N. 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.

Substitution Equipment

All NVL matches will require 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 Technical 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 encouraged to produce programmes for all home matches and a copy is to be sent to Volleyball England Head Office along with the Scoresheet.

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
- Match Number, Division, Date & Time, Team Names
- Venue
- Squad names & numbers

Match Reports

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

Volleyball England is 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 be subject to a fine under Regulation G1.; repetitive non compliance will be reviewed by the Competitions Commission.

Section O. Sports Betting

Regulation O1. Sports Betting

- i. No player or club/team representative shall place or attempt to place a bet on a match or other event or competition in which they or their club participates.
- ii. No player or club/team representative shall solicit or facilitate, or attempt to solicit or facilitate, another person to bet on a match or other event or competition in which they or their club participates.
- iii. No player or club/team representative shall offer, or attempt to offer, a bribe in order to fix or contrive a result or the progress of a match or other event or competition in which they or their club participates.
- iv. No player or club/team representative shall receive, seek or attempt to receive or seek a bribe in order to fix or contrive a result or the progress of a match or other event or competition in which they or their club participates.
- v. A player or club/team representative shall report any approach or other activity which contravenes, or which may contravene, the sport's rules on betting to their respective commissioner, co-operate with any investigation and/or request for information including the provision of documentation (e.g. telephone/betting records to officials engaged in the investigation of suspected integrity issues in the sport in relation to betting)
- vi. A player or club/team representative shall perform to the best of their ability in any match or other event in which they participate in.
- vii. Any breach of this regulation will be dealt with under Regulation H 7 Conduct.

Section P. Appendices

Appendix A - PROCEDURE FOR PLAYER TRANSFERS

1. Volleyball England will supply the form on request to a team/club secretary or registered player.
2. The new club will sign the Transfer Certificate and relevant sections of the form, and the player will also sign the form indicating consent to transfer.
3. The player can obtain their release from their existing club, prior to approaching the new club
4. The signed form is then sent to the Volleyball England National Office.
5. If the Release section has not been completed, the Volleyball England National Office will forward to the releasing club, on receipt.
6. The releasing club has 7 days from dispatch of the form by the National Office to sign and forward the completed form to the Volleyball England Office. The date will be verified by postmark of the envelope received at the Volleyball England Office. Failure to sign and return the form within 7 days without proper notification to the Competitions Commission or reasons for objection will result in a fine of £20.00 and thereafter, such penalty as the Competitions Commission may decide. Failure to sign and return the form and/or failure to give proper notification will result in the player being transferred irrespective of the lack of consent.
7. The releasing club will then have a further 7 days to produce written evidence to support their refusal to release.
8. There will be a £19.00 transfer fee for administration work involved.
9. Releasing clubs should refer to Regulation C 3 regarding reasons for objecting to the proposed transfer.

NOTES:

The Competitions Commission is empowered to approve transfers, provided that the documentation is complete and in accordance with the above.

The Volleyball England National Office will have an initial request for transfer and within seven days, either a completed form of agreement by the releasing club or notification as to why the transfer is being objected to. Should neither of these be presented within a further five days then the transfer will be deemed to have been completed. The onus is on the club holding the player registration to advise of any reason why the transfer cannot be completed as requested.

Once the Volleyball England National Office has obtained the written agreement of all parties involved, or in the absence of documentation within specified timescales, the transfer will be approved. A current club refusing to release a player **MUST** provide proof of indebtedness or contract within five days of receipt of form. In the event of dispute the Transfer and Contract Registration Sub Committee of the Competitions Commission will decide.

Appendix B - Player Contracts

1. Where a Club and player enter into a form of contract, then such contracts shall be registered within 14 days of execution by both parties, by sending a certified copy to the Volleyball England National Office. The Volleyball England National Office will provide an acknowledgement of registration by issuing a contract number.
2. Any such contract must amongst other things provide for commitment from the club concerned to:
 - provide proper and adequate coaching facilities
 - provide proper and adequate match facilities
 - ensure due entry to the National League and K.O. Cup
 - conduct its affairs in a proper manner as required from time to time by the Competitions Commission.
3. Such contract must amongst other things provide for commitment from the player to:
 - train as directed by the club's appointed coach
 - attend matches as required by the club's appointed coach
 - adhere to club rules (a copy of which must be supplied to the player)
 - observe the code of conduct as laid down by the Competitions Commission.
4. Any such contract must be for a stated and limited period and cannot be for more than 2 years. On expiry of such contract, a player shall be free to transfer to another club, subject to the provisions concerning transfers.
5. In the event of dispute between a player and club, then either party may apply in writing to the Competitions Commission for relief. Such application must give basic details of the dispute stating the breaches of contract alleged. A copy of any application made to the Competitions Commission must be sent at the same time to the parties involved. The Competitions Commission shall if requested by either of the parties concerned hold an oral hearing. In the event of an oral hearing then the parties concerned must file at the Volleyball England National Office 7 days prior to such hearing a list with copies of all correspondence notes and written material to which reference is to be made.
6. The Competitions Commission shall be entitled in the event that the club is at fault to release the player from the terms of the contract and to permit (in its absolute discretion) the transfer of such player to another club. Such relief shall only be granted in circumstances where there has been a lack of proper commitment from the club in fulfilling its obligations under the terms of contract.

Appendix B – Pre Match Protocol

	The total warm-up will last for 30 minutes. <i>Prior to the start of the 30 minutes</i> the <i>Home Team</i> 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 <i>not</i> the responsibility of the referees; they are only responsible for checking the facility and equipment. The NVL warm-up protocol is as follows:	
a)	- 45 mins	Referees courtside and in uniform.
b)	- 30 mins	Net ready for initial height check by Referees. Home team to adjust net height if necessary
c)	- 30 mins	Scorer to be present. Team and Referee registration details submitted to the scorer. Scorer commences scoresheet.
		Home team provides the match balls. Second Referee checks match balls conform to the rules and are at the correct pressure.
d)	- 16 mins	First referee calls team captains to the scorer's table and checks whether captains agree for their teams to share the net warm-up, or whether one team prefers separate warm-ups. (Rule 7.1.3)
		NOTE: (i) A captain still has the right to ask for separate warm-ups up to the time of the whistle to begin the warm-up. (ii) If it has not already been established teams should confirm whether they will be using a Libero and, if so, whether the Libero is likely to replace the team captain. In the latter case, it is helpful if referees are informed who is likely to be the game captain in such situations.
		The toss is taken in the presence of the two <i>team captains</i> . Each captain will be allocated a side of the coin.
		After the toss, team captains go to the scorer's table to sign the scoresheet. The scorer is informed of the result of the toss.
e)	- 15 mins	Both coaches check and sign the scoresheet <i>If they have not already done so, all players change into <u>full</u> playing kit prior to the net warm-up.</i>
f)	- 12 mins	Begin official net warm up: this takes the format of 4 minutes through position 4, then 4 minutes through position 2, then 2 minutes serving – but this can be varied, if both teams agree.
		(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.
		Coaches submit line up sheets for the first set to the second referee. <i>The line-up sheet</i> must have the <i>name of the team</i> and the <i>set number</i> and must be <i>signed by the coach</i> , not the assistant coach. <i>It is no longer obligatory to include the Libero on the line up sheet for the first set.</i> The 'Libero' is only excluded from the match if he/she is not named in the space provided on the scoresheet. Second referee ensures that the scorer has both team line-up sheets. Scorer must ensure each team does not see the

		opposition's line-up sheet or the line-up recorded on the scoresheet.
g)	- 2 mins	First referee whistles to signify the end of the warm-up. Referees ensure all is in order and ready for commencement of play. Line judges go to their positions.
h)	- 1 min	First referee goes to the stand. Second referee stands at the post on their side of the court. The first referee calls teams to line up on their baseline, then onto the court. Second referee checks each team's line up. Libero may not enter the court until his/her team line up has been checked.
i)	0 min	Start match