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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 2011 to 31st August 2012. These Regulations are the only regulations specified and no other publication is applicable, save the current VE 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.

These are the regulations applicable to indoor volleyball organised by VE. The relevant Commissioner will issue event specific regulations. VE Beach Commission will issue regulations applicable to the Volleyball England Beach Competitions.

## Section A. Administrative matters.

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

- i. Have paid a goodwill deposit of £75.00
- ii. Should, during the season, a team be issued with a fine an invoice will be sent to the Team addressed to the Team Secretary. This must be paid within 14 days from the date on the invoice.
- iii. Have any outstanding debts with Volleyball England (VE) from previous seasons cleared by 1st May. Teams in debt to the Association **may** not be permitted entry.
- iv. Have a name that permits easy geographical recognition of where they are from / play agreed and approved by the Competition Commission.
- v. Agree to abide by the Minimum Operation Standards (See Section M)

**Regulation A 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 1<sup>st</sup> May will forfeit their goodwill deposit

**Regulation A 3.** Before competing in any VE competition, each team must:

- i. Be part of a Club properly affiliated to VE.
- ii. Have its coach, players and authorised bench personnel appropriately registered with VE.
- 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.

**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 VE. "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 VE K.O. Cup for further clarification.

**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 VE 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. The Club to have a qualified and registered coach 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 VE 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 VE 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 VE (through its appropriate officers) shall be supplied with full details including detailed minutes, details of who attended meetings, and such other information as the VE's officers may require. VE 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 VE's National League, entry for which is requested each season.
- vi. Any alterations to a club's Constitution are to be advised to the VE 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 VE National Office, who will advise all team secretaries in that competition as soon as practicable of the change of team secretary. Any Club specific matters will be addressed to the Club Secretary / Chairperson, as detailed on the Club's Affiliation form for the season.

**Regulation A 10.** The Competitions Commission has the full authority to deal with

disputes involving clubs, players, administrators and non-qualified persons acting in the capacity of coach or referee, and to sanction clubs and their members, both playing and non playing, when deemed to be in contravention of any of the NVL regulations or relevant codes of conduct.

**Regulation A 11. Match Venues**

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

## Section B. Organisation of fixtures

### Regulation 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 Competition Commission, who shall seek to ensure that teams do not gain a competitive advantage by delaying matches, delaying the start or conclusion of the season, or a team playing significantly more, or less, matches than other teams in the Division by key dates. After the amended draft fixtures have been returned to VE National Office, no other changes will be allowed except under very exceptional circumstances.

During the Season

- 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. Consideration of requests with less than 21 days notice will only be considered in the most extreme circumstances. The National Office must be kept informed of the changes. *Requests to re-arrange a fixture due to holiday arrangements is not considered to be a very exceptional circumstance.*
- 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 VE, 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 (other than with prior consent of the Competitions Commission) can fixtures be played after the close of the NVL season, the date of which is published as part of the VE calendar. The NVL end of season date is the 15th April 2012.

## Section C. Registration

### Regulation C 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 card, with photo attached 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 VE website and from the VE 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 February 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 six registered players are medically fit to play, and evidence submitted). 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 requiring to sit on the team bench under FIVB International Rule 4 must be registered with the VE National Office.
- ii. Technical and professional personnel from one Club are permitted to form the Authorised Bench Personnel of another Club, providing they are in possession of an Authorised Bench Personnel Licence 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 written permission of their original Club.
- iii. Coaches and Authorised Bench Personnel require one licence per team they wish to assist. Only a qualified and registered Coach with VE will be able to undertake the role of Head Coach during a match.
- iv. Should a qualified and registered Coach with VE not be available at the match then the team captain shall assume the role. Any other Authorised Bench Personnel may act only as an Assistant Coach, with the associated restrictions and limitations of duties.
- v. Registered players who wish to assist another team/club as Authorised Bench Personnel shall be required to hold a separate Authorised Bench Personnel card for the team(s) they will be assisting, and this must be presented to the Scorer.
- vi. All Bench Personnel must register with VE and submit a photo when registering.

### Regulation C 3. Transfers (See Appendix A)

- i. Subject to the provisions below, players may transfer between clubs prior to **1st February** each season. Only in exceptional circumstances will a player be allowed to transfer more than once during the NVL/KO Cup playing season. The NVL season shall run from 01 September to 31 August each year. Players

who are playing up, and reach eleven sets, or more, in a match are deemed to be automatically transferred to the higher team. It is the responsibility of the club to keep account of the number of sets each player plays up. This will also apply if this occurs after 1<sup>st</sup> February, 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 on the VE website or held in the VE 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 VE website, and contact the Competitions Officer to clarify that no indebtedness or impediment has been lodged with the VE 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 VE competitions, only equipment deemed suitable, fit for purpose and safe, or which has FIVB approval may be used unless the Competitions Commission gives prior agreement. Posts must be to a minimum specification of EN1271. The playing conditions must conform to those laid down in the current VE Official Volleyball Rule Book.
- 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 of the 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) Triangulars between 11:30am & 12:30pmUnless other 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, preferably to European Standard for Sports floors EN14904
  - (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 10°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 with seat - 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 - rounded, smooth and safe
  - (5) Balls - Mikasa MVA 200  
Only the Mikasa MVA200 can be used for NVL and K.O. Cup matches. Approved FIVB balls maybe used in other competitions.  
*(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 - VE approved scoresheet in triplicate
  - (9) Line Up Sheets - available
  - (10) 2 sets of paddles - numbered 1- 20 (refer to Section M – Minimum Operating Standards)
  - (11) Buzzer - available (refer to Section M – 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, safety failures etc.*

*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 minor Officials should be competent in the performance of their duties. The Scorer must be the same person throughout the match and be present at least 30 minutes before the start of the match. Line Judges should be present at least 20 minutes prior to the start of the match.
- viii. Confirming in writing to the Secretary of the visiting team, the match Referees, 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) 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.
  - (9) 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.
  - (10) 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 VE 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. 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 numbered 1 – 20.
- iv. Captain - 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      | £15 |
|   | Div 1          | £12 |
|   | Div 2          | £12 |
|   | Div 3          | £10 |
| Matches 1 & 3 of a triangular                                     | Div 2          | £30 |
| Matches 1 & 3 of a triangular                                     | Div 3          | £26 |
| All three matches of a triangular(exceptional circumstances only) | Div 2          | £46 |
| All three matches of a triangular(exceptional circumstances only) | Div 3          | £40 |
| Cup   | Rounds         | £12 |
|   | Semis & finals | £15 |

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

**Regulation D 4.** Referees

- i. First Referee - competent, qualified, registered
- ii. Second Referee - competent, qualified, registered
- iii. Scorer - competent
- iv. Line Judges - competent, properly briefed
- 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. 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. 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.
- ix. The same Referee should not normally officiate in all three matches of a triangular.

**Regulation D 5.** Cup Fixtures

- i. The Home team shall be responsible for the appointment of Referees up to and including the Quarter-Finals. The Referee Commission will appoint the 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> referees to K.O. Cup and Shield Semi-Final matches. The Referees

Commission must be informed of the requirement as soon as earlier match results are known.

- ii. The home team in Semi-Finals must inform both the Cup Commissioner and the NVL Referee Commissioner of the date, venue and warm-up time of the fixture immediately it is confirmed.
- iii. 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 NVL matches in all leagues .
- iii. Super 8 teams are required to produce programmes for all home matches. (A programme template is available from the VE website).
- iv. Women are ineligible to play in Men's competitions and vice-versa.
- v. The Rules of the Game that will apply to all competitions will be those currently issued by the FIVB. In the event of a Regulation change being required in any competition, the Competitions Commission must first give agreement.
- vi. Except in exceptional circumstances, and with the express approval of the Referee Commission, the Referees must hold recognised qualifications and be registered with VE.

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

### Regulation E 2. 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. 1.30 warm up, 2.00 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. 2.30 warm up, 3.00 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 be considered to be outside the control of the team.*

### Regulation E 3. 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 Handbook for Secretary, Coach, other personnel and venue as required. Home teams should then advise the referees, VE 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 vehicle breakdowns (unless by public transport) are not considered as factors outside of a teams control. Teams are expected to inform the Divisional Commissioner, the home team and the Referees of the delay as soon as

possible.

#### **Regulation E 4. 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 5. The Players**

- i. Only players who are correctly registered with VE 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 5.iv.
- ii. Any missing player registration cards will need an explanation; 'cards with EVA' will **not** be accepted. Any player without a registration card at a match must have an email from Volleyball England (and present photographic identification e.g. driver's licence) 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 (e.g. driver's licence). If such a player does 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 VE Official Volleyball Rules requirements. Referees are empowered to prevent players from taking part in a match if they do not comply with this rule. If, however, the referee does allow the player to participate it should be indicated on the score sheet.
- 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 card, including photograph affixed, 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 card, 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 card 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 (card & payment) within the stated time.
- (3) Confirmation that a player's registration card is with the VE National Office must be obtained if the authorised card has not been returned within 7 days of posting. 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 VE 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 cards accompanied by an NVL Team Sheet and Bench personnel cards are to be presented to the Scorer at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the match. Referees must check identity and validity of registration cards and note all irregularities on the scoresheet.
- 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 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. The first referee is to record the appropriate sets on the player's card except where that player is a Junior – see (2) below. During the current season any player playing up who reaches eleven sets, or more, during a game will automatically be deemed to be transferred to the higher team. This will also apply to matches after 1 February.
  - (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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 6. Other team Officials**

- i. At all VE matches, a team shall nominate a coach for the match. This can be either a coach, who must be registered with VE as a Coach, or a player member (of that team). Their name and registration number shall appear legibly on the scoresheet. Only a qualified and registered Coach with VE shall be able to be recorded as Coach on the scoresheet.
- ii. In the absence of a qualified and registered Coach then the team captain shall assume the role. Any other Authorised Bench Personnel will only be able to act as Assistant Coach, with the associated restrictions and limitations.
- iii. A Coach from another team who wishes to act as Coach must have an Authorised Bench Personnel card (with photo) for that team to present to the scorer.
- 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 an appropriate card present.
- vi. The nominated Coach must produce their coach registration card at all matches, and sign the team list.

**Regulation E 7. Match Officials**

- i. Should only one of the appointed Referees arrive for the match, they will appoint a person to act as the second Referee. They will do this from any available persons based on qualification, registration and competence.
- 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 VE 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 VE where VE 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) and Match day protocol sheet to the National Office by first class post on the first working day after the match. In the event of late arrival of this copy at the National Office, the date of cancellation of the first class stamp will be used to see whether a team should be fined.
- ii. Submitting a match report (Super 8s and Division One teams)

**Regulation F 2.** Reporting Results

Advising the match result, including match number, teams, result and set scores, to the nominated VE 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 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 of VE 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. Breaches which result in the game not being played and/or forfeited will have a minimum fine of £50 for a first offence, £100 for a second and a review by the Competition Commission as to future of that team within the League
- 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 have a maximum 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.

### **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 VE 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 are not to be recorded on the scoresheet.
- ii. Any complaints about the competence of the officials must be forwarded within 5 days of the match:-
  - (a) Where the Official(s) is/are unqualified, the Competitions Commissioner will deal with the dispute in accordance with Regulation D 4 viii.

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

**Regulation G 5. Protests**

- i. All disputes must be referred in writing to the VE National Office as soon as possible prior to the scheduled match date, or within five days after the match took place. Disputes beyond this period shall not be entertained.
- ii. A party to a match wishing to make a protest to the VE 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 will not include yellow cards.

**Regulation G 6. Appeals**

- i. On filing an appeal with the VE 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 £100.00 shall be paid when lodging any appeal, such deposit to be returned in the event that the appeal is successful. The VE National Office should give out the relevant documents to each affected party.
- ii. The VE 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 shall 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 a full list of copies of such items to the VE National Office at least 5 days prior to the appeal being heard and to each party to an appeal shall be entitled to copies of these items.
- 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. There shall be a right of appeal from the decision of the Competitions Commission to the VE Judicial Panel. This appeal process will follow the same timeline above.
- xi. No appeals of any description whatsoever shall be considered unless filed within 14 days of notification of the original decision. 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.

## 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 and individual's registration cards.

**Regulation H 2.** In the case of expulsion or disqualification, the first referee will submit a full report to the VE 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 (yellow card) will be charged 3 disciplinary points.
- ii. A player, coach or authorised bench personnel who is expelled (red card) for repetition of a misconduct offence during the match will be charged 5 disciplinary points
- iii. A player, coach or authorised bench personnel who is expelled (red card) for a single offence during the match will be charged 5 disciplinary points
- iv. A player, coach or authorised bench personnel who is expelled (red card) following a penalty for a different offence during a match will be charged 5 disciplinary points. These five points are in addition to the 3 disciplinary points where a person has received a previous penalty.
- v. A player, coach or authorised bench personnel who is disqualified (red and yellow card together) 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 accumulate 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 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 VE 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 VE 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 Competitions Commission and ultimately to the VE Judicial Panel.

## 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 VE 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, one point will be awarded to the losing team if the score is 3-2. No points will be awarded to the losing team if the score is 3-1 or 3-0.
- 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. Any team forfeiting a match will not gain any points, and their opponents will be awarded the match 3-0 25-0, 25-0, 25-0.
- iv. In the event of a tie at the end of the season, 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
- v. 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 VE 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 March 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 2012-13 and the losers in Division 1. This match will be played at a central venue organised by VE with the costs shared.
  - (3) The team finishing 8th will be relegated to Division 1 for 2012-13.
- vi. **Men's and Women's Division 1**
  - (1) The winners of the Division will be promoted to the Super 8s for 2012-13.
  - (2) The team finishing 2nd will play off against the 7th placed team in the Super 8s. The winner will play in the Super 8s in 2012-13 and the losers in Division 1. This match will be played at a central venue organised by VE with the costs shared.
  - (3) The team finishing 8th in Division 1 will playoff in a triangular against the two 2nd placed teams in Division 2. The winner will play in Division 1 in 2012-13 and the losers in Division 2. The fixture will take place at a central venue organised by VE with the costs shared.
  - (4) The teams finishing 9th & 10th will be relegated to Division 2 for 2012-13.
- vii. **Men's and Women's Division 2**
  - (1) The winners of each Division will be promoted to Division 1 for 2012-13.
  - (2) The 2nd place teams in the Divisions will playoff in a triangular against the 8th place in Division 1. The fixture will take place at a central venue organised by

VE with the costs shared. The winner will play in Division 1 in 2012-13 and the losers in Division 2.

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

**viii. Men's Division 3**

- (1) The winners and Runners Up of the Division will be promoted to Division 2 for 2012-13.
- (2) The bottom two teams in each Division maybe required to seek re-entry and maybe required to participate in playoffs

**ix. Women's Division 3**

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

**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 1<sup>st</sup> April.

## **Section J. Regulations for Specific Competitions**

### **Regulation J 1. VE 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 VE Competitions Officer at least a week prior to playing in the competition. This will need to be verified by the Local League, and email confirmation will be provided to the team. Teams must present the email approval to the match officials, and players must produce photo ID (e.g. Passport, Driving Licence) to verify their identity at the match.
- iv. A player may chose 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) and 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.
- 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 VE K.O. Cup at designated rounds shall be entered into the VE Shield as advertised by the Competitions Commission.

### **Regulation J 2. Student Cup**

Full regulations are available from the VE National Office or Student Cup Commissioner on request or available on the VE website

- i. Entry is open to teams based in institutions for full-time further or higher education.
- ii. Players must be full time internally registered students (120 Credits per year), must be members of the Students' Union of the institution they are representing
- iii. No player may compete for more than one team in the cup under any circumstances.

## **Section K. Instructions to Referees**

- i. Referees who have not received a match confirmation by 7 days prior to the match should contact the VE 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, and to record them on the scoresheet. (Regulation D1. v & vi refers.)
- iii. First referees are required to ensure that the number of sets played by a player, who it is advised is playing up from one team to another, is recorded on both the players registration card and the scoresheet (Unless a Junior – see Regulation E5 viii(2)).
- iv. First referees who issue an expulsion or disqualification penalty are required to submit a report to the VE National Office and NVL Referee Commissioner after the match. (Regulation H 2. refers.)
- v. First referees who sanction any authorised member of team personnel should record that sanction on the appropriate registration card. (Regulation H1. refers)
- vi. First referees should ensure that any legitimate protest is recorded in the Remarks box of the scoresheet at the first opportunity after the event arises. (Regulation G 3. ii refers).
- vii. Referees should not allow anyone other than the scorer or themselves to write in the Remarks box of the scoresheet.
- viii. Referees should only allow players, coaches or bench personnel, in possession of a valid, current registration card for that team, to sit on a team bench or otherwise participate in a match. (Regulation E6. iii refers)
- ix. 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)
- x. 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 1<sup>st</sup> February 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 VE Anti-Doping Rules and regulations for doping control is available on request from the VE 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 VE 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. Minimum Operating Standards**

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

### **Accreditation**

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

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

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

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

### **National Technical Officials**

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

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

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

### **Substitution Equipment**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Kit**

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

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

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

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

### **Match Programmes**

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

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

The programmes must contain the following:

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

### **Match Reports**

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

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

### **Team Lists**

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

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

## **Section N. 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 VE National Office.
5. If the Release section has not been completed, the VE 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 VE Office. The date will be verified by postmark of the envelope received at the VE 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 £15.00 transfer fee for administration work involved.
9. The releasing club must return National League Player Card to the office with the transfer form.
10. 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 VE 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 VE 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 VE National Office. The VE 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 VE 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.  |
| c) | - 30 mins  | Scorer to be present. Team and Referee registration cards submitted to the scorer. Scorer commences scoresheet.  |
|    |  | Home team provides the match balls. First 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:<br>(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.<br>(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 usually 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<br><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 often 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 or scorer. <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.<br>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.<br>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.<br>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  |