

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

A. Definitions:

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

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

C. Eligibility:

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

D. Withdrawal of teams

1. Any Organisation wishing to withdraw from any competition it has already entered, at whatever stage of the competition, must give at least 14 days prior notice, in writing, to the relevant Competition Commissioner.
2. Failure to do so may result in that Organisation being required to pay a fine together with a surety for the following season's competitions.
3. Teams failing to arrive on the day of the competition will be fined £50.00 and have any grant or financial assistance already awarded withdrawn.

E. Coaching Staff

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

F. Players

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

G. Libero Players

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

H. Team Dress

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

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

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

I. **Multiple Entries**

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

J. **Rules of Play**

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

K. **Match Points**

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

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

L. **Final Pool Order**

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

M. **Venue Rules**

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

N. **Non payment of Fines**

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

O. **Discipline & Code of Conduct**

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

P. **Disputes**

1. In tournament or multi-round style competitions where more than one round is played on either the same day or weekend, in order to complete the day/weekend matches, the decision of the Commissioner shall be final.
2. Any team wishing to dispute the results of matches at any stage of any competition must bring it to the attention of the Commissioner at the time the result is handed in, and at that time make their protest in writing.
3. Any Club that wishes to dispute the results of matches (or other matters) at any stage of any competition, shall forward its complaint, in writing, to the President of the Competitions Commission within 7 days of the dispute. A fee of £75.00 must accompany the letter. The fee will be refunded if the dispute is found in favour of the disputant.

Q. **Appeals**

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

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

R. Adverse Weather Conditions

1. In the event of a competition being cancelled or a team(s)/players inability to attend a competition(s) due to circumstances beyond the control of Volleyball England, the Association will not be liable for any costs associated to the team(s) or individuals as a consequence of the cancellation or non attendance (venue hire, hotel accommodation or transportation etc).
2. Volleyball England will advise participants as soon as possible of any cancellations or amendments to competitions due to severe weather conditions, safety concerns or any other reason resulting in a competition being cancelled.
3. It is the club's responsibility to ensure that any concern over safety and the inability to attend a competition is notified immediately to Volleyball England. Should an event be cancelled, all affected persons must be notified immediately.
4. If unsure as to the course of action to take please seek advice from the Volleyball England Competition and Events team.

Specific Rules of Under 16 & 18 National Championships

A. Net Heights

Under 16 Girls	2.24 metres	Under 16 Boys	2.35 metres
Under 18 Women	2.24 metres	Under 18 Men	2.43 metres

B. Pool Qualifiers in Preliminary, Rounds 1 & 2

1. Pool Winners will automatically qualify for the next round.
2. Runners-up (where there is more than one qualifier designated in advance) will also progress.

C. Late arrival of teams

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

D. Non-arrival of teams because of bad weather

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

E. Preliminary, First & Second Rounds

1. Preliminary Rounds will only be used when the number of entries requires another round and entries shall be divided geographically into pools of 3 to 6 teams. These will normally be limited to novice teams.
2. Round 1 entries will be divided geographically into pools of 3 to 6 teams. These will normally be limited to less experienced teams but if no preliminary round is staged, novice teams will also enter the competition in this round.
3. Round 2 will consist of 4 pools with 2 seeded teams in each. The seeded teams will be :
 - a) In the Under 16 Competition, the four semi-finalists from the previous season's Under 15 & Under 16 Competitions.
 - b) In the Under 18 Competition, the four semi-finalists from the previous seasons Under 16 & Under 18 Competitions.
4. The Competitions Commissioner shall nominate a school, college, club or individual to organise these pools on behalf of the Commission.
5. No pool shall commence before 11am without the written consent of all participating teams.
6. Hosts are asked to seek free facilities if possible, if not, costs must be discussed with the relevant Competitions Commissioner in advance.
7. Ideally First Officials should be Volleyball England Grade 3 or higher. As the costs of Officials in these rounds are borne by the competing teams, however, suitably experienced persons may officiate instead. Players may not act as 1st Officials.
8. Second Officials, Linespersons and Scorers shall be provided from the neutral teams in the pool.
9. Ideally, courts in these rounds should conform to Volleyball England specifications as in the Official Rule Book. Because of cost implications, however, a good gymnasium may be used.

Recommended Format for Pool matches in Preliminary and Round 1 (using 1 court)

Teams in Pool	Matches	Recommended Time
3	3 set matches	4 hours
4	3 set matches	5 hours
5/6	2 sets. Match stops at 35 minutes. (This includes a 5 minute warm-up) 1 Pool point per set won. Half a Pool point for a drawn or unplayed set.	6 hours

Recommended Format for Pool matches in Round 2

3 team Pool - Best of three sets

4 team Pool - Best of three sets

Round Organisers may deviate from the above only with the prior permission of the relevant Competitions Commissioner. The most important factor, however, is that all matches are completed within the available time.

F. Last Eights (Quarter & Semi-Final Rounds)

1. No Pool shall commence before 10.00am without the written consent of all participating teams.
2. The 8 qualifiers shall be divided into 2 Quarter Final Pools of 4 teams each.
3. All teams in the Pool shall play each other. (Final order as per general Rule L, using the following format :

Pool 1

A = Runner Up Group B

B = Winner Group A

C = Runner Up Group D

D = Winner Group C

Pool 2

A = Runner Up Group A

B = Winner Group B

C = Runner Up Group C

D = Winner Group D

The playing order shall be:

A v B

Officials C

C v D

Officials A

B v C

Officials D

A v D

Officials B

B v D

Officials C

A v C

Officials D

4. The winners of each Pool shall stay on their own court and play the Runners Up of the opposite Pool in the Semi-Finals on the same day.
5. All matches shall be played to the best of three sets.
6. There shall be no play-offs for minor places.
7. Semi-Final losers shall be equal third.
8. Thirds in Pools shall be equal fifth.
9. Fourths in Pools shall be equal seventh.
10. Volleyball England will provide qualified 1st officials. Teams may be expected to provide competent 2nd officials, scorer and at least 2 competent linespersons in neutral matches.
11. The team finishing fourth in their Pool will be expected to provide the linespersons and scorers for the semi-finals.

G. Finals

1. All Finals shall be the best of 5 sets as per FIVB Rules.
2. The Competitions Commission will provide all Officials after consultation with Referee Commission.
3. The "3 ball system" will normally be used.
4. The venue shall be decided annually by the Competitions Commission.
5. A Team trophy shall be awarded to the Champions for which they shall be responsible for safe keeping & returning in time for presentation to the following years winners.