



REFEREE COMMISSION

**Technical Guide
2017**

REFEREE REGISTRATION

All qualified referees are encouraged to register with Volleyball England annually. Registration enables an accurate record of activity to be maintained, and matches can be allocated efficiently. In return, referees are kept up to date with rule changes and other developments. Registered officials also receive a license card, information on training opportunities, third party liability insurance cover and consideration for appointments to NVL matches. Referees are asked to register from 1 August each year. Registration is compulsory for all referees of Grade 3 and above. Referees for the National League are appointed directly by Referee Commission; referees wishing to be considered for such games must be registered and should contact the Commission before the end of April each year. Referees on the NVL panel may be assessed at any time; referees at Grade 2 and above may be required to attend special clinics biannually. All Volleyball England officials are expected to abide strictly to the Code of Conduct for Referees.

GRADE 4

Initial entry to refereeing is the Grade 4 course which covers theory and an introduction to practical refereeing. Details of arrangements for Courses and other Clinics can be obtained from the Commissioner Referee Development.

GRADE 3 (REGIONAL)

This is the basic grade of practical refereeing, a recommended minimum standard for officiating in regional or local leagues. So, when you have been refereeing comparatively regularly at local league or other competitions, and think you are fulfilling the very basic criteria below, you should be applying for assessment for Grade 3R. To achieve Grade 3R a candidate must be observed (by an approved member of the Staff Team) officiating, at least, as a 1st Referee at a match and must be in the current referee uniform. Candidates may make a direct approach to any staff on the current list, in order to arrange an assessment. Whereas Grade 4 is awarded for theoretical knowledge of the rules, the Grade 3R Award is made solely on the basis of practical refereeing. Prior to assessment a candidate must have qualified as a Grade 4 and have registered or be committed to registering. The award will not be ratified until registration is received by the National Office. There is no charge for single Grade 3R assessments. Regions may wish to host Grade 3 Clinics for training purposes and to arrange more than one assessment in a day.

ADVANCED GRADES

All Advanced Grade Awards are made by Referee Commission on receipt of a body of Observation or Assessment reports, which show the Candidate has consistently fulfilled the criteria for the grade over an extended period of time, and when the candidates have fulfilled the criteria set out below.

GRADE 3 (NATIONAL)

Grade 3 Referees with experience in regional leagues can apply for inclusion on the National League Panel. Referees on the Panel are appointed pre-season by the Referee Commission Appointment Committee to the season's National League matches. Upgrading to 3N will normally be by practical assessment involving a number of Observations or Assessments reports submitted by Staff Referees. Candidates for upgrading will be expected to fulfil the criteria set out in the Key Performance Objectives for Grade 3N and maintaining the standards of behaviour, administrative efficiency and professionalism listed in the Referee Code of Conduct. If a referee fails to meet the criteria and achieve promotion to Grade 3N within two full seasons, unless there are extenuating circumstances, his/her application for the Panel for the following season may be subject to rejection. In cases where a Grade 3R referee is unable to commit to the Panel, but still makes a major contribution to NVL by refereeing more than ten matches a season, he/she may apply for Grade 3N assessment, and a detailed log of matches is submitted to Referee Commission. Grade 3N status is retained for as long as the official remains active as a referee, continues to register annually and remains on the Panel of appointed referees. A referee who fails to accept appointments for two consecutive seasons, or regularly fails to fulfil his/her commitment to Panel appointed matches, will normally be returned to Grade 3R, unless there are extenuating circumstances of which Referees Commission has been notified. A Panel referee who fails to register for two consecutive seasons will normally be removed from Volleyball England Referee Register and lose their current grade. On re-registering the referee must apply to Referee Commission for reinstatement if wishing to return to Grade 3N or above.

GRADE 2

Applicants for Grade 2 must be registered Grade 3N referees (normally with at least two years of refereeing experience) and must be able to demonstrate a consistently high standard of officiating in appointed National League Division 2 matches and Volleyball England recognised competitions. To be considered for upgrading, a candidate should apply to the Staff Commissioner at least three months prior to the start of the season in which Observations are to be made. Within six months of Candidates embarking on the Grade 2 pathway they will be expected to pass the Grade 2 Theory Assessment. Candidates for Grade 2 will work to meet the criteria set out in the Key Performance Objectives for the Grade whilst at the same time maintaining the standards of behaviour, administrative efficiency and professionalism required by the Referee Code of Conduct. Practical Training will consist of detailed debriefs, immediately following Observations. Referee Commission will only consider for upgrading to Grade 2 a candidate who has (i) 'above baseline' Observations (NVL Div 2 and above, or the equivalent at Volleyball England events) from at least two different Senior Staff Officials or Referee Commission appointed Observers, (ii) during the previous three years participated in at least two Clinics held at a national event/tournament staffed by Senior Staff and/or Observers, (iii) successfully completed a Scorer Award Course, (iv) demonstrated the ability to score accurately and line judge. It is the individual referee's responsibility to keep a log of his/her activity and the dates at which criteria have been met.

GRADE 1

Applications for Grade 1 are considered from any registered referee usually with at least two years of experience as an appointed NVL referee at the Grade 2 level. The candidate must be able to demonstrate competence at the highest level of officiating and must be committed to an extensive program of NVL matches each season. To be considered for upgrading, a candidate must apply to the Staff Commissioner at least three months prior to the start of the season in which Observations are to be made. Candidates for the Grade will then work to meet the criteria set out in the Key Performance Objectives for the Grade, whilst at the same time maintaining the standards of behaviour, administrative efficiency and professionalism required by the Referee Code of Conduct. Practical Training will consist of detailed debriefs, immediately following Observations. Referee Commission will only consider for upgrading to Grade 1 a candidate who has, (i) achieved 'above baseline' Observations in NVL Div 1, Men's Div 2, Cup Finals and Semi-Finals or approved Tournament Finals and Semi-Finals, from at least three different Senior Staff Officials or Referee Commission appointed Observers (ii) during the previous three years participated in at least two Clinics at a national event/tournament staffed by Senior Staff, (iii) demonstrated ability to Line Judge at National Div 1 level. Where there are sufficient candidates, training may include a Referee Theory Clinic It is the individual referee's responsibility to keep a log of his/her activity and the dates at which criteria have been met.

NATIONAL REFEREE

As required by FIVB, from within the ranks of the current most senior referees, each season will be selected a panel of officials designated with the FIVB category National Referee. As the number of National Grade referees is determined by FIVB this is not a 'lifetime grade'. Priority for this grade goes to referees who may prove to be future International Candidates and those who may be appointed to International matches and events. It is not possible for referees to apply for this Grade.

INTERNATIONAL REFEREE

Applicants for the FIVB Candidate International Referee Course are chosen by Referee Commission. To qualify they must hold a British passport and be resident in England, Wales or the Channel Islands. It is not possible for referees to apply for this grade. Any individual selected by Referee Commission must be over 25 and under 41 years of age during the year they are attending the International Course, and have been on the governing body's list of nominated National Referees for a minimum of three of the previous five years. FIVB are proposing that future Candidates for the International Course will be required to have a BMI (Body Mass Index)* of 25 or less and will have to complete a medical which satisfies the FIVB Medical Commission. Once achieved, the status of International Referee is awarded for a four year period and is only renewed by FIVB subject to activity and yearly reports. International Referees may be required by FIVB to submit themselves for a medical at any time. On reaching the age of retirement (55) a referee is not permitted to use the title

'International Referee'.

*BMI calculation

EITHER: Weight in pounds multiplied by 730 – Divided by height in inches²
OR: Weight in kilograms divided by height in metres²

AGE LIMITS

The minimum age for NVL refereeing is normally eighteen. After the age of sixty a referee must re-apply annually to Referee Commission to remain on the NVL Panel. Those who wish to continue registering after retirement from active refereeing may do so, at the lowest rate currently available.

JUNIOR REFEREE AWARDS

Under 18s may be awarded Grade 4 (Junior) and Grade 3R (Junior). Additionally there is a Young Referee Award Scheme for Mini Volleyball. Further information is available from the Commissioner for Junior Referee Development.

ACCELERATED PROMOTION SCHEME

By special application, a player or coach with significant experience of National League volleyball may be considered for accelerated training; in such cases it is possible to attend a one day Grade 4 Course, by passing the Introductory Course, in order to take the exam and obtain Grade 4 qualification. It may also be possible to shorten the normal period of qualification for Grade 3, 2, 1 – although it should be noted that the same standards of competence, the same pass marks in tests, and the same criteria must be met.

For further details applicants should contact President Referee Commission. Accelerated promotion, through Grade 3, 2 1 will also be considered by Referee Commission for Referees displaying exceptional ability and progress. Referees on the NVL Panel may be subject to Observation at any time, without prior notification. Panel Referees may also at any time be required to sit a theoretical examination, which will require knowledge of the FIVB Rules, Referee Guidelines and Casebook examples. At least two months notification will be given of a theoretical examination. All Referees holding Advanced Grades may be required to attend special training clinics. Panel Referees are expected to attend the National Referees' Conference, failure to do so for two years may result in downgrading or other disciplinary action, unless Referee Commission have been notified of extenuating circumstances. All referees are expected to abide strictly by the Code of Conduct for referees.

REFEREE STAFF ROLES

For the most up to date list of roles and contact details please visit the following pages on the VE website:

- Officials Working Group:
http://www.volleyballengland.org/about_us/about_us_working_groups/officials_working_group
- Regional Associations (for Regional Referee Co-ordinators):
http://www.volleyballengland.org/about_us/regional_associations
- Volleyball England HUB staff:
http://www.volleyballengland.org/about_us/meet_the_team