

GLOUCESTERSHIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION
GENERAL RULES OF PLAY FOR ALL COMPETITIONS

(As at 25th June 2008)

A Players and Registrations

- 1 All teams must be registered with the G.V.A. as laid down in the Constitution.
- 2a. All Players must be registered and members of a G.V.A. registered team before playing in any competition.
- b. The Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse any registration, subject to an appeal to the Committee.
- 3 A Player may register at any time during the season by following the registration procedure (but see Rule 4b2).
- 4a. Unless officially transferred, in any one season no player may play for more than one Club in Men's competition, and no player shall play for more than one Club in Women's competition.

Exception: Clubs with a team registered in a lower division shall be allowed to have a maximum of 3 Players registered with another Club for the purpose of playing in a higher division. In the event of players registering for two clubs under this rule, they must make it clear which is their main club. This exception shall not apply to Cup competitions.

- b. (i) All transfers must be approved at an Executive Committee meeting or by a sub-committee given authority by the Executive Committee.
- (ii) No transfer/registration will be permitted after 1 February each season without special dispensation from the Association. A nominal fee will be charged for such transfers/registrations
- c. To effect a transfer the League Secretary must have a signed transfer form.
- d. No transfer shall be effected until the League Secretary has informed the Players' new Club of completion.
5. Where a Club has more than one team:
 - a. The teams must be ranked by the Club on original registration of the teams.
 - b. 5b Players registered for a lower-ranked team may play for a higher-ranked team. A maximum of three players registered for a lower-ranked team may play for a higher-ranked team in any one game.
 - c. Players must be registered to one of the club's teams specifically.

- d. No Player from a higher ranked team may play for a lower ranked team unless officially transferred.
- e. No player may transfer between teams more than once except in exceptional circumstances as approved by the Executive Committee.
- 6a. The League Secretary shall circulate a list of registered teams and players at the beginning of the season.
- b. Additions and transfers during the season will be published.
- 7. Each team must wear uniform and numbered shirts. Shirts must be numbered from 1 to 99. Any team failing to do so shall be reported by the Referee on the Scoresheet. The Committee may impose fines on teams in default.
- 8. Apart from in Men's Division 1, teams may only field one player currently registered with an NVL club.

B Timing of Fixtures

- 1 a. The first Referee should be present 15 Minutes before the arranged start time.
- b. The match court must be available for the official warm-up.
- c. The official warm-up time shall not be in excess of 15 Minutes.
- 2a. In the event of there being no official match start time, it shall be deemed to be 20 minutes after the hall booking time.
- 2b. Any team failing to appear on court, ready to commence play at the start of the match shall forfeit the first set 25-0. Each subsequent set shall start 20 minutes later. A team arriving between the start times shall be able to use the available time to warm up. If a team is not ready to play when a set should commence then they shall forfeit that set 25-0.
- 3. The respective League and Fixtures Secretaries shall be responsible for the timing of all matches.
- 4. Any team wanting to alter the published fixtures list must inform the respective Secretary.
- 5. A Team which requests postponement of an original fixture with less than 48 hours notice will be liable to forfeit the match. If re-arranged fixtures are cancelled by the visiting team with less than 48 hours notice, the visiting team will be liable for half the court fees.

C. Rules of play

- 1. The official rules of Volleyball which refer to the players and officials shall apply at all times.
- 2a. Breaches of discipline recorded on the official Scoresheet (ie. Red or Red and Yellow cards) shall be reported on the official Scoresheet.
- b. A point system shall operate:

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| Yellow card | = 1 point |
| Red card | = 2 points |
| Red & Yellow cards | = 3 points. |

- c. A person reaching 6 points shall be deemed a persistent offender and liable to suspension.
- d. A Player liable to suspension shall be informed by the Honorary Secretary of the Date of the meeting at which suspension will be discussed, giving right of appeal.
- e. If a Player is suspended, League and Cup matches will be treated as the same.
- f. The GVA reserves the right to honour suspensions imposed by other affiliated Volleyball Associations and to notify the same of any decisions imposed by the GVA.

D. Court and Equipment.

- 1 The playing area and equipment should conform to the standards laid down by the EVA.

E. Disputes procedure.

- 1 The Executive Committee is responsible for resolving all disputes in the best interests of the GVA.
- 2. In the event of a dispute involving conditions of play:
 - a. The protest must be made to the first Referee before the start of the match.
 - b. The first Referee must record the protest on the Scoresheet at this time.
 - c. Both Captains must sign the protest at this time.
 - d. The match shall then be played as normal.
 - e. A written statement of the complaint must be sent to the honorary Secretary and a copy sent to the opposition Secretary, complaints must be received within 10 days of the match being played.
 - f. The Committee will resolve the dispute at the next meeting, or as soon as possible thereafter. Only information available in writing at the time of the meeting will be taken into consideration.
 - g. There is no right of appeal against a decision made by the Committee on a dispute.
- 3 Disputes over any other aspect of a match should follow stages 2e - g above.
- 4. In resolving a dispute the Committee shall have the power to:
 - a. uphold the result of the match
 - b. Order the match replayed
 - c. Arrange a replay with expenses shared between the two teams.
 - d. Award the match to the protesting team.

F. Officials

1. A set of Officials will comprise a first Referee, a second Referee, one Scorer and two Line-judges. The First Referee should be fixed for the whole match – no swapping of personnel will be allowed except in the case of illness or other wholly unavoidable reason. Although this should also apply to the 2nd referee and scorer, it is recognised that this may not always be possible. Any problems regarding this should be recorded on the scoresheet, and also reported to the League Secretary, and copied to the opposition secretary.
2. In triangular matches it is the responsibility of all teams to provide Officials.
3. In single matches it is the responsibility of the team appearing first on the Fixtures list to supply the Officials. In such circumstances the Official should be remunerated to at least the cost of his/her expenses.

G. Fines

1. All fines shall be deducted from a club's deposit paid at the start of the season. Any arrears shall be payable no later than the start of the next season.

LEAGUE FIXTURES

A. Fixtures procedure.

1. Fixtures should be played on the dates laid down on the official Fixtures list.
2. The League secretary shall be responsible for arranging the official Fixture list.
3. Any team wishing to change an arranged Fixture should do so at the pre-season Fixtures meeting where Fees will be paid in total.
4. In the event of the GVA being charged for the hire of sports halls subject to cancellations, teams may be liable to the full cost.
5. The Committee will not allow any Volleyball games to be conceded before 28 February of that season. All efforts are to be made by both parties to arrange for the game to be played within the season. If this cannot be arranged amicably, the Committee is to be notified and will review and, if possible, arrange the match.
6. Clubs will supply the League Secretary with their fixture lists by the end of September, and with updates upon request.

B. Results

1. Results must be recorded on an official EVA Scoresheet.
2. The winning team is responsible for sending the Scoresheet to the League Secretary, who must receive it no later than 7 days after the Fixture. The result must also be e-mailed or sent by text message to the publicity officer within 7 days of the fixture. Lateness shall leave clubs liable to a £5 fine per offence.

C. League organisation

1. Each team in a division shall normally play each other team twice. Dependent upon the number of teams in a Division, the League Secretary may arrange for teams to meet a different number of times.

- 2a. Division 1 matches shall normally be arranged as triangulars. Division 2 and Ladies matches shall normally be played Home and Away.
- b. Division 1 and 2 shall be open to all ages and sexes.
The Ladies League shall be open to Ladies and any Boys under 14 years of age on 31st August of that season. Teams registering such a player shall provide satisfactory proof of age to the League secretary upon registration.
3. In the event of failure to complete a Fixture the official Rules of Volleyball shall apply.
4. Two points shall be awarded for a win and one point for each set won. The Committee reserves the right to deduct points for defaulted matches.
5. Matches shall be awarded if the opposition:
 - a. Fail to field a full side,
 - b. Fail to attend a Fixture,
 - c. Play an unregistered Player.
6. A tie on points for first place in any division shall be decided in the following manner:
 - i) Matches won
 - ii) Sets difference
 - iii) Sets won

In the event of these being equal it may be decided to organise a play-off.
7. There will be a Trophy awarded to the Winners of each division.
8. A team holding a Trophy shall be responsible for its upkeep.
9. The top two teams in each division at the end of the season shall be promoted unless they can provide the Committee with just reason why this should not happen.
10. The bottom two teams in each division shall be liable to relegation pending promotion decisions.
11. League Fixtures must be completed by May 15th.
12. Teams withdrawing from the League in mid-season shall have all their results expunged from the records.

CUP AND PLATE COMPETITIONS

1. All Clubs must be registered with the GVA
2. All Players must be registered with a Club.
3. No Player can play for more than one team for these competitions. This also applies to players registered with two teams in different Divisions under the Exception to League Rule 4A.
4. The Home Team is to offer at least two dates for fixtures.
5. The Home Team is responsible for providing all officials.
6. Teams must give at least 48 hours notice of cancellation of fixture.

7. In the event of problems teams must contact the Cup / Plate secretary.
8. Development teams may enter the Ladies Cup competition as long as all Males on Court are aged under 14 on 1 September of that season.
9. All court fees are to be divided between the two teams.
10. Clubs losing in early rounds of the Cup may be entered into the Plate competition, the round(s) involved to be decided by the Competition Secretary. Any team WITHDRAWING from the Cup competition will NOT have an automatic right of entry to the Plate competition.