

NORTHERN COUNTIES VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION
LEAGUE RULES

14th September 2022

1) NAME

The "Northern Counties Volleyball League" (hereinafter known as the League) may be adapted at the discretion of the Northern Counties Volleyball Association Executive Committee to recognise, for example, the interest of a Sponsor.

2) MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership of the League shall be open to all Clubs, Universities, Colleges or Schools in Northumberland, Tyne & Wear and North Durham who register with Volleyball England. (See Note 1).
- b) Each team is to complete an entry form (available on the Association's website) before 1st August each year. (See note 2).
- c) All registration and entry fees shall be paid by **1st December** (See Note 3).
- d) All League entry fees shall be determined by the Committee and should be made payable to 'Northern Counties Volleyball Association' (hereinafter known as the Association) to the League Treasurer.

3) MANAGEMENT

- a) The league will be managed by a sub-committee consisting of the Association chairperson, fixture secretary and tournament organiser who shall be elected at the Association AGM.
- b) Each division will be administered by a Division Manager who shall be responsible for making recommendations concerning defaults to a Management Sub-committee

4) LEAGUES & DIVISIONS

- a) The League organises:
 - i. Divisions 1 & 2 which can include male and female players
 - ii. A Women's Division
- b) Super 8 players are ineligible for this standard of competition.
- c) Under 15 boys of an appropriate standard (i.e. school Year 10) can play in the Women's Division but no more than 2 are allowed on court at any time.
- d) Promotion and relegation of teams between divisions will normally be on a two up / two down basis. However, teams may approach the Committee (in exceptional circumstances only) to decline promotion.
- e) The Committee shall have the power to make any decisions on promotion and relegation that it considers necessary.

5) PLAYING RULES

The rules of the game shall be those currently issued by Volleyball England with the exception of rule 5(a)

Local rule

- a) THERE WILL BE NO SCREENING ALLOWED IN THE NORTHERN COUNTIES LEAGUE, NO PLAYER WILL BE ALLOWED WITHIN 1 METRE OF ANOTHER PLAYER DURING THE SERVE, UNLESS IT IS A JUMP SERVE.

6) FIXTURES

- a) The playing season shall commence on 1st October each year and end by the 31st May the following year.

- b) If possible teams shall be informed of fixtures 4 weeks before the first match to allow
- c) time to check problems such as venue availability. Any changes to fixture dates (with new dates agreed by both teams) must be made to the Fixture Secretary within 2 weeks of publication of the fixtures. Thereafter league matches must be played on the specified dates and only postponed in exceptional circumstances, e.g. bad weather making travel dangerous, problems with venue, progress in national cup competition.
- d) In the event of an enforced postponement the team responsible must inform the opposing team contact, the officials and the Division Manager as early as possible.
- e) Postponed matches must be rearranged mutually between the teams involved. The Divisional Manager must be informed of any changes.
- f) A team cancelling a match will be given 2 dates by the home team, failure to fulfil one of these dates will result in a forfeit of the match
- g) If a team does not complete a minimum of 25% of their matches, all their matches will become void.
- h) See Appendix A for a list of sanctions to be applied if a team is late onto court.

The court time duration must be a minimum of 2 hours. This will include time for setting up and dismantling equipment.

7) **MATCH COURT**

- a) The Committee may bar any court which it considers unsuitable.
- b) In the event of having no home venue, a team may arrange to play all its matches away. Such teams must pay all costs of the court hire for their 'Home' matches.

8) **MATCH CONFIRMATION**

Teams involved in a match should contact each other between 10 and 14 days before the match is due to take place by email and copy the Division Manager. Once initial contact has been made the opposing team should respond immediately so that details of the venue, start time and any special information can be agreed and the Division Manager informed. If one team contacts the opposition and the Division Manager and no reply is forthcoming from the opposing team 10 days before the match is due to take place the Division manager should attempt to contact the offending team. If no reply is forthcoming he/she will award a 'walk-over'.

If neither team contacts the opposition and the Division Manager 10 days before the match is due to take place he/she should attempt to contact the teams. If no reply is forthcoming he/she will inform them that the match is void.

9) **MATCH OFFICIALS**

The home team shall provide the referees (neutral if possible), scorer and, if possible, two line judges.

10) **MATCH RESULT SHEET**

- a) The **HOME TEAM** is responsible for:
 - i. Providing a result sheet, ensuring that it is completed correctly before the start of the match and signed by the team captains and the referee at the end of the match.
 - ii. Providing the away team with a copy of the result sheet (e.g. carbon, photo, photocopy, scan)
 - iii. Texting the result to the Division manager immediately after the match.
 - iv. Entering the set scores, team appearances and MVP in the league website
 - v. The MVP must of played in the Match
 - vi. Emailing or sending a copy of the result sheet to the Division manager within 3 days of the game being played

- b) The AWAY TEAM is responsible for:
 - i. Entering team appearances and MVP in the league website
 - ii. Checking that the home team has entered the result in the league website

11) **MATCH RESULT**

League points shall be awarded as follows:-

- a) 3 points to the winning team.
- b) 1 point to the losing team.
- c) 0 points to any forfeiting team or where a game is not played by the end of the season.
- d) 2 points for a drawn game (see appendix B,b)

In exceptional circumstances teams will be allowed to play with less than 6 players without penalty.

12) **TEAM STRIPS**

Teams should endeavour to wear matching shirts with numbers.

13) **PLAYER REGISTRATION**

- a) **All teams must register their players on the web site.** Emergency player registrations must be shown correctly on the result sheet.
N.B. in order to be covered by Volleyball England's Public Liability Insurance.
- b) Transfers of players between teams of one club and between teams of different clubs shall only be made after the secretary has been notified and has given written confirmation of such transfer. Where the transfer is between teams of different clubs such written/email notification **MUST** be made by both clubs. In the event of a team failing to continue to play in the League, such notification shall be by the continuing team only.
- c) Where a club has more than one team in the League:
 - i. Players will be expected to play only for the team for which they have been registered.
 - ii. If a player changes teams within a club, the normal transfer (rule 13c) applies.
 - iii. A player may play two matches during the season for a team in a higher division before being transferred. On playing a third match for the team in the higher division that player will be automatically transferred but written notification to the Secretary will still be required.
- d) Women can play in the Women's Division and one other Division.
- e) Junior development players **ONLY** in ANY division may play up three matches during the season in the same division, on playing the fourth match that player will automatically be transferred to the higher team, written notification to the secretary will still be required.

14) **AWARDS**

At the end of the season each divisional winning team will receive a shield to retain for one year and a small shield to retain at the club. An award will also be made to the 'Most Valuable Player' in each division, as decided by the number of nominations made on the score sheets throughout the season.

Tournament divisional winners will each receive a cup to retain for one year.

15) **APPEAL**

Teams have the right to appeal against any decision of the Committee. Such appeals will be heard by the Northern Counties Volleyball Association Committee, although only independent members will be allowed to vote. The Association Chairperson may call for such evidence as he / she deems necessary.

16) AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these rules may be made by a simple majority at an Association Annual, Extraordinary or Pre-season meeting.

NOTES

1. All NCVA League Clubs MUST be affiliated with Volleyball England prior to League commencement.
2. University teams will be given additional time to confirm entries (rule 2(b))
3. Entry fee for 2015/16: £20 per team, payable to "NCVA" and sent to the treasurer by 31st October.
4. Fees not paid by 31st December will incur a £10 fine

APPENDIX A: TEAMS ARRIVING LATE FOR MATCHES

The following sanctions will apply if teams are late onto court:

- a) A team not ready to start within 20 minutes will concede the first set 25-0.
- b) A team not ready to start within 30 minutes will concede the second set 25-0.
- c) A team not ready to start within 40 minutes will concede the match 3-0.

In a match starting 35 minutes late, one Team will start with a 2 set lead therefore a maximum of 3 further sets will be required. In the unlikely event of the match being unfinished within the allotted time, the 'late' team will lose the set in progress (therefore the match) but will be awarded 1 League point.

APPENDIX B: UNFINISHED MATCHES

Should a match start in accordance with the Recommended Match Procedure but not be completed before the loss of court time, the score will be decided as follows:

- a. When the set score is 1-1, whatever the 3rd set score, the final set shall be won by the then winning Team. 3 pts will be awarded to the winning Team and 1 pt to the losing Team.
- b. When the set score is 2-1, whatever the 4th set score, the final set shall be won by the then winning Team. 3 pts will be awarded to the winning Team and 1 pt to the losing Team or 2 points to each Team in the event of a draw.
- c. When the set score is 2-2, whatever the 5th set score, the final set shall be won by the then winning Team. 3 pts will be awarded to the winning Team and 1 pt to the losing Team.

APPENDIX C: RECOMMENDED MATCH PROCEDURE

Starting time = 0:	Warm up away from the net, as soon as the hall is available.
+ 10 minutes:	Share the net for a maximum of 5 minutes (2½ minutes spiking at 4 then 2).
+ 15 minutes:	Serving practice 2 minutes.
+ 20 minutes:	Match starts.