

# **MERCANTILE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA**

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR MERCANTILE VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT**

### **1 General**

- 1.1 The rules and regulations hereunder shall be applicable and receive the compliance of all participating teams, individual players, all player support personnel and all match officials of the Mercantile Volleyball Tournament, which is annually organised by Mercantile Volleyball Association of Sri Lanka.
- 1.2 This Tournament will have no bearing on any other tournament and shall be called “Mercantile Volleyball Tournament” and will be organized annually by the Mercantile Volleyball Association of Sri Lanka (MVA)

### **2 Eligibility to Participate**

- 2.1 Any member of a Mercantile firm/sports club that has obtained the annual membership of the MVA shall be eligible to participate in the tournament subject to the following;
- 2.2 All players should have been recruited and be on the payroll of the company on or before 30<sup>th</sup> of April, in the particular year of the Tournament and a registered member of the Central Bank Employees Provident Fund/Private Provident Fund maintained by the individual companies.
- 2.3 Consultants, Casual employees, Trainees are not eligible to represent the company.

- 2.4 Any member company presenting a team under the Super League category or Masters category, can include one (01) outside player per team, who is not an employee of their organization, by including the name in the original Team Card and by submitting the details requested in the application form.
- 2.5 Players from any manpower company, hired by a member company, are not entitled to play/represent the hiring company and should they wish to play, it should be under that manpower company/Agency.
- 2.6 Any expatriate employee (a foreign national employed in Sri Lanka) who wishes to play in this tournament, should have two years Sri Lankan Work Visa and should have completed one year of work at that company/organization by the time of the tournament date. Such players will be treated as employees of the member company and a maximum of two expatriate players are allowed for one team.
- 2.7 Any member company eligible or opting to play under the Super League category can include one (01) foreign national player who is not an employee of their organization, by including the name in the original Team Card and by submitting the details requested in the application form, with any such player being considered as the outside player and taking up the position provided by Rule 2.1.3.
- 2.8 Any Ex Service personnel/players (from Sri Lanka Army, Sri Lanka Navy or Sri Lanka Air Force) who have later joined the Mercantile sector should provide a copy of the final clearance report issued by the relevant Service. No sub formation (Unit, Regiment, Branch etc) letters are considered as the final clearance document. The final Clearance Report should be produced with the Team Application and original document should be produced at the Tournament day.
- 2.9 One institution can enter any number of teams, and each individual team should pay entry fees separately.

2.10 To compensate for the lack of required number of teams in the Super League Category only the MVA may invite foreign Mercantile Sector teams under the Super League category.

2.11 Any one player is eligible to represent only one team during a Tournament.

### **3 Inquiries/Disciplinary Matters**

3.1 The MVA Tournament Committee shall have the power to inquire into any matter arising in the course of the tournament and take appropriate action.

3.2 If the MVA Tournament Committee needs any further disciplinary action after due inquiry, they may refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee of the MVA for appropriate action, subject to approval by the Executive Committee of the MVA.

3.3 Any appeals thereafter shall be sent by registered post or hand delivered under acknowledgement to the General Secretary of MVA.

### **4 Protests**

4.1 Any team that wishes to lodge a protest on any matter pertaining to any match, the following procedure shall apply:

- 4.2 A protest should be lodged either before a match commences or when a match is in progress or within 1 hour from the conclusion of a match, and shall be made in writing to the Disciplinary Committee in the specified format provided by MVA.
- 4.3 A fee, determined by the MVA for each Tournament year, will be charged at the time of submission.
- 4.4 The MVA Disciplinary Committee shall take appropriate action after holding an inquiry into any protest. MVA Executive Committee approval shall be obtained where appropriate.
- 4.5 If any protest comes to a player regarding his or her employment, the company should ensure that the relevant player produces sufficient evidence, including proof of membership in the Employee Provident Fund, within three working days. If the member company fails to produce required document(s) the entire team shall be disqualified.
- 4.6 If any disciplinary allegation is made against a Player / Coach or a team during a match, the referees will have the discretion to take any decision regarding such person and if further decision/action is needed it shall be escalated to the MVA Disciplinary Committee.
- 4.7 If any disciplinary allegation is made against a player, coach or a team during the tournament at tournament premises, decision of the incident is vested with the MVA Disciplinary Committee and the Executive Committee of the MVA and it must be honored by every team.
- 4.8 4.4 MVA Executive Committee reserves the right to alter the procedure or to take any decision bona-fide to maintain the spirit of the Tournament and the goodwill of MVA. Such decision of MVA Executive Committee will be final and conclusive.

## **5 Registration**

- 5.1 Any company registered under the Companies Act of Sri Lanka or any legal provision available in the Sri Lankan law from time to time, may register with MVA by filling in the Membership Application available at [www.mva.lk](http://www.mva.lk). An annual Membership is charged and every year the Membership shall be renewed. The annual membership fee for each tournament year will be determined by the Executive Committee of the MVA.
- 5.2 Only direct fund transfers to the account of the association is accepted and the fund transfer details to be attached as a proof when submitting the application.
- 5.3 5.3 A team registered under a particular eligible category, will not be allowed to change the category, even if the team is eligible to multiple categories.

## **6 Supplementary Rules and Regulations**

- 6.1 All Teams should be present at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time at the grounds. If any team fails to turn up even after a grace period not exceeding 10 minutes announced via public address system, the Team present shall be awarded a Walk-over.
- 6.2 Conduct of Players : All players must have in their possession the Company ID cards & the National ID cards and they should be produced at the time of registration. For outside players and overseas players, the National ID card or a valid Passport shall be produced.
- 6.3 All players must wear proper playing attire with numbers.

- 6.4 The Head Coach of the Team should be registered with the team.
- 6.5 One Coach is allowed to Coach only one member company during the tournament for any given tournament year, and shall not coach teams of other member companies playing in the tournament under any category.
- 6.6 No omissions or additions are allowed to the finally submitted application form.
- 6.7 Tournament will be conducted under the rules of Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation and Federation International de Volleyball (FIVB). Any special rules, if applicable, will be announced prior to the start of the tournament. MVA reserves the right to make minor changes during the tournament, depending on the circumstances.
- 6.8 Final decision of the tournament is vested with the Executive Committee of the Mercantile Volleyball Association, notwithstanding anything mentioned in contrary in any document, and it must be honored by every team. Every team is bound by that decision and further every team is bound to respect the decision of referees.

## **7 Categorizing of Teams**

- 7.1 The eligibility and categorising of teams for the Mercantile Volleyball Tournament would be as follows for both Men's and Women's categories.

**7.1.1 Super League Men / Women:**

7.1.1.1 The two (02) teams that are qualified for finals in the last held tournament's Championship category will be promoted to Super League category in the subsequent tournament year. Two (02) lowest performing teams of the Super League category will be demoted to the Championship category in the subsequent tournament year. This demotion is subject to availability of teams in the Super League category and is decided by the MVA Tournament Committee.

7.1.1.2 New players can be included to the Super League teams.

7.1.1.3 Any team can directly apply to take part in Super League Category and the approval for such participation will be determined by the MVA Tournament Committee.

7.1.1.4 If any player who has left the Company after playing for Super League Category in previous year, should be indicated in the application form.

**7.1.2 Championship Men / Women.**

7.1.2.1 The tournament shall be conducted on knockout basis.

7.1.2.2 Teams qualified for quarter finals in the A Division category in the last held tournament will be promoted to Championship category and teams demoted from the Super League category will also be placed under the Championship category in the subsequent year. This is subject to availability of teams in each category and is decided by the MVA Tournament Committee.

- 7.1.2.3 Teams that are demoted from Super League category of the last held tournament are entitled only to play for Championship Category and not allowed play in any lower category.
- 7.1.2.4 Any A Division team or any new team can directly apply to take part in Championship Category and the approval for such participation will be determined by the MVA Tournament Committee.
- 7.1.2.5 If any team consists of more than two (2) players who have played under the Super League category in any of the two most recent Tournaments, representing any member company, or represent a team that is promoted to play in Super League category in this years tournament, such teams are not allowed to play under Championship Category. This rule is not applicable for teams that are demoted from the Super League Category, by the MVA Tournament Committee.
- 7.1.3 **A Division Men / Women**
- 7.1.3.1 Any team opting to play in the tournament for the first time are allowed to play under A Division and the eligibility to play under Division A are as restricted by following conditions.
- 7.1.3.2 The first-time players and teams of the last held tournament that lost during the last held tournament's A Division (below Quarter finals).
- 7.1.3.3 If any team consists of more than two (2) players who have represented Sri Lanka Senior/Junior/Youth in the last 7 years preceding the tournament year or are currently representing said levels, such teams are not allowed to play under A Division.



- 7.1.3.4 If any team consists of more than two (2) players who have played under the Super League category in any of the two most recent Tournaments, representing any member company, or represent a team that is promoted to play in Super League category in this years tournament, such teams are not allowed to play under A Division.
- 7.1.3.5 Teams qualified for quarter finals or above in A Division in the last held tournament, are not allowed to play under A Division of the subsequent year.
- 7.1.3.6 Any first-time team may request to play under a higher category of the Tournament, subject to the approval of the MVA Tournament Committee.
- 7.1.3.7 The tournament shall be conducted on knockout basis.
- 7.1.4 **Masters Men / Women**
- 7.1.4.1 All the players shall be over 40 years of age by the application closing date, to be eligible to play under the Masters category.
- 7.1.4.2 The tournament shall be conducted on knockout basis.
- 7.2 The Executive Committee will have the discretion to change the categories of the tournament as and when necessary, with the view to increase team participation, uphold Diversity & Inclusion or facilitate more number of participants or to meet any other exigency.

- 8** The Executive Committee of the Mercantile Volleyball Association of Sri Lanka will reserve the right to interpret, amend or change the rules and regulations as and when necessary.