

**NORTHERN COUNTIES VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**LEAGUE RULES**

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**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 before 29<sup>th</sup> August each year. (See note 2).
- c) All registration and entry fees shall be paid by **29<sup>th</sup> August** (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, Development Officer and Treasurer who shall be elected at the Association AGM.
- b) Each division will be administered by the Fixture secretary 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 14 boys (school year 9) of an appropriate standard, 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 one up / one 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 RAISE THEIR ARMS AT THE NET DURING SERVICE (players can have their arms behind their head)

**6) FIXTURES**

- a) The playing season shall commence on 1<sup>st</sup> October each year and end by the 31<sup>st</sup> 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 Fixture secretary as early as possible.
- e) Postponed matches must be rearranged mutually between the teams involved. The fixture secretary 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 Fixture secretary into the email. 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 fixture secretary informed.

If one team contacts the opposition and the fixture secretary and no reply is forthcoming from the opposing team 10 days before the match is due to take place the Fixture secretary should attempt to contact the offending team. If no reply is forthcoming he will award a 'walk-over'.

If neither team contacts the opposition and the Fixture secretary 10 days before the match is due to take place he should attempt to contact the teams. If no reply is forthcoming he 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. There will be a list of referees (fee to be agreed) provided by the league if a team is struggling to provide their own.

## 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. photo, photocopy, scan)
  - iii. Texting the result to the Fixture Secretary immediately after the match.
  - iv. Entering the set scores, team appearances and MVP's in the league website
  - v. The MVP's must have played in the Match. Both the home team and away team will select an MVP for each team. This should be recorded on the scoresheet

- 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 if the score is 3-0 or 3-1
- b) If the score is 3-2 the winning team score 2 points and 1 point goes to the losing team.
- c) 0 points if you lose the game.
- d) 0 points to any forfeiting team or where a game is not played by the end of the season.

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. At minimum all of the team on court must be in matching colours.

#### 13) **PLAYER REGISTRATION**

- a) **All teams must register their players with the fixture secretary and the league secretary.**  
**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 & fixture 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 and the Fixture secretary informed. If a player transfers clubs after the season has commenced, they will have a 1 match suspension and they will also not be eligible to play against the team they have transferred from.
- 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 13b) 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.

#### 14) **AWARDS**

At the end of the season each divisional winning team will receive a shield to retain for one year. 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 2024/25: £25 per team, payable to "NCVA" and sent to the treasurer by 29<sup>th</sup> August.
4. Fees not paid by 29<sup>th</sup> August 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 3<sup>rd</sup> set score, the final set shall be won by the then winning Team. 3 pts will be awarded to the winning Team and 0 pts to the losing Team.
- b. When the set score is 2-1, whatever the 4<sup>th</sup> set score, the final set shall be won by the then winning Team. 3 pts will be awarded to the winning Team and 0 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 5<sup>th</sup> set score, the final set shall be won by the then winning Team. 2 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.

## **APPENDIX D: ABUSE TOWARDS OFFICIALS, MISCONDUCT & ANY BEHAVIOUR THAT BRINGS THE LEAGUE INTO DISREPUTE**

The league will not tolerate any abuse towards officials, players, coaches or the NCVA. If any player, coach or spectator are found in breach of this they could face one of the following sanctions (to be decided by the committee):

- Verbal/written warning
- 1-3 match ban depending on the severity of the incident (to be decided by the committee)
- Reported to Volleyball England
- Removed from the NCVA