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#### SOUTH WEST COMPETITIONS

SW LEAGUES 2020 / 2021

Please note that an application to join the National League must be submitted to VE by the team concerned. There is no automatic promotion to NVL. The SWVA Leagues act only as a medium whereby SWVA can make a judgement as to the playing standard and integrity of a prospective NVL member. A team's league position and quality of administration will be reported to the VE Competitions Commission as evidence of the suitability of that club for NVL. Clubs are reminded that it would be wise to make early contact (September) and regular subsequent contact with VE to check on entry requirements, paying attention to the Conditions for a New Entrant, which may require early preparation. The closing date is normally late February / March.

Commitment

It is essential for all entrants to fulfil all their league commitments. Would all teams, especially those with other commitments e.g. National League, please ensure that they have adequate resources — players, venues, finance etc. Efforts are made to avoid clashes with National League games or other unavailable periods, if known in advance, but this cannot be guaranteed and some clashes are inevitable. Any changes to fixture dates can only be made during the two week ratification period immediately after receiving the draft fixture schedules. All amendments must be approved by the teams concerned and the Competition Secretary.

Covid-19

Please see the Appendix to these rules for Covid-19 amendments for this season. Note that these may change during the season as government guidance evolves.

**RULES FOR SOUTH WEST LEAGUES 2020 / 2021**

Includes SW Men’s Division

SW Women’s Division

1. a) To compete in these leagues, the team or club concerned MUST be affiliated to VE at the time of playing.

b) The club or team must have paid the entry fees and goodwill deposit at the time of entry.

c) All players must be registered with the SW Volleyball Association prior to playing in any SW competition. Each team must present a copy of their SWVA team sheet to the match officials at the start of each match and identify the players required for the given match. The team sheet can be printed from the SWVA web site. Any player not listed on the SWVA team sheet is not eligible to take part in the match.

Note: Players can be registered at any time up until the start of the match (the online team sheet will automatically update following the registration).

2. The rules that are applied will be those currently endorsed by the FIVB and verified by the executive committees of both VE and SWVA. Please note that technical time-outs will not be used in the SW Leagues nor will the playing shirt numbers be limited to 1-18.

3. All matches in both the SW Men’s Division and SW Women’s Division will be best of 5 sets - rally point, to 25 points with 2 clear points, 5th set (if needed) first to 15 with 2 clear points.

4. a) All matches must be played on the date specified. Any re-arrangements must be made during the ratification period and the league secretary informed.

b) Any team failing to appear on court within 15 minutes of the agreed starting time will be fined. It is the intention that results will be obtained on the court and all teams are encouraged to play if at all possible, whatever the circumstances.

c) Any team giving less than 28 days' notice of cancellation of the fixture shall be fined and have 2 points deducted for each match not played. Their opponents will gain maximum points. In addition, the following expenses shall be claimable from the defaulting team through the SW Competitions Secretary.

i) Home team - 2\3 of the cost of court hire if unable to cancel the court, or the appropriate court cancellation fee for triangular matches and full cost for single matches and up to two referees expenses at National League rates.

ii) Away team -1\3 of travelling costs.

1. If the match between the travelling teams has to be played on a separate occasion, the forfeiting team is responsible for the cost of the court hire and up to two referees expenses at National League rates.

Note: teams are encouraged to provide referees between themselves and only claim referees expenses where this has not been possible, keeping any mileage costs to a minimum.

5 EXCEPTION TO RULE (4): Bad weather conditions. The opposing team's secretary and league secretary to be informed as soon as possible. It is the cancelling team’s responsibility to ensure that the other 2 teams have received the information (unacknowledged email or text is not sufficient).

6. The home team is responsible for:-

a) **providing written confirmation to match opponents 14 full days prior to the agreed date.**

b) supplying the officials, except in a triangular match where the non playing team shall provide a referee, a 2nd referee, scorers and line judges. PLEASE NOTE RULE 16 .

c) triangular matches will be played in the order set out in the schedule except, when a team is late, that team will play in the last match. Should time run out that team will have deemed to have lost.

d) teams are advised to book halls for home matches as follows:-

Single match 3 hours

Double match 5 hours

Triangular match 7 hours

if less time is booked and time runs out, the home team will forfeit the final match.

e) making 3 copies of the score sheet fully completed and signed by both captains and referee (only official VE scoresheets are accepted). One scoresheet is given to the visiting team, one to the home team and top white copy to be scanned or photographed and uploaded directly to [www.swva.org](http://www.swva.org) as a .pdf or a .jpg of less than 6MB (note file sizes greater than 6 MB will be rejected by the upload facility). Further information is available in the guides on the SWVA web site. The white copies must then be held by the home team until the end of the season in case of queries. **NB:** **It is the responsibility of the home team to upload the scoresheet to the web site within 3 days of the match – match results are not ratified until the scoresheet is provided.**

f) entering the results online to the results web site at [www.swva.org](http://www.swva.org) within 24 hours of the match being played (team logins will be available from the League Secretary at the start of the season). Note that one of the two travelling teams will be the designated “home” team for the match between the two travelling teams and will need to enter the results for that match – check the fixtures on-line schedule for who is the home team.

g) ensuring that at the end of each match each team nominates a player from the opposition for Player of the Match, this should be noted in the Remarks section of the scoresheet. The name of the Player of the Match for each team MUST be entered on the form when uploading the scoresheet to the website. Guidelines for the Player of the Match Award can be found on the SWVA web site.

7. LEAGUE POINTS:

a) In the Men's and Women’s League 3 points will be awarded for a win. The losing team will be awarded 1 point.

b) If a match is forfeited, the team that forfeits the match will gain 0 points, for that match. Their opponents will receive maximum points as for a 3 set to 0 win.

8. PLAY OFFS:

a) In the event of 2 or more teams being equal on points at the end of the competition, the following will decide (in this order):-

i) Number of matches won ii) Number of sets won  
iii) Number of sets against iv) Points difference

b) If two or more teams are still equal the league secretary will arrange a play-off.

c) At the end of season the top teams in each of the leagues shall be awarded appropriate honours. The winners of the SW Men’s and Women’s League will receive nomination from SWVA for a place in NVL if they so require and if their organisation has been found to be satisfactory.

9. SUITABILITY OF COURT AND EQUIPMENT

All courts and equipment must be as specified in the international rules and all matches must be played in sports halls. The equipment and the courts are the responsibility of the home team. Failure on the part of the Sports Centre is not acceptable. All Association competitions should insist on the use of refereeing stands rather than gymnastic apparatus for the officiating of matches. Should an official feel that he/she is prepared to referee from the top of gymnastic apparatus this can only be done if the official takes it upon him/herself to position the apparatus for the match.

10. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

a) **All players must be registered with the SWVA before playing** **and appear on the team’s SWVA team sheet. (Note: Players must be registered online, with name, nationality, contact email address and date of birth if under 18).**

b) Team captain / coaches must present their SWVA team sheet to the match officials for approval prior to the match, from which the names will be added to the scoresheet. If a team fails to present their SWVA team sheet this MUST be noted on the scoresheet by the match referee.

c) Teams wishing to seek nomination to National League must be based in the SW region

(including S.Wales).

d) No player may play for two clubs or teams in the SW League competition in any one season unless he\she is officially transferred. All transfers must be approved by the league secretary and no

transferred player may play for his\her new club until approved by the league secretary.

N.B. No player may play in more than one division. Males can only play in the Men’s Division and females in the Women’s Division.

e) A registered coach\player will be charged with 3 disciplinary points if he\she receives a Penalty (red card); 7 for an Expulsion (red and yellow jointly); and 10 if he\she is disqualified from the match by the referee (red and yellow separately). In the latter case this person will be ineligible to play in the next fixture in the competition concerning his registered club. In the course of a season if a person accumulates 15 points they face disciplinary action at the discretion of the league secretary.

11 a) All re-arranged matches must be verified and arranged in conjunction with the league secretary (note rule 14).

b) Any expenses incurred as a result of the postponements will be met by the postponing team.

12. Clubs that have no home venue will be allowed to participate in the SW competitions. However, they will have to pay their fraction of the court fees. (i.e. one third of triangular) at the home team's discretion.

13. Disputes - Disputes only occur when teams cannot amicably resolve any difficulties between themselves. Teams are urged to make every endeavour to settle such disputes. The fixture should be played if at all possible, the result of which will stand with any offending team being fined. All disputes will be referred to the league secretary within 6 days. A copy to be sent to the opponents by the team in dispute. The league secretary has the right to settle all questions including those not specified in the rules.

14. FINES

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| a) | failure of postponing team to inform the league secretary of postponement of fixture. | Fine £10 |
| b) | failure of home team to enter results online within 24 hours and/or to upload a copy of the match VE scoresheet within 3 days of match. | Fine £10 |
| c) | failure of home team to provide adequate equipment. | Fine £10 |
| d) | failure to inform opponents, league secretary and\or officials of change of venue or time for a match (also any expenses incurred will be met) | Fine £15 |
| e) | failure of home team to provide competent scorer and linesmen or qualified and registered referee where these officials are required | Fine £10 |
| f) | failure of home team to confirm fixture with visiting teams and officials in writing 14 days prior to the match. | Fine £10 |
| It is expected that the away teams will report to the league secretary if they have not received confirmation 5 days prior to the match. | | |
| g) | any team giving less than 28 days full notice of non-fulfilment of fixture. In addition their opponents will be entitled to claim compensation as laid down in rule 4a | Fine £50 |
| h) | late arrival of a team. | Fine £10 |
| i) | any other offence which, in the opinion of the league secretary contravenes the spirit of the rules. | (Minimum Fine £10, Maximum Fine £50) |
| j) | where a team is expelled from the league, its deposit will be forfeited. All matches played considered void. |  |
| k) | Any team failing to provide a copy of their official SWVA team sheet to the match officials | Fine £10 |
| 1) | Rule 4 second offence results in expulsion from the league, with loss of deposit. |  |

15. Any club failing to conform to the rules of the competition, or being consistently unreasonable, shall forfeit points for the matches concerned, be fined or even expelled from the league at the discretion of the league secretary. In all cases of expulsion the team concerned has the right to appeal, in writing, within 7 days of their being notified of their expulsion.

16. All SW League matches should be refereed by a qualified & registered referee or a qualified referee.

17. All participating clubs must have an appointed Child Protection Officer and should have adopted the VE Child Protection Policy. The name of this Officer must be shown on the entry form and any change of officer must be notified to the League Secretary.

18. POST-MATCH HOSPITALITY

It is a tradition in the South West league for the home team to provide some level of post-match hospitality for the away teams, which encourages teams to socialize after the matches. Home teams are NOT responsible for providing food during the day, the away teams should ensure that they have sufficient to cover the match period.

If the home team chooses to have food available during the day, they should ensure that there is still food left for post-match until after the last team has had an opportunity to change.

###### PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL SCORESHEETS MUST BE UPLOADED TO THE WEB SITE.

###### In the event of any problems entering results or uploading scoresheets please contact the Competitions Secretary, as soon as you are aware of the problem.

###### Rachel Swindell, Email: [rachel.swindell@network100.co.uk](mailto:rachel.swindell@network100.co.uk)

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**RESULTS AND TABLES WILL BE POSTED ON THE SOUTH-WEST WEBSITE AFTER EACH ROUND OF MATCHES:** [**http://www.swva.org.uk**](http://www.swva.org.uk)

**COVID-19 AMENDMENTS**

Commitment

Teams must ensure that they have sufficient numbers to cope with 2 or 3 players self-isolating and players who have any cold/flu symptoms will not be able to play

Rules

1 c) Teams MUST take two printed copies of their team sheet to each match, as one may be required to be given to the venue for Track and Trace.

2. The VE rules include the following Covid-19 amendments.

There will be a mandatory time-out at the first team to 15 points in each set, where all players and officials are required to sanitise their hands and the ball. This break in play should last no longer than 60 seconds. They should also do so at each set interval.

The ball should be returned direct to the server and no spectators or bench personnel should touch it (use of feet is permitted).

A maximum of 30 people are allowed in the playing area for the duration of the match event, which is evenly divided between the teams. At a triangular match event, each team will be limited to 10 people including non-playing personnel. At single headers this can be increased to 13 per team, if line judges are not used, allowing for up to 4 officials in addition to the teams.

6 a) The home team must include their Covid-19 risk assessment for the venue and any limitations or additional information about the venue, e.g. use of changing rooms, availability of spectator areas outside of the playing area and whether or not individual chairs are available (rather than team benches). VE Public Liability Insurance currently requires that everyone signs the Risk Assessment for the Venue before taking part in the event.

6 e) the officiating team will complete the scoresheet and keep it. Team captains need to visually check the scoresheet at the end of the match and give their verbal agreement to the scorer. Playing teams must take a photo of the scoresheet before leaving the venue.

6 g) Teams must tell the scorer who their Player of the Match nomination is for the scorer to complete on the scoresheet

6 The home team is also responsible for providing a Covid-19 officer who must be present in the venue for the duration of the event, see <https://media.volleyballengland.org/docs/COVID-19%20officer%20job%20description.pdf> for more details on the role.

10 a) When players are registered, their registration MUST include a valid contact number for Track and Trace purposes.

10 b) A printed copy of the team sheet MUST be provided for the scorer to copy. The scorer should not be handling mobile devices from another team.

18 There will be NO post-match hospitality. All players MUST provide their own food for the duration of the event and food MUST NOT be shared.

Officiating

At triangular matches where each team officiates one of the matches, each officiating team MUST be self-sufficient and not be borrowing equipment from other teams. This means that each team MUST bring the following to each match:

* Two electronic/squeezy whistles (blown whistles are not permitted at any time)
* A scoresheet and scoreboard
* Line up sheets (for both the coach (if used) and second referee if they require a copy during play)
* Pens to complete scoresheet and line up sheets
* Line judge flags if used

It is also recommended that teams travel with their own first aid kit, ice packs and hand/ball sanitisers, do not expect to be able to borrow/share with other teams.

Only one scorer is allowed per score table, unless the table is sufficiently long to allow social distancing or from the same household. If a second scorer is required to operate the scoreboard they should be on a separate table suitably distanced from the other scorer and team bench areas.

Only the scorer will write on the scoresheet and sign it at the end of the match.

Social Distancing

* 1. All people in the playing area MUST maintain social distancing except in game play.
  2. a. In particular, replacement players not in court – the bench / warm-up area will extend from the coach to the end of the playing area (outside the free zone). Referees must allow this.
  3. b. At time outs and during set intervals when discussing tactics – e.g. if this means that players have to use the court as well then this must be allowed.
  4. c. During substitutions.
  5. d. During libero replacements.
  6. e. The time between serves should be kept as short as necessary for both teams to be ready and the server to have the ball.
  7. f. Officials should maintain social distancing from each other and when interacting with players, e.g. at the toss, substitutions and between referees and the scorer and will not handle the ball during the match.
  8. g. Officials are encouraged to minimise the time between sets, so long as the players are ready. With the introduction of the additional time-outs, court time may become tight if the matches go to five sets.
  9. h. Players must not huddle to celebrate points or shout encouragement towards another player.
  10. i. Players to ensure that any drinks or other kit is kept in their own bags in the designated area.

1. Referees can apply warnings and disciplinary sanctions for transgressions to the social distancing rules, which could result in players being expelled from the venue for repeated transgressions.