



SWVA Newsletter August 2020 / Issue 351

It's time for an August newsletter, some of us have been able to restart outdoors, a few now have indoors sessions going but many venues still remain closed across the region and some unfortunately will remain so until next year.

Volleyball England have done an excellent job in helping the sport to get going with a number of on line webinars, providing clubs with the process and draft documents to help clubs work with their venue owners and the Covid requirements. More information below on the changes required this year for training, matches and the required changes to the rules for this season.

For the 2020/21 SW League season, Rachel is holding a conference call with all clubs next Monday 24th (details have been sent to team contacts) but if you would like to join in, please contact her for details.

The SWVA On Line conference call account has been well used by clubs and associations from around the region over the last couple of months. If you would like to use it, details below.

Dave Reece

SW 2020/21 League Planning Meeting



I trust that you are all now aware of the good news that Volleyball England has gained approval from the government for the return of volleyball for both training and indoor match competition, albeit with a number of limitations. This is one of the key steps in our plan to set up the SW leagues for the coming 2020/21 season.

I have set up a Goto Meeting session for next Monday (24th 7-8pm) where those that are interested can get together and discuss the issues below and add any new ones!

- Venues – we are hearing of issues from some clubs in knowing when or if they can get access to their usual venues
- Transport to away matches – government guidance limits the amount of car sharing to 3 or 4 per vehicle depending on size and other mitigation, which may make it difficult for teams to travel (having the windows open in the winter is not going to be a practical option!)

There are other limitations which will affect teams and match day protocols. Not all of these are confirmed and at the moment are just a list to promote discussion, more may be added as NVL guidelines are firmed up.

- Electronic/squeezy whistles (mouth blown whistles must not be used) – this is a regulation for this season and all teams MUST have their own whistles to officiate the match
- With a limit of 30 people in a playing area and 3 teams at a triangular this implies the fair division is that all teams are limited to a maximum of 10 people who can be courtside during a match.

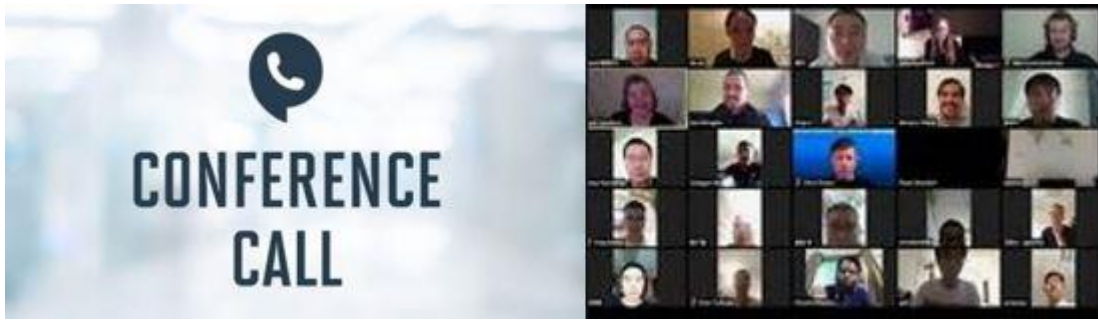
- Each court must have a Covid 19 officer, practically this should be provided by the home team as they understand the venue specific restrictions. This person will need to collect the names and contact details of all people in the playing area and maintain for 21 days for track and trace, with the officers name and contact details given to each away team.
- Venue specific instructions and local risk assessment will need to be included in the match confirmation by the home team
- No shared food (which includes the usual hospitality provided by the home team) – each person must provide their own food and drink
- Potential to reduce the set interval from 3 to 2 minutes to allow for the additional sanitization breaks (at 15 Points).
- Face masks – VE are looking into whether officials and bench personnel should be wearing masks
- NVL will not have line judges, but as they come from the non-playing team should we still use line judges at triangular matches?
- Should teams change ends?
- Do we need to have 3 separate team bench areas (which would imply that one team will be on the opposite side of the court)?

I am sure that there are other items that are going to come up as well as we get closer to starting the season.

Rachel Swindell

Rachel.Swindell@Network100.co.uk

GoToMeeting



The SWVA has taken out an online conference call business account with one of the major providers. If a SW club or group would like to use it, please let us know, first come first served.

Quick User Guide for host and attendees – [Quick Instructions](#)

Useful facilities:

- Access: A URL link or reference number (or phone number) is provided, no password or login required.
- Screen view: You can either see everyone (in an appropriate square box) or you can set it to show only the person speaking.
- Chat box: Has several settings, a copy of which is downloaded to the “organisers” document folder after the call.
- Present: Any one on the call can present, either with share screen or select an application i.e. power point or PDF.
- Record: The meeting can be recorded, this includes the video and any presentation. The recording is available after the meeting via the SW organiser.
- Meeting Lock & Waiting Room facility available if required.
- Access via PC (Windows), Mac, Chrome Book , Tablets and Phones (Linux/Ubuntu not supported).

To book, contact one of the SW Exec members or email: Meeting@swva.org.uk

Officials Return to Volleyball



Please find enclosed a copy of the slides which were used for the Referees Webinar.

[Officials Return to Volleyball Slides](#)

As soon the commentary is available I will forward it across. If there are any questions I would recommend approaching Nick Heckford, who is the lead for this but I am also willing to assist.

Chris Semmens chris.semmens112@talktalk.net

SWVA Referees Sec.

Sports unite to call for help in accessing indoor facilities

Volleyball England, Badminton England, England Netball, Basketball England, and Table Tennis England have come together to put pressure on the

Government to protect indoor sports halls from being sacrificed as overflow gyms.

Volleyball clubs, like other sports clubs, have seen their access to playing spaces restricted with leisure facilities having to prioritise sports halls to accommodate gyms and group exercise due to social distancing. Many other regular venues, such as schools or universities, also remain closed.

Research by the National Governing Bodies has found that if these practices continue, it is expected that two in three indoor facilities will remain unusable into the autumn for the 2.4 million people who play indoors sports regularly.

Full report at: <https://www.swva.org.uk/news/sports-unite-to-call-for-help-in-accessing-indoor-facilities>

Return to volleyball webinar for clubs

Club chairs, secretaries and committee members attended Volleyball England's return to play webinar on Thursday, 6th August to help them to safely kickstart volleyball activity.

The session began with an overview of the general principles of returning to volleyball and then dove into the specifics for indoor, beach and outdoor volleyball.

Risk assessment templates are [available on the Volleyball England website](#) to help clubs write their own, and there was further information to guide people through the process in the webinar.

Attendees then had the opportunity to ask their own questions about the return to volleyball guidance.

If you missed the session or would like to rewatch it, a recording has been made available on our YouTube channel. [Click here to watch](#).

Slides: [Club Webinar Return to Play](#)

GAMEPLAY AND TRAINING

What is the best way to clean volleyballs?

Please seek instructions from the manufacturer on how equipment should be cleaned. Here is some guidance from three of the most common makes of volleyball:

- Mikasa: mikasasports.co.jp/e/support/maintenance
- Molten: www.molten.co.jp/sports/en/volleyball/product/volleyball/index.html
- Wilson: Wet wipes, regular disinfectant spray or cloth will not harm Wilson volleyballs, according to the manufacturer, because they are made of composite leather. Make sure volleyballs are completely dry before storing them.

Remember, balls should be cleaned between sessions and wiped down and dried during timeouts and after every set. By regularly sanitising your hands and not touching your face, the risk of transmitting the coronavirus can be greatly reduced.

[NEW] What actions should be taken when a player dives to retrieve a ball and leaves a trail of sweat on the floor?

The floor should be dried with a towel after the next point to prevent the risk of slip injuries. If the individual who dried the floor with a towel used their hands, they should sanitise them afterwards.

[NEW] We have a two-court sports hall, does this mean we can run a training night with 60 players?

You need to conduct your own risk assessment to come up with your own club guidance, looking at the guidance of the Government, the venue and Volleyball England.

[NEW] Will there be any major changes to the NVL rules and regulations?

A major change is the introduction of a 60-second timeout when the first team reaches 15 points in any set for a sanitising break.

There will be an addendum to the NVL regulations that covers changes. We recommend other leagues do the same thing for their league after they have completed their own risks assessments.

[NEW] Will referees be provided with any specific guidance?

Yes, the Officials Working Group is currently preparing these guidelines, which will be published on the Volleyball England website.

[NEW] What should you do if, after attending a volleyball match or training session, you test positive for the coronavirus?

In England, you'll get an email, text or call from the NHS Test and Trace service if you test positive after having symptoms. You'll be asked where you've been recently and who you've been in close contact with. If necessary, you should provide the details of the Covid-19 Officer from the volleyball activity who will have recorded the details or who was in attendance.

What should I do if I have to give first aid?

St John Ambulance has compiled a guide on delivering first aid during the coronavirus pandemic. [Click here to read it in full.](#)

CLUB ACTIVITY

What must affiliated clubs do to ensure they are covered by their Volleyball England member insurance?

Clubs must follow government and Volleyball England guidance to remain covered. For more information on the insurance cover, [click here](#).

[NEW] Is the coronavirus covered under the Volleyball England's membership insurance?

There is no cover for contracting the coronavirus due to the challenges in pinpointing when and where it was transmitted. Affiliated clubs following [Volleyball England's guidance](#) will receive assistance from Sports Insure should a claim be raised against a club.

[NEW] Gym equipment is now being housed in the leisure centre sports hall we previously used. What is Volleyball England doing to help us to return?

We are working with Sport England to lobby the Sports Minister to find a solution to this problem. In the meantime, as we are one of the first sports to be able to return to indoor competition, please use this head start to source alternative venues.

We are aware there is also an issue in accessing sports halls at schools and are working with Sport England and the Government to push for extra funding for schools to support their re-opening to external bookings.

[NEW] Does every club require a Covid-19 officer for each session of volleyball activity?

Yes, for every field of play there needs to be a Covid-19 Officer who has responsibility to ensure that all of the mitigating measures and guidance is followed. [Click here to find out more about the Covid-19 Officer role](#)

Our club is affiliated to Volleyball England but it is based outside of England, what advice should we follow?

Please heed the advice from your devolved administration. For example, clubs based in Wales should read the latest advice from [Volleyball Wales](#) and the [Welsh Government](#).

VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND

[UPDATED] When will the National Volleyball League restart?

Our Competitions Working Group is currently reviewing responses to its [latest consultation](#) before submitting a proposal to the Volleyball England Board for approval. It is currently planning for as full a season as possible.

What is the best way to contact the Hub team?

Volleyball England has furloughed some members of staff for varying periods of time through the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. This means that for the time being staff levels will be down. To help guide your query to a member of staff who will be able to help, we would please ask that, in the first instance, you contact info@volleyballengland.org.

Staff are continuing to work from home and therefore do not have access to the main office phoneline. However, call forwarding has been arranged for most extensions.

When has Volleyball England cancelled its events up until?

We are no longer stating when Volleyball England events are cancelled up until, as this was changing on a weekly basis. Instead, we will update you when we are in a position to advise as to when competitions, camps and courses will return.

Can I still buy items from Volleyball England's online shop?

Yes, but we are unable to put a time frame on when those items will be shipped. Members of staff are working from home and do not currently have access to our storeroom.

If you have made an order, rest assured it will be fulfilled once we return to the office. If you have made an order and now wish to cancel it, please contact our finance team (finance@volleyballengland.org) who will be able to arrange a refund for you.

