

VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

COMPETITION RULES

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COMPETITION RULES

1. INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definitions

“Club”	means any organisation registered as a club with the VAI
“Fixture List”	means the timetable of League and/or Championship/Cup fixtures issued by the Competitions Commission for the Season.
“Federation of Origin”	means the National Volleyball Federation of the country from which the player has originated. The Federation of Origin changes after a player has established residence in another country for a minimum of two years and has obtained the nationality of that country. ¹
“Match”	means a game in which two teams compete against each other and for the purposes of these Rules shall mean a Match in a VAI Competition.
“Match Official”	means the referee and/or umpire, and shall include when appointed the score-keeper and any lines-persons for a given Match.
“National Volleyball Federation”	means the national bodies of volleyball recognised in their country or territory to administer and govern all forms of volleyball, structured and organised.
“NIVA”	means the Northern Ireland Volleyball Association.
“Rules”	means the Competition Rules of the VAI as amended from time to time by the VAI Board.
“Season”	means the period covered by the VAI Calendar in a given year.
“Team”	means the team of a Club which has been duly entered into VAI Competitions.
“VAI”	means the Volleyball Association of Ireland and shall include for the purposes of these Rules the Commissions of the VAI.
“VAI Board”	means the Board of Administration of the VAI.
“VAI Calendar”	means the calendar of events notified to members at the beginning of each Season and shall include all VAI Competitions and Tournaments, National Squad Training/Competition dates, International Matches involving the National Squads, VAI Board meetings and other events recognised by the VAI for VAI Calendar purposes.

Note: The Schedules and Appendices form part of the Rules.

¹ FIVB Sports Regulations, Section II, Chapter I, Clause 1.6.2.3.
Competition Rules June 2010

2. VAI COMPETITIONS

2.1 The VAI Competitions shall comprise the following:

- (a) National Leagues including the Premier 32 League
- (b) The Association Cup
- (c) The Junior and Intermediate Championship
- (d) Such other tournaments, competitions, and/or matches as the VAI shall determine from time to time to be bound by these Rules.
- (e) All school competitions sanctioned by the Schools Commission or the Competitions Commission
- (f) All beach/outdoor competitions sanctioned by the Beach/Outdoor Commission or Competitions Commission

Note: The Junior and Intermediate Championships are considered one competition. This competition is separate from the Association Cup

2.2 These Rules are subject to amendment by the VAI Board from time to time.

The VAI competition rules are divided into three sections:

- Section A – VAI indoor competition rules which cover the National Leagues including the Premier 32 League; The Association Cup; The Junior Championship and Intermediate Championship sanctioned by the Competitions Commission..
- Section B – VAI schools competition rules which cover all school competitions sanctioned by the Schools Commission.
- Section C – VAI beach/outdoor competition rules which cover all beach/outdoor competitions sanctioned by the Beach/Outdoor Commission.

SECTION A – VAI INDOOR COMPETITION RULES

1. ENTRY TO VAI INDOOR COMPETITIONS

1.1 Only a Club or School registered with the VAI may enter Teams in VAI Competitions.

1.2 Club registration is by way of the lodgement of a Club Bond, payment of the appropriate fees and completion of the Club Registration Form. The Club Bond is held by the VAI as security.

1.3 All Clubs whose Team(s) qualify to participate in the Premier 32 League shall be required as a condition of entry to such Premier 32 League to pay a Premier 32 Bond, the appropriate League entry fees and complete the Club Affiliation and National League Entry Form.

1.4 Fees shall be set out in the VAI Schedule of Fees at and any amendments thereto advised to Clubs in advance each Season.

1.5 Entry to VAI Competitions shall not be permitted unless all relevant fees and any outstanding fines and the Club Affiliation and National League Entry Form has been duly completed by the Club on behalf of its Team(s).

1.6 Any Club which has not fulfilled the obligations set out in clauses 1.1 to 1.4 above prior to the arrangement of League fixtures for the relevant Season shall apply to the Competitions Commission for a late entry.

1.7 Where the Competitions Commission approves a late entry a fee shall be payable. Late entry is deemed to occur on the expiry of the date set by the Competitions Commission for return of the Club Registration Forms.

1.8 Each Club must duly complete the Club Registration Form at the time of entry. The details contained in the form are presumed to continue in force until otherwise notified to the VAI Office in writing.

1.9 By registering with the VAI each Club undertakes on its own behalf and on behalf of its members to comply and be bound by the Rules and Regulations of the VAI (comprising the Competition Rules, the VAI Constitution and Bye-Laws) and the directions and decisions of the VAI (including the judicial bodies recognised under the Irish Anti-Doping Rules).

1.10 The rules of the game of volleyball which shall apply to all VAI Competitions shall be those currently issued by the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) and adopted by the VAI Board.

1.11 Each Team entered in a VAI Competition should have a minimum of 8 registered players at least 10 days before the first scheduled VAI Competition in the VAI Calendar (unless explicitly excused in writing by the Competitions Commission) and in any case no later than 5 days before the Team's first scheduled Match. A Team shall not be allowed to compete in VAI Competitions unless it has complied with these conditions.

1.12 Teams must register each player who intends to play in a VAI Competition for that Team.

1.13 Teams joining the league will be entered into the lowest division.

1.14 All official correspondence with the VAI in connection with these Rules must be conducted in writing, addressed from the Club Secretary to the VAI Office, and marked for the attention of the Competitions Commission at the following address:

Volleyball Association of Ireland
First Floor, 141 Thomas Street,
Dublin 8.
E:mail: info@volleyballireland.com
Fax: +353 1 6707167

2. INDOOR COMPETITION FORMAT

2.1 The Competition structure shall be determined by the Competitions Commission each Season. The Competitions Commission shall prepare the VAI Calendar for the following Season, obtaining input from relevant bodies (Competition Commission, Referees Commission, Squads Commission) and submit the proposed VAI Calendar for final approval to the VAI Board.

2.2 League tables for all Leagues shall be compiled as follows:

3	Points for a win
1	Point for a loss
-1	Points for a forfeit game

2.3 Tie-Break

Where the League ends in a tiebreak the winner will be decided on the basis of the following formula:

- (1) Set difference
- (2) Sets for
- (3) Set difference based on matches played against each other only
- (4) Point difference
- (5) Points for
- (6) Point difference based on matches played against each other only
- (7) Play-off

2.4 Team withdrawal

2.4.1 Where a Team withdraws or is eliminated during a League Competition, all Matches involving that Team shall be null and void unless the Team has played all other Teams in the League once before withdrawing or being eliminated (forfeited matches do not count as matches played). Where the Team has played all other Teams in the League at least once, the results of the first round of Matches will stand and any second round results will be ignored.

2.4.2 A Team withdrawing from a VAI League after the closing date for club affiliation and League entry shall be subject to a fine. Teams withdrawing from a VAI league within six weeks (After the 1st September) of the start of the league will be subject to a further fine. The Team may be subject to additional sanctions as determined by the Competitions Commission, including but not limited to disqualification from participating in further VAI Competitions. All sanctions and fines will be the responsibility of the Club.

2.4.3 Where a Team withdraws from a Cup and/or Championship Competition following the scheduling of fixtures and/or the appointment of Match Officials, such Team shall be subject to a fine and may be subject to additional sanctions as determined by the Competitions Commission.

2.4.5 If a Team withdraws from any VAI Competition, it may be required to pay the reasonable expenses unavoidably incurred by the VAI, Match Officials and/or the other affected Teams in preparation for the scheduled games which will not be played. Such

matters shall be determined by the Competitions Commission on an application from the VAI Board and/or the affected Teams.

3. PLAYER REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Only players duly registered with the VAI may participate in VAI Competitions

3.2 Players can register with the VAI by completing the Player Registration Form providing a passport size photograph (or forward the previous years registration card) and the registration fee to the VAI Office.

3.3 All players registered will be issued with a player licence for the relevant Season. NIVA players will be issued with premier 32 licences by the VAI.

3.4 All players must produce a valid player licence card at each VAI Competition or be subject to a fine. Replacement licences may be obtained from the VAI Office subject to a replacement charge. Referees have the right to ask for alternative photo ID as proof of name and surname of player

3.5 Where a player participates in a Match where s/he was ineligible, the Match shall be awarded to the opposition as a forfeit with the offending Team receiving no points for the Match and a fine shall be imposed. The Competitions Commission shall determine in the first instance if any other sanctions should apply.

3.6 Following the commencement of the Season, new players, (namely players not registered with any Team) may register to play with a Team in a Cup/Championship competition/tournament provided it is at least 7 days before the first match they participate in and no later than the semi-final stage. No new player may register for any league competition in the 2010/2011 season after the 17th March 2011.

3.7 All players must be eligible to play in the division in which they wish to play.

3.8 A player may only be registered with one Club and federation at any time.

3.9 Foreign Players

3.9.1 Players who have previously been registered with another National Volleyball Federation must provide evidence as required that they have (a) obtained the relevant transfer documentation to enable them to register with the VAI (the FIVB Transfer Form available at www.fivb.org) and (b) where relevant, that the applicable transfer fees have been paid. The FIVB Rules governing international player transfers shall apply to such players.²

3.9.2 Players who are not Irish nationals who wish to register with the VAI and who have not previously been registered with another National Volleyball Federation must at the time of registration certify same. The VAI may at its discretion require the player to provide evidence to this effect. This may take the form of a letter from the National

² FIVB Sports Regulations, Section II, Chapter I, Clause 1.6.
Competition Rules June 2010

Volleyball Federation in the players Federation of Origin stating that such player is not and has never been registered with that National Volleyball Federation.

3.10 Player Transfers In and Out-of-Season

3.10.1 During the Out-of Season (being the day after the last competitive day of the indoor Season to the first day of the new indoor season of the same year) a player must inform both VAI Clubs (departing and receiving) of their wish to transfer and apply in writing to the Competitions Commission on the Player Transfer Form attaching the written approval from both VAI Clubs to the transfer or evidence that both VAI Clubs have been notified of the player's intent at least 14 days before the application. The departing club must give or refuse clearance for the transfer within 7 days of receipt of the notification

3.10.2 During the In-Season (being from the 1st day of indoor competition in any season to the last competitive day of the indoor Season), a player must inform both VAI Clubs (departing and receiving) of their wish to transfer and apply in writing to the Competitions Commission on the Player Transfer Form attaching the written approval from both VAI Clubs to the transfer or evidence that both VAI Clubs have been notified of the player's intent at least 14 days before the application. The departing club must give or refuse clearance for the transfer within 7 days of receipt of the notification

3.10.3 The transfer will take effect on the morning of the date specified in writing by the Competitions Commission to the player and the VAI Office. No transfer will be effective until such notification has been issued by the Competitions Commission in writing.

3.10.4 The Competitions Commission will then notify all three parties and the VAI Office with the effective date of the players transfer. A player transferred from one club to another may not play for the new club in any competition in which he/she has already competed in the same season.

3.11 Playing Up and/or Down

3.11.1 In League competitions only, a player may play 9 sets for a higher division Team in their Club without affecting their own grade. On playing the 10th set, the player is automatically upgraded to the higher division Team. From this point on in the season, the player may not play with the lower division Team again for any VAI competition/tournament. Stepping on court for a set shall constitute participation in that set for the purposes of counting the sets.

3.11.2 Players may only play up for one team in any season, irrespective of whether that team is one or more grades ahead of the players initial grade

3.11.3 No player may play down into a lower division Team.

4. FIXTURE PROCEDURES

4.1 The Competition Commission shall decide the dates of all Matches in VAI Competitions. It will also decide which is the 'HOME' Team. These dates and 'HOME' Team designations will be sent to all Clubs at least 6 weeks before the commencement of the competitive season.

4.2 For all VAI Competitions, all Matches must be played at venues that have been passed at the appropriate standard by the Referees Commission (or in the case of Matches played in the Premier 32 League, outside the Republic of Ireland by the appropriate equivalent body of NIVA) and are acceptable to the Match Officials on Match day. The Referees Commission may in exceptional circumstances override this for Division two or lower, but any such decision must be made at least one week before the scheduled Match date.

4.3 Venues and Match times not finalised when the Fixture List goes to print shall be the responsibility of the designated 'HOME' Team. It is the responsibility of the 'HOME' Team to inform, in writing, the Competitions Commission, Referees Commission, the VAI Office, the designated Match Officials and the other Team(s) involved of the venue and time by no later than the date specified by the Competitions Commission. If the required information is not received by this date, the Referees Commission will NOT appoint referees for the 'HOME' team for the first half of the season.

4.4 Failure by the 'HOME' Team to provide an approved venue shall not be accepted as a reason for cancelling Matches. Such Matches shall be deemed forfeit by the 'HOME' Team and a 25-0, 25-0, 25-0 result shall be awarded against them.

4.5 A Team wishing to withdraw from a Match fixture for any reason shall (save in truly exceptional circumstances) provide a full written statement of the reasons for the withdrawal which must be submitted to the Competitions Commission, the VAI Office, the Referees Commission and the other Team at least 14 days before the scheduled Match fixture. A Team withdrawing from a fixture shall forfeit the Match in question.

4.6 Where a Team seeks to withdraw from more than one Match fixture in a VAI Competition in a given Season, the Team shall be obliged to (a) provide a full written statement of the reasons for the withdrawal which shall be submitted to the Competitions Commission at least **28 days** before the first scheduled Match fixture from which the Team wishes to withdraw and (b) meet with the Competitions Commission to discuss the matter. Following the meeting with Competitions Commission if it remains the Teams intention to withdraw, they must provide a full written statement of the reasons for the withdrawal which shall be submitted to the Referees Commission, VAI Office, and all the other Teams against whom they have Match fixtures at least **14 days** before the first scheduled Match fixture. The Team may be subject to sanctions as determined by the Competitions Commission.

4.7 Where a Team fails to fulfil a Match fixture that Team may be required to pay a fine and the reasonable expenses unavoidably incurred by the VAI, appointed Match Officials and/or the other affected Teams in preparation for the scheduled Match which will not be played. Such matters shall be determined by the Competitions Commission on an application from the VAI and/or the affected Teams.

5. FIXTURE CHANGES

5.1 It is the objective of the VAI that no changes to the final Fixture List issued by the Competitions Commission on behalf of the VAI shall take place. However, if a change is absolutely unavoidable, (such assessment to be determined by the Competitions Commission) then the following rules shall be strictly enforced.

5.2 Once the Match fixtures have been set by the Competition Commission, any changes sought must first be authorised by the Competitions Commission at least **28 days** prior to the scheduled fixture (save in truly exceptional circumstances).

5.3 Where the Competitions Commission grants approval for a re-fixture, the Team wishing to change a fixture date must first liaise with the secretary of the opposing Club (or the Team contact where the Club Secretary is unavailable), stating the reason(s) for the change and to try and reorganise the fixture within the timeframes designated by the Competitions Commission. Once the revised fixture date is agreed the Club/Team who sought to change the fixture is responsible for rescheduling of the fixture and shall advise the VAI Office, the Competitions Commission and the Referees Secretary and the Match Officials (where appointed) in writing of the revised date giving a minimum of **14 days** notice.

5.4 If an agreement cannot be reached on the revised fixture date with the opposing Team within **14 days** of the authorisation of the Competitions Commission, the applying Team will notify the Competitions Commission. In such a case, the Competitions Commission will decide on a date for re-fixture.

5.5 No re-scheduled fixture may extend beyond the relevant VAI Competition unless prior approval has been received in writing from the Competitions Commission.

5.6 Where a Team is granted a fixture change an administrative fee and any reasonable expenses unavoidably incurred by the VAI, Match Officials and/or the other affected Teams shall be borne by the Team making the change.

5.7 A change of fixture shall be granted by the Competitions Commission where one or more players from a Team are required by the Irish National Team(s) for International competition or Tournament, or by a club team in an International fixture approved in the calendar or participating in an European Club Championship

5.8 In relation to 5.7 notice must be given in writing to the Competitions Commission by the Team requesting the fixture change at least **28 days** before the scheduled fixture (save in truly exceptional circumstances). This must be accompanied by a signed and dated letter from the relevant National Team Coach confirming that the players are required by the Irish National Team on the date/period in question.

5.9. In the event that either team deems the weather too dangerous to travel to a game and the Garda/National Road Safety are official advising a team not to travel, the match should be called off and details sent to competitions Commission to review. If it is subsequently deemed that there was no safety issue, the team refusing to travel will forfeit the game.

6. MATCH PROCEDURES

6.1 All matches shall start between 11 am and 4 pm at the weekend (Saturday or Sunday) unless agreed in writing in advance with the opposing team..

6.2 It is recommended that 2 ½ hours should be booked for each Premier 32 Match and 1 ¾ hours for all other five set Matches (excluding the warm-up). Matches abandoned due to the hall closing will be forfeit by the 'HOME' Team unless they have booked 2 ½ hours or 1 ¾ hours as appropriate for the Match / each Match plus 30 minutes set up time.

6.3 'HOME' Team Responsibilities

The 'HOME' Team or in the case of a 'neutral venue', the 'DESIGNATED HOME' Team is responsible on Match day for the following:

6.3.1 To set-up the equipment and venue at least 30 minutes before the first match in that venue.

6.3.2 To ensure that a VAI approved Match ball, net system, appropriately marked court, score pad, scoreboard, rotation slips, Team benches, scorekeeper's table, referees stand, and antenna (mandatory for Premier 32, Division 1 and 2 Matches) are available in the gym at set-up time. In cases of doubt, the referee's decision as to the suitability of the equipment shall be final.

6.3.3 To ensure that the gym is sufficiently clean, heated, safe and that all equipment is in place to commence the warm-up so the Match can start at the scheduled time. The referees' decision on these matters is final.

6.3.4 The 'HOME' Team or 'DESIGNATED HOME' Team must ensure that the rules and regulations laid down by the venue (the sports centre, school or community centre in which the Match is scheduled to be played) are adhered to by the participants and spectators in that venue.

6.3.5 It is the responsibility of the 'HOME' Team to provide the back-up officials i.e. a scorer, 30 minutes before the scheduled warm up time.

6.3.6 The failure of the 'HOME' Team or 'DESIGNATED HOME' Team to adhere to the above rules is subject to sanction as decided by the Competitions Commission.

6.4 Match Day Procedures

6.4.1 Pre-Match

6.4.1.1 Teams and Match Officials should arrive at least 30 minutes before Match time.

6.4.1.2 Should the referee declare the equipment or venue unsuitable for play, the Match(es) shall not go ahead. The referee shall advise the VAI Office and the Competitions Commission in writing of the reasons for his/her decision within five (5) working days. The Competitions Commission shall decide within fourteen (14) days of

receipt of the referees written notification, whether the Match(s) shall be forfeit by the 'HOME' or 'DESIGNATED HOME' Team or replayed and decide who shall bear the reasonable associated costs.

6.4.1.3 The referee must check the licences of the coaches, players, and medical personnel. They must also check the regulation kit, the venue, and the sufficiency of Match Officials.

6.4.1.4 Coaches will not be allowed coach if they are not registered coaches with the VAI. Coaches who do not have their coaching licence present may coach but will be subject to a fine. The referee should note the event on the scoresheet. Where a coach participates in a Match where s/he was ineligible, the Match shall be awarded to the opposition as a forfeit with the offending Team receiving no points for the Match and a fine shall be imposed. The Competitions Commission shall determine in the first instance if any other sanctions should apply.

6.4.1.5 Medical Personnel will not be allowed to sit on the bench if they are not registered with the VAI. Medical Personnel who do not have their licence present may sit on the bench but will be subject to a fine. The referee should note the event on the score sheet. Where a medic participates in a match where s/he was ineligible, the match shall be awarded to the opposition as a forfeit with the offending Team receiving no points for the match and a fine shall be imposed. The Competitions Commission shall determine in the first instance if any other sanctions should apply.

6.4.1.6 In all Matches the referee shall ensure that, while normal warm-up times and breaks are allowed to all Teams, there is no deliberate time-wasting by any Team. In the event of a Team being involved in the previous Match (either refereeing or playing), a maximum of 15 minutes extra time may be requested before the official warm-up time begins. The decision is at the Referees discretion.

6.4.1.7 A Team failing to appear on court to play within 5 minutes of the referee calling the 1st 6 players on court shall forfeit the first set, 25-0.

6.4.1.8 A Team failing to appear on court ready to play within 15 minutes of the of the referee calling the 1st 6 players on court shall forfeit the Match 0-3 (25:0, 25:0, 25:0) and a fine shall be imposed on that Team.

6.4.1.9 If a Team refuses to play after being summoned by the referee to do so, it is declared in default and forfeits the Match with the result 0-3 (25:0, 25:0, 25:0) for the Match.

6.4.1.10 Any reasonable verified expenses incurred by a Team or appointed officials due to the late arrival of their opposing Team shall be paid by the late Team. Where the delay is due to the late arrival of the back-up officials or the Match officials the home Team shall pay with the exception of where the Match Officials are appointed by the VAI.

6.4.2 Post-Match

6.4.2.1 If a dispute has arisen during the Match and a Team captain wants to have some comment or objection noted on the score-sheet, s/he must have informed the referee of same when the incident occurred. Only the first or second referee or the scorekeeper can write on the score-sheet and one of these individuals will enter a short note about the incident on the score-sheet. The Team captain through their Club Secretary will have to submit a written report to the Referees Commission within **10 days** if they wish any action to be taken. Post-mark will be taken as proof of the date. Failure by the referee or scorekeeper to enter a note onto the score sheet shall not prevent the referee from later giving a report to the Competitions Commission and/or Referees Commission in respect of the incident.

6.4.2.2 Where the Match referee is of the opinion that any of the Match Officials provided by the Home Team are unable to perform their duties to a reasonable standard or there are insufficient numbers of Match Officials as set out in these Rules then the referee will note the observation on the scoresheet and the Home Team may be fined.

6.4.2.3 It is the referees' responsibility to hand out the score-sheets to the Teams at the end of the Match. It is the responsibility of the Teams themselves to ensure that they have their sheets.

6.4.2.3 After a match fixture:

- (a) BOTH teams are to notify the VAI office of the score of the match by phone or email (telephone number 01-6707165, email: info@volleyballireland.com), before 11am on the following Monday. Should the score line be the same from both sources, the score line will be posted on the website and the leagues tables updated accordingly. Should the score lines not correspond; the correct score will be verified by the office with match officials.
- (b) The winning team shall be responsible for the return of the scores sheet to the VAI office by 4pm on the following Wednesday, Failure to do so will result in a fine being levied. a team can incur up to three of these fines before more severe sanctions will be applied.

6.4.2.4 A VAI/NIVA registered referee is entitled to a Match fee as per the VAI Schedule of Fees. The Team captains may request the referee to produce their referees licence card or equivalent evidence of current registration in the case of NIVA registered referees.

6.4.2.5 A Team reduced to less than six (6) players during the Match due to injury or due to a player(s) being disqualified shall lose the Match but shall retain any points and sets already won. A Team losing a Match in this way shall be awarded one league point.

6.4.3 Irregular kit

6.4.3.1 No player (save the libero who must have a contrasting numbered jersey) shall be permitted to play without a numbered uniform jersey. The jersey must be numbered front and back and be of a standard colour and design for the whole Team (save the libero who should be in a contrasting colour but appropriately numbered jersey).

Jerseys numbers must be between 1 and 18 inclusive. A player in Premier 32, Division 1 & Division 2 may play in irregular shorts but this must be noted by the referee on the score sheet and a fine per offending player shall be incurred per Match

6.4.4 Refereeing

6.4.4.1 All teams must have two qualified active registered referees before the start of the season; this number may include those who have completed a referees course pre Season. Any team with a non-playing/non-coaching active referee registered with their club may apply to the referees commission for an exemption from this rule. The exemption can only be applied for if the relevant referee has officiated (R1/R2) a minimum of 8 competitive games in the Premier, 1st or 2nd divisions in the previous season. Applications for exceptions must be submitted to the Referee's commission in writing when said referee is registering prior to the start of the season. Applications will not be handled after the deadline for referee registration has past. Each application will be dealt with on a case by case basis. Where a club is granted an exemption on this basis, it is expected that their non-playing / non-coaching referee will make themselves available to referee a minimum of 8 matches in the coming season. Failure to referee this number of matches may result in the exemption not being granted in the following / subsequent seasons. Failure to provide two qualified active registered referees will result in referees not being appointed for the teams home matches. Where referees are not appointed by the VAI it is the responsibility of the Home team to appoint appropriately qualified referees.

7. COMPETITION WINNERS

7.1 Trophies and/or medals shall be presented to the winners of each League, Championship, and Cup Competition

7.2 The winning Teams in the Premier 32 League may be nominated by the VAI to participate in a suitable European tournament or competition. Entry to such tournament or competition shall be a matter for discussion and agreement between the VAI and the respective successful Team and its Club.

7.3 The entry fees paid by Premier 32 Teams, less all Premier 32 administration expenses, shall go towards participation in such European tournament or competition or to fund a prize in the region of 5/6 of the entry fees less expenses incurred in administering the competition for the winners and where possible 1/6th to the runners-up, depending upon the number of participating Teams in any one year.

7.4 Perpetual trophies must be engraved at the winning Team/Club's expense. They must be returned to the VAI Office in good condition, clean and engraved by the date set out by the Competitions Commission at the start of every season. Failure to comply will result in a fine.

7.5 Should a perpetual trophy be damaged or lost while under the care or custody of a Club/Team, the Club responsible will be required to meet the cost of repair or replacement.

8. PROMOTION & RELEGATION

8.1 Relegation

8.1.1 The team accumulating the least amount of points in their National League competition shall be relegated to the division below. No team will be relegated if the league does not have it's full compliment of teams.

8.1.2 Where two or more teams are tied on points their placing will be decided on the basis of the following formula:

- (1) Set difference
- (2) Sets for
- (3) Set difference based on matches played against each other only
- (4) Point difference
- (5) Points for
- (6) Point difference based on matches played against each other only
- (7) Play-off

8.2 Promotion to P32

8.2.1 Promotion to P32 will be decided by a play-off with the winners of Division 1 VAI National League and the winners of Division 1 NIVA League. If the VAI team win the playoff and subsequently decided not to participate in P32 they will be deemed to have withdrawn from the league.

8.2.2 In the event of either of the winners not in a position to take part in a play-off the play-off position(s) will be offered to the second place team. If the winners of Division 1 VAI League fail to participate in the play-off they will be deemed to have withdrawn from the league

8.2.3 If the play-off places are not filled by this method, then the respective National Bodies (VAI & NIVA) may propose teams for this play-off, this may include the teams just relegated from the P32

8.2.4 The play-off will take place no later than 28 days from the end of the end of the VAI Indoor Season unless otherwise agreed or sanctioned by the VAI and NIVA

8.2.5 A neutral venue and match officials will be decided upon jointly by NIVA and the VAI at the end of the respective League seasons.

8.3 Promotion from other National League Divisions

8.3.1 The winning team in all other National League divisions will be automatically promoted to the next higher division.

8.3.2 In the event of the winning team not wishing to be promoted will be deemed to have withdrawn from the league and therefore not be allowed to compete in that division. The promotion will be offered to the second place team.

8.3.3 In the event of the second place team not wishing to be promoted, the VAI may offer this place to another team or the team just relegated from this division.

9. ASSOCIATION CUP

9.1 Clubs will be required to register team(s) for the Association Cup by completing the entry form and paying the appropriate fee by the designated date.

9.2 Each team competing will be required to register a team list, on the appropriate form, to be sent to the office no later than 7 days before the first match.

9.3 Any addition to a team list must be notified in writing to the office at least 7 days (except in exceptional circumstances) before the next round of matches. If the additional player is not registered all relevant forms and documentation must be completed before the player is eligible to participate in the tournament.

9.4 A team may comprise of any players registered with that club provided that they are in possession of a valid VAI player licence.

10. JUNIOR & INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

10.1 Clubs will be required to register team(s) for the Junior & Intermediate Championship by completing the entry form and paying the appropriate fee by the designated date.

10.2 Each team competing will be required to register a team list, on the appropriate form, to be sent to the office no later than 7 days before the first match.

10.3 Any addition to a team list must be notified in writing to the office at least 7 days (except in exceptional circumstances) before the next round of matches. If the additional player is not registered all relevant forms and documentation must be completed before the player is eligible to participate in the tournament.

10.4 Players may only play with the club they are registered with,

11. SANCTIONS, FINES AND PENALTIES

11.1 The Competitions Commission must as soon as reasonably practicable investigate each and every alleged breach of the Rules of which it has knowledge. Following such investigation, it shall take such action as it considers appropriate.

11.2 The Competitions Commission is empowered where there is an alleged breach of these Rules to consider the matter and impose as appropriate the sanctions set out in this clause 10, and the penalties and fines set out in these Rules (and further

particularised in **schedule of fees**). All fines may be increased on failure to pay by the dates specified or where there are repeat/aggravating offences.

11.3 The Competitions Commission shall exclude from a Season's competitions any Team failing to pay outstanding fines or penalties. All fines must be paid before the end of the Season. No Club with outstanding fines shall be permitted to register for the following Season until payment of all sums due is made.

11.4 Penalties will take effect and fines are payable immediately from the date of the decision. In the event of an appeal, any reversal or amendment to the decision taken or fine imposed shall result in the appropriate refund being made to the Club concerned.

12. PROTEST PROCEDURES

Note:

- Protests relating to Indoor Competition Rules or the interpretation of the rules should be referred in the first instance to the Competition Commission (procedures are outlined in 12.1)
- Protests relating to refereeing issues should be referred in the first instance to the Referees Commission (procedures are outlined in 12.2)
- Protests relating to Outdoor Competition Rules or the interpretation of the rules should be referred in the first instance to the Beach Commission (procedures are outlined in 13.3)
- Protests relating to any other matter should be referred in the first instance to the Board of Administration. (procedures are outlined in 12.4)
- If it is not clear, in the first instance, where the protest should go it should be referred to the Board of Administration who will decide on where the matter will be dealt with.
- If the Referees, Competitions, or Beach Commission feel that it is beyond their scope to deal with a matter they may refer it to the Board of Administration.

12.1 Protests relating to the Indoor Competition Rules or the interpretation of the Competition Rules

12.1.1 If a Club or Team wishes to lodge a protest relating to the Indoor Competition Rules or the interpretation of the Competition rules the following procedures shall apply:

- (a) A Team must make the protest / complaint through its Club Secretary or Club President.
- (b) The protest / complaint must be lodged in writing addressed to the Competitions Commission (with the accompanying Protest Deposit) to the VAI Office before the protest / complaint may be considered. The protest and deposit must be received not later than **7 days** after the incident.

12.1.2 The Competitions Commission shall acknowledge receipt of the protest, in writing, as soon as is practicably possible, and shall provide all parties concerned with details of the protest in question and afford all parties a reasonable opportunity to make representations and present their case.

12.1.3 When the Competitions Commission adjudicates on a matter, a meeting will be convened within 14 days of the receipt of the protest. This meeting shall be attended by

at least three members, one of whom shall be nominated to act as chairperson of the Committee. This committee will be referred to as the Competitions Protest Committee.

12.1.4 Members of the Competitions Protest Committee shall not have had any personal involvement with any case. If there are not sufficient Commission members eligible because of this rule then suitable persons may be co-opted to the Committee by the Committee Chairperson with the approval of the Board of Administration.

12.1.5 The decision of the Competitions Protest Committee shall be made by a majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson of the Committee shall have a casting vote.

12.1.6 All parties will be informed, in writing, of the decision of the Competitions Protest Committee within 5 working days. This communication will be copied to the Competitions Commission Secretary, The Referees Commission Secretary, The Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration and the Office Manager.

12.1.7 The Protest Deposit will be returned if the protest is successful. It is forfeited if the protest is turned down

12.1.8 Any sanction/penalty imposed by the Competitions Protest Committee shall not, ordinarily, take effect until the period allowed for an appeal has elapsed or the appeal has been determined.

12.1.9 A decision made by the Competitions Protest Committee can be appealed to the Competitions Technical Committee.

12.1.1. Appealing a decision made by the Competitions Protest Committee

12.1.1.1 If a Club or Team wishes to appeal a decision made by the Competitions Protest Commission the following procedures shall apply:

- (a) A Team must make the appeal through its Club Secretary or Club President.
- (b) The appeal must be lodged in writing to the VAI office and addressed for the attention of the Competitions Technical Committee Chairperson C/O the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration. It must state the written grounds for appeal and contain all relevant evidence and correspondence relating to the original protest / dispute.
- (c) The appeal must be received not later than **7 days** after notification of the decision by the Competitions Protest Committee was issued to the Club Secretary/President and must be accompanied by the Appeal deposit.

12.1.1.2 The Competitions Technical Committee shall conduct any appeal / adjudication, within 14 days of the receipt of the appeal, in accordance with the following:

- (a) Respond in writing acknowledging the appeal and receipt thereof.
- (b) Determine how the appeal/hearing will be conducted e.g. by correspondence, by way of a hearing etc.
- (c) It shall be entitled to request such further information as it considers necessary.
- (d) It shall be entitled at its discretion to rehear the whole or any part of the evidence given before the Competitions Protest Committee, as it considers appropriate.

12.1.1.3 No person who was part of the Competitions Protest Committee who made the decision being appealed may be part of the Competitions Technical Committee.

12.1.1.4 Members of the Competitions Technical Committee shall not have had any personal involvement with any case.

12.1.1.5 The Chairperson of the Competitions Technical Committee shall have the power, to co-opt from time to time additional persons to adjudicate on any case where the specialist skills and/or experience of that individual is required with the approval of the Board of Administration

12.1.1.6 General Procedures relating to proceedings of the Competitions Technical Committee:

- (a) All hearings shall take place in private.
- (b) The non-attendance of a party at a hearing in respect of which that party has been notified shall not prevent the matter being dealt with in their absence.

12.1.1.7 The Technical Committee shall have the power to: -

- (a) Allow or re-affirm, or dismiss the appeal;
- (b) Vary the decision in such a manner as it shall think fit (including power to reduce, uphold, increase or cancel any penalty).

12.1.1.8 The decision of the Competitions Technical Committee shall be made by a majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson of the Committee shall have a casting vote

12.1.1.9 All parties will be informed, in writing, within 5 working days of the decision of the Competitions Technical Committee. This communication will be copied to the Competitions Commission Secretary, The Referees Commission Secretary, The Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration and the Office Manager.

12.1.1.10 The Appeal Deposit will be returned if the Appeal is successful. It is forfeited if the Appeal is turned down

12.1.1.11 A decision made by the Competitions Technical Committee is final and cannot be appealed.

12.2 Protests relating to the Refereeing Commission

12.2.1 If a Club or Team wishes to lodge a protest relating to a refereeing matter the following procedures shall apply:

- (a) A Team must make the protest / complaint through its Club Secretary or Club President.
- (b) The protest / complaint must be lodged in writing addressed to the Referees Commission with the accompanying Protest Deposit) to the VAI Office before the protest / complaint may be considered. The protest and deposit must be received not later than 7 days after the incident. The Referees Commission shall respond to the protest in writing as soon as reasonably practicable.

12.2.2 The Referees Commission shall acknowledge receipt of the protest, in writing, as soon as is practicably possible, and shall provide all parties concerned with details of the protest in question and afford all parties a reasonable opportunity to make representations and present their case.

12.2.3 When the Referees Commission adjudicates on a matter, a meeting will be convened within 14 days of the receipt of the protest. This meeting shall be attended by at least three members, one of whom shall be nominated to act as chairperson of the Committee. This committee will be referred to as the Referees Protest Committee.

12.2.4 Members of the Referees Protest Committee shall not have had any personal involvement with any case. If there are not sufficient Commission members eligible because of this rule then suitable persons may be co-opted to the Committee by the Committee Chairperson, subject to approval by the Board of Administration.

12.2.5 The decision of the Referees Protest Committee shall be made by a majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson of the Committee shall have a casting vote.

12.2.6 All parties will be informed, in writing, within 5 working days, of the decision of the Referees Protest Committee. This communication will be copied to the Referees Commission Secretary, The Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration and the Office Manager.

12.2.7 The Protest Deposit will be returned if the protest is successful. It is forfeited if the protest is turned down

12.2.8 Any sanction / penalty imposed by the Referees Protest Committee shall not, ordinarily, take effect until the period allowed for an appeal has elapsed or the appeal has been determined.

12.2.9 The maximum sanction the Referees Protest Committee can impose is a 2-match ban.

12.2.10 A decision made by the Referees Protest Committee can be appealed to the Referees Technical Committee.

12.2.1 Appealing a decision made by the Referees Protest Committee

12.2.1.1 If a Club or Team wishes to appeal a decision made by the Referees Protest Commission the following procedures shall apply:

- (a) A Team must make the appeal through its Club Secretary or Club President.
- (b) The appeal must be lodged in writing to the VAI office and addressed for the attention of the Referees Technical Committee Chairperson C/O the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration. It must state the written grounds for appeal and contain all relevant evidence and correspondence relating to the original protest / dispute.
- (c) The appeal must be received not later than 7 days after notification of the decision by the Referees Protest Committee was issued to the Club Secretary/President and must be accompanied by the Appeal deposit.

12.2.1.2 The Referees Technical Committee shall conduct any appeal / adjudication, within 14 days of the receipt of the appeal, in accordance the following:

- (a) Respond in writing acknowledging the appeal and receipt thereof.
- (b) Determine how the appeal/hearing will be conducted e.g. by correspondence, by way of a hearing etc.
- (c) It shall be entitled to request such further information as it considers necessary.
- (d) It shall be entitled at its discretion to rehear the whole or any part of the evidence given before the Referees Commission, as it considers appropriate.

12.2.1.3 No person who was part of the Referees Protest Committee who made the decision being appealed may be part of the Referees Technical Committee.

12.2.1.4 Members of the Referees Technical Committee shall not have had any personal involvement with any case.

12.2.1.5 The Chairperson of the Referees Technical Committee shall have the power, to co-opt from time to time additional persons to adjudicate on any case where the specialist skills and/or experience of that individual is required with the approval of the Board of Administration.

12.2.1.6 The Referees Technical Committee shall have the power to: -

- (a) allow or re-affirm, or dismiss the appeal;
- (b) vary the decision in such a manner as it shall think fit (including power to reduce, uphold, increase or cancel any penalty);
- (c) The maximum sanction the Referees Protest Committee can impose is a 3-match ban.

12.2.1.7 The decision of the Referees Technical Committee shall be made by a majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairman of the Committee shall have a casting vote

12.2.1.8 All parties will be informed, in writing, within 5 working days, of the decision of the Referees Technical Committee. This communication will be copied to the Referees Commission Secretary, The Honorary Secretary of the Board and Administration and the Office Manager.

12.2.1.9 The Appeal Deposit will be returned if the Appeal is successful. It is forfeited if the Appeal is turned down

12.2.1.10 A decision made by the Referees Technical Committee is final and cannot be appealed.

12.3 Protests relating to the Outdoor Competition Rules or the interpretation of the Outdoor Competition Rules

12.3.1 If a Team wishes to lodge a protest relating to the Outdoor Competition Rules or the interpretation of the Competition rules the following procedures shall apply:

The protest / complaint must be lodged in writing addressed to the Beach Commission (with the accompanying Protest Deposit) to the VAI Office before the protest / complaint

may be considered. The protest and deposit must be received not later than **7 days** after the incident.

12.3.2 The Beach Commission shall acknowledge receipt of the protest, in writing, as soon as is practicably possible, and shall provide all parties concerned with details of the protest in question and afford all parties a reasonable opportunity to make representations and present their case.

12.3.3 When the Beach Commission adjudicates on a matter, a meeting will be convened within 14 days of the receipt of the protest. This meeting shall be attended by at least three members, one of whom shall be nominated to act as chairperson of the Committee. This committee will be referred to as the Beach Protest Committee.

12.3.4 Members of the Beach Protest Committee shall not have had any personal involvement with any case. If there are not sufficient Commission members eligible because of this rule then suitable persons may be co-opted to the Committee by the Committee Chairperson with the approval of the Board of Administration.

12.3.5 The decision of the Beach Protest Committee shall be made by a majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson of the Committee shall have a casting vote.

12.3.6 All parties will be informed, in writing, of the decision of the Beach Protest Committee within 5 working days. This communication will be copied to the Beach Commission Secretary, The Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration and the Office Manager.

12.3.7 The Protest Deposit will be returned if the protest is successful. It is forfeited if the protest is turned down

12.3.8 Any sanction/penalty imposed by the Beach Protest Committee shall not, ordinarily, take effect until the period allowed for an appeal has elapsed or the appeal has been determined.

12.3.9 A decision made by the Beach Protest Committee can be appealed to the Beach Technical Committee.

12.3.1 Appealing a decision made by the Beach Protest Committee

12.3.1.1 If a Club or Team wishes to appeal a decision made by the Beach Protest Commission the following procedures shall apply:

- (a) The appeal must be lodged in writing to the VAI office and addressed for the attention of the Beach Technical Committee Chairperson C/O the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration. It must state the written grounds for appeal and contain all relevant evidence and correspondence relating to the original protest / dispute.
- (b) The appeal must be received not later than **7 days** after notification of the decision by the Beach Protest Committee was issued and must be accompanied by the Appeal deposit.

12.3.1.2 The Beach Technical Committee shall conduct any appeal / adjudication, within 14 days of the receipt of the appeal, in accordance with the following:

- (a) Respond in writing acknowledging the appeal and receipt thereof.
- (b) Determine how the appeal/hearing will be conducted e.g. by correspondence, by way of a hearing etc.
- (c) It shall be entitled to request such further information as it considers necessary.
- (d) It shall be entitled at its discretion to rehear the whole or any part of the evidence given before the Beach Protest Committee, as it considers appropriate.

12.3.1.3 No person who was part of the Beach Protest Committee who made the decision being appealed may be part of the Beach Technical Committee.

12.3.1.4 Members of the Beach Technical Committee shall not have had any personal involvement with any case.

12.3.1.5 The Chairperson of the Beach Technical Committee shall have the power, to co-opt from time to time additional persons to adjudicate on any case where the specialist skills and/or experience of that individual is required with the approval of the Board of Administration

12.3.1.6 General Procedures relating to proceedings of the Beach Technical Committee:

- (a) All hearings shall take place in private.
- (b) The non-attendance of a party at a hearing in respect of which that party has been notified shall not prevent the matter being dealt with in their absence.

12.3.1.7 The Beach Technical Committee shall have the power to: -

- (a) Allow or re-affirm, or dismiss the appeal;
- (b) Vary the decision in such a manner as it shall think fit (including power to reduce, uphold, increase or cancel any penalty).

12.3.1.8 The decision of the Beach Technical Committee shall be made by a majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson of the Committee shall have a casting vote

12.3.1.9 All parties will be informed, in writing, within 5 working days of the decision of the Beach Technical Committee. This communication will be copied to The Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration and the Office Manager.

12.3.1.10 The Appeal Deposit will be returned if the Appeal is successful. It is forfeited if the Appeal is turned down

12.3.1.11 A decision made by the Beach Technical Committee is final and cannot be appealed.

12.4 Other Protests

12.4.1 If a Club or Team wishes to lodge a protest relating to a matter not covered by the Competition or Refereeing Rules or their interpretation the following procedures shall apply:

- (a) A Team must make the protest / complaint through its Club Secretary or Club President.
- (b) The protest / complaint must be lodged in writing addressed to the Honorary Secretary (with the accompanying Protest Deposit) to the VAI Office before the protest / complaint may be considered. The protest and deposit must be received not later than 7 days after the incident. The Board of Administration shall respond to the protest in writing as soon as reasonably practicable.

12.4.2 The Board of Administration shall acknowledge receipt of the protest, in writing, as soon as is practicably possible, and shall provide all parties concerned with details of the protest in question and afford all parties a reasonable opportunity to make representations and present their case.

12.4.3 When the Board of Administration adjudicates on a matter, a meeting will be convened within 14 days of the receipt of the protest. This meeting shall be attended by at least three members, one of whom shall be nominated to act as chairperson of the Committee. This committee will be referred to as the Board of Administration Protest Committee.

12.4.5 Members of the Board of Administration Protest Committee shall not have had any personal involvement with any case. If there are not sufficient Commission members eligible because of this rule then suitable persons may be co-opted to the Committee by the Committee Chairperson with the approval of the Board of Administration.

12.4.6 The decision of the Board of Administration Protest Committee shall be made by a majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson of the Committee shall have a casting vote.

12.4.7 All parties will be informed, in writing, within 5 working days, of the decision of the Board of Administration Protest Committee. This communication will be copied to the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration and the Office Manager.

12.4.8 The Protest Deposit will be returned if the protest is successful. It is forfeited if the protest is turned down.

12.4.9 Any sanction/penalty imposed by the Board of Administration Protest Committee shall not, ordinarily, take effect until the period allowed for an appeal has elapsed or the appeal has been determined.

12.4.10 A decision made by the Board of Administration Protest Committee can be appealed to the Judicial Commission.

12.4.1 Appealing a decision made by the Board of Administration Protest Committee

12.4.1.1. If a Club or Team wishes to appeal, a decision made by the Board of Administration Protest Commission the following procedures shall apply:

- (a) A Team must make the appeal through its Club Secretary or Club President.

- (b) The appeal must be lodged in writing to the VAI office and addressed for the attention of the Judicial Commission Chairperson C/O the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration. It must state the written grounds for appeal and contain all relevant evidence and correspondence relating to the original protest / dispute.
- (c) The appeal must be received not later than 7 days after notification of the decision by the Board of Administration Protest Committee was issued to the Club Secretary/President and must be accompanied by the Appeal deposit.

12.4.1.2 The Judicial Commission shall conduct any appeal / adjudication, within 14 days of the receipt of the appeal, in accordance with the following:

- (a) Respond in writing acknowledging the appeal and receipt thereof.
- (b) Determine how the appeal/hearing will be conducted e.g. by correspondence, by way of a hearing etc.
- (c) It shall be entitled to request such further information as it considers necessary.
- (d) It shall be entitled at its discretion to rehear the whole or any part of the evidence given before the Board of Administration Protest Committee, as it considers appropriate.

12.4.1.3 No person who was part of the Board of Administration Protest Committee who made the decision being appealed may be part of the Judicial Commission.

12.4.1.4 Members of the Judicial Commission shall not have had any personal involvement with any case.

12.4.1.5 The Chairperson of the Judicial Commission shall have the power, to co-opt from time to time additional persons to adjudicate on any case where the specialist skills and/or experience of that individual is required with the approval of the Board of Administration

12.4.1.6 General Procedures relating to proceedings of the Judicial Commission:

- (a) All hearings shall take place in private.
- (b) The non-attendance of a party at a hearing in respect of which that party has been notified shall not prevent the matter being dealt with in their absence.

12.4.1.7 The Judicial Commission shall have the power to: -

- (a) Allow or re-affirm, or dismiss the appeal;
- (b) Vary the decision in such a manner as it shall think fit (including power to reduce, uphold, decrease or cancel any penalty).

12.4.1.8 The decision of the Judicial Commission shall be made by a majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson of the Committee shall have a casting vote

12.4.1.9 All parties will be informed, in writing, within 5 working days, of the decision of the Judicial Commission. This communication will be copied to the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration and the Office Manager.

12.4.1.10 The Appeal Deposit will be returned if the Appeal is successful. It is forfeited if the Appeal is turned down

12.4.1.11 A decision made by the Judicial Commission is final and cannot be appealed.

13. MEDICAL PERSONNEL

13.1 Medical Personnel including doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, and physical therapists who are professionally qualified and licensed to practice within the jurisdiction of Ireland shall be permitted to enter the Playing Enclosure during Matches as part of the authorised bench personnel if they have register with the VAI office.

13.2 Applications for a Registration Card should be submitted to the VAI Office together with a copy of the individual's relevant certificate of qualification and the registration fee. All Medical Personnel shall be registered with and/or represent a Club, (however this shall not prevent such person from representing multiple Clubs / Teams in their capacity as Medical Personnel).

13.3 The Referee is entitled request that the Medical Personnel produce their valid Registration Card prior to entry into the Playing Enclosure as authorised bench personnel.

13.4 Rules regarding medical personnel on match day are in 6.4.1

13.5 Only one Medical Personnel is permitted per Team as authorised bench personnel.

14. ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS

14.1 The Constitution of the VAI condemns the use of prohibited substances and prohibited methods in volleyball and has adopted the Irish Anti-Doping Rules. The Irish Anti-Doping Rule form part of the Competition Rules of the VAI and apply to all persons in membership of the VAI.

14.2 Any breach of the Irish Anti-Doping Rules shall be governed in accordance with the provisions set out therein.

15. CODE OF CONDUCT

15.1 All Clubs, Teams, players, and person must ensure that they shall not deliberately bring the game of volleyball into disrepute by any wilful action.

SECTION B – VAI SCHOOLS COMPETITION RULES

1. AGE GROUPS

- (a) Junior - All students in 1st and 2nd year in full time second level education must play at junior level.
- (b) Cadette - Under 16 years of age and in full time second level education on the 1st June preceding the current academic year.
- (c) Senior - Under 20 and over 16 years of age and in full time second level education on the 1st June preceding the current academic year.

2. REGISTRATION

2.1 All team players must be registered with the VAI Office before their first match. (This must include a list of their respective divisional teams). Any team playing an illegal or unregistered player will lose the point for the match(es) in which the player was involved and is liable for a €15 fine. Team registration lists should be made available for every match by the team coach.

3. PLAYING RULES

3.1 All matches will be played in accordance with the FIVB rules of the game as adapted by the VAI, subject to the following exception:

This indicates that playing the ball with the feet is permissible at senior level, however coaches should be advised that it is not good practice to “kick the ball”.
No heading of the ball or contacting the ball below the knee will be allowed at Junior level.

4. NET HEIGHT

Senior/Cadette Girls:	2.24m	Cadette/Junior Boys:	2.24m
Cadette Boys:	2.35m	Junior Girls:	2.10m
Senior Boys:	2.43m		

5. MATCHES

5.1 Division A, B and C matches will be played on a league basis or by using some other system designed by the Schools Commission and/or its President.

5.2 All matches are the best of 3 sets to semi-final stages.

5.3 All Ireland Finals and Semi-Finals at Senior, Cadette and Junior level will be the best of 3 sets, with the exception of all Senior A All Ireland Finals and Semi-Finals, which will be the best of 5 sets.

5.4 For a competition to commence there must be a minimum of five teams entered.

5.5 The deciding set in a 3 set and a 5 set game must have a 2-point margin regardless of the scores involved.

5.6 For pool matches where teams have the same number of points the winner will be decided in the following ways:

For two teams on the same points:

- (a) The winner is the team with the largest set difference
- (b) If set difference is the same, then the winner is the team that won between the two teams involved.

For three teams on the same points:

- (a) The winner is the team with the largest set difference
- (b) If set difference is the same, then the winner is decided using only the point difference of the teams involved.

5.7 All first round matches must be played.

5.8 Pool organisers do not have an automatic right to a home venue.

6. PLAYERS

6.1 Two players from a lower division may play up to a higher division - Namely from Cadette to Senior level and from Junior to Cadette level. These players must be nominated in writing at the start of the relevant competition and they may not be changed after that.

Examples of who to play up are provided below:

Cadette C to Senior A or B or C only.

Cadette B to Senior A or B only.

Cadette A to Senior A only.

Junior Plate Cadette A or B or C only.

Junior Cup Cadette A or B only.

6.2 The Coach must notify the Schools' Commission President in writing with the name of the player(s) and the movement involved.

6.1 The coach may only play these players when sanction has been received from the Schools' Commission President. The Schools' Commission President may use his/her discretion when allowing additional players to play up.

Failure to notify the schools officer of players playing up may have serious consequences

7. GRADING

7.1 Grading of schools is at the discretion of the Schools' Commission and will be applied to schools at the commencement of the school year.

8. UNIFORM

8.1 All teams must be neatly dressed with uniform tops numbered front and back. At Semi final and Final stages, uniform tops and shorts must be worn. No player out of uniform will be allowed on court.

9. RESULTS

9.1 All score sheets must be returned to the VAI office within 5 days of the match day (pool organisers are responsible) and the results should also be phoned into the relevant schools' competition organiser as quickly as possible. [VAI Office, First Floor 141 Thomas Street, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-6707165]. Failure to do so may result in the loss of one match point or some other relevant penalty decided by the Schools' President.

Failure to do so may result in the loss of one match point or some other relevant penalty decide by the Schools' President.

10. PROTESTS & DISPUTES

In the event of protests or disputes arising, team coaches must submit a letter of protest/complaint etc. To the Schools President. (Note: No verbal protests will be entertained). The referee only will indicate on the score sheet in the remarks column provided (e.g. protest or dispute by team A or B; report to follow).

11. HALL & REFEREES COSTS

11.1 All the teams involved at a venue shall share these expenses.

12. REFEREES

12.1 (a) All matches should be refereed by a neutral qualified referee - preferably a VAI qualified student referee, except where referees are appointed by the VAI. The matches refereed by these qualified students must not be interfered with by teachers/coaches or anyone else involved on that day) OR

(b) By a person acceptable to both team coaches/captains in the event of the unavailability of a referee as outlined above.

12.2 In the Semi-finals, schools should arrange to have a Grade 3 or higher VAI referee (cost to be borne by schools).

12.3 For the Finals (subject to approval by the VAI) VAI appointed referees shall be made available.

13. OFFICIALS

13.1 On match days, teams must provide back-up officials.

14. CHANGES TO FIXTURES

14.1 Teams unable to meet a fixture must notify

- (a) all the teams involved,
- (b) the officials and
- (c) the Schools' Commission President.

14.2 All parties concerned must agree an alternative date prior to the original date of the fixture. In the event of agreement not being reached, points will be awarded against the team wishing to have the fixture changed. No changes can be made to Semi-final or Final dates.

15. FINES

15.1 Teams failing to fulfil an organised fixture and/or not adhering to Rule 14 will be fined €25 in addition to covering all costs incurred by the opposing team(s), officials, and hall hire.

15.2 Teams may appeal this fine on receipt of a €15 deposit, which is returnable if the appeal is successful. In the event of a second offence, the fine is doubled and the Schools' Commission may apply further penalties.

16. MISCONDUCT.

16.1 School authorities shall be held responsible for any misconduct or damage caused by their player(s) or supporters.

17. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

17.1 All schools must be represented at the schools A.G.M., failure to do so will result in a €25 Euro fine, entry to the following years competition will not be accepted until this fine is paid.

18. MISCELLANEOUS

18.1 The Schools' Commission whose decision is final shall decide any matters arising, which have not been covered in these School Rules.

SECTION C – VAI OUTDOOR/BEACH COMPETITION RULES

1. REGISTRATION

1.1 Any VAI registered player, as per the previous indoor season, is eligible to play in the Outdoor Season. Any player not registered with the VAI is eligible to play one the relevant fee has been paid. This fee will be reviewed by the Board annually according to the insurance costs.

1.2 All players must fill out a Player Registration Form.

1.3 Team registration occurs on the morning of competition. Once registered a team cannot change. Any changes required due to unavoidable circumstances will be authorised at the discretion of the Beach Commission.

2. UNIFORM

2.1 All players should wear a uniform as follows; a team uniform consists of matching tops or t-shirts and the same colour range shorts or bottoms. Any team without uniform will pay a tournament entry fee of 15 Euro per person. Teams in matching uniform will pay 10 Euro per person per tournament.

3. CALENDAR & TOURNAMENT FORMAT

3.1 The Beach Commission will publish an Outdoor Calendar at least one month before the first outdoor event.

3.2 The Competition Format is as follows:
(a) Group Stages – played as pool matches
(b) Double Elimination System

3.3 Over the full season points are accumulated on an individual basis. The points system will be determined by the commission before the first calendar event.

3.4 The Rules of play will be decided by the Beach Commission before each event and posted on all score sheets used at that event

4. PRIZES

4.1 The Beach Commission will award monetary prizes at each tournament. The Beach Commission reserves the right to calculate the amount of each prize and to decide on the recipient. Prizes will be forwarded to the winners within two weeks of the Tournament.

Player/Team/Coach/Medical Personnel Disciplinary Action³

1. Sanction Scale

The following disciplinary points will be awarded against a Team / player / coach or medical personnel according to the penalties imposed on them by a referee at any recognised Volleyball Association of Ireland Competition.

Official Warning	No Sanction
Yellow Card	5 disciplinary points
Red Card (Expulsion for a set)	10 disciplinary points
Disqualification for Match	15 disciplinary points

2. Penalties

The following penalties will apply where disciplinary points are accumulated:

<u>Players, Coaches & Medical Personnel:</u> 15 disciplinary points	= 1 Match suspension
<u>Teams:</u> 20 Disciplinary points	= Fine for every 20 points received

A coach or player or medical personnel, who is suspended for a Match, is not permitted to sit on the bench or participate in the coaching of a Team for the duration of the warm-up & Match.

3. Match Suspensions

Suspensions apply to the second next Match or matches in all competitions organised by the VAI. All matches in which a suspended Team member participates will be forfeited. Disciplinary points are erased when the stipulated suspension is served, but will be kept on record.

Suspensions will be notified to the Club Secretary / player / coach / medical personnel of the relevant Team within a week. However, Teams and Coaches and Medical Personnel will be presumed to know the Suspension rule and know the number of disciplinary points against them at any one time. Ignorance of the rule or number of disciplinary points against a Team will not be an acceptable excuse for playing a suspended player or for a coach or medical personnel sitting on the bench.

Disciplinary points shall not carry forward from one Season (deemed to include the League and Championship and Top 4 and Association Cup) to the next. If a

³ These sanctions were introduced and take effect from 1 January 2001.

Team member has to serve a suspension and there is no opportunity for them to do so in the current Season then such a suspension will be served in the next available Match in the following Season.

Team members who aggregate 30 disciplinary points during a Season will have their cases reviewed by the Competitions Commission. The commission may require the Team member to attend the appropriate meeting. The Team member is entitled to bring a Club representative with them to the disciplinary meeting.

4. Misconduct

A player, team, coach, medical personnel, or supporter whose actions prior to, during, or after a fixture are considered to bring the game into disrepute should be referred to the Referees Commission in the first instance who may refer the matter to the Board of Administration.

5. Responsibilities

The Competitions Commission will inform Club Secretaries in the case of a player and the coach or medical personnel as appropriate when:

- A player/coach /medical personnel accumulates 10 points or is suspended
- A Team Accumulates 20 points

The Competitions Commission will inform the Referees Commission when a player, coach, or medical personnel is suspended.

The Referees Commission will also inform appointed Referees of any suspension that applies. Where a suspension applies to a Match where the Referees Commission has not yet appointed a Referee, the Referees Commission will contact the Home Team to determine who the referee shall be and inform them of the prevailing suspension(s).

A table of disciplinary points will be held and maintained by the Competitions Commission and a copy held in the VAI office.

Irish Anti-Doping Rules

Refer to Separate Document

See also the Irish Sports Council Website which also provides guidelines to the Irish Anti-Doping Rules at: www.irishsportsCouncil.ie