

# VAI Schools Competition Rules 2011/2012

## 1. Age Groups

- (a) **Junior:** All students in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year in full time second level education
- (b) **Cadette:** Under 16 years of age and in full time second level education on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June preceding the current academic year
- (c) **Senior:** 16 years of age or over, up to under 20, and in full time second level education on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June preceding the current academic year

## 2. Registration

- 2.1 **School Affiliation** and **Team Entry Forms** must be returned to the VAI and paid in full before teams can be entered into competition draws. All competition entries must be accompanied by a **Team List** with dates of birth before the team's first match. This team list may be updated, in writing, at any time up to close of business on the day before a match. 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:

### At Junior Level

- No heading of the ball allowed
- No contacting the ball below the knee allowed

## 4. Net Height

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

## 5. Matches

- 5.1 Division A, B, C matches will be played on a league basis or by using some other system designed by the schools commission and or/it's 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

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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 The deciding set in a 3 set and a 5 set game must have a 2 point margin regardless of the scores involved.
- 5.5 For a competition to commence there must be a minimum of five teams entered.
- 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 Pool organizers do not have automatic right to a home venue.

## 6. Players

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

Junior Level to Cadette level  
Cadette Level to Senior Level

**Examples of who to play up are provided below:**

Junior Plate to Cadette A or B or C only  
Junior Cup to Cadette A or B only  
Cadette C to Senior A or B or C only  
Cadette B to Senior A or B only  
Cadette A to Senior A only

- 6.2 The Coach must notify the Schools Commission President in writing with the name of the player(s) and the movement involved.
- 6.3 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.

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## 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.

- 7.2**
- Finalists in previous years Senior Final must move up one grade in Senior Level only.
  - Finalists in previous years Cadette Final must move up one grade in both Cadette and Senior.
  - Finalists in previous years Junior Cup Final must compete in Cadette A competition the following year.
  - Finalists in previous years Junior Shield Final must compete in Cadette B competition the following year.
  - These rules apply regardless of number of players or standard of players involved, and applies to a school.
  - If a school has two teams in the same competition and the ruling applies to them, the first team must play in the higher grade and the second team can play in any grade they choose.

### **7.3 Senior Competition**

- Format of the Senior Girls Competition changed in 2010/11 season to increase the number of teams in Senior A and B. 12 teams will be placed in Senior A (amalgamating A and B) and 12 in Senior B with the remainder playing in Senior C.
- Divisional placings will be at the discretion of the competition coordinator based on schools previous history.
- Schools entering two teams to the same competition, one will play in A and one will play in B.
- New schools will be placed in Senior C.

### **7.4 Cadette Competition**

- Format of the Girls Cadette Competition changed in 2010/11 season to increase the number of teams in Cadette A and B. 12 teams will be placed in Cadette A (amalgamating A and B) and 12 in Cadette B with the remainder playing in Cadette C.
- Divisional placings will be at the discretion of the competition coordinator based on schools previous history.
- Schools with two teams in the same competition, one will play in A and one will play in B.
- New schools will be placed in Cadette C.
- In the Boys Cadette competition all teams will be involved in the same

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competition in 1<sup>st</sup> round and will then be seeded into Cup and Shield for 2<sup>nd</sup> round.

## **7.5 Junior Competition – (New Rule for 2011/12 Season)**

- Junior Competition split into a separate competition for 1<sup>st</sup> years and 2<sup>nd</sup> years.
- Only 1<sup>st</sup> year students are permitted to play in 1<sup>st</sup> year Competition.
- 1<sup>st</sup> years are permitted to play up with 2<sup>nd</sup> years in 2<sup>nd</sup> year Competition.
- Players can only play in one competition

## **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** Winner of each game must contact the VAI office and the competition coordinator with the result on the day of the match. All score sheets must be returned to the VAI office within 5 days of the match day (VAI Office, 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## **10. Protests and Disputes**

- 10.1** Any protest should be submitted, in writing, by the team coach to the Schools President.

## **11. Hall and Referees Costs**

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

## **12. Referees**

- 12.1** 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 those qualified students must not be interfered with by teachers/coaches and anyone else involved on the day. The referee can be a person acceptable to both team coaches/captains in the event of the unavailability of a referee as outlined above.

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**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
- (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.

**14.3** All rounds must be played by the deadline date set down for each competition. These dates must be adhered to. If teams cannot agree on a date before the deadline date set then the game must be played on that deadline date (D-Day). Failure by any team to play on that date will result in elimination of that team from that competition. If both teams are unavailable on that date then both teams will be eliminated.

### **15. Fines**

**15.1** Teams failing to fulfill an organized 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 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.

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### **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 fine, entry to the following year's 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.