

COMPETITION RULES

**Amended October
2020**

VOLLEYBALL IRELAND

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1. INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definitions

Calendar Year	Defined as the period from 1 January to 31 December each year.
Club	Defined as any organisation registered as a Club with Volleyball Ireland.
Club Secretary	Defined as the official Club representative/main point of contact whose main responsibilities involve liaising with Volleyball Ireland and the various Commissions on all volleyball matters.
Club Volunteer	Defined as a designated Club volunteer willing to actively serve on a Volleyball Ireland Commission or be co-opted onto the Volleyball Ireland Board for a specified time period.
Competitions & Development Commission	Defined as the body delegated by the Volleyball Ireland Board to ensure that VI sanctioned competitions are held in accordance with the Competitions Rules. This responsibility may be in turn delegated to targeted sub-committees.
FIVB	Federation Internationale de Volleyball or the International Volleyball Federation. The FIVB is the governing body responsible for all forms of volleyball on a global level.
Fixture List	Defined as the timetable of League and/or Championship/Association Cup Fixtures issued by the Competitions & Development Commission for the Season.
Forfeit	Defined as a situation where a Team fails to fulfil all its obligations for a Match and is normally reflected in a 25-0, 25-0, 25-0 loss, fine and a penalty point. Other sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the Competitions & Development Commission.
Indoor Season	Defined as the period from 1 September to 31 May each year.
Federation of Origin	Defined as the National Volleyball Federation of the country from which the player 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.
Match	Defined as a game in which two registered Teams compete against each other and for the purposes of these Rules shall mean a Match in a sanctioned Volleyball Ireland Competition.
Match Official	Means the Referee, and shall include, when appointed, the scorekeeper and any lines persons for a given Match.

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Medical Personnel	Means doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, and physical therapists who are professionally qualified and licensed to practice within the jurisdiction of Ireland permitted to be part of the authorised bench personnel as they have registered with Volleyball Ireland.
National League	Means all divisions of the indoor National League, both men and women, comprising the Premier League, Division 1 and Division 2, depending on the number of Teams competing each Indoor Season.
National Volleyball Federation	Defined as the national bodies of volleyball recognised in a country or territory to administer and govern all forms of volleyball, structured and organised.
NIVB	Defined as the Northern Ireland Volleyball Association.
Referee	Means a person who is eligible to officiate a Match having registered with Volleyball Ireland, after meeting the necessary qualification criteria.
Rules	Defined as the Volleyball Ireland Competition Rules as amended from time to time by the Volleyball Ireland Board or Commissions.
Season	Defined as the period covered by the Volleyball Ireland Calendar in any given year.
Team	Defined as the Team of a Club which has been duly entered into any Volleyball Ireland Competition(s).
Volleyball Ireland	Defined as the Volleyball Association of Ireland and shall include, for the purposes of these Rules, the Commissions and Committees of Volleyball Ireland.
Volleyball Ireland Board	Means the Board of Administration or Board of Directors of Volleyball Ireland.
Volleyball Ireland Calendar	Defined as the calendar of events notified to members at the beginning of each Season and shall include all Volleyball Ireland Competitions and Tournaments, National Squad Training/Competition dates, International Matches involving the National Squads, Volleyball Ireland Board meetings and other events recognised by the Volleyball Ireland for Volleyball Ireland Calendar purposes.
Website	Refers to www.volleyballireland.com and the Competitions Section of the website where the official Fixture Lists are displayed.

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

¹ FIVB Sports Regulations, Section II, Chapter I, Clause 1.6.2.3.

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2. VOLLEYBALL IRELAND COMPETITIONS

2.1 The Volleyball Ireland Competitions shall comprise the following:

- a) National League
- b) The Association Cup (incorporating the Association Shield)
- c) The Junior and Intermediate Championships
- d) Such other tournaments, competitions, and/or Matches as the Volleyball Ireland shall determine from time to time to be bound by these Rules.
- e) All school competitions sanctioned by Competitions & Development Commission
All beach/outdoor competitions sanctioned by the Competitions & Development Commission.

2.2 These Rules cover Volleyball Ireland Indoor Competition Rules including the National League; the Association Cup and Association Shield; the Junior and Intermediate Championships sanctioned by the Competitions & Development Commission.

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VOLLEYBALL IRELAND INDOOR COMPETITION RULES

<p>1. ENTRY TO VOLLEYBALL IRELAND INDOOR COMPETITIONS</p>	
<p>1.1 Only a Club or School registered/affiliated with Volleyball Ireland may enter Teams in a Volleyball Ireland competition.</p>	
<p>1.2 Club registration for the National League competition is by way of the lodgement of a Club Bond (one-off payment only); payment of the appropriate annual fees and completion of the annual Club Affiliation and National League Entry Form. The Club Bond is held by the Volleyball Ireland as security. As part of registration the official Club Secretary and the Club Volunteer (to be active during the league year) as outlined on the registration form, must be identified and appointed by each Club.</p>	<p>1.7 1.8 Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>1.3 Club registration for all other competitions is by way of payment of appropriate fees, completion of the Associate Club Affiliation Form (for Clubs not participating in the National League) and the relevant competition entry form.</p>	<p>1.7 1.8 9.1 10.2 Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>1.4 Fees shall be set out in the Volleyball Ireland Schedule of Fees and any amendments thereto advised to Clubs in advance.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees 11.4</p>
<p>1.5 Entry to the National League shall not be permitted unless all relevant fees and any outstanding fines have been paid and the Club Affiliation and National League Entry Form has been duly completed by the Club on behalf of its Team(s).</p>	<p>11.3</p>
<p>1.6 Any Club that has not fulfilled the obligations set out in clauses 1.1 to 1.5 above, prior to the arrangement of League fixtures for the relevant Season, can apply to the Competitions & Development Commission for a late entry (a late entry fee may apply).</p>	<p>1.7 Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>1.7 Where the Competitions & Development Commission approves a late entry a fee may be payable. Late entry is deemed to occur on the expiry of the date set by the Competitions & Development Commission for the return of the relevant Club registration form.</p>	<p>1.2 1.3 1.6 Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>1.8 Each Club must duly complete the relevant Club registration form at the time of entry. The details contained in the form are presumed to continue in force until otherwise notified to Volleyball Ireland in writing.</p>	<p>1.2 1.3</p>
<p>1.9 By registering with Volleyball Ireland each Club undertakes on its own behalf and on behalf of its members to comply and be bound by the Rules and Regulations of Volleyball Ireland (comprising the Competition Rules, the Volleyball Ireland Articles and Memorandum of Association) and the directions and decisions of Volleyball Ireland (including the judicial bodies recognised under the Irish Anti-Doping Rules).</p>	

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<p>1.10 The rules of the game of volleyball that apply to all Volleyball Ireland Competitions shall be those currently issued by the FIVB and adopted formally by the VI Board.</p>	
<p>1.11 Each Team entered in the National League should have a minimum of 8 registered players at least 3 working days before the first scheduled Match (unless explicitly excused in writing by the Competition & Development Commission). A Team shall not be allowed to compete unless it has complied with this condition and any matches cancelled for this reason would be deemed forfeit.</p>	<p>3.2 3.6</p>
<p>1.12 Players must complete their own registration on VI's GoMembership portal Club Secretary's assignment of these players to the teams in the portal signifies their approval.</p>	<p>3.1 3.2</p>
<p>1.13 Teams joining the National League will be entered into the lowest division unless the Competitions & Development Commission determines otherwise, and only upon receipt of an application.</p>	
<p>1.14 All official correspondence with Volleyball Ireland in connection with these Rules must be conducted in writing (either by letter or email), addressed from the Club Secretary to Volleyball Ireland, and marked for the attention of the Competitions & Development Commission at the following address:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Attention: Competitions & Development Commission Volleyball Ireland First Floor, 141 Thomas Street, Dublin 8. Email: info@volleyballireland.com </p>	

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2. INDOOR COMPETITION FORMAT

2.1. Competitions Structure

The Competition's structure shall be determined by the Competitions & Development Commission each Season. Volleyball Ireland shall prepare the Volleyball Ireland Calendar for the following Season, obtaining input from relevant bodies (Other Commissions, Board, etc.) and submit the proposed Volleyball Ireland Calendar for final approval to the Volleyball Ireland Board.

2.2. League Tables

League tables for all Leagues shall be compiled as follows:

Result	Points
Win 3:0	3
Win 3:1	3
Win 3:2	3
Lose 3:0	0
Lose 3:1	0
Lose 3:2	1

2.3 Competition Rankings

2.3.1 Where the League ends in a tie-break the winner and all subsequent placings will be decided based on the following formula:

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

8.1

2.3.2 This tie-break formula will be used for all other Volleyball Ireland competitions (where league tables are involved), unless stated.

2.3.3 In the event that not all matches in a competition can be played within a season the Competitions and Development Commission in conjunction with the Board and Clubs reserve the right to conclude the competition in some other manner to be determined at the appropriate time.

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<p>2.4. Team withdrawal</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>2.4.2 A Team withdrawing from the National League after the closing date for Club affiliation and League entry shall be subject to a fine. Teams withdrawing from the National League within six weeks of the date the fixtures have been issued, may be subject to a further fine. The Team may be subject to additional sanctions as determined by the Competitions & Development Commission, including but not limited to disqualification from participating in further Volleyball Ireland Competitions. All sanctions and fines will be the responsibility of the Club.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>2.4.3 Where a Team withdraws from a knockout competition (including but not limited to Association Cup, Association Shield or Championships) following the scheduling of fixtures and/or the appointment of Match Officials, such Teams shall be subject to a fine. A Team is deemed to have withdrawn from a knockout competition if they forfeit one or more matches (two or more matches in the case of the Championships) in said competition. The Team may be subject to additional sanctions as determined by the Competitions & Development Commission.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p>
<p>2.4.5 If a Team withdraws from any Volleyball Ireland Competition, it may be required to pay the reasonable expenses unavoidably incurred by Volleyball Ireland, Match Officials and/or the other affected Team(s) in preparation for the scheduled Matches which will not be played. Such matters shall be determined by the Competitions & Development Commission on an application from the Volleyball Ireland Board and/or the affected Team(s).</p>	<p>4.7</p>
<p>2.4.6 If a Team withdraws from a fixture without authorisation, this is deemed as a Forfeit and the Team is issued with a fine and in the case of a league fixture, receives one penalty point.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>

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<p>3. PLAYER REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY</p>	
<p>3.1. Only players duly registered with Volleyball Ireland may participate in Volleyball Ireland Competitions. To compete in the Premier League, players must be 14 years of age by 1 September of the year in which the league commences. For all other leagues, players must be 12 years of age by 1 September of the year in which the league commences.</p>	<p>1.12</p>
<p>3.2. Players must register with Volleyball Ireland by fully completing all sections of the relevant Player Registration Form providing transfer approval letter from the Competitions & Development Commission (if necessary) and the appropriate registration fee.</p>	<p>3.3 3.10 – Foreign (Registered) Players 1.11 1.12 3.4 3.8 9.5</p>
<p>3.3 All registered National League players will be issued with a player registration card/printout showing specific player registration number (VI/XXXX) for the relevant season once they have complied with the requirements in 3.2 and completed the Anti-Doping online assessment and upload their certificate.</p>	<p>3.2 14.1</p>
<p>3.4 All National League players must produce official proof of registration at each Volleyball Ireland Competition to be permitted to play. Players will not be permitted to play or sit on their team bench without the official license and registration number issued by Volleyball Ireland.</p>	<p>3.2 Schedule of Fees 6.4.1.3</p>
<p>3.5 Where a player participates in a set where he/she was ineligible, the points won by this Team while the illegal player was on court are cancelled. If the set has been completed, the set will be awarded to the opposing Team 25-0. If the Match is over when the error is noticed the whole Match is awarded to the opposing Team 25-0, 25-0, 25-0. The Competitions & Development Commission shall determine whether any fine or other sanctions should apply.</p>	<p>Appendix I – 3.1 Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>3.6 Following the commencement of the Season, new players, (namely players not registered with any National League Team) may register to play with a Team in a Cup/Championship competition provided it is at least 3 working days before the first Match they participate in. No new player may register for any National League competition after the last working day before 17 March of the year the league concludes unless sanctioned by the Competitions & Development Commission. A player can register for a Team playing in the Association Cup or Shield up to the semi-final stage.</p>	<p>1.11 9 10</p>
<p>3.7 All players must be eligible to play in the division in which they play.</p>	<p>3.8 3.11.3 3.12</p>
<p>3.8 A player in a Club can be re-graded downwards only when sanctioned by the Competitions & Development Commission. Written application outlining</p>	<p>3.2 3.7 3.11.3</p>

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the circumstances of the case from the Club Secretary should be included at the time of registration.	3.12.4
3.9 A player may only be registered with one Club and one National Volleyball Federation at any time.	3.10.1 3.11.1
3.10 International Player Transfer	
3.10.1 Players who have previously been registered with another National Volleyball Federation must provide evidence as required that they have (a) obtained and completed the relevant transfer documentation to enable them to register with Volleyball Ireland (the FIVB Transfer Form is 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.	FIVB Sports Regulations, Section II, Chapter I, Clause 1.6 3.2 3.9
3.10.2 Players who have lived outside Ireland and who wish to register with Volleyball Ireland and who have not previously been registered with another National Volleyball Federation must at the time of registration certify same in writing. Volleyball Ireland may, at its discretion require the player to provide evidence to this effect. This may take the form of a letter from the National Volleyball Federation in the player's Federation of Origin stating that such player is not registered with that National Volleyball Federation.	3.2
3.11 Indoor Player Transfers In and Out of Season	
3.11.1 A player must inform both National League Clubs (departing and receiving) of their wish to transfer and request a letter of release from the departing club. The departing Club must confirm or deny the release for the player within 5 working days of receipt of the written request. The player should then apply in writing to the Competitions & Development Commission via the Player Transfer Form (available on www.volleyballireland.com) attaching the written approval from the departing Club confirming his/her release and intention to transfer club. A player who has not been registered with a Club during the previous 2 seasons does not require Competitions & Development Commission approval to transfer Clubs. In the event of a dispute between the player wishing to transfer and a Club refusing to release, the player has a right to protest the refusal following the Transfer Dispute Resolution procedure.	3.9 3.11.3 Schedule of Fees Transfer Dispute Resolution Procedure - 12.3
3.11.2 The transfer will take effect on the morning of the date specified in writing by the Competitions & Development Commission to the player, the receiving Club and Volleyball Ireland. No transfer will be effective until player licence details have been updated and notification has been issued in writing.	
3.11.3 A transferred player can only play at the same level or higher at the new Club unless sanctioned by the Competitions & Development Commission.	3.7 3.8 3.11.1 3.11.4
3.11.4 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.	10.5

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3.11.5 A player may transfer from a National League Club to a Non-League Club and vice versa. The following table outlines what transfer procedures need to occur when transferring from National League Club to a Non-League Club and vice versa.

Departing Team	Receiving Team	Requirements	Restrictions
National League	National League	3.11.1	3.11.3, 3.11.4
National League	Non-League	3.11.1	3.11.4
Non-League	National League	3.11.1	3.11.3, 3.11.4
Non-League	Non-League	N/A	3.11.4

3.12 Playing Up and/or Down

3.12.1 In National League competitions only, a player aged 19 years of age or over on 1 September of the year in which the league commences 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 in any Volleyball Ireland competition. Stepping on court for a set shall constitute participation in that set for the purposes of counting the sets.

3.7
3.12.4
3.12.5
3.12.6

3.12.2 The responsibility of tracking a player playing 'up' lies with the Club and the Competitions & Development Commission cannot be held responsible for any late notification to a Club regarding a player upgrade. Where there is any doubt the Club Secretary should contact the Competitions & Development Commission for further guidance.

3.12.6

3.12.3 In National League competitions only, a player aged 18 years of age or under on 1 September of the year in which the league commences may play an unlimited number of sets for a higher division Team in their Club without affecting their own grade.

3.7

3.12.4 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.

3.7
3.8
3.12.1

3.12.5 No registered player may play down into a lower division National League Team.

3.7
3.8
3.12.1

3.12.6 If a Libero from a lower division Team is named on the scoresheet, they are deemed to have played every set in that Match unless otherwise specified on the scoresheet by the Match Officials.

3.12.1
3.12.2

4. FIXTURE PROCEDURES

4.1 The Competitions & Development Commission shall decide the dates of all Matches in Volleyball Ireland Competitions. It will also allocate the 'Home' Team. For National League fixtures, these dates and 'Home' Team designations will be sent to all Club Secretaries at least 4 weeks before the commencement of the National League.

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<p>4.2 At the start of the Indoor Season, upon issuance of fixtures by the Competitions & Development Commission, all Clubs will be given at least 1 week to finalise their home fixtures. Clubs will also be given an additional window (generally 1 week) during which time they can agree with opposing Teams (in writing) to swap home advantage or change dates as required. The Competitions & Development Commission will set a date for finalisation of home fixtures. A fine may be imposed where Clubs do not comply with these procedures. Any Matches not rescheduled during this time slot, which subsequently require rescheduling, must follow the fixture changes procedures as set out in these Rules.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees 5.1 6.1 5.1 to 5.12</p>
<p>4.3 The Competitions & Development Commission has allowed for a further window (generally 1 to 2 weeks) during the month of December to reschedule National League Matches for the second half of the season. Any Matches not rescheduled during this time slot, which subsequently require rescheduling, must follow the fixture changes procedures as set out in these Rules.</p>	<p>Calendar 5.1 to 5.12</p>
<p>4.4 Club Secretaries should ensure all details relating to home fixtures as stated on the Website (www.volleyballireland.com) are correct. This includes information relating to rescheduled fixtures. In the case of disputed fixture details, the fixtures as they appear on the Volleyball Ireland Website are the official fixtures. If a fixture alteration is approved, it does not take effect until the updated fixture is uploaded onto the Website (www.volleyballireland.com).</p>	<p>5.1 5.11 5.13</p>
<p>4.5 For all Volleyball Ireland Competitions, all Matches must be played at venues that are acceptable to the Match Officials on Match day.</p>	<p>6.3.2 6.3.3</p>
<p>4.6 Failure by the 'Home' Team to provide an acceptable 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.</p>	<p>6.3.66.4.1. 26.4.4.7 Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>4.7 A Team withdrawing 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 & Development Commission, Volleyball Ireland and the opposing Team at least 5 working days before the scheduled Match fixture. A Team withdrawing from a fixture shall forfeit the Match in question.</p> <p>Where a Team fails to fulfil a Match fixture, the Team may be required to pay a fine and the reasonable expenses unavoidably incurred by Volleyball Ireland, appointed Match Officials and/or the other affected Teams in preparation for the scheduled Match which has not been played. Such matters shall be determined by the Competitions & Development Commission on an application from Volleyball Ireland and/or the affected Teams.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees 2.4.5</p>

5. FIXTURE CHANGES

<p>5.1 It is the objective of Volleyball Ireland that no changes to the final Fixture List as it appears on the Website shall take place. However if a change is unavoidable (such assessment to be determined by the Competitions & Development Commission), then the following rules shall be enforced. Fixture changes do not take effect until the fixture details on the Website (www.volleyballireland.com) have been updated.</p>	<p>4.2 4.3 4.4</p>
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	5.12
5.2 Once the Match fixtures have been set by the Competitions & Development Commission, any changes sought must be requested in writing (using the Fixture Change Request form) for authorisation by the Competitions & Development Commission at least 10 working days prior to the scheduled fixture (save in exceptional circumstances). Obtaining agreement from an opposing Team while appreciated does not constitute or indicate authorisation and a request must be made to the Competitions & Development Commission in advance, providing the reason for the re-fixture.	4.2 4.3 5.4 5.6
5.3 In exceptional circumstances the Competitions & Development Commission may approve changes submitted less than 10 working days prior to the scheduled fixture.	5.4 5.6
5.4 Where the Competitions & Development Commission grants approval for a fixture change, the Team wishing to change a fixture date must liaise with the Club Secretary of the opposing Team (or the Team contact where the Club Secretary is unavailable), to reorganise the fixture within the timeframes designated by the Competitions & Development Commission. Once the revised fixture date has been agreed, the Home Club/Team is responsible for rescheduling the fixture and shall advise the opposing Club, Volleyball Ireland, the Competitions & Development Commission and the Match Officials (where appointed) in writing of the revised date giving a minimum of 5 working days' notice.	5.2 5.3 5.6
5.5 If an agreement cannot be reached on the revised fixture date with the opposing Team within 5 working days of the authorisation of the Competitions & Development Commission, the applying Team will notify the Competitions & Development Commission. In such a case, the Competitions & Development Commission may decide on a date for re-fixture.	
5.6 No re-scheduled fixture may extend beyond the relevant Volleyball Ireland competition unless prior approval has been received in writing from the Competitions & Development Commission. Note that catch-up weekends are allocated on the calendar and these form part of the league season, teams must be available to play on these weekends when alternative re-fixture dates are unsuitable.	5.2 5.3 5.4
5.7 Where a Team is granted a fixture change an administrative fee and any reasonable expenses (as determined by the Competitions & Development Commission) unavoidably incurred by Volleyball Ireland, Match Officials and/or the other affected Teams must be borne by the Club requesting the change.	Schedule of Fees
5.8 A change of fixture shall be granted by the Competitions & Development Commission where one or more players/Coaches 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 International Club Championship.	5.9
5.9 In relation to 5.8, notice must be given in writing to the Competitions & Development Commission by the Team requesting the fixture change at least 20 working days before the scheduled fixture (save in exceptional circumstances). This must be accompanied by a signed and dated letter from	5.8

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<p>the relevant National Team Coach or Club Secretary confirming that the players are required by the National Team or Club Team on the date/period in question.</p>	
<p>5.10 In the event that either Team deems the weather or other conditions too dangerous to travel to a Match and an the appropriate national authority has issued a travel/safety warning, the opposing team and match officials should be informed. The Match should be postponed, and details sent to the Competitions & Development Commission to review, including a copy of the official advice. If it is subsequently deemed that there was no travel/safety issue, the Team refusing to travel shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Match without authorisation and will forfeit the Match.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>5.11 A change in the time of a Match where the date remains the same does not constitute a change of fixture. However, for such a change to be recorded; the Team making the change must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Have written agreement from the opposing Club and appointed officials (where applicable) b) Have ensured that the new time has been correctly recorded on the Website. 	<p>4.4 5.13</p>

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<p>6. MATCH PROCEDURES</p>	
<p>6.1 All Matches shall start between 11am (10:30am warm-up) and 6pm (5:30pm warm-up) at the weekend (Saturday or Sunday) unless agreed in writing in advance with the opposing Team.</p>	4.2
<p>6.2 Clubs should book a minimum of 2 hours playing time plus 30 minutes warm-up for each Premier and Division 1 Match and 1 hour 30 minutes playing time plus 30 minutes warm-up for Division 2. Matches abandoned due to the hall closing are deemed to be a failure to fulfil a Match fixture and will be forfeit by the 'Home' Team unless the minimum time was booked as outlined above.</p>	Schedule of Fees
<p>6.3 'Home' Team Responsibilities</p> <p>The 'Home' Team, or in the case of a 'neutral venue', the 'designated Home' Team (unless otherwise stated) is responsible on Match day for the following actions:</p>	
<p>6.3.1 To set up the equipment and venue prior to the official warm-up time before the first Match in that venue.</p>	
<p>6.3.2 To ensure that a Volleyball Ireland approved Match ball, net system (with appropriate height as specified in FIVB Rules), appropriately marked court, official scoresheet, scoreboard, rotation slips, Team benches, scorekeeper's table, referees stand, and antennae (mandatory for all National League and Association Cup Matches) are available in the venue at set-up time. In cases of doubt, the First Referee's decision as to the suitability of the equipment shall be final.</p>	4.5 6.4.1.2
<p>6.3.3 To ensure that the venue is sufficiently clean, heated, and safe and that all equipment is in place to commence the warm-up so that the Match can start at the scheduled time. The First Referee's decision on these matters is final.</p>	4.5 6.4.1.2
<p>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.</p>	
<p>6.3.5 It is the responsibility of the 'Home' Team to provide all Match Officials. A competent scorekeeper is mandatory and an assistant scorekeeper and/or lines people are optional.</p>	6.4.4.4 Schedule of Fees
<p>6.3.6 The failure of the 'Home' Team or 'designated Home' Team to adhere to the above rules is subject to sanction as determined by the Competitions and Development Commission.</p>	Schedule of Fees 4.6 6.4.1.2

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<p>6.4 Match Day Procedures</p>	
<p>6.4.1 Pre-Match</p>	
<p>6.4.1.1 Teams and Match officials should arrive and prepare to start at least 30 minutes before the Match start time.</p>	
<p>6.4.1.2 Should the First Referee declare the equipment or venue unsuitable for play (including not Covid protocol compliant) the First Referee shall advise Volleyball Ireland and the Competitions & Development Commission in writing of the reasons for his/her decision within 5 working days. The Competitions & Development Commission shall decide within 10 working days of receipt of the Referee’s written notification, whether the Match(es) shall be forfeit or replayed and decide who shall bear the reasonable associated costs.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p> <p>4.6</p> <p>6.3.2</p> <p>6.3.3</p> <p>6.3.6</p>
<p>6.4.1.3 The Referees must check the registration cards/printouts showing specific registration number (VI/XXXX) of the coaches, players and documentation for medical personnel. They must also check the regulation kit, the venue, and the sufficiency of Match Officials. Referees have the right to ask for alternative photo ID as proof of name and surname of player, coach or medical personnel.</p>	<p>3.4</p> <p>6.4.1.4</p> <p>6.4.1.5</p>
<p>6.4.1.4 Coaches will not be allowed to coach if they are not registered as a coach with Volleyball Ireland. No coach can be deemed registered until all criteria has been fulfilled. Coaches who coach juniors must be Garda Vetted and complete a Safeguarding 1 course as required by Volleyball Ireland. Coaches who only coach adults are not required to complete Garda Vetting and Safe Guarding 1. Coaches who do not have their coaching licence present are not permitted to coach. Where a coach participates in a Match where he/she was ineligible, the Match shall be awarded to the opposition as a Forfeit with the offending Team receiving a penalty point and a fine shall be imposed. The Competitions & Development Commission shall determine in the first instance if any other sanctions apply.</p>	<p>6.4.1.3</p> <p>Schedule of Fees</p> <p>Appendix I – 2.2, 3.1</p>
<p>6.4.1.5 With reference to FIVB rule 4.1.1 Volleyball Ireland matches are not deemed to be “FIVB, World and Official competitions for Seniors” therefore</p> <p>For the match, a team may consist of up to 12 players, plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Coaching Staff: one coach, a maximum of two assistant coaches, – Medical Staff: one team therapist and one medical doctor. <p>Only those listed on the score sheet may normally enter the Competition/ Control Area and take part in the official warm up and in the match.</p>	
<p>6.4.1.6 Medical personnel will not be allowed to sit on the bench if they not been granted permission by Volleyball Ireland. Medical Personnel who do not have their documentation present may sit on the bench but may be subject to a fine. The Referee should note this on the scoresheet. The</p>	<p>6.4.1.3</p> <p>13</p>

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Competitions & Development Commission shall determine in the first instance if any other sanctions should apply.	Schedule of Fees
6.4.1.7 In all Matches the Referee shall ensure that, while normal warm-up times and breaks are permitted 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 officiating or playing), a maximum of 15 minutes extra time may be requested before the official Match protocol begins. The decision is at the Referee's discretion.	
6.4.1.8 A Team failing to appear on court to play when the Referee calls the first 6 players on court shall forfeit the first set, 25-0.	
6.4.1.9 A Team failing to appear on court ready to play within 15 minutes of the Referee calling the first 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.	6.4.4.7 Schedule of Fees
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 backup officials or the Match officials the home Team shall pay except for where the Match Officials are appointed by Volleyball Ireland. Any application under this section must be made to the Competitions and Development Commission.	Schedule of Fees

6.4.2 Post-Match	
6.4.2.1 If a dispute arises during the Match and a Team captain wants to have a comment or objection noted on the scoresheet, he/she must inform the Referee of same when the incident occurred. The First Referee will enter a short note about the incident on the scoresheet at the conclusion of the Match. The Team captain through their Club Secretary must submit a written report to Volleyball Ireland within 10 working days if they wish any action to be taken. Failure by the Referee or scorekeeper to enter a note onto the scoresheet shall not prevent the Referee from later giving a report to the Volleyball Ireland in respect of the incident.	6.4.4.7
6.4.2.2 Where the First 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.	Schedule of Fees 6.4.4.7
6.4.2.3 It is the First Referee's responsibility to hand out the scoresheets to the Teams at the end of the Match. It is the responsibility of the Teams to ensure that they have received the appropriate scoresheet(s).	
6.4.2.4 After a Match fixture:	
a) The winning Team shall be responsible for notifying the result of the Match to Volleyball Ireland (by emailing a photo of the scoresheet to scoresheet@volleyballireland.com and WhatsApp to 0858725946) before 10pm on the day the match takes place. Failure to inform on time will result in a fine being imposed.	

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<p>b) The winning Team shall be responsible for the return of the original scoresheet to Volleyball Ireland at or before 4pm on the 4th working day (usually a Thursday) after the Match takes place. Failure to return the scoresheet on time will result in a fine being imposed. A Team liable for 3 fines will, in addition, have a penalty point imposed.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>6.4.2.5 Referee fees for every Match at which he/she officiates shall paid by the Home Team. Referee's expenses are paid by the Home Team.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>6.4.2.6 A Team reduced to less than 6 players during a 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.</p>	
<p>6.4.2.7 If a Team wishes to make a complaint which is not a protest (see Section 12 for Protest Procedures) they must submit their complaint via their Club Secretary using the appropriate official form which is available from Volleyball Ireland.</p>	<p>Section 12</p>

<p>6.4.3 Irregular kit</p>	
<p>6.4.3.1 Volleyball Ireland permits players to wear skin-tight undershirts beneath their jerseys with the permission of the match Referee. These must be uniform between players of the same team i.e. under clothing tops worn by players of team A must all be the same colour and not deviate significantly in style or design from the team jerseys. Black, white or neutral colours should be selected. Leggings or full leg coverings are NOT permitted except with prior written clearance from Volleyball Ireland. In the case that leggings are required for medical reasons a medical certificate stating that the player requires full leg covering must be sent to the Competitions and Development Commission in advance and also retained to show to match Referee by the team captain/coach prior to each match. Notwithstanding these restrictions players may wear compression pads (padded injury protection) at the discretion of the match Referee.</p>	<p>FIVB Rules 4.3.3</p>
<p>6.4.3.2 A player playing in the Premier League may play in irregular shorts, but this must be noted by the Referee on the scoresheet and a fine per offending player shall be incurred.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>6.4.3.3 Irregular shorts are not permitted in the Association Cup.</p>	<p>Section 9</p>
<p>6.4.3.4 Lower division Teams are permitted to wear irregular shorts without penalty.</p>	
<p>6.4.3.5 No player shall be permitted to play without a numbered 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). Jersey numbers must be between 1 and 20 inclusive as per FIVB Rule 4.3.3). Shorts must be uniform in style and colour but are not required to be numbered</p>	
<p>6.4.4 Refereeing</p>	
<p>6.4.4.1 All Clubs must have one qualified, active, registered Referee per team. Referees will be defined as active if they officiate (as First or Second Referee) more than 5 Matches at their grade across all Volleyball Ireland competitions during the Calendar Year in addition to attending a VI Hosted</p>	<p>6.4.4.2 6.4.4.4</p>

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<p>referees refresher course once every 3 years. These competitions include Irish Schools, Third Level/Colleges, National League, Association Cup, Championship, Mixed Recreational and other VI tournaments. Referees who officiate matches for a Club, which is not their own affiliated Club can count such matches double.. Failure to officiate more than 5 matches in any one season may result in re-grading and/or re-assessment. Volleyball Ireland will review this on a case by case basis.</p>													
<p>6.4.4.2 Any Team with a non-playing and non-coaching active Referee registered with the Club may apply to Volleyball Ireland for an exemption from rule 6.4.4.1. In this case, 1 non-playing and non-coaching Referee can cover for 2 Teams. The exemption can only be applied for if the relevant Referee has officiated (as First or Second Referee) a minimum of 10 competitive Matches across all Volleyball Ireland Competitions in the previous Calendar Year and is up to date with refresher course attendance. Applications for exceptions must be submitted to Volleyball Ireland in writing when said Referee is registering. Each application will be dealt with on a case by case basis.</p>	<p>6.4.4.1 6.4.4.3 6.4.4.4</p>												
<p>6.4.4.3 Where a Club is granted an exemption on the basis of 6.4.4.2, it is expected that its non-playing and non-coaching Referee will make himself/herself available to officiate a minimum of 10 Matches in the coming Calendar Year. Failure to officiate this number of Matches may result in the exemption not being granted in the following/subsequent registration period.</p>	<p>6.4.4.2 6.4.4.4</p>												
<p>6.4.4.4 If a Club does not have sufficient active Referees (as defined by 6.4.4.1 or 6.4.4.3) for 1 Calendar Year, it may be subject to a fine.</p>	<p>6.4.4.1 6.4.4.2 6.4.4.3 Schedule of Fees</p>												
<p>6.4.4.5 It is the responsibility of the Home Club to find and appoint appropriately graded registered Referees. Home Teams must notify Volleyball Ireland by email of their Referee appointments 3 working days before the fixture.</p>	<p>6.3.5 6.4.4.6</p>												
<p>6.4.4.6 Appropriately qualified Referees depends on the division that the Match takes place. The minimum grading of Referees acceptable to each division is as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="331 1579 1163 1733"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>1st Mandatory</th> <th>2nd Mandatory</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Premier</td> <td>G1 or above</td> <td>G2 or above</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Division</td> <td>G2 or above</td> <td>G3 or above</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second Division</td> <td>G3 or above</td> <td>G3 or above</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>N.B. A National Grade Referee has authority to permit a lower Grade Referee (one grade lower than the required match level only) officiate under their supervision. The National Grade Referee must arrange with the Home team to have the lower grade referee appointed as per rule 6.4.4.5. This is intended to put more value on the status of National Grade Referees and to encourage the opportunity for us to develop, mentor and coach Referees under their guidance and supervision in a competitive match environment.</p>		1 st Mandatory	2 nd Mandatory	Premier	G1 or above	G2 or above	First Division	G2 or above	G3 or above	Second Division	G3 or above	G3 or above	<p>6.4.4.5 6.4.4.7</p>
	1 st Mandatory	2 nd Mandatory											
Premier	G1 or above	G2 or above											
First Division	G2 or above	G3 or above											
Second Division	G3 or above	G3 or above											

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<p>6.4.4.7 If the Home Club is unable to find a suitably graded registered Referee for one of the Home Teams after exhausting all options, the Home Club must notify the Competitions and Development Commission a minimum of 3 working days prior to the fixture with the background of who has been contacted, who is unavailable and a proposed alternative lower grade Referee who is available and willing to officiate. If Volleyball Ireland is unable to find a suitably graded Referee Volleyball Ireland may permit an exception to be made and a Referee of a lower grade to be permitted to officiate the Match. Both Teams should be informed of this in advance once approved.</p>	<p>6.4.4.5</p>
<p>6.4.4.8 Where a Referee issues a card, records an objection on the scoresheet or the Match is forfeit, he/she must notify the Volleyball Ireland within 3 working days.</p>	<p>4.6 6.4.1.8 6.4.2.1 6.4.2.2</p>

<h2>7. COMPETITION WINNERS</h2>	
<p>7.1 Trophies and/or medals shall be presented to the winners of each League, Championship, and Cup Competition (incorporating Shield).</p>	
<p>7.2 The winning Teams in the Premier League may be nominated by Volleyball Ireland to participate in a suitable International tournament or competition. Entry to such tournament or competition shall be a matter for discussion and agreement between Volleyball Ireland and the respective successful Club.</p>	
<p>7.3 Perpetual trophies must be engraved at the winning Team/Club's expense. Trophies must be returned to Volleyball Ireland clean, engraved and in good condition by 17 March of the following Season. Failure to comply will result in a fine.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>7.4 Should a perpetual trophy be damaged or lost while under the care or custody of a Club, the Club responsible will be required to meet the cost of repair or replacement.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>7.5 All-Star Awards are presented to the 7 best players from each position in the Premier League for both men and women. The format of voting is at the discretion of the Competitions & Development Commission. Only Premier graded players who have played a minimum number of sets (as determined by the Competitions & Development Commission) during the Season are eligible to be selected for these awards. An annual All-Star Match may be played. All-Star winners are expected to make themselves available for this event.</p>	

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<p>8. PROMOTION & RELEGATION</p>	
<p>8.1 Promotion and Relegation</p>	
<p>8.1.1 National League placings will be decided using the tie-break formula in 2.3.1.</p>	2.3.1
<p>8.1.2 In the event that divisions in the National League contain 8 Teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The highest placed Team is promoted (except in the top division); ii) The lowest placed Team is relegated (except in the lowest division); iii) There is a playoff between the 7th placed Team in the higher division and the 2nd placed Team in the lower division with the winner playing in the higher division the following season; iv) A Team can refuse to be promoted only if the Club they belong to also has a Team in the higher division. This exemption cannot be invoked by any Team two years in a row. 	8.1.5
<p>8.1.3 In the event that divisions in the National League contain less than 8 Teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The highest placed Team is promoted (except in the top division); ii) The lowest placed Team is relegated subject to there being balance in the division's composition as determined by the Competitions & Development Commission; iii) There is a playoff between the next lowest placed Team in the higher division, based on the decision in ii), and the 2nd placed Team in the lower division with the winner playing in the higher division the following season. 	8.1.4 8.1.5
<p>8.1.4 In the event that there is an insufficient number of Teams to fill any division of the National League, the final distribution of Teams between the divisions is at the discretion of the Competitions & Development Commission.</p>	8.1.3 8.1.4 8.1.5
<p>8.1.5 In the event of a promoted Team withdrawing from the National League (not accepting a promotion is deemed to be a withdrawal from the National League), the promotion will be offered in the following order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. If the second lowest placed Team in the higher division lost the play-off and were relegated it is offered a place first, ii. then, the lower division Team placing third in the division. <p>The final decision regarding the placings is at the discretion of the Competitions & Development Commission.</p>	8.1.2 8.1.3 8.1.4 8.1.5
<p>9. ASSOCIATION CUP</p>	
<p>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.</p>	Schedule of Fees 1.3

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<p>9.2 Association Cup Matches will be played in accordance with the Competition Rules outlined in Sections 1 to 7.</p>	<p>Sections 1-7</p>
<p>9.3 Each Team competing will be required to register a Team list, on the appropriate entry form, which should be sent to Volleyball Ireland no later than 5 working days before the first Match.</p>	<p>9.1</p>
<p>9.4 Any addition to a Team list must be notified in writing to Volleyball Ireland at least 3 working 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. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all Team lists are up to date and Volleyball Ireland has the most up to date list.</p>	<p>3.6</p>
<p>9.5 A Team may comprise of any players registered with that Club provided that they are in possession of a valid Volleyball Ireland player registration card/printout showing specific player registration number (VI/XXXX)and have been allocated to a Team.</p>	<p>3.2</p>
<p>9.6 A Shield Competition will take place and the format will be determined at the discretion of the Competitions & Development Commission.</p>	

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10. JUNIOR & INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	
10.1 Junior and Intermediate Matches will be played in accordance with the Competition Rules outlined in Sections 1 to 7.	Sections 1-7
10.2 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.	Schedule of Fees 1.3
10.3 Each Team competing will be required to register a Team list, on the appropriate form, to be sent to Volleyball Ireland no later than 5 working days before the first Match.	
10.4 Any addition to a Team list must be notified in writing to the Volleyball Ireland at least 3 working days (except in exceptional circumstances) before the first Match. If the additional player has not been previously registered, all relevant registration forms and documentation must be completed before the player is eligible to participate in the tournament.	3.6
10.5 Players may only play with the Club they are registered with. If a player wishes to play with a different Club/Team in the Championships, then he/she must complete the Player Transfer protocol and obtain approval in writing from Volleyball Ireland before the Championships commences. The Player is then ineligible to play in any future National League or Association Cup Fixture with his/her former Club.	3.11.7

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11. SANCTIONS, FINES AND PENALTIES	
11.1 The Competitions & Development Commission must, as soon as reasonably practicable, investigate every alleged breach of the Rules of which it has knowledge. Following such investigation, it shall take appropriate action.	
11.2 The Competitions & Development 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 Section of the Rules, and the penalties and fines set out in these Rules. All fines may be increased upon failure to pay by the specified dates or where there are repeat/aggravating offences.	Schedule of Fees 1.4
11.3 The Competitions & Development Commission shall exclude from a Season's competition any Team failing to pay outstanding fines or penalties. All fines must be paid before the end of the Season in which they were imposed. No Club with outstanding fines shall be permitted to register for the following Season until payment of all amounts due is made.	1.5
11.4 Penalties will take effect and fines are payable immediately within 7 days 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.	
11.5 Sanctions relating to disciplinary action against players, Teams, coaches, medical personnel are covered in Appendix I of these Rules. Clubs must be familiar with these sanctions and the implications thereof.	Appendix I 1 to 5

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12. PROTEST PROCEDURES

Note:

- All Protests must be submitted on the appropriate Volleyball Ireland protest form (along with the relevant Protest Deposit) which can be obtained from Volleyball Ireland;
- All protests should be submitted to info@volleyballireland.ie and they will be directed from there to the correct commission or governing body.
- If the Competitions & Development Commission believes that it is beyond their scope to deal with a matter; they may refer it to the VI Board.

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:

- i) The Indoor Competition Rules or the interpretation of the Competition Rules;
- ii) A refereeing matter;
- iii) A matter not covered by the Competitions or Refereeing Rules, or their interpretation, the following procedures shall apply:
 - a) A Team must make the protest through its Club Secretary or Club President;
 - b) The protest must be lodged in writing on the official protest form (available from Volleyball Ireland) and emailed to info@volleyballireland.com.
 - c) Volleyball Ireland will forward to the necessary Commission. Upon receipt and acceptance of the protest, that Commission will notify all relevant parties including the opposing Club;
 - d) The protest must be received **no later than 5 working days** after the incident. Payment must be made online Volleyball Ireland by this deadline.

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12.1.2 The relevant Commission shall acknowledge receipt of the protest, in writing, **within 5 working days** 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 The relevant Commission will select a Protest Committee which will convene to decide on the matter **within 10 working days** of the acknowledgement of the protest. This Committee shall constitute at least three members, one of whom shall be nominated to act as chairperson.

12.1.4 Members of the Protest Committee shall not have had prior personal involvement with the relevant case and must declare this before taking part in the decision process. If there are insufficient 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 VI Board. All Committee members must be familiar with the relevant Rules they are adjudicating on.

12.1.5 The decision of the 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. The decision and the minutes of the Protest Committee

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<p>meeting will be sent by the Chairperson to the Commission from which the protest originated and to Volleyball Ireland for record.</p>	
<p>12.1.6 All parties will be informed by the relevant Commission, in writing, of the decision of the Competitions Protest Committee within 5 working days of the decision. This communication will be copied to all relevant Commissions and Volleyball Ireland .</p>	
<p>12.1.7 The Protest Deposit will be returned if the protest is successful. It is forfeited otherwise.</p>	
<p>12.1.8 Any sanction/penalty imposed (or reversed) by the Protest Committee shall not, ordinarily, take effect until the period allowed for an appeal has elapsed or the appeal has been determined.</p>	
<p>12.1.9 A decision made by the Protest Committee can be appealed once.</p>	12.2
<p>12.2. Appealing a decision made by the Protest Committee</p>	
<p>12.2.1 If a Club or Team wishes to appeal a decision made by a Protest Committee (or the Competitions and Development Commission, in the case of a transfer dispute per Section 12.3), the following procedures shall apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A Team must make the appeal through its Club Secretary or Club President; b) The appeal must be lodged in writing on the official appeal request form (available from Volleyball Ireland) to Volleyball Ireland . 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 no later than 5 working days after notification of the decision by the Protest Committee was issued to the Club Secretary/President. It must be accompanied by payment of the Appeal Deposit. d) The Volleyball Ireland Board shall acknowledge receipt of the appeal, in writing, within 5 working days 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. 	<p>12.1 12.3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>12.2.2 The Volleyball Ireland Board shall appoint the members of the relevant Technical Committee upon receipt of an appeal. This committee shall constitute at least three members, one of whom shall be appointed as Chairperson. No person who was part of the Protest Committee (or the Competitions & Development Commission, in the case of a transfer dispute) who made the decision being appealed may be part of the Technical Committee. All Committee members must be familiar with the relevant Rules they are adjudicating on.</p>	
<p>12.2.3 The Technical Committee shall be appointed within 10 working days of the acknowledgement of the appeal and finalise their decision within a further 10 working days in accordance with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Determine how the appeal/hearing will be conducted e.g. by correspondence, by way of a hearing etc. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) It shall be entitled to request such further information as it considers necessary; c) It shall be entitled at its discretion to rehear the whole or any part of the evidence given before the Protest Committee (or the Competitions & Development Commission, in the case of a transfer dispute), as it considers appropriate. 	
<p>12.2.4 Members of the Technical Committee shall not have had any personal involvement with the relevant case and must declare this before taking part in the decision process. If there are insufficient 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 VI Board.</p>	
<p>12.2.5 The Chairperson of the 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 VI Board.</p>	
<p>12.2.6 General Procedures relating to proceedings of the Technical Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	
<p>12.2.7 The Technical Committee shall have the power to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Allow or re-affirm, or dismiss the appeal; b) Vary the decision in such a manner as it sees fit (including the power to reduce, uphold, increase or cancel any penalty). 	
<p>12.2.8 The decision of the Technical Committee shall be made by a majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson of the Technical Committee shall have a casting vote. The decision and the minutes of the Technical Committee meeting will be sent by the Chairperson to the Volleyball Ireland Board and stored centrally by Volleyball Ireland.</p>	
<p>12.2.9 All parties will be informed, in writing, within 5 working days of the decision of the Technical Committee this communication will be copied to all parties and stored centrally by Volleyball Ireland.</p>	
<p>12.2.10 The Appeal Deposit will be returned if the Appeal is successful. It is forfeited otherwise.</p>	
<p>12.2.11 A decision made by the Technical Committee is final and cannot be appealed.</p>	
<p>12.3 Transfer Dispute Resolution</p>	3.11.1
<p>12.3.1 If a player wishes to lodge a protest relating to their transfer which is being blocked by the releasing Club the player may deal directly with the Competitions & Development Commission (as the player cannot operate through his/her departing or receiving Club Secretary at this stage).</p>	

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<p>12.3.2 Details of the dispute must be lodged in writing to the Competitions & Development Commission (with accompanying Protest/Dispute Deposit payment) with a copy to Volleyball Ireland before the case may be considered.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>12.3.3 The Competitions & Development Commission shall acknowledge receipt of the case, in writing, as soon as is practicably possible, and shall provide all parties concerned with details of the case in question and afford all parties a reasonable opportunity to make representations and present their case. For example, the departing Club may be asked to provide evidence that the player owes monies to the Club or the player may be asked to provide evidence that they have paid all monies to the departing Club.</p>	
<p>12.3.4 All parties will be informed, in writing, of the decision to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) overrule the Club and allow the transfer, or; b) concur with the Club's decision to block the transfer. <p>This communication shall be provided within 5 working days and will be circulated to the player, the departing Club, the receiving Club and Volleyball Ireland. Minutes of all meetings in the decision process will be provided to Volleyball Ireland .</p>	
<p>12.3.5 This decision can be appealed in accordance with the procedures outlined in 12.2.</p>	<p>12.2</p>
<p>12.3.6 The Deposit will be returned if the dispute is upheld. It is forfeited otherwise.</p>	

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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 providing they have confirmation to do so in writing from Volleyball Ireland.	
13.2 Applications should be submitted to Volleyball Ireland together with a copy of the individual's relevant certificate of qualification. All Medical Personnel shall be registered with and/or represent a Club.	
13.3 The Referee is entitled to request that Medical Personnel produce their valid documentation prior to entry into the playing enclosure as part of the authorised bench personnel.	Schedule of Fees
13.4 Rules regarding Medical Personnel on Match day are contained in 6.4.1.5.	6.4.1.5
13.5 Only two Medical Person (Medical Staff: one team therapist and one medical doctor) is permitted per Team as authorised bench personnel.	4.1.1 FIVB Rules
14. ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS	
14.1 Volleyball Ireland condemns the use of prohibited substances and prohibited doping methods in volleyball and has adopted the Irish Anti-Doping Rules. The Irish Anti-Doping Rules form part of the Volleyball Ireland Competition Rules and apply to all persons with membership of Volleyball Ireland.	3.3 Irish Anti-Doping Rules
14.2 Any breach of the Irish Anti-Doping Rules shall be governed in accordance with the provisions set out therein.	Irish Anti-Doping Rules
15. CODE OF CONDUCT	
15.1 All Clubs, Teams, players, and supporters must ensure that they will not deliberately bring the game of volleyball into disrepute by any willful action.	Appendix I – 4.1

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Appendix I – Player/Team/Coach/Medical Personnel Disciplinary Action

1. Sanction Scale

1.1 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 Ireland Competition:

Note: any point awarded against a player or other personnel, also counts towards the Team cumulative points total.

Sanction	Points	In-game consequence
Yellow Card	2.5 disciplinary points	None
Red Card	10 disciplinary points	A point and service to the opposition
Red and Yellow Card jointly (Expulsion)	15 disciplinary points	The player leaves the court for the rest of the Set
Red Card and yellow card separately (Disqualification)	20 disciplinary points	The player leaves the court for the rest of the Match

2. Penalties

2.1 The following penalties will apply where disciplinary points are accumulated:

Players, Coaches & Medical Personnel:

Cumulative points in-season	Penalty
<15 disciplinary points	None
≥15 disciplinary points (except disqualification)	1 Match suspension
≥15 disciplinary points due to disqualification	2 Match suspension

3.1

After a Penalty is applied, the points are reduced by 15.

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<u>Teams</u>		Schedule of Fees
Cumulative points in-season	Penalty	
20	Fine	
40	Fine	
50	League Penalty Point	
60	Fine	
80	Fine	
100	2 League Penalty Points + Fine	
For accumulated penalty points over 100, Volleyball Ireland will review the situation and apply appropriate penalties on a case by case basis.		
2.2 A coach or player or any 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.		3.1 Section A - 6.4.1.4, 6.4.1.5

3. Match Suspensions		
<p>3.1 Suspensions apply to the next match or matches in all competitions organised by Volleyball Ireland. It is the responsibility of the Team to monitor points accumulated by each player on its Team and to take the necessary actions. All Matches in which a suspended Team member participates will be forfeited. Disciplinary points are erased when the stipulated suspension is served, this will be kept on record.</p> <p><i>For example if a player is disqualified in a league match on a Saturday and has an Association Cup match on the Sunday, they cannot play in the Association Cup match.</i></p>	2.1 2.2 Section A - 3.5, 6.4.1.4	Schedule of Fees
<p>3.2 Suspensions will be confirmed to the Club Secretary, player and coach of the relevant Team by the Competitions & Development Commission in due course. Ignorance of the rule or number of disciplinary points against a Team/player will not be an acceptable excuse for playing a suspended player or for a coach or medical personnel sitting on the bench. Any Team requiring clarification of the status of a player or Team staff in this regard, can seek clarification by contacting Volleyball Ireland in writing.</p>	5.1	
<p>3.3 Disciplinary points shall not carry forward from one Indoor Season (deemed to include the League, Championship and Association Cup) to the next. However if a Team member/coach/medical personnel has to serve suspension(s) and there is no opportunity for them to do so in</p>		

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<p>the current Indoor Season then such a suspension will be served in the next available Match in the following Indoor Season.</p>	
<p>3.4 Team members/coaches or medical personnel who aggregate 40 disciplinary points during an Indoor Season will have their cases reviewed by Volleyball Ireland. Volleyball Ireland may require them and their Club Secretary to attend a disciplinary meeting with representatives from Volleyball Ireland.</p>	
<p>4. Misconduct</p>	
<p>4.1 A player, 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 Volleyball Ireland in the first instance who may refer the matter to the VI Board.</p>	<p>Section A – 15.1</p>
<p>5. Responsibilities</p>	
<p>5.1 Volleyball Ireland will inform the Club Secretary in the cases when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A player/coach/medical personnel accumulates 10 points or is suspended, b) A Team accumulates 20 points and so on. <p>Lack/delay of these updates from Volleyball Ireland is not an excuse to not self-apply the penalties by the club. If a player accumulates enough points for sanctions the penalties still apply.</p>	<p>3.2</p>
<p>5.2</p>	
<p>5.3 Volleyball Ireland will inform relevant parties of any active suspensions by email.</p>	
<p>5.4 A table of disciplinary points will be held and maintained by Volleyball Ireland and a copy held by Volleyball Ireland.</p>	

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Appendix II – Irish Anti-Doping Rules

Refer to Separate Document

See also the Sport Ireland website which also provides guidelines to the Irish Anti-Doping Rules at: www.sportireland.ie