

School Competition Rules 2023-2024

1. Age Groups

- (a) Junior Championship: All students in 1st and 2nd year in full time second level education
- (b) U16 Championship: Under 16 years of age and in full time second level education on the 1 June preceding the current academic year
- (c) Senior Championship: 16 years of age or over, up to under 20, and in full time second level education on the 1 June preceding the current academic year
- (d) 4v4 volleyball: 1st and 2nd year separate competitions
- (f) Schools Cup: Open to all ages
- (G) Beach Volleyball Championships: Open to all ages

2. Registration

- 2.1 School Affiliation must be completed online at Go membership 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 to cdo@volleyballireland.com. 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 VI, subject to the following exception:

At Junior Level

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

4. **Net Height**

Senior Girls	2.24m	Senior Boys	2.43m
U16 Girls	2.24m	U16 Boys	2.35m
Junior Girls A & B	2.24m	Junior Boys	2.24m
Junior Girls C & D	210cm		

5. **5. Matches**

- 5.1 All matches will be played on a league basis or by using some other system designed by the school's commission and or/it's President.
- 5.2 All matches are the best of 3 sets except Senior A Final (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 that won in the head to head
For three teams on the same points:
(a) The winner is the team with the set difference
(b) If set difference is the same, then the winner is decided using sets
for
- 5.7 Pool organizers do not have automatic right to a home venue.

6. Players

- 6.1 A maximum of two players may only play up a level in A division teams. For all other divisions unlimited juniors can play up in U16 competition and U16 to senior.
- 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
- 6.4 Players can not play in multiple teams at their own age level.

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 U16 and Senior.

Finalists in previous years Junior B Final must compete in U16 A 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. A request can be made to the commission to have both teams play in the same league if it's A division

7.3 Senior Competition

Senior A Competitions: 8 teams will be placed in Senior A Girls. Girl's comp will have 3 Blitzes.

B & C divisions will be created after the number of team entries is finalised. Competitions run in pools regional and expand until national Finalists are determined.. **C Division in Senior and 16U is for beginner only. Schools with any players that have prior volleyball experience should contact the coordinator and will be moved up to B division.**

Divisional placings will be at the discretion of the Competition Coordinator based on school's previous history. New schools will be placed in Senior C unless they have volleyball players which are club experience. For B/C competition – if B team pulls out then C team is bumped up to B Competition.

8 teams will be placed in Senior A Boys similar to Girl's format

7.4

U16 Competition

U16 A Girls will be played in league format (as Senior A competition).

In the Girls Competition 8 teams will be placed in U16 A. B & C divisions will be created after the number of team entries is finalised. Competitions run in pools regional and expand until national Finalists are determined. **C Division in senior and 16U is for beginner only. Schools with any players that have prior volleyball experience should contact the coordinator and will be moved up to B division.**

Divisional placings will be at the discretion of the competition coordinator based on schools' previous history.

For B/C competition – if B team pulls out then C team is bumped up to B Competition.

In the Boys A Division will contain 8 teams. The rest will take part in B championship.

7.5

Junior Competition

The junior competition will be seeded into the geographically closest pools of 4. After round 1 completion all top teams will be seeded into Girls A-D and Boys A- B (dependent on team entries). **The lowest division is for beginners only and any schools will clubs players or players with volleyball experience should notify the competition coordinator Conor cdo@volleyballireland.com to be moved up a division**

4v4 Volleyball

will be a development category with teams playing one large regional blitz day for 1st years and one large blitz day for 2nd years pre-Christmas.

Beach Volleyball Championships

Beach volleyball was successfully added to the school calendar in 2021-22 season. Events on east and west coasts will be coordinated for any age of student to compete.

Schools Cup

The schools Cup is open to all ages of players to compete. The competition also pits teams from all division against each other.

8 Uniform

- 8.1 All teams must be neatly dressed in 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 VLY office and the competition coordinator - Conor 0870997659 with the result on the day of the match. A picture of the scoresheet should be sent to Conor immediately after the game by the host school 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 Commission - Mary Barrett, Pauline Della Chiesa, Jennifer O'Buachalla, Vivienne O'Neill and Schools coordinator Conor Flood.

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 VLY qualified student referee, except where referees are appointed by the VLY. **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.
- 12.2 In the Semi Finals, schools should arrange to have a Grade 3 or higher referee. Costs to be spilt by teams
- 12.3 For the Finals (subject to approval by the VLY) VLY appointed referees shall be made available.

13 Officials

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

14 Changes to Fixtures

- 14.1 Teams unable to meet a fixture must notify:
- (a) all the teams involved
 - (b) the officials
 - (c) the school's coordinator
- 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 fulfil 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

17 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- 17.1 All schools are asked to attend the AGM in the first week of May to help discuss and improve school's volleyball for all ages and levels

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.

- 19 **The lowest divisions in senior and 16U are for beginners only. Schools with any players that have prior volleyball experience should contact the coordinator and will be moved up a division.**