



VOLLEYBALL IRELAND COMPETITION RULES DIVISION 3

2025/26 SEASON

Correct as of 1st September 2025

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1 DEFINITIONS

Club	Defined as any organisation registered as a Club with Volleyball Ireland. There is a further category of Associated Club for Clubs with Teams not participating in the National League or Association Cup.
Club Secretary	Defined as the official Club representative/main point of contact whose responsibilities include liaising with Volleyball Ireland and the various Commissions on behalf of the club 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 National League Management Commission for the Season.
Forfeit	Defined as a situation where a Team fails to fulfil all its obligations for a Match and is reflected in a 25-0, 25-0, 25-0 loss and, in the case of a National League match, a penalty of one league point. Other sanctions, which may include financial penalties, may be imposed at the discretion of the National League Management Committee and/or PADACC.
Indoor Season	Defined as the period from 1 September to 31 May in the subsequent year over which indoor League and Association Cup competitions are run.
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 Referees, and shall include, when appointed, the scorekeeper(s) and any line judges for a given Match.
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 Division, Divisions 1, 2, 3 and other divisions/leagues, the number of which will depend on the number of Teams competing in each Indoor Season.

National League Management Committee (NLMC)	A sub-committee of the Competitions & Development Commission, charged with administering the National League Competition programme, Association Cup (incorporating Shield) and the Junior Intermediate Championships and any other sanctioned competitions as determined by the Competitions & Development Commission or VI Board.
Referee	Means a person who is eligible to officiate a Match having registered with Volleyball Ireland, after meeting the necessary qualification criteria and listed on the register of referees held by Volleyball Ireland at the time of the match.
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	Defined as 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 .
Note: The Appendices and Schedule of Fees form part of the Rules.	

VOLLEYBALL IRELAND DIVISION 3 COMPETITION RULES

1 ENTRY TO VOLLEYBALL IRELAND INDOOR COMPETITIONS		Also refer:
1.1	Only a Club or School registered to or affiliated with Volleyball Ireland (VI) may enter Teams in a VI competition.	
1.2	<p>Club registration for Division 3 competitions is by way of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the annual club affiliation and national league entry forms, and • Payment of the appropriate annual fees. <p>As part of this registration process, the Club Secretary (to be active during the Indoor Season) must be identified and appointed by each Club and communicated to VI on the Club registration form.</p>	Schedule of Fees, Clause 1.5
1.3	Details of fees shall be confirmed in the Schedule of Fees, and any amendments to same will be advised to Clubs in advance of the competition to which they apply.	Schedule of Fees
1.4	Entry to VI competitions shall not be permitted unless all relevant fees, and outstanding fines have been paid, and the relevant Affiliation and entry forms have been completed by the Club on behalf of its Teams and submitted to VI, by any stipulated deadlines.	Clause 11.3
1.5	Any Club that has not fulfilled the obligations in clauses 1.1 to 1.4 above, prior to the arrangement of League fixtures for the season, can apply to the NLMC for a late entry, for which a late entry fee may apply. Late entry is deemed to occur once the expiry date set by the NLMC for the return of the relevant documentation has passed.	Schedule of Fees
1.6	By registering with VI, each Club agrees on behalf of itself, its players, officials, volunteers, and members to comply with the Rules and Regulations of VI (including but not limited to these Competition Rules, the Code of Conduct and the VI Articles and Memorandum of Association) and the directions and decisions of VI (including the judicial bodies recognised under the Irish Anti-Doping Rules).	
1.7	The rules of the game of volleyball that apply in all VI competitions shall be those currently issued by the FIVB and adopted formally by the VI Board and as amended by these Competition Rules.	
1.8	Players must complete their own registration on VI's membership portal JustGo. The assignment of players to Teams by a Club's Secretary is taken as the player's agreement to be so assigned.	Clause 3.2
1.9	<p>All official correspondence with VI in connection with these Rules must be conducted in writing (by email), addressed from the Club Secretary to VI, and marked for the attention of the NLMC.</p> <p>Emails should be marked for the attention of the NLMC and sent to info@volleyballireland.com</p>	

2 COMPETITION FORMAT		Also refer:												
2.1	Competition Structure The structure of Division 3 for each season shall be determined by the NLMC in advance of each season.													
2.2	League Points & Tables League points shall be awarded to Teams for each match played, on the following basis: <table border="1" data-bbox="387 548 1058 698"> <thead> <tr> <th>WINNER</th><th>MATCH SCORE</th><th>LOSER</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3 pts</td><td>3-0</td><td>0 pts</td></tr> <tr> <td>3 pts</td><td>3-1</td><td>0 pts</td></tr> <tr> <td>2 pts</td><td>3-2</td><td>1 pt</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In the event of two or more Teams in a Division having the same number of league points, positions shall be decided according to the following tie-breaks, applied in this sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matches Won • Set Difference • Sets For • Set difference based on Matches played against other Teams in the tie-break • Point Difference • Points Scored • Points difference based on Matches played against other Teams in the tie-break • Play-off(s) <p>For the avoidance of doubt, if at least three Teams are tied, and Teams drop out by applying the above tie-break sequence, the sequence continues from that point to break further ties and does not restart with matches won.</p>	WINNER	MATCH SCORE	LOSER	3 pts	3-0	0 pts	3 pts	3-1	0 pts	2 pts	3-2	1 pt	Section 8
WINNER	MATCH SCORE	LOSER												
3 pts	3-0	0 pts												
3 pts	3-1	0 pts												
2 pts	3-2	1 pt												
2.3	If a Division/League cannot be completed If not all matches can be completed in the Division 3 competition, the NLMC, in conjunction with the Board reserves the right to conclude the league in a manner that is deemed appropriate. <p>Any matches not played by the scheduled cut-off date, or results of matches not communicated back to VI by the relevant cut-off date, shall be deemed void, and no points shall be awarded to either team.</p>													
2.4	Team Withdrawal													
	2.4.1 Where a Team withdraws during the season, all matches involving that Team, including any already played, will be declared as a forfeit.													
	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. The Team may be subject to additional sanctions, as determined by the NLMC including, but not limited to, disqualification from future participation in further VI competitions.	Schedule of Fees												
	2.4.3 If a Team withdraws from any VI competition, it may be required to pay any reasonable expenses unavoidably incurred by any of VI, any affected Teams and Match Officials for any scheduled match(es) that will not be played.	Clause 4.4												

	Such matters and expenses will be considered by the NLMC on application by the VI Board, Teams and/or match officials, as relevant.	
	2.4.4 if a Team withdraws from a fixture without authorisation, this shall be deemed a Forfeit, and the Team may be issued with a fine. In the event of this fixture being a National League fixture, additionally the forfeiting Team shall be deducted one league point.	Schedule of Fees

3 PLAYER REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY		Also refer:
3.1	Only players registered with VI may participate in VI Competitions.	
3.2	<p>Players must register with VI by fully completing all sections on the JustGo membership portal. To be fully registered, the player must have completed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed a player profile on the JustGo membership portal, Paid for a National League or Non-League player licence on JustGo, Uploaded an appropriate head and shoulders photograph to their profile, to aid the pre-match ID process, Agreed to abide by the Sport Ireland Code of Conduct (as a condition of securing their playing license). The Club must allocate that player to the team that they will be playing for in the National League on JustGo (teams will be labelled NL3 followed by the Team Name). 	Clauses 1.9, 3.3
3.3	<p>When a player has completed the requirements outlined in 3.2 above, VI will issue the player with a Player Licence Number for the season, and this number should be used to identify players on the Team lists on match scoresheets.</p> <p>Please note that no additional player registrations will be processed within three working days of a match. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that for a match on a Saturday, Sunday or Bank Holiday Monday, players and their club must have completed the steps in 3.2 above by close of business on the preceding Tuesday.</p> <p>For the 2025/26 season, Division 3 licence numbers will start with a 3.</p> <p>In conjunction with rule 3.2 above, a licence number cannot be issued until a club has allocated a player(s) to their respective team(s) on JustGo.</p>	Clause 3.2 & Section 13
3.4	<p>If, during pre-match checks, a player is unable to provide proof of their VI player licence number, they may be permitted to play, but the referees should confirm the players identity and note the query on the scoresheet, for subsequent post-match checking by VI. If it transpires that the player was not eligible for a player licence number, then the player and/or club will be liable to sanction, to include forfeiture of the match (see definitions).</p> <p>The club may choose to exclude the player from the match and, if this is the case, the player will not be permitted to play, sit on the Team bench or coach in any capacity.</p>	Clauses 3.2, 6.3.3
3.5	A player can only be registered with one Club at any time.	

3.6	Player Transfers In and Out of Season	
	<p>3.6.1 A player must inform both Clubs (departing and receiving) of their intention to transfer and request a letter of release from the departing club. The departing club must agree to or decline the release of the player within five working days of receipt of the written request from the player.</p> <p>The player should then apply in writing to the NLMC on a Player Transfer Form (Click here for the form), attaching the written agreement from the departing club, and details of the receiving club.</p> <p>A player who has not been registered with a club in the preceding two seasons does not require any NLMC approval to transfer Clubs.</p> <p>Please note that the provisions of Clause 3.5 still apply.</p>	
	<p>3.6.2 The transfer will take effect on the morning of the date specified in writing by the NLMC to the player and the receiving club. No transfer shall take effect until that letter has been received and the player's licence and registration details have been updated on JustGo (which should only be done by VI and <u>not</u> the receiving club or the player).</p>	
	<p>3.6.3 A transferred player cannot play for their receiving Club in a competition in the same season if they have already played for their departing Club in the same competition.</p> <p>This means that a player who has already played matches for a team in the National League or Division 3 during the season cannot transfer to a new club to play in a team in the National League or Division 3 in the same season, whether in the same division/group or not.</p>	
3.7	Players playing up	
	<p>3.7.1 A player listed with a Division 3 team, and aged 18 years or older on 1st June of the year in which the league commences may play nine sets for a higher division Team at the same Club without affecting their Division 3 status. Upon playing their 10th set, the player is automatically upgraded to the higher Team. For the remainder of the season, the player may not play for their original Division 3 team.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, stepping on court for all or part of a set shall count as a set for the purposes of this clause.</p> <p>If a player is automatically upgraded to a higher Team on this basis, the player will be issued with a <u>new</u> player licence number on the JustGo platform, and Clubs should note this new number for future use – see clause 3.3 above.</p>	Clauses 3.3, 3.7.3, 3.7.4, 3.7.5
	<p>3.7.2 Responsibility for counting sets, as outlined in clause 3.7.1 rests with the Club, and VI and the NLMC accept no responsibility for any oversight by the Club in this area. The Club Secretary may contact VI to check details in relation to clause 3.11.1.</p>	Clause 3.7.5
	<p>3.7.3 Players may only play up for one Team in any season, irrespective of whether that Team is one or more grades ahead of the player's initial grade.</p>	Clause 3.7.1

	<p>The only exception to this rule is that an U18 player playing up in Division 3 (from youth competitions) may also play up in one other team in Division 2 or above.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, this means that a Division 3 team does not count as the one team as defined in clause of 3.11.4 of the Premier/Division 1/Division 2 Competition Rules for U18 players.</p>	
	3.7.4 No player registered to a Division 2 club or above may play in Division 3, with the exception of players aged less than 18 years on 1 st June of the year in which the league commences, who may play down in Division 3.	Clause 3.7.1
	3.7.5 If a Libero from a lower division team is named on the scoresheet, they are deemed to have played every set in the Match unless indicated on the scoresheet by the Match Officials.	

4 FIXTURE PLANNING		Also refer:
4.1	<p>The NLMC will confirm the period during which Division 3 fixtures can be played – see 5.1 below. In addition, Division 3 matches can be scheduled for midweek evenings, with the consent of both teams, and once approved by the NLMC. Any fixtures scheduled after the cut-off date for completion of Division 3 group matches will not count towards either teams' final position, but may still be played as “friendly” matches.</p> <p>Groups in which teams are scheduled to play each other twice at one team's venue may wish to consider playing those matches back-to-back on the same day.</p>	Clause 5.1
4.2	<p>Club Secretaries should ensure that all details relating to their home fixtures, as stated on the VI Website (www.volleyballireland.com), are correct, particularly if a match is rescheduled. In the case of any dispute over fixture arrangements (or rearrangements), the details as they appear on the VI website shall be deemed to be correct.</p> <p>If a change of fixture details is approved by the NLMC, it shall not be deemed to be effected until updated on the VI website.</p> <p>Note that the time stated on the website is the start time for the match.</p>	

5 FIXTURE CHANGES	
5.1	<p>The NLMC will provide Clubs with a fixture list of matches to be played in the Division 3 competitions. All matches must be played between 18th October 2025 and 8th March 2026 inclusive.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, this means that no matches can be rescheduled for dates after 8th March 2026 – any matches not played, or results not reported, by 2200hrs on this date shall be declared void, with no points being scored by either team, but will count as a match played.</p>

5.2	<p>All fixtures must be confirmed back to VI, by the home team, by Sunday 5th October latest. Any fixtures not confirmed at that point will be uploaded to the website with a nominal date of Monday 9th March 2026 and shall remain so until confirmed by the home team.</p> <p>Any matches not confirmed by Sunday 5th October must be confirmed as soon as possible thereafter. However, any such matches must be confirmed to VI on the Fixture Change Form, available on the Volleyball Ireland website – Click here for the form</p> <p>The NLMC will then consider such match logistics and will confirm back if all is in order.</p>
5.3	<p>Once the fixture list has been confirmed by the NLMC and uploaded to the VI website, any changes must be requested in writing to VI on the agreed Fixture Change Request form, for approval, at the earliest opportunity. As a guide, such changes should be requested more than 5 days in advance of the original date of the fixture.</p> <p>Whilst approval from the opposing Team is always welcome, the agreement of both Teams to a change of fixture does not, of itself, mean the change will be approved by the NLMC.</p> <p>Please also note that a rescheduling of a match shall not be considered approved until the VI website reflects the rescheduled details of the match. Therefore, Clubs should regularly check the website to ensure all details are correct.</p>
5.4	<p>A fixture rescheduling will be permitted by the NLMC in the event of one or more players/coaches from a Team (or both Teams) are required by the Irish National Team (s) for an international tournament, competition or training camp. The same dispensation shall also apply in the event of a Club Team playing in an international fixture or competition approved by VI.</p> <p>Clubs affected by either scenario should notify VI and include evidence to support this, of the fixture(s) to be rescheduled at least 20 working days before the original date of the fixture(s). The Club concerned should indicate the personnel who have been selected.</p> <p>Only the match involving the team that the player has been allocated to by their Club can be rescheduled under this rule. For example, if a player with a 3xxx player number is called up for an international competition, then only that club's Division 3 team (who the player plays in) can seek a reschedule of a match. If a coach is called up in the same manner, only the team who the coach is regularly the head coach of (as determined by the scoresheets from the season to date) can seek a reschedule. If the coach is not listed on any scoresheets, no rescheduling is permitted.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, Clubs should not assume that a match will be rescheduled automatically and needs to alert the NLMC to the issue in the first instance. The onus rests with the Club affected by such call-ups to make good on the rescheduling of the fixture. In addition, Clubs are reminded that the NLMC does not have knowledge of player call-ups, so Clubs must lead on this process.</p>
5.5	<p>A change in the time of a Match, on the same scheduled day, does <u>not</u> constitute a change of fixture. However, in such situations, the Team requesting the change must ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written confirmation of the change in times have been agreed by the opposing Team and Match Officials (as applicable), • The new time has been correctly updated on the VI website.

6 MATCH PROCEDURES		Also refer:
6.1	<p>All matches shall start between 1100hrs (i.e. 1030hrs warm-up) and 1800hrs (i.e. 1730hrs warm-up) on Saturdays and Sundays unless agreed in writing in advance with the opposition Team and the NLMC.</p> <p>Clubs should book a minimum of 2 hours playing time plus 30 minutes warm-up time for each match.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, this means that for a day where multiple matches are scheduled, <u>each match</u> must be allocated a 2-hour 30-minute window. In the event of fixture confirmations from clubs failing this rule, those clubs will be asked to revisit their schedule and amend accordingly to ensure compliance.</p> <p>Matches abandoned due to the facility having to close or to fulfil subsequent bookings are deemed to be a failure to fulfil a fixture, and will be forfeited by the Home Team, unless the timings outlined above had been booked by the Club and written proof can be provided to that effect.</p>	
6.2	<p>‘Home Team’ Responsibilities</p> <p>The Home Team or, in the event of a match at a neutral venue the designated home Team (unless otherwise stated) is responsible for the following actions on a Match Day:</p>	
	<p>6.2.1 To set up the venue and equipment prior to the official warm-up time for each match. This includes but is not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A net system (with appropriate height per FIVB rules), • Referee’s Stand, • VI approved Match Ball(s) – these are currently blue and yellow Mikasa V200W balls, • Court markings sufficiently clear and to the Referees’ satisfaction, • Official paper scoresheet and Scoreboard located on a scorekeepers table, • Rotation Slips, • Team Benches, • Net Antennae. <p>Some venues may have restricted run-off areas around the court, which is noted by Volleyball Ireland – in such situations, home teams are encouraged to communicate details to visiting teams in advance of matches.</p> <p>Please note that Volleyball Ireland has approved for use all venues in Division 3.</p>	
	6.2.2 To ensure that the venue is sufficiently clean, heated and safe and that all equipment is in place such that warm-up can commence on time. In the event of any queries, the First Referee’s decision as to the suitability of any of the above shall be final.	
	6.2.3 To ensure that the rules and regulations laid down by the venue are always adhered to by all participants and spectators in that venue.	
	6.2.4 To provide all Match Officials not independently appointed by VI. A competent scorekeeper is a mandatory requirement.	

	6.2.5 Failure to adhere to the above by the Home Team or Designated Home Team will be subject to sanction and/or fine by the NLMC.	Schedule of fees
6.3	Pre-Match Procedures	
	6.3.1 Teams and Match Officials should arrive at the Match venue at least 30 minutes prior to the Match start time.	
	<p>6.3.2 In the event that the First Referee deems the venue and/or equipment unfit for play, he/she shall advise VI and the NLMC in writing of the reasons for this decision no later than 5 working days from the date of the match, including details of who the matter was discussed with from the Home Team or Designated Home Team at the time.</p> <p>The NLMC shall decide within 10 working days of receipt of that notification as to whether the Match(es) should be forfeited or replayed and decide on any related costs.</p>	Schedule of fees
	<p>6.3.3 The Referees must check the registration cards/printouts showing the registration number for all players and coaches, and the credentials of any medical personnel on site.</p> <p>If a player cannot provide details of their player licence number, then the Referee may permit the player to take part in the match. If it subsequently transpires, however, that there was no valid cause for the player not having a player licence number, the player's Team may be subject to forfeiting the match, as laid out in the definitions (page 3).</p> <p><i>By way of an example, a player is not provided with a player licence number if they have not uploaded a suitable head & shoulders photograph on their JustGo profile, the absence of which would make the referee's checks impossible. Similarly, a player number cannot be issued if the club has not confirmed which team a player is allocated to on JustGo (Division 3 included).</i></p>	
	<p>6.3.4 Any players (or coaches) not present for the pre-match registration card checks, as detailed in clause 6.3.3 above, are still permitted to participate in the match. In such situations, the scorekeeper shall note in the comments section of the scoresheet that such player(s) will be joining the match after the start and will then confirm in the comments section the point at which the player joined the match.</p> <p>Such players may join the match at any point after their arrival but must advise the second referee that they are joining the match at that time. These players must have their registration card checks completed by the referees at the conclusion of the match.</p>	
	<p>6.3.5 Coaches are not permitted to coach a Team if they are not registered as a coach with VI or cannot provide details of their VI coach number. No coach is considered registered until they have been issued with a coach licence number, which may require them to upload documentation to JustGo.</p> <p>At Division 3 level and below, all coaches must have, as a minimum, a Foundation Coaching Qualification.</p> <p>Coaches who coach juniors or vulnerable adults must also be Garda Vetted and cleared for this activity. In addition, they must have completed a Safeguarding 1 course as required by VI</p>	

	<p>(evidence of both must be uploaded to JustGo). Coaches who only coach adults are not required to successfully complete Garda Vetting (GV) and Safeguarding 1 but are encouraged to do so. Please note that any coach who has submitted a GV application but has not yet received a GV clearance letter is not permitted to coach until they do so.</p> <p>Coaches are required to have paid for a valid coach license for the current season and, as a condition of securing this licence, agreed to abide by the Sport Ireland Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Coaches are required to also include their VI coach number on the scoresheet as well as their name (printed legibly) and signature. Any Coach who does not have a coach number and who is found to have coached a team in a match (whether listed on the scoresheet or not) will result in their team forfeiting that match.</p> <p>If such a transgression is discovered after multiple occasions of non-compliance with this rule, then <u>all</u> matches in which the individual acted as a coach without the necessary coach number will be forfeited.</p> <p>If it transpires that there was valid cause for the coach not having a registration number, the player's Team may be subject to forfeiting the match, as laid out in the definitions (page 3).</p> <p><i>For the avoidance of doubt, failure to upload required documents to JustGo shall be deemed the same as not having a valid registration. VI will be guided solely by documentation uploaded to JustGo, or lack thereof, when assessing the validity of a registration.</i></p>	
	<p>6.3.6 For every match, a Team may consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 14 players (which includes a maximum of two liberos), • One Head Coach, • A maximum of one assistant coach, <p>Only those listed on the scoresheet may enter the Competition/Control area and take part in the official warm-up and the match itself.</p> <p>To clarify, this means that anyone not playing or coaching in the match is not permitted in the competition/control area.</p> <p>The above stipulation replaces the relevant requirements of FIVB Rule 4.1.1</p>	
	<p>6.3.7 Medical personnel will not be permitted to sit on the Team bench unless permission has been granted by the Match Referees.</p>	
	<p>6.3.8 In all matches the Referee shall ensure that, while normal warm-up times and breaks are permitted to Teams, there is no deliberate time-wasting by either Team.</p> <p>In the event of a Team being involved in a preceding Match (either playing or officiating), an additional break of 15 minutes may be granted, at the Referee's discretion, prior to the start of the next match warm-up period.</p>	
	<p>6.3.9 In the event of a Team failing to appear on court to play when the Referee calls the first six players on court, that Team shall forfeit the first set 0-25.</p>	Schedule of fees

	In the event of a Team failing to appear on court to play within 15 minutes of the Referee calling the first six players on court shall forfeit the match, as laid out in the definitions (page 3).	
	<p>6.3.10 Any reasonable verified expenses incurred by a Team or appointed Match Officials, due to the late arrival of the opposing Team shall be paid by the opposing Team. Where the delay is due to the late arrival of the Match Officials (or replacement Match Officials), any such costs shall be met by the Home Team, unless the appointments were made by VI.</p> <p>Any such expenses must be submitted in writing to the NLMC for approval.</p>	Schedule of fees
6.4	Post-Match Procedures	
	<p>6.4.1 If a dispute arises during the Match, and a Team captain wishes to have a comment or objection recorded on the scoresheet, he/she must inform the Referee of same when the incident occurs. The First Referee will enter a short note about the incident on the scoresheet at the conclusion of the Match. The Team captain must, through their Club Secretary, submit a written report to VI within 10 working days of the date of the match if they wish any action to be considered or taken.</p> <p>Failure by the Referee to enter a note on the scoresheet shall not prevent the Referee from later providing a report to VI on any matter.</p>	
	6.4.2 It is the responsibility of the Teams to ensure they have received a copy of the scoresheet or taken a photo of same, and they should keep a copy for their records, in the event of a subsequent score or player query arising.	
	<p>6.4.3 After the Match is completed: The winning Team shall notify the result of the match to VI (by emailing a photo of the scoresheet to info@volleyballireland.com or via WhatsApp to 0858725946) before 2200hrs on the day of the match. For midweek matches, the deadline shall be 1200hrs on the day following the match, although Teams should still make every effort to notify the result of the match on the same day. Please note that the NLMC may fine Teams for non-compliance, or issue points penalties for repeated non-compliance.</p> <p>The Home Team shall ensure that the Referees appointed to the Match are remunerated appropriately. Any additional expenses accrued by referees in this regard will also be reimbursed by the home Team but only if agreed in advance of the Match taking place.</p>	Schedule of fees
	6.4.4 A Team reduced to 5 players or fewer during a Match, due to player injury or disqualification shall be determined to have lost the Match but shall retain any points and sets won.	
6.5	Clothing Regulations	
	<p>No player shall be permitted to play without a jersey numbered both front and back. The font and colour of the numbers must be uniform across the whole Team (except the Libero, who may have a different coloured jersey).</p> <p>Jerseys can be numbered from 1- 99 inclusive.</p>	

	Shorts need not be numbered.	
6.6	Referees & Refereeing	
	<p>6.6.1 Every Division 3 match must be refereed by a minimum of one Level 1 referee.</p> <p>A non-qualified second referee is permitted to stand in a match, with the agreement of both teams, but in such situations the First Referee (who is a qualified Level 1 referee) will remain the priority decision-maker.</p> <p>Clubs are on notice that, from the 2026/27 season, two Level 1 referees will be a minimum requirement for matches at this level.</p>	
	6.6.2 Home Clubs must advise VI of their confirmed appointment at least three working days in advance of the fixture, by email to info@volleyballireland.com . If the Home Club is unable to find a suitable Referee for a match by the three working day cut-off and has exhausted all options, they will be required to forfeit the match. Rescheduling a match, in these circumstances, will not be permitted, except in exceptional circumstances.	
	<p>6.6.3 Where a Referee issues a card, records an objection on the scoresheet or a Match is Forfeit, he/she must notify VI in writing on info@volleyballireland.com within three working days of the match. This correspondence should give details and relevant circumstances of incident.</p> <p>In the event of a card(s) being issued, the details <u>must</u> be accurately and legibly recorded on the scoresheet, including details of whether the card should apply to a player or Team. Failure to do so may result in such cards not being logged against the offending player(s). This should be included as part of the First Referee's post-match checks, before signing off on the scoresheet.</p>	
	6.6.4 All Referees must be over 16 years of age on the date of the match.	

7 COMPETITION WINNERS

7.1	<p>A trophy and medals shall be presented to the winners of Division 3.</p> <p>Perpetual trophies must be engraved at the winning Club's expense. Trophies must be returned to VI cleaned, engraved and in the condition in which they were presented at the request of VI in a timely manner. Please note that this request will usually be made in March or April.</p> <p>Should such a trophy become damaged or lost whilst in the Club's possession, the Club shall be required to meet the full cost of repairs and/or replacement.</p>
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8 PROMOTION, RELEGATION & END OF SEASON ARRANGEMENTS		Also refer:																																																																				
8.1	At the end of the League stage of the Division 3 competition, placings will be determined as per clause 2.2 above.	Clause 2.2																																																																				
8.2	<div>End of Season Arrangements in both Division 3 competitions will be as follows:</div> <div>Division 3 Men:</div> <div><table><tr><th colspan="4">DIVISION 3 MEN - PLAY-OFF SCHEDULE</th></tr><tr><th>PLAY-OFF ROUND</th><th>QUARTER-FINALS</th><th>SEMI-FINALS</th><th>FINAL</th></tr><tr><td>No 1 Seed bye</td><td>No 1 Seed</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>vs</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>No 8 Seed No 9 Seed</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>vs</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>No 4 Seed bye</td><td>No 4 Seed</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>vs</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>No 5 Seed No 12 Seed</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>vs</td></tr><tr><td>No 2 Seed bye</td><td>No 2 Seed</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>vs</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>No 7 Seed No 10 Seed</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>vs</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>No 3 Seed bye</td><td>No 3 Seed</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>vs</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>No 6 Seed No 11 Seed</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div>The top two teams from each group plus the two best third-place teams will progress to the play-offs. The group winners will be ranked 1-5, the second-placed teams ranked 6-10 and the third-placed teams ranked 11-12. The teams seeded 1 to 4 will each receive a bye into the Quarter-Finals.</div> <div>The seeded teams 5 to 8 will each host a play-off match, and the seeded teams 1 to 4 will each host a quarter final. Volleyball Ireland will make arrangements for the Semi-Finals and Final.</div> <div>Knockout rounds will be played on the following dates: Play-off Round – weekend of 21st & 22nd March Quarter-Finals – weekend of 11th & 12th April Semi-Finals – weekend of 25th & 26th Final – weekend of 2nd & 3rd</div> <div>Division 3 Women:</div> <div>The top two teams from each group will advance to the Quarter-Finals.</div> <div>The group winners will each host a quarter final, as follows: QF 1 – Winner of Group A vs Runner-up Group D QF 2 – Winner of Group D vs Runner-up Group A</div>	DIVISION 3 MEN - PLAY-OFF SCHEDULE				PLAY-OFF ROUND	QUARTER-FINALS	SEMI-FINALS	FINAL	No 1 Seed bye	No 1 Seed				vs			No 8 Seed No 9 Seed						vs		No 4 Seed bye	No 4 Seed				vs			No 5 Seed No 12 Seed							vs	No 2 Seed bye	No 2 Seed				vs			No 7 Seed No 10 Seed						vs		No 3 Seed bye	No 3 Seed				vs			No 6 Seed No 11 Seed				
DIVISION 3 MEN - PLAY-OFF SCHEDULE																																																																						
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	<p>QF 3 – Winner of Group B vs Runner-up Group C QF 4 – Winner of Group C vs Runner-up Group B</p> <p>Semi-Finals will be arranged as such: SF 1 – Winner of QF 1 vs Winner of QF 3 SF 2 – Winner of QF 2 vs Winner of QF 4</p> <p>Knockout rounds will be played on the following dates: Quarter-Finals – weekend of 11th & 12th April Semi-Finals – weekend of 25th & 26th Final – weekend of 2nd & 3rd</p> <p>Note that in both Men’s & Women’s competitions, playoff and QF matches may be played sooner than the dates listed above, with the agreement of both teams, but not later.</p>	
8.3	In extraordinary circumstances, VI reserves the right to cancel any post-season arrangements. This may include for disciplinary reasons, because of delays to the completion of the league season and any other such matter.	

9 -	
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10 -	
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11 SANCTIONS, FINES & PENALTIES		Also refer:
11.1	VI 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	VI 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 therein. All fines may be increased in the event of failure to pay by the specified dates, or where there are repeat/aggravating offences.	Schedule of fees
11.3	VI 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 in which they are imposed. No Club shall be permitted to register for any competitions for the following Season if any fines remain to be paid.	Clause 1.5

11.4	Penalties will take immediate effect and fines are payable within seven days of 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 Teams, coaches, players and/or medical personnel are covered in Appendix 1 of these Rules. Clubs must be familiar with these sanctions and the implications thereof.	Appendix 1

12 PROTEST PROCEDURE

In relation to Protests, Clubs are advised of the following:

- All Protests must be submitted on the appropriate VI Protest Form, which is available on the VI website, along with payment of the relevant Protest Deposit Fee,
- All Protests should be submitted to info@volleyballireland.com in the first instance, including any relevant documentation or information, and these will be directed to relevant commission for further action,
- A Team must lodge its Protest to VI through the Club Secretary or Club President, and this must be indicated on the Protest,
- Upon receipt of the Protest, VI will confirm receipt and forward the details to the Protests, Appeals, Disciplinary and Complaints Commission (PADACC) who, in turn, will notify all relevant parties, including the opposing Club,
- The Protest must be received by VI no later than 5 working days after the incident, as must the Protest Deposit Fee,
- The Protest must include relevant evidence to validate their submission, and this evidence must be easily located within the submission. If video footage forms a part of the submission, the data file must be properly labelled and the timestamp for the relevant footage/incident must be clearly stated in the protest,
- Note that it is not the role of PADACC to re-referee matches, and competition-related protests should be based on rule interpretations, and not genuine errors.

The process for submitting protests to PADACC can be found in section 12 of the National League Competition Rules.

13 CODE OF CONDUCT

13.1 Sport Ireland Code of Conduct

All players, coaches and referees, as a condition of being eligible to take part in all Volleyball Ireland competitions, have agreed to abide by the terms laid out in Sport Ireland's Code of Conduct (released August 2023) and, in matters of discipline, Volleyball Ireland shall be guided by that document.

In order to ensure compliance in this area, the above users will need to click to confirm acceptance of same when taking out or renewing their Player, Coach and/or Referee License.

	The Sport Ireland Code of Conduct document can be found here
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APPENDIX 1 – PLAYER, TEAM, COACH AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL DISCIPLINARY ACTION

1 Sanction Scale

1.1 The following disciplinary points will be accrued against a Team, Player, Coach or Medical Personnel, according to the penalties imposed by a Referee at any VI competition.

SANCTION	DISCIPLINARY POINTS
Yellow Card	2½ Points
Red Card	10 Points
Yellow and Red Card Jointly (Expulsion)	15 Points
Yellow and Red Card Separately (Disqualification)	20 Points

2 Penalties

2.1 The following sanctions will apply when cumulative disciplinary points reach certain thresholds:

Players, Coaches & Medical Personnel

CUMULATIVE POINTS	SANCTION
Upon reaching 15 points (not through disqualification), and subsequent multiples thereof.	1 Match Suspension
Upon reaching 15 points (due to disqualification), and subsequent multiples thereof, if due to disqualification.	2 Match Suspension

Details of how suspensions are dealt with are covered in Section 3 below.

If Player, Coach or Medical Personnel passes 40 cumulative penalty points in a season, VI may require the individual and their Club Secretary to attend a disciplinary meeting, with representatives of VI.

Teams

CUMULATIVE POINTS	SANCTION
For reaching 20 cumulative points, and for each multiple thereof	Fine (as outlined in the Schedule of Fees)
For reaching 50 cumulative points	A deduction of one league point
For reaching 100 cumulative points	A deduction of two league points (in addition to the fine triggered for reaching 100 points)

If a Team passes 100 cumulative penalty points in a season, VI will review the matter and may apply additional penalties on a case-by-case basis.

3	Match Suspensions
	<p>3.1 Suspensions apply to the next match(es) in all VI competitions. It is the responsibility of each Team to monitor disciplinary points accumulated by each player and Team.</p> <p>In the event of a suspended Player taking part in a match, that match will be forfeited by the player's Team, with the forfeit dealt with as laid out in the definitions above. Please note that ignorance of these Rules in relation to disciplinary matters is not a sufficient defence to play a player who has passed a suspension threshold and has not served the relevant suspension.</p> <p>Teams are encouraged to seek clarification, if necessary, on the disciplinary status of any players within their Club, and such queries should be sent to VI in the first instance no later than 3 working days prior to a match if a player's suspension is in question.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, if a player earns a suspension for conduct in a National League match on a Saturday, they are suspended for a Cup match if scheduled for the Sunday.</p>
	3.2 Suspensions will be confirmed to the Club Secretary and the Player by VI in due course.
	<p>3.3 Disciplinary points are not carried forward from one Indoor Season to the next. However, if a Player, Coach or Medical Personnel has any unserved match suspension at the end of a season, then such suspension shall be carried forward to the following Indoor Season.</p> <p>In this scenario, the Club must inform VI in advance of the match(es) in which the suspension will be served. Failure to do so will result in the Player/Team/Medical Personnel being suspended from the point at which the Club alerts VI to this fact.</p> <p>Please also note that a match in which the individual is not available for selection through injury, being outside the country or any similar reason, <u>does not</u> count as a match served.</p>
	3.4 In addition to Clause 3.3, if a player should move clubs from one Season to the next, any unserved match suspension shall move with the player. This should be highlighted on the Player Transfer form, which will be checked by VI prior to approving that Transfer.
4	Misconduct
	4.1 A Player, Coach, Medical Person or supporter whose actions prior to, during or after a Match are considered to bring the game into disrepute should be referred to VI in the first instance, who may escalate the matter to the PADACC.

APPENDIX 2 – DETAILS OF AMENDMENTS & UPDATES TO THESE RULES

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