

# Rules of Scottish Volleyball Competitions

**55th Edition, 2025-2026**

*Approved by the Scottish Volleyball Board of  
Directors*

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## 1. Title and Management

- 1.1 Scottish Volleyball (SV) organises each season a Scottish Volleyball League (SVL) and Cup competitions for male and female volleyball teams.
- 1.2 These Rules of National Competition are ratified by the SV Board under the Articles of Association of Scottish Volleyball and are the rules, unless otherwise stated, which govern all matters arising from the organisation, running, and management of each National Competition, including Cup and Playoff Competitions.
- 1.3 The Senior & Junior National Competitions are supported by the Competitions Disputes Panel (CDP), which is administered by the Competitions and Events Officer. The CDP consists of external members from other sports' National Governing Bodies with competitions experience.
- 1.4 With respect to all the following Rules, contact with the organiser and Competition Disputes Panel should be made in the first instance by e-mailing [competitions@scottishvolleyball.org](mailto:competitions@scottishvolleyball.org).
- 1.5 Any uncertainty arising from the Rules shall be arbitrated by the Competition Disputes Panel.

## 2. Competition Entry

- 2.1 Clubs registered with Scottish Volleyball are entitled to enter teams into the National Competitions and must signify their wish to do so by paying the appropriate entry fee on the Scottish Volleyball JustGo system. This must be completed by the date set by the Competitions Organiser.
  - 2.1.1 Teams should also indicate any preferences or requirements around match fixtures and hosting by the date set by the Competitions Organiser. They must do this by emailing the Competitions Organiser by the specific date set each year.
- 2.2 Late entries may only be accepted at the discretion of the Competition Disputes Panel, which reserves the right to allocate a late entrant into the highest possible division which has spaces, regardless of the team's league status in the previous season. A club which is late with its entry will receive a **Level 5** administration fee to cover administration costs (See page **25** for list of administration fees).
- 2.3 Club Administrators or Team Managers must be contactable each year from June until May. If this person is not contactable, they must inform the Competitions Organiser with a suitable replacement. The Club Administrator and Team Manager information will be provided to the opposition via SV Competitions Contact List.
- 2.4 All Club Administrators & Team Managers must be members of Scottish Volleyball.
- 2.5 All teams entering the SVL must ensure that they have enough players, suitably qualified referees, and suitably qualified coaches, for their level of play.

- 2.6 By entering a team into a National Competition, clubs agree to abide by the rules of the competitions and to abide by the decisions taken by the Competition Organiser.
- 2.7 Applicants to the competitions must ensure they meet all administrative tasks set by the Competitions Organiser. The Competitions Organiser has the right to request any club to change its club administrator or team secretaries if it is felt that they do not meet the obligations of the role. Failure to comply with this request will result in a Level 4 administration fee being imposed on the club or possible expulsion from the competition.
- 2.8 Clubs entering the SVL will not receive automatic entry to the corresponding Scottish Cup competition. Clubs registered with Scottish Volleyball are entitled to enter teams into the National Competitions and must signify their wish to do so by paying the appropriate entry fee on the Scottish Volleyball JustGo system.
- 2.9 When entering any competition, each club and its members agrees to abide by the anti-doping rules adopted by Scottish Volleyball in accordance with the anti-doping policy.

### 3. SVL Format

- 3.1 There shall be an SVL Premier, SVL One, SVL Two, and JSVL U19 (Junior Level), JSVL U17 (Junior Level) and JSVL U15 (Junior Level) for males and females, if entry numbers allow.
- 3.2 All leagues shall consist of a maximum of 12 teams and a minimum of 5 teams. The Competition Organiser has the right to restructure the leagues, including the creation of new leagues, if deemed necessary.
- 3.3 All matches will be played to FIVB Rules unless stated otherwise within this rule book.
- 3.4 The Format of the matches will be as follows:
- |                                 |   |                   |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| SVL Premier & SVL ONE & SVL TWO | - | Best of five sets |
| Junior SVL                      | - | 3 sets total      |
- 3.5 The arrangement of the matches will be as follows:
- |   |   |                            |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| SVL Premier & SVL ONE & SVL TWO & SVL THREE | - | Singular                   |
| Matches* (see 3.5.1)                        |   |                            |
| Junior SVL                                  | - | Triangular or quadrangular |
| Matches                                     |   |                            |
- 3.5.1 All senior matches in SVL Premier must be arranged as singular matches. Teams in any other division than SVL Premier may request triangular fixtures.
- 3.5.2 With the prior written agreement of the opponent team(s) and the Competitions Organiser, matches may be arranged as singular or triangular matches in other divisions.
- 3.6 League Tables shall be compiled as follows:

<u>Best of 5 Sets</u>		<u>Best of 3 Sets</u>	
<u>Score</u>	<u>Ranking Points</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Ranking Points</u>
Winner 3:0 or 3:1	3 Points	Winner 2:0	3 Points
Winner 3:2	2 Points	Winner 2:1	2 Points
Loser 2:3	1 Point	Loser 1:2	1 Point
Loser 1:3 or 0:3	0 Point	Loser 0:2	0 Point
Forfeit	-3 Points	Forfeit	-3 Points

League Table Ranking Criteria:

1. Ranking Points
  2. Matches Won
  3. Set Ratio
  4. Points Ratio
  5. Matches won between the teams in their matches during the league
  6. Sets won comparing the teams in their matches during the league
  7. Points won comparing the teams in their matches during the league
- 3.7 When a match is declared Null and Void, the Competition Disputes Panel may award 0 point or 1 point to both sides. Decisions taken on this matter will be at the exclusive discretion of the Competition Disputes Panel.
- 3.8 The team which is top of the league after all SVL matches have been completed will be declared National Champions of that Division.
- 3.9 The teams winning in the SVL Premier Divisions will be called “Scottish Champions” and are entitled to enter the CEV Cups of the following season. Teams intending on entering the CEV Cups, and having earned the right to do so must inform the Competitions Organiser by no later than 30th May of this intention. Where neither of the Men’s or Women’s “Scottish Champions” elect to enter the CEV Cups, the eligibility for entry will be offered to the team finishing in 2nd place in the SVL Premier and then 3rd place. Teams winning the Scottish Cup will be offered a place in the CEV Challenge Cup automatically.
- 3.10 There will be one team promoted (1<sup>st</sup> place) and one team relegated (last place) directly from each division where applicable.
- 3.11 Teams finishing in 2nd place will playoff against teams finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> last place of the division above. (See section 12 for Playoff details)

- 3.12 No team can voluntarily demote itself/refuse promotion from any division. Any team wishing to voluntarily demote/refuse promotion for extenuating reasons, must do so in writing to the CDP 14 days before the first match of the SVL Play-Offs. Any team which fails to meet this deadline and wishes to continue playing in the SVL in the succeeding season, must pay a **Level 5** administration fee in order to gain entry.
- 3.13 Should unforeseen actions out with the control of Scottish Volleyball and its members cause major disruption to (or prevent the completion of) the Scottish Volleyball Leagues and/or Scottish Cup Competitions, the Competitions Officer may declare a Force Majeure. This decision will be ratified by the CDP as well as the Scottish Volleyball Board. Should a Force Majeure be declared, the following may take effect;
- 3.13.1 In case of disruption, the Competition Officer may adapt the format of the season with the aim of completing the competition, whilst maintaining its fair outcome.
  - 3.13.2 All Scottish Volleyball Leagues will be declared complete, and final placings awarded based on winning ratio.
  - 3.13.3 If more than two-thirds of games have been completed, then automatic relegation will still take place, but no relegation playoffs will take place.
  - 3.13.4 The Scottish Cup Competitions will be incomplete with the option to reschedule matches later in the calendar year.
- 3.14 The top four teams from the previous domestic season (for this specific edition of the rules, this is the 2024-2025 indoor season), will qualify for the Final Four, a separate competition.
- 3.14.1 The final Four will comprise of a minimum of two competition dates as set by the Competitions Officer. The team finishing top after the regular season will be the top seeds and will host Semi Final 1 against the team finishing the regular season fourth. The team finishing in the regular season second will be the second seed and will host Semi Final 2 against the team finishing third in the regular season. Teams in the Semi Finals will play each other once.
  - 3.14.2 The two Semi Final winners will play each other once, with the winner being named 'Scottish Volleyball Final Four Champions'.
  - 3.14.3 Scottish Volleyball will host the final round at a venue chosen by the Competitions Officer.

## 4. SVL Junior Format

Junior SVL will be played to the Rules of the Competition with the exception of below:

- 4.1 League Format and Rules
  - 4.1.1 The number of times each team shall play the others will be dependent upon the number of team entries.

- 4.1.2 On each fixture date, teams will play no less than two and no more than three matches, unless prior notice is given by the Competition Officer.
- 4.1.3 The Organiser reserves the right to restructure the leagues if deemed necessary.

## 4.2 Registrations

- 4.2.1 Players who are eligible for Junior SVL U15 may also play in the Junior SVL U17 and Junior SVL U19, under one junior registration. These players must still be shown on the team licence.
- 4.2.2 No Junior SVL player may play for two Junior SVL clubs in one age group during the course of the season.
- 4.2.3 Where a club has two or more teams in the same age group of the Junior SVL, a maximum of two players from a lower team may appear on the scoresheet for a higher team on a fixture date, in order to fulfil a fixture (i.e. only 6 players on the scoresheet for higher team). There is a cap of two players per fixture for players moving from a lower team to an upper team. Should a team exceed this cap but still fulfil the fixture, they would receive no points from the fixture, but also forfeit no points. For the absence of doubt, a team is noted as the higher team if they are team 1 (for example, SV1 and SV2, SV1 would be the higher team and SV2 the lower).

## 4.3 Eligibility

- 4.3.1 Players should conform to the following criteria:
- 4.3.2 For Junior SVL U19, all players must have been born on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2008 or later to be eligible in the season of competition.
- 4.3.3 For Junior SVL U17, all players must have been born on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2010 or later to be eligible in the season of competition.
- 4.3.4 For Junior SVL U15, all players must have been born on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2012 or later to be eligible in the season of competition.
- 4.3.5 Team coaches must have the correct coaching license on their SV JustGo Profile.

## 4.4 Match Procedures

- 4.4.1 Teams hosting Junior SVL fixtures must conform to the order of play and dates provided by the organiser. Any change to the schedule must have the agreement of all teams; this must then be communicated to the competition organiser.
- 4.4.2 Matches should be 3 sets to 21.
- 4.4.3 Variations from FIVB rules of the game:  
Net heights will be as follows:  
U19 Male: 2.43m U17 Male: 2.43m U15 Male: 2.24m  
U19 Female: 2.24m U17 Female: 2.24m U15 Female: 2.24m

## 5. Player and Coach Registration

- 5.1 Each team must have a minimum of 6 players registered with SV 3 weeks prior to the first match of the competition. Failure to do so will result in a Level 2 administration fee.
- 5.2 For the match, a team may consist of up to 14 players:
  - 5.2.1 Each team has the right to designate from the list of players on the scoresheet up to two specialist defensive players: Liberos. If 13 or 14 players are on scoresheet, 2 must be designated as Liberos.
- 5.3 Players, coaches and assistant coaches participating in any national Scottish League or Competition must be members of and registered with SV, in accordance with SVA Byelaw 3.2 & 3.3.
  - 5.3.1 All players, coaches, assistant coaches, athlete support personnel, officials and any member of Scottish Volleyball shall be deemed to have made themselves familiar with, and agreed to be bound by the UK Anti-Doping Rules, which Scottish Volleyball adopts in accordance to the anti-doping policy and to submit to the authority of UK Anti-Doping in the application and enforcement of the Anti-Doping Rules.
- 5.4 It is the responsibility of the team captain & the coach to ensure the shirt numbers, team member names, and registration numbers are correctly recorded on the scoresheet, prior to signing it.
  - 5.4.1 If a player arrives after the stated First Ball Served (FBS) of a match they can take part in the match, but only if they are on the team license and have been noted correctly on the scoresheet prior to the match starting.
- 5.5 Failure to sign the scoresheet will result in a Level 1 administration fee being levied against the club in breach of this rule.
- 5.6 If a scoresheet is returned to the Competitions Officer containing errors not accounted for in the remarks section of the scoresheet, then depending on the mistake, the following action will be taken;
  - 5.6.1 A team playing a player who does not have an active SVL License, shall forfeit the match in question and will receive a Level 5 administration fee.
  - 5.6.2 A team playing a player who does not have an active SV Membership, shall forfeit the match in question and will receive a Level 5 administration fee.
  - 5.6.3 A team playing an ineligible player shall forfeit the match in question and will receive a Level 5 administration fee.
  - 5.6.4 A team playing a player who is not noted on the JustGo team roster but has the correct license and membership, will receive a Level 3 administration fee.



- 5.6.5 A team playing a player who is not noted on the scoresheet will receive a Level 3 administration fee. If the player is then found to not have an active license or membership, then the team shall forfeit the match in question and will receive a Level 5 administration fee (in lieu of the original level 3 fee).
- 5.6.6 A team using any bench personnel who are unregistered will receive a Level 4 administration fee.
- 5.6.6.1 In the event that any of the above occurs to a team that is involved in a triangular match, the noted consequences will only affect one of the two matches the offending team is involved in. This will be their first match only, as decided by the earliest first ball serve time.
- 5.7 It is the responsibility of the 1st referee to enter any discrepancies in the team licence into the remarks box of the scoresheet. A team or individual failing to provide a copy of a up-to-date (inclusive of all players playing in that fixture) collective licence (either paper or digital) with which they have been issued prior to the match shall be liable to a Level 4 administration fee.
- 5.8 For teams competing in the Junior SVL, no SVL player may register for two clubs in any one season unless they are officially transferred (see Rule 6), unless their senior league team does not have a Junior SVL team.
- 5.8.1 No player under the age of 13 years may play in a Senior SVL match, except with the express written approval of their Parent/Guardian.
- 5.9 Players registered outwith the Senior SVL, and not subject to a transfer, may play for a Senior SVL team. Such a player may appear on the scoresheet in a maximum of 2 matches, after which they must upgrade to a Senior SVL player license.
- 5.9.1 For the avoidance of doubt, 'registered outwith the Senior SVL' includes, but is not limited to, players who primarily play in Junior SVL, local leagues or in BUCS.
- 5.10 Clubs may have more than one team in the SVL. The following rules apply to movement of players between teams within the same club:

### **Regular Season Matches**

- 5.10.1 Where a club has two teams in the same division of the SVL, no movement of players between these teams will be allowed after they appear on a scoresheet for either team for the first time in the league.

5.10.2 Where a club has teams in different divisions of the senior SVL, they shall be referred to as higher and lower teams according to the division they are in (e.g. SVL Premier – Higher Team, SVL1 – Lower Team). In such cases, players, may move freely from the lower team to appear on the scoresheet for the higher team for a maximum of 4 matches. After 4 matches, the player shall be considered as being a higher team player and may no longer play for the lower team. In order to move players from the higher team to the lower team, a special dispensation request must be made to the Competition Disputes Panel stating the reasons why this player should be re-registered for the lower team. This process will not apply to playoff matches.

5.10.3 Any player who is eligible to play in the SVL Junior League, may move freely within the club without sanction.

5.10.3.1 However, if a club has more than one team in the same division, any player who is eligible to play in the SVL Junior League, may only play for one of these teams.

5.10.4 No player may be recorded on the scoresheet for two teams on the same fixture date/week. For the purpose of this article, matches scheduled for the same date, as published in SV Fixture List, are regarded as being on the same fixture date, regardless of when the match is actually played. Where a player appears on the scoresheet of both fixtures, both teams shall incur a Level 4 administration fee and will forfeit both matches.

5.10.4.1 In the event of a match being postponed, only players who were registered correctly for the original date may play in the rescheduled match.

### **Playoff Matches:**

5.10.5 After 4 matches, the player shall be considered as being a higher team player and may no longer play for the lower team. **This includes the Play Off matches.** Only players who have been registered to that team or who have appeared on the scoresheet during the regular season with the **team** may play in the playoffs, unless special dispensation is granted by Competition Disputes Panel.

5.10.6 Any player who is eligible to play in the Junior SVL League, may only play for one team in the SVL Playoffs. **In order to participate in play off matches, they must have appeared on the scoresheet for that team during the regular season.**

## **6. Transfers**

6.1 A player has the right to be released from a club of which they are a registered player and thereafter to transfer to another club within the transfer window.

6.2 The following is the procedure for a player to transfer between clubs within Scotland only:

- 6.2.1 A player wishing to be released from the club of which they are a member must complete the transfer request on SV JustGo platform and give the reasons they wish to be released. A player may only request this once in one transfer window.
- 6.2.2 Once this has been completed, the outgoing club must approve/reject this transfer within 7 days.
- 6.2.3 If the club has not responded to the request within 7 days, the player will automatically be released from the club concerned and **their transfer will be automatically** approved. Any transfer allowed under this rule is without prejudice to any remaining obligations to the previous club.
- 6.2.4 The Club Administrator must indicate at the time of notification of transfer that the club (i) approves the release of the player or (ii) refuses to release the player, stating the reasons for this on the transfer database.
- 6.2.5 If the club refuses to release the player, the reasons for this must be intimated. Clubs may refuse to release a player only on the grounds that:
- (i) the player owes the club money
  - (ii) the player owes the club goods (strip, tracksuit, balls etc.)
  - (iii) the player is subject to disciplinary action within the club. This disciplinary action should have been notified to the Competitions Organiser before the transfer request had been submitted by the player.
- 6.2.6 In such cases, the player's request to be released will be considered and a decision made by the Competition Disputes Panel.
- 6.2.7 Should the player's request to be released be upheld, the receiving club must approve the transfer. Once this process has been completed, **the player will be a member of the receiving club.**
- 6.2.8 Should the decision to refuse to release the player be upheld, this will be communicated to the club and the player who will also be informed of the reasons why release from the club has been refused. The player will be free to transfer when their obligations to the club are fulfilled.
- 6.2.9 No request for a transfer made by a club or a player will be granted by SV if either club or player are, at the time of the transfer request, subject to any disciplinary proceedings by SV. The request will be suspended until such time as said disciplinary proceedings, and any appeal relative to said proceedings, have been completed. A request may be made to the disciplinary committee to allow discretion on this ruling.

- 6.2.10 The responsibility of ensuring a player has correctly transferred lies with the new club. A player who has not completed the above process but plays a match with a new club may forfeit the match and receive a Level 4 administration fee (as per Rule 5.6.3).
- 6.2.11 A player who has not participated in any league activity for at least one full season does not have to complete a transfer request via JustGo (for example, a player who competed during the 2023-24 season but not during the 2024-25 season, does not have to complete a transfer request via JustGo).
- 6.2.12 If this is the case, but the player in question either:
- (i) owes the departing club money
  - (ii) owes the departing club goods (strip, tracksuit, balls etc.)
  - (iii) or is subject to disciplinary action within the departing club, then the departing club should contact SV. Instead of a transfer, the player should contact SV directly in order to be moved from the club.
- 6.3 Any player that has previously held a National License with another volleyball federation before being registered with Scottish Volleyball, or that has played at a national level in another country, should request an international transfer. This can be requested by emailing the Competitions Officer at [competitions@scottishvolleyball.org](mailto:competitions@scottishvolleyball.org)
- 6.3.1 Any player from out with Scotland, who is unsure if they need an international transfer, should get in contact with the competitions officer before the start of the indoor season.
- 6.4 Please Note:
- No player can compete in the Scottish Volleyball League until the full process has been completed.**
- 6.5 Date of Release – this is determined by one of the following:
- (i) The date of receipt by SV of the notification of transfer indicating that the player has been released.
  - (ii) 7 days after the date on which SV received the request to be released from the player, should there be no reply from the releasing club administrator.
  - (iii) The date on which the player's request to be released is upheld by the CDP.
  - (iv) The date on which the releasing club notifies SV that a disputed transfer has been resolved and the player is free to transfer.
- 6.6 Transfer Window
- 6.6.1 Players may only transfer between Scottish Volleyball clubs between 9 am on May 16<sup>th</sup> and 5 pm on January 8<sup>th</sup> (times for receipt of documentation). The transfer window does not prejudice any player wanting to register with Scottish Volleyball for the first time.

- 6.6.2 Any player released out with these dates will not be allowed to transfer their registration to, and play for, another club except in exceptional circumstances and only then with written agreement from CDP.
- 6.7 Any player wishing to apply for exceptional circumstances must do so in writing together with a Level 2 administration fee. The request for exceptional circumstances will not be reviewed until payment has been made.
- 6.8 Scottish Volleyball Board reserves the right to refuse any transfer it considers may not be in the interest of Scottish Volleyball. In that event the relevant fees would be returned.
- 6.9 A club seeking to obtain the service of a player based in Scotland from their current club may initially approach either the player's current Club Administrator or the player themselves. If the player is willing to transfer, the procedure outlined in **Rule 6.2** should be followed.
- 6.10 If a player is subjected to repeated unwelcome approaches by members or representatives of another club to join that club, the player, or their Parent/Guardian, should report the matter to their Club Administrator who shall seek clarification from the club concerned. If the Club Administrator is unable to resolve the situation, the matter should be referred to SV Board for deliberation and, if deemed appropriate under Byelaw 11, Disciplinary Action.

## 7. Fixture Procedures

- 7.1 The Competitions Organiser fixes the dates of all SVL and Cup matches.
- 7.2 Match Venues
  - 7.2.1 All match venues must previously have been approved by the Competitions Organiser.
    - 7.2.1.1 Clubs should notify the Competitions Officer if there are any changes in the venue at any point in the season that could affect its approved status (i.e. lack of a referee stand, change in net etc.)
  - 7.2.2 A list of approved venues is available from the SV website.
  - 7.2.3 If a club competes at a venue that has not been approved by the Competition Organiser, a Level 5 Administration fee will be levied against the club.
- 7.3 A fixture list shall be forwarded by the Competitions Organiser to all Club Administrators at least 4 weeks prior to the first match of the season. Clubs will have 7 days to respond to the Competitions Organiser of any problems or issues in relation to the fixtures.
  - 7.3.1 If teams are both in agreement, matches can be played during the week. Teams should make their request to the Competitions Officer a minimum of 14 days prior to the date on and which it wishes to play, sending with their request a written agreement from the opposing team.

- 7.4 An SV Fixture Template (see website for details) should be used for this purpose. All clubs must submit the venue and First Ball Served time 21 days prior to the date of the fixture. The club must also notify the opposition Team Secretary, Competitions Organiser ([competitions@scottishvolleyball.org](mailto:competitions@scottishvolleyball.org)) and the Referee Appointment Manager ([refappointments@scottishvolleyball.org](mailto:refappointments@scottishvolleyball.org)). Once submitted, this information may not be altered without prior consent from the opponents and the Competitions Organiser.
- 7.5 Failure to provide a fixture sheet 21 days prior to the date of the fixture, to all the aforementioned parties, will result in a Level 1 administration fee being imposed.
- 7.6 The administration fee will increase to the next level for every 7 days of non-compliance.
- 7.7 Match Start Times
- 7.7.1 The home team must take into account the following when selecting a match time:
- 7.7.1.1 that, unless previously agreed, the visiting team should not be required to leave its home town before 8am at the weekends and 5pm during the week (for teams not subject to Rule 7.7.2). For the purposes of the article, the 'home town' of a team shall be that in which its home match venue is declared on entry to the competitions.
- 7.7.1.2 that, unless previously agreed, the visiting team should be able to arrive back at its hometown by 10pm for weekends and midnight for weekdays (for teams not subject to Rule 7.7.2).
- 7.7.1.3 for JSVL, the visiting team should be able to arrive back in its home town by 9pm for weekends.
- 7.7.1.4 Where possible SV will aim to follow the above rules for all SV organised events, but reserves the right to schedule matches that fall outwith the above rules. If that is the case, SV will communicate this with the clubs involved as soon as possible.
- 7.7.2 Rules 7.7.1.1 & 7.7.1.2 do not apply when the fixture involves a team from an island. The match will be given a weekend date to fulfil this fixture. The opposition must be willing to travel the day before the match is scheduled to be played in order to fulfil the fixture. If a team fails to travel to or from the island, a Level 5 administration fee, for each fixture forfeited, will be levied against the club.
- 7.8 Bringing Fixtures Forward



7.8.1 In certain circumstances, a team may be allowed to bring forward a fixture. In this case the team should request this in writing to the Competitions Officer at [competitions@scottishvolleyball.org](mailto:competitions@scottishvolleyball.org) a minimum of 14 days prior to the date on and which it wishes to play, sending with their request a written agreement from the opposing team. This agreement must also be sent to the Referee Appointment Manager at [refappointments@scottishvolleyball.org](mailto:refappointments@scottishvolleyball.org).

7.8.2 Requests received later than 14 days prior to a proposed new fixture date will not be considered unless there are extenuating circumstances.

## 7.9 Postponements

7.9.1 No team may apply in advance for the postponement of a scheduled fixture unless the request meets one of the following set of circumstances:

- Inclement weather preventing travel or making travel dangerous (see rule 7.9.2.)
- Cancellation of the hall hire within 120 hours of the fixture (written confirmation from letting authority is required). If subsequent cancellations occur, the Competitions Organiser may enforce a change of home venue for the club.
- Where a player or coach is required for official SV business, that is to say, European Cup Ties or any other SV business determined by the Competition Disputes Panel. Clubs should contact the Competitions Officer in the first instance to check what qualifies as SV business.
- The Competitions Officer reserves the right to allow for a postponement to take place if it deems the club has reasonable grounds for this request. The request should be made a minimum of 21 days prior the fixture date.

### 7.9.2 Postponements due to weather

In the event of poor or inclement weather, teams should make every attempt to play their fixture whilst taking responsibility for their own safety. If a team feels it unsafe to complete the fixture, they must ensure they can provide professional and independent evidence (for example but not limited to, MET Office weather warnings, cancellation of travel (ferries/flights/trains), police or travel advice, sports halls) indicating travel conditions and advice or hall closure. Teams are expected to call the opposition and referee in a timely manner, and email the Competitions Officer. Teams should then follow rule 7.9.3 to organise a new date for the reschedule match.

### 7.9.3 Arranging a new fixture date

Postponed matches must be played within 28 days of the original fixture date, unless mutually agreed by both parties. Matches will be moved automatically to a designated re-arranged date if one is available.

- 7.9.3.1 If both parties agree to play the match out with the 28 day limit stated in rule 7.9.2 the rearranged match must be played before the completion of the SVL calendar (not including the days set aside of the Final Four).
- 7.9.4 Within five days of the postponement being granted, the home team must offer a minimum of three dates, within the 28 day time frame. At least one of these dates MUST be a weekend date which doesn't clash with any other SV fixtures involving the away team.
- 7.9.5 The away team must, within 7 days of being offered the dates, accept one of them. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a Level 2 administration fee, and may result in the match being declared forfeit.
- 7.9.6 The CDP may use its discretion to shorten the time allowed to play the match if the re-arranged fixture will have a knock-on effect to important end of season matches (e.g. Playoffs/Cup matches).
- 7.9.7 If a postponement is granted and a new date agreed by both teams, the home team should send an updated fixture sheet to the opposing team secretary, the Competitions Officer and the Referee Appointment Manager.
- 7.10 Withdrawing from a fixture
- 7.10.1 Where a team withdraws from a fixture for any reason, unless granted a postponement, the match shall be declared forfeit against them and a Level 5 administration fee will be levied.
- 7.10.1.1 In the event that the team withdrawing is the away team, the Level 5 administration fee should instead be sent to the host team to cover any unavoidable cost.
- 7.10.2 A full statement of reasons for withdrawing from the fixture must be submitted to the Competitions Organiser by email on the day of withdrawal.
- 7.10.3 Failure to contact the Competition Organiser and the referee on the day of withdrawal will result in a Level 2 administration fee.
- 7.10.4 Any team withdrawing from a fixture will result in the team being deducted 3 points and they will lose each set 0-25 required to win the match. Their opposition will be awarded 3 league points and they will win each set 0-25 required to win the match.
- 7.10.5 Where a team cancels\* or fails to appear without notifying the opposing team and the CDP a Level 5 administration fee will be applied. In addition to this fine, if the team cancelling is the away team, they will also be expected to cover any unavoidable costs incurred by the host team. The team which cancels or fails to appear must also pay any referee match fee and travel costs incurred because of this failure to notify.
- 7.11 \* In cases where a match has been rearranged/cancelled, the Referee Administrator/Competitions Organiser must be informed, and SV website must be updated immediately to avoid referees travelling for no reason.



- 7.12 A team withdrawing (at whatever notice) without good reason from three matches in the same season will be relegated, regardless of their league position.
- 7.12.1 If a team withdraws **again** from the league in the following season, the CDP reserves the right to deny entry to the league in the subsequent season.

## 8. Match Procedures

### 8.1 Equipment

- 8.1.1 All match equipment (net, antennae, referee's stand, score sheet, balls, visible score board etc.) must meet the criteria and quality as stated in Chapter 1 of the FIVB Rules of the Game. The official match balls of Scottish Volleyball competitions are the Mikasa V200W.
- 8.1.2 It shall be the responsibility of the home team to provide the visiting team with a minimum of eight match balls for warm up. A team failing to do this shall be liable to a Level 2 administration fee.
- 8.1.3 In cases of doubt, the 1st referee's decision as to whether the equipment and venue is suitable for play shall be final. If equipment and venue are not suitable then the referee must record in the remarks box on the scoresheet the reasons why the above were not suitable.
- 8.1.4 Failure to comply with this rule will result in an administration fee at the CDP's discretion.

### 8.2 Player Uniforms

- 8.2.1 A player's uniform consists of a numbered jersey (between 1-99) and shorts.

#### **SVL Premier**

Numbered jersey (front and back) plus shorts **or leggings** of the same colour, style and make for the entire team.

#### **SVL ONE & SVL TWO**

Numbered jersey (front and back) and shorts **or leggings** of the same colour and style for the entire team.

#### **JUNIOR SVL**

Numbered jersey (front and back) and shorts **or leggings** of the same colour for the entire team.

- 8.2.2 Match referees, and only match officials, are required to record the details of any discrepancies in the remarks box. Teams failing to comply with the above will be subject to a Level 1 administration fee.
- 8.3 The match shall be deemed to commence at the start of the warm up over which the 1st referee has control. See Appendix B for the full pre-match protocol.
- 8.4 Clubs should allow for the following minimum hall lets (unless reduced at the agreement of both teams):

- 30 minutes warm-up plus:
  - o 2.5hrs for a best of 5 set match
  - o 1.5hrs for a best of 3 set match

The minimum hall let requirement for a triangular series is 6.5 hours (4.5 hours for 3 set matches).

- 8.5 A home team must ensure that matches start as close to the scheduled start time as possible. If, however, the start of the match is delayed due to a prior match, the away team should wait until the preceding match has been completed (or terminated at the discretion of the home team).
- 8.6 Where possible, every effort must be made by both teams to then play the subsequent matches in the remaining hall booking for those matches.
- 8.7 In the event that the hall booking expires without the match being completed, the named home team must contact the CDP detailing the reasons on the day of the match for the delay, who will then make a ruling on the result of the match.
- 8.8 Where both teams are ready to start play at the scheduled starting time, and the stated time required for the match (**as per Rule 8.4**) has elapsed since the start of play, and the hall booking for that game has expired without the match being completed, then the match shall be completely replayed at the same venue, with all costs of the replayed match being equally divided between the two teams. The same ruling applies if the hall let time is reduced due to circumstances out with the control of the home team and the match is not completed as a result.
- 8.9 Where both teams are ready to start play at the scheduled starting time and the hall booking expires before the stated time required for the match (**as per Rule 8.4**) has passed, then the match shall be awarded to the visiting team. The home team shall retain any points and sets already won. The away team shall retain the sets already won and be awarded 25 points (or more, if necessary, to gain a 2 point advantage necessary to win an incomplete set) in all remaining sets, whether incomplete or as yet unplayed.
- 8.10 Clubs can agree to change to change the named home and away team if they both agree to do so. They must notify the Competitions Officer of this change when submitting the fixture sheet. Subsequently, should any issues arising pertaining to the above rules, the new named home team would be at fault.
- 8.11 Teams within a triangular series may alter the schedule of the matches. Any change to the allocated schedule must have the written agreement of all three teams.
  - 8.11.1 Teams involved in a triangular where one team is island based can request to play their remaining match on another day if they both agree in writing to do so. This request must go to the Competitions Officer at least one week before the fixture sheet is due in (**28 days before the match is due to take place**).
- 8.12 Failure to Appear

- 8.12.1 Where a team without good reason, fails to appear on court ready to play 15 minutes or more after the agreed (scheduled) start of play, the match may be forfeit and a Level 5 administration fee will be imposed.
- 8.12.2 The team which is not ready to play must inform the Competition Disputes Panel and the Competitions Organiser of the reasons on the day following the match at the latest.
- 8.12.3 Where possible, every effort should be made by both teams to play the match in the remaining hall booking for that game.
- 8.12.4 If the match is not completed and the hall booking expires 2.5 hours after the scheduled first ball served time then the team that was not ready shall forfeit the match.
- 8.13 A team reduced to less than six normal (i.e. not including the libero) players after play begins, due to injury or to a player or players being disqualified (i.e. the team is declared incomplete), shall lose the match but shall retain any points and sets already won.
- 8.14 Scoresheets
 

The Team Secretary must send a picture or scanned copy of the scoresheet and email it to: [roddy@finalwhistlemedia.co.uk](mailto:roddy@finalwhistlemedia.co.uk), [referee@scottishvolleyball.org](mailto:referee@scottishvolleyball.org) and [results@scottishvolleyball.org](mailto:results@scottishvolleyball.org) by 20.00 hours on the day of the match or at the completion of the match.

  - 8.14.1 If the quality of the file is deemed not to be sufficient, the Team Secretary will be required to send a new photo or scanned image as soon as possible.
  - 8.14.2 A home team failing to make contact as required on the scheduled day shall be liable to a Level 2 administration fee unless a suitable reason is provided; additionally, they may forfeit the match.
  - 8.14.3 All parties involved in the match must retain their copies of the scoresheets.
- 8.15 All SVL & Cup matches shall be open to the general public, media personnel, photographers and any person using a video recorder, subject to the following:
  - 8.15.1 Any person not directly involved with the match shall at no time be on the court area.
  - 8.15.2 No person should be behind the service zone unless there is a structured seating area available.
  - 8.15.3 No person or equipment should be positioned and/or used in such a way that they present risk of injury or obstruction to players or officials.
  - 8.15.4 Any photographs or film must comply with Scottish Volleyball Child Protection Policy.
  - 8.15.5 All material can be used for Scottish Volleyball promotional purposes.

- 8.15.6 The home team has the right to ask any spectator to leave the hall, should this be deemed necessary.

## 9. Match Officials

- 9.1 For all SVA matches the status of the match officials must conform to the minimum standards below:

Division	1st Official	2nd Official
SVL Premier Men	Grade 2	Grade 3
SVL Premier Women	Grade 2	Grade 3
SVL ONE Men	Grade 3	Grade 4
SVL ONE Women	Grade 3	Grade 4
SVL TWO Men	Grade 4	Grade 4
SVL TWO Women	Grade 4	Grade 4
SVL THREE Men	Grade 4	Grade 4
Scottish Cup Rounds 1 -3	Grade 4	Grade 4
Scottish Plate Rounds 1-QF	Grade 4	Grade 4
Scottish Cup Rounds 4 - QF	Grade 2	Grade 3
Junior SVL	Junior	Junior

The home team is responsible for ensuring that officials are of the correct grade.

- 9.2 It is permitted to officiate as 1st or 2nd referee in a higher league than is stated above, provided that it is during assessment by an SV approved assessor, who must sign the scoresheet in the Remarks Box.
- 9.3 All referees taking charge at any match under the auspices of Scottish Volleyball must hold a valid SV licence. The membership profile confirms the official's qualifications for the current season.
- 9.4 The membership number of both referees must be recorded on the scoresheet prior to the match. Failure by the home team to record the licence numbers of referees on the scoresheet will result in a Level 1 administration fee being levied.
- 9.5 No referee can register on the day of the match.
- 9.6 The home team shall pay (prior to the match) to a qualified referee the following expenses:

SVL and Scottish Cup and Plate

Appointed Official/International Referee/Grade 1/Grade 2

£35 per match plus travel expenses

Travel Expenses - the official rate shall be 25p per mile travelled. The cost of public transport shall be fully reimbursed.

Grade 3 referees

£32 per match plus travel expenses

Travel Expenses - the official rate shall be 25p per mile travelled. The cost of public transport shall be fully reimbursed.

#### Grade 4 referees

£30 per match plus travel expenses

Travel Expenses - the official rate shall be 25p per mile travelled. The cost of public transport shall be fully reimbursed.

- 9.7 SV-Organised Events (Including Finals and Special Events not covered by 8.6). The Competitions Organiser may change the values dependent on the budget available. All officials will be notified of this before the event to the appointed referee in lieu of expenses incurred.

#### Appointed Referee\*

£35 per match is payable to the appointed referee plus travel expenses.

Scorer - £10 per match plus Travel Expenses - the official rate shall be 25p per mile travelled. The cost of public transport shall be fully reimbursed.

Linejudge - £5 per match plus Travel Expenses - the official rate shall be 25p per mile travelled. The cost of public transport shall be fully reimbursed.

*\* The £35, £10 or £5 payment made under this system is liable to tax deducted at source, in this case, Scottish Volleyball.*

- 9.8 The Referees Commission will appoint referees to all SVL Premier, **SVL Final Four**, Scottish Cup Finals and Semi Final matches subject to availability.
- 9.9 A home team (or named refereeing team in triangular fixtures) which, without good reason, fails to provide a 1<sup>st</sup> and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> referee in accordance with the requirements of **Rule 9.1** and/or a competent scorer, will be subject to a Level 2 administration fee per official and may, upon the discretion of the CDP, forfeit the match.
- 9.10 A team failing to provide appropriately qualified officials (as noted in the table above) must notify the Competition Disputes Panel in writing on the day of the match, explaining their failure to fulfil the requirements of **Rule 9.1**. Failure to contact the CDP will result in a Level 1 administration fee.
- 9.10.1 If a club cannot find a referee of the correct grade for their match, the Competitions Officer reserves the right to allow a lower grade referee to officiate the match in question. A club seeking this must be able to prove they have followed all possible avenues to find an appropriately qualified referee. **Clubs can only request this a maximum of three times per season, and must do so before 5pm on the last working day before their match is due to take place.**
- 9.11 A home team (or named refereeing team in triangular fixtures) failing to provide a minimum of two competent line judges and a scorer shall be liable to a Level 2 administration fee.

- 9.12 A player who is listed on the scoresheet as part of a team cannot line judge the same match. A team using such a line judge will receive a Level 2 administration fee.
- 9.13 The remarks box on the scoresheet is to be used by the officials for an immediate and specific protest about the referee's interpretation of a rule. It must not be used when the team captain has not at the time of the incident expressed their protest and the intention to have it recorded in the remarks box at the end of the match.
- 9.14 Scoresheet

- 9.14.1 The scorer must ensure that the players' names, shirt numbers and registration numbers are recorded on the scoresheet, as per the example below:

No.	Name	
3	SMITH, J	1234

An example of a fully completed scoresheet can be found [here](#).

- 9.14.2 Failure to comply will result in a Level 1 administration fee being issued and, in accordance with the FIVB's Official Volleyball Rules, may lead to the match result being altered retrospectively by the CDP.
- 9.14.3 The scoresheet must be correctly headed (e.g. match number, first/second team, men/women, Premier/SVL ONE/SVL TWO, etc.) and completed (e.g. all registration numbers, shirt numbers and substitutions). The home team must be written first in the scoresheet with the away team second.
- 9.14.4 Failure to ensure the scoresheet is completed correctly will result in a Level 1 administration fee being levied against the club.
- 9.14.5 The scoresheet must be an SV Scoresheet and no other, however similar. A home team failing to provide and use an SV Scoresheet shall be liable to a Level 2 administration fee.
- 9.14.6 Scoresheets can be ordered from SV by contacting SV office.
- 9.15 The SVL Pre-Match Protocol detailed in [Appendix C](#) must be followed for all SVL & Cup matches.

## 10. Scottish Cup and Scottish Plate Competition

- 10.1 The Scottish Cup Competition includes the Scottish Plate Competition and all references to "Scottish Cup Competitions" in the preceding and following articles should be interpreted accordingly.
- 10.2 The competition shall consist of a number of rounds. The first round of the cup will be played in pools. Thereafter, teams compete on a knockout basis.
- 10.2.1 All fixtures after Round 1 shall be single matches and all matches shall be played to FIVB rules unless stated otherwise within this rule book.



- 10.3 The structure of the Scottish Cup Competitions are outlined in Appendix B. The inserted Flowchart should all be used and counted as part of the Rules of the National Competitions under Appendix B.
- 10.4 The team drawn first in each Group have the right to host the Round 1 fixtures.
  - 10.4.1 Should this team be unable or not wish to, the second drawn team should be offered the hosting rights. If they are also unable or do not wish to, this should be offered to the third and fourth drawn teams. If no teams wish to host, the top seed must host the matches.
- 10.5 Teams eliminated from the Scottish Cup prior to the Quarter Finals of the Scottish Cup will enter the Scottish Plate at Round 1.
- 10.6 All draws will be overseen by the Competition Organiser.
- 10.7 It is possible for a club to have more than one team in the Scottish Cup competitions (i.e. Scottish Cup and Scottish Plate), but a player may only play for one team in the Scottish Cup or Plate Competitions. This includes when teams are eliminated from either the Scottish Cup or Plate competition.
- 10.8 A player is deemed to be 'cup-tied' to a particular team once they have appeared on the scoresheet for the first time. Mid-season transfers have no impact on this rule.
- 10.9 In all matches prior to the semi-finals of the Cup and Plate (and excluding Round 1 of the Scottish Cup only), the first-named side shall be the home team.
- 10.10 Matches should take place on the allocated date or earlier if required. Appropriate fixture rearrangement procedure must be followed.
- 10.11 No player may participate in the semi-finals or finals unless they have been noted on the scoresheet for any Scottish Cup or Scottish Plate match before the semi-finals, in the current season.
- 10.12 Each team is required to provide the minimum number of officials stipulated by the Competitions Organiser in line with the playing/officiating schedule provided prior to the Semi-Finals and Finals. Failure to provide suitable officials will result in a Level 3 Administration Fee being levied on the club for each individual offence.
  - 10.12.1 Teams will not be required to provide officials for their match at the Semi Final stage but may be asked to assist with cross-officiating of other Semi Finals.

## 11. Junior Scottish Cup Competition

- 11.1 There shall be an **Under 17 and an Under 19 Scottish Cup** for boys and girls, aligned to the age criteria for Junior SVL.
- 11.2 The competition shall comprise an Open Championship which will take place over a single day, **if not more**. The top two ranked teams at the end of this tournament will qualify for the Junior Scottish Cup Final, which will be contested as part of SV's Finals Weekend.

- 11.3 The format of the competition will be dependent upon the number of entries and is at the discretion of the organiser.
- 11.4 Seedings for the tournament will be according to the final positions in the Junior SVL. Clubs who did not compete in the Junior SVL will be seeded last and be ordered by the sign-up date/time to the competition, if applicable.
- 11.5 All rules of the Junior SVL are applicable to the Junior Scottish Cup with the exception of the following:
  - 11.5.1 Players may freely transfer between teams within a junior club for the purposes of the Junior Cup, or apply to move clubs given that either the original club will not be competing in the Junior Cup, or the new club did not compete in Junior Scottish Volleyball League. Players registered on the scoresheet for a team at the Open Championship will be cup-tied, to that team, should they qualify for the final.
  - 11.5.2 All players who compete in the Junior Scottish Cup Final must have been registered with their respective club before the Open Championship, unless given special dispensation from the Competition Disputes Panel.

## 12. SVL Promotion/Relegation Playoffs

- 13.1 The SVL Playoff will be a one-off fixture played at the Home venue of the higher division side, unless otherwise notified by the competition organiser.
- 13.2 The Referee's Commission will appoint the first referees where possible.
- 13.3 If the Referee Commission do not appoint a referee to this match, the Home team will be responsible for ensuring the correct level of official is available as per **Rule 9.1**. The level of official should align with the higher league as per the table in **Rule 9.1**.
  - 13.3.1 If the competition organiser changes the venue, Scottish Volleyball will be responsible for appointment of line judges and scorers, and the Referees Commission will endeavour to appoint referees where possible. Should the appointment of referees not be possible, the first named team in the schedule must be responsible for the appointment of two match referees of the appropriate grade, based on the requirements of the higher league team. The Referee Commission must inform the home team in due time.

## 13. Competition Awards

- 13.1 Trophies and medals shall be presented to the winners of each competition. Scottish Volleyball will attempt to present these trophies at the last SVL League match of the season, dependent on other Scottish Volleyball activities and availability.
- 13.2 Runners-up awards will be presented for Senior and Junior Scottish Cups and Scottish Plate.



- 13.3 The trophies must be returned to SV office by 31<sup>st</sup> January of the following season. Teams who fail to return the trophy by this date will be liable to a Level 2 administration fee.
- 13.4 Scottish Volleyball will engrave all trophies.
- 13.5 Should a trophy be damaged or lost whilst under the care of a club, the club will be required to meet the cost of repair or replacement.

## 14. Administration Fees

- 14.1 The Competition Disputes Panel (CDP) is empowered to impose the penalties and administration fees set out in the preceding and following articles.
- 14.2 All administration fees will be increased to the next level immediately upon failure to pay within 28 days from the date of notice, unless communicated differently by the Competitions and Events Officer.
- 14.3 Any team who fails to satisfy an administration fee imposed on them after 56 days, **or by the date set by the Competitions and Events Officer**, will be suspended from competition until that administration fee has been paid in full or at the discretion of the Competition Disputes Panel. Subsequent administration fees, e.g. failure to complete match, shall accumulate from the date of suspension.
- 14.4 The CDP will exclude, from the following season's Competitions, any club failing to pay outstanding administration fees from the previous season.
- 14.5 A team withdrawing from the SVL after the season's fixtures have been released shall be liable to pay a Level 5 administration fee for every match they have remaining to play, unless otherwise specified by the CDP.
- 14.6 All matches involving a team eliminated or withdrawing from the SVL shall be null and void. That team shall be liable for any expenses unavoidably incurred by other teams in their division in preparation for games now not being played.
- 14.7 A player registered for a team eliminated or withdrawing from the SVL may not play for another SVL team in the same season until the administration fees under Rules 14.5 and 14.6, and monies due to another member club of Scottish Volleyball have been paid and permission is given by the CDP. If such permission is given, the player must re-register and pay the normal registration fee.
- 14.8 Administration Fee Levels:

Level	SVL Senior, Scottish Cups & JSGP	SVL Junior
Level 1	£20	£10
Level 2	£30	£20
Level 3	£60	£30
Level 4	£100	Cost of Hall Let (proof of cost required)
Level 5	£180	

## 15. Disciplinary Action

A player who both plays and coaches, shall be regarded as a player with respect to the following rules.

### 15.1 Disqualification

15.1.1 A player or coach being DISQUALIFIED (i.e. sent from the hall for the remainder of a SVL or Cup match) must leave the playing area (hall) and shall be suspended from all SVL and Cup activity (playing, coaching, and refereeing) for a minimum of two matches, following the schedule dates at the time of disqualification.

15.1.2 The match 1<sup>st</sup> referee shall submit to the CDP, a signed statement giving details of the disqualification, either along with the scoresheet or separately by first class post or by e-mail on the day following the match at the latest.

### 15.2 Expulsion

15.2.1 A player or coach being EXPELLED (i.e. sent from the hall for the remainder of one set of a SVL or Scottish Cup or Plate match) and shall be suspended from all SVL and Cup activity (playing, coaching and refereeing) for a minimum of one match.

15.2.2 The match 1<sup>st</sup> referee shall submit to the CDP a signed statement giving details of the expulsion either along with the scoresheet or separately by first class post or by e-mail on the day following the match at the latest.

15.3 A player or coach receiving a third penalty in any one season shall be suspended from all SVL and Cup activity (playing, coaching and refereeing) for one match and shall also be suspended for one match for every other penalty subsequently received in that same season.

15.4 A penalty received by a player who is subsequently Disqualified or Expelled in the same match shall be disregarded for the purposes of this article i.e. it shall be subsumed within the later punishment.

### 15.5 Suspensions

15.5.1 In all cases, suspensions shall apply immediately to the next fixture date(s) at the time of suspension.

15.5.2 Warning letters and letters confirming suspensions shall be sent out by the CDP, but it is the duty of all teams to ensure that a player or coach does not participate while suspended and that their name does not appear on the scoresheet.

15.5.3 A team playing a suspended player or being coached by a suspended coach shall forfeit the match in question and shall be liable to a Level 3 administration fee.

15.6 A player or coach disqualified more than once or receiving more than 4 penalties in one season shall automatically be referred to the Disciplinary Commission. The duties of the Disciplinary Commission can be found in Byelaw 11 of SV.

- 15.7 The Competition Disputes Panel can take retrospective action on any player, coach or official who is deemed to bring the game into disrepute.
- 15.8 Spectators
- 15.8.1 The home team/organisers are responsible for spectator control.
- 15.8.2 Any spectator, affiliated to SV or not, whose behaviour is, in the 1<sup>st</sup> referee's opinion, interfering with his/her control of the match, may be asked to leave the hall by the home team/organisers. The 1<sup>st</sup> referee has the power to suspend the match until the home team/organisers have restored order. The 1<sup>st</sup> referee shall be required to submit a report on the incident to the CDP by first class post or by e-mail on the day of the match.

## 16. Complaints Procedure

- 16.1 This section concerns official complaints made about matters falling within the scope of these rules.
- 16.2 All complaints must be sent by email to the Competitions Officer. All complaints in the email must state "Complaint" in the subject line. Complaints made to anyone else will not be accepted. The Competitions Officer should then convene the CDP to rule on any valid complaint. Should the complaint include a welfare concern, the Welfare Officer must be included in the complaints email.
- 16.3 Official complaints may be made by any member of Scottish Volleyball.
- 16.4 Where a complaint relates to a match already played, official complaints received more than seven business days after the match will NOT be considered.
- 16.5 Within 2 working days of the complaint being received, the CDP shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint and advise all other interested parties (e.g. the opponents and Referees Commission, plus members of any subsequently convened disciplinary or appeal committee). At the same time, the CDP may request relevant information and responses from anyone they deem appropriate. Failure to respond to this request will result in a Level 2 administration fee being levied.
- 16.6 The CDP will report back to the interested parties within 10 working days from the date of acknowledging receipt of the complaint. The decision will be issued to the complainant and the Club Administrators of the clubs involved.
- 16.7 The CDP, when considering a complaint, shall attempt to provide a solution where possible within the terms of these rules. They may apply an administration fee if necessary within the terms of these rules.
- 16.8 If the CDP deems a matter out with the scope of these rules and/or the Competition Disputes Panel's remit, then the matter may be referred to SV Board as a disciplinary matter under Byelaw 11 of SV Byelaws

## 17. Referral to the Competition Disputes Panel

- 17.1 Where members are in dispute over the application of these rules, or the general organisation and running of SV Competitions, and are unable to resolve the dispute, then any member may make an application to the CDP for a ruling on the matter.
- 17.2 Such a request shall follow Rule 16 in terms of the method of advising the CDP of the matter and timescales involved.
- 17.3 Where a referral to the CDP, under this Rule, does not relate to a match already played then the referral must be made as soon as possible but only after the parties have attempted to resolve the matter between themselves.
- 17.4 Clubs should try and resolve issues amicably between themselves. They should never hesitate in bringing a matter to the Competition Disputes Panel's attention to allow for an amicable conclusion to the problem.
- 17.5 Special Dispensations
  - 17.5.1 Clubs can apply to the CDP for special dispensation requests. This must be accompanied by a level 2 administration fee. This must be paid to SV before the special dispensation request can be heard by the CDP.

## 18. Right of Appeal

- 18.1 Clubs have the right to appeal against decisions taken by the CDP.

The full schedule of the appeals process and procedure is contained in Byelaw 12 of Scottish Volleyball Byelaws.

## 19. Appendices

### Appendix A: Scoresheet 3 Character Trigrams

### Appendix B: Structure of the Scottish Cup Competitions

1. The **Scottish Cup first round** will be a group stage with all SVL Division One and Division Two teams and teams only entering the Scottish Cup required to enter at round one. All Premier Teams are given a bye to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of the Scottish Cup.
  - 1.1. Teams will be placed into pools based on their league (Pool 1 – SVL One, 2 – SVL Two, etc.) with non-SVL teams placed in the lowest Pool.
    - 1.1.1. The Competition Organiser has the sole right to move teams between pools as a punishment for prior offences or for the benefit of the competitions.

- 1.2. There shall be as many groups as required to comprise all Round 1 teams into groups of four. Should there be an uneven number of teams, Pools A-C may comprise only three teams.
- 1.3. Pools will be filled using the Serpentine method, drawing from a pool until all teams from said pool are allocated a group. The draw will begin with Pool 1, with the first team drawn taking position 1 in Group A. The next team from Pool 1 will then take Group B and so forth.
  - 1.3.1. Once all first positions in the groups are filled, the next team drawn will take second position in the last group, moving back towards Group A.
- 1.4. The team drawn first in each Group have the right to host the Round 1 (one) fixtures.
  - 1.4.1.1. Should this team be unable or not wish to, the second drawn team should be offered the hosting rights. If they are also unable or do not wish to, this should be offered to the third and fourth drawn teams. If no teams wish to host, the top seed must host the matches.
- 1.5. All matches should be played with the following structure: Top seed vrs. Bottom seed; Second seed vrs. Third seed; Loser Match 1 vrs. Loser Match 2 (determining 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the pool); Winner Match 1 vrs. Winner Match 2 (determining 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the pool), unless noted otherwise by the Competitions Officer.

## **2. The Scottish Cup Second Round**

- 2.1. Following the completion of Round 1, teams, including the re-addition of SVL Premier teams, are then reseeded according to their finishing position in the groups: Pot 1 for group winners, Pot 2 for second place, etc. The last Pot will have the Premier Division teams.
  - 2.1.1. Teams finishing third/fourth are eliminated from the Cup and will enter the plate but technically move into Pot 4.
- 2.2. Round 2 onwards is straight knockout with teams losing in Round 2 also entering the Scottish Plate. There will be 8 Round 2 matches with teams again drawn out from a Pot until all teams from said Pot are allocated a match. The draw will begin with Pot 1, with the first team drawn playing Match 1. The next team from Pot 1 will then take Match 2 and so forth.
  - 2.2.1. Teams in Round 2 cannot play a team they have already played in Round 1 and will be moved into the next appropriate group to avoid this.
  - 2.2.2. The winners of Round 2 will play in the Quarter Finals, with the following match-ups: Match 1 and Match 8; Match 2 and Match 7; Match 3 and Match 6; Match 4 and Match 5.
  - 2.2.3. The team drawn first in each Round 2 Match will host, and the winners of Matches 1-4 will host the Quarter Finals.

## **3. The Scottish Plate Round One**

- 3.1. All teams eliminated in Rounds 1 and 2 of the Scottish Cup, as well as teams opting to enter only the Scottish Plate, will enter the Scottish Plate at Round One.
- 3.2. Round One will be held on a date with no SVL or Scottish Cup matches prior to the Quarter Finals of the Scottish Cup.
- 3.3. The number of places in the Plate are at the Competition Organisers discretion. More than 16 teams will require a second round before the Quarter Finals.
- 3.4. There shall be no seeding in the Scottish Plate.
- 3.5. Eight teams will progress to the Quarter Finals with the teams drawn in odd numbered Round 1 (Round 2 if required) matches hosting the Quarter Final against the team in the corresponding even numbered match.

#### **4. Scottish Cup Competitions Quarter Finals**

- 4.1. The Quarter Finals of the Cup and the Plate are set by the prior Round 2/Round 1 draws as appropriate.
- 4.2. The Home team is set by the previously mentioned criteria with the Competitions Disputes Panel arbitrating in case of dispute.

#### **5. Scottish Cup and Plate Semi Finals and Finals**

- 5.1. The Scottish Cup and Scottish Plate Semi Finals and Finals will be hosted at Scottish Volleyball events, namely Semi Final Saturday and Cup Finals Weekend respectively. Teams must attend these events to play the matches.
- 5.2. The draw for Semi Finals will be made after the Quarter Finals have been completed.





## Appendix C: SVL Pre-Match Protocol to be followed for all SVL & Cup matches

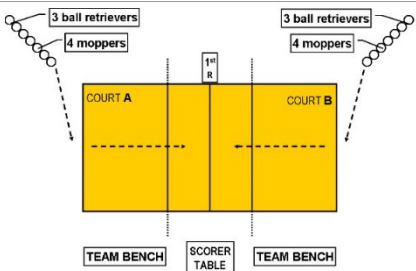
Minutes Before First Ball Served	Action	Action of Referees	Action of Teams
-30:00 (Start of the warm up at which the 1 <sup>st</sup> referee has control)	Check of the Net height and tension, entrance of the teams	Referee's check <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Height and tension of net</li> <li>• Position of antennae and side bands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both teams are requested to enter the playing area</li> <li>• Teams wear the official playing uniforms</li> <li>• Team documentation handed to the scorer's table</li> </ul>
-14:00	Toss of the coin to choose service and court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The two referees' report to the area in front of the scorer's table</li> <li>• The 1st referee blows his/her whistle to call the Team Captains</li> <li>• The toss of the coin follows and the 1st referee informs the scorer of the result</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both team captains report to the area in front of the scorer's table After the toss:</li> <li>• Team captains and coaches sign the scoresheet</li> <li>• Teams go to their respective benches and bring in any equipment, which they place behind the team benches</li> </ul>
13:00	Start of the Official Warm-Up at the net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 1st referee blows the whistle to signal the start of the Official Net Warm-Up (5 minutes minimum for each team or 10 minutes together). The referees:</li> <li>• Check the game balls, official playing uniforms, team documentation</li> <li>• Give any necessary instructions to Line Judges, ball retrievers, moppers and scorers.</li> </ul>	The teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start to warm-up at the net</li> <li>• Must wear their playing uniform for the official warm-up</li> </ul>
9:00	Line-Up sheets for the first set	The 2nd referee must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the coach or assistant coach submits the original signed line up sheet for the first set</li> </ul>	The coach or the assistant coach of each team gives the line-up sheet for the first set to the 2nd referee/ scorer.
3:00	End of team warm up at the net	The 1st referee blows the whistle to indicate the end of the warm-up of the teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the 1st referee's whistle, teams must stop warming up and immediately return to their own bench</li> <li>• All players must wear their match uniforms</li> </ul>
1:00	Check court positions of the players matches the Line-up sheet	The 2nd referee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Checks the players' standing position, comparing them with those on their respective line-up sheet</li> <li>• Invites the Starting Libero to enter, replacing one of the players in the back zone</li> <li>• Asks the scorer if he/she has also finished checking and is ready to start (two handed OK from scorer)</li> <li>• Gives the ball to the server</li> <li>• Gives a two handed OK</li> </ul>	Both teams are ready to start the match

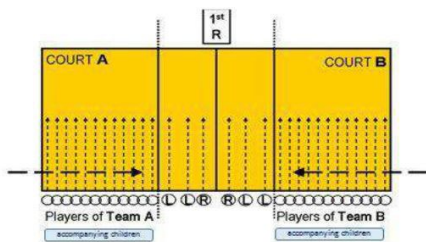
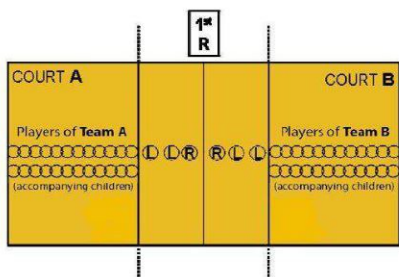


Minutes Before First Ball Served	Action	Action of Referees	Action of Teams
0:00	First Service	The 1st referee blows the whistle authorising the first service, within the scheduled time.	

## Appendix D: Finals Weekend Pre-Match Protocol

Please note: Finals Weekend Protocol is often changed dependent on the needs of the venue, staff and volunteers. Clubs and teams should use this as a guide, but should be aware of the possibility of changes prior to their matches.

Minutes Before First Ball Served	Action	Action of Referees	Action of Teams
-35.00 before the 1 <sup>st</sup> service	Walk On	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The toss of the coin and the first referee informs the scorer of the result</li> <li>Referee 1 will stand in front of Team A and walk them out</li> <li>Referee 2 will stand in front of Team B and walk them out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teams must be in playing uniform and leave all bags in the trolleys provided</li> <li>Team A will go to the side line closest to walk-on entrance</li> <li>Team B will walk past the post and stand on far side</li> </ul>
-32.00 before the 1 <sup>st</sup> service	Time for entertainment	Referees check <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The game balls, substitution paddles (if used), electronic scoresheet</li> <li>All necessary equipment, i.e. buzzer, Libero jackets, etc including the referee equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teams cannot enter the playing area before the start of the official protocol</li> </ul>
-31.00 before the 1 <sup>st</sup> service	Official Photographs	Referees call the teams to the agreed position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teams in playing uniform, follow the instruction of the 1<sup>st</sup> referee</li> </ul>
-30.00 before the 1 <sup>st</sup> service	Check of the Net, entrance of the teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Referees Check:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Height &amp; Tension of the net</li> <li>Position of antennae and side markings</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both teams are requested to enter the playing area.</li> <li>Teams wear the official playing uniforms</li> </ul>
-16.00 before the 1 <sup>st</sup> service	Presentation of the ball retrievers and moppers to the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The moppers and ball retrievers for each court ENTER the respective court from the corners of A &amp; B to line up in the longitudinal axe of the court in accordance with the announcement by court DJ. They present themselves by waving to their hands.</li> </ul>  <p>Afterwards they return the way they entered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

Minutes Before First Ball Served	Action	Action of Referees	Action of Teams
-15.00 before the 1 <sup>st</sup> service	Team Captains sign scoresheet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The two referees report to the area in front of the scorer's table.</li> <li>The first referee blows his whistle to call the Team Captains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both team captains report to the area in front of the scorer's table</li> <li>Both Team Captains sign the scoresheet</li> </ul>
-14:00	Start of the Official Warm-Up at the net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 1st referee blows the whistle to signal the start of the Official Net Warm-Up (5 minutes minimum for each team or 10 minutes together). The referees:</li> <li>Check official playing uniforms, team documentation</li> <li>Give any necessary instructions to Line Judges, ball retrievers, moppers and scorers.</li> </ul>	<p>The teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start to warm-up at the net</li> <li>Must wear their playing uniform for the official warm-up</li> </ul>
-12:00	Line-Up sheets for the first set	<p>The 2nd referee must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the coach or assistant coach submits the original signed line up sheet for the first set</li> </ul>	The coach or the assistant coach of each team gives the SIGNED line-up sheet for the first set to the 2nd referee/ scorer.
-04:00	End of team warm up at the net	The 1st referee blows the whistle to indicate the end of the warm-up of the teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the 1st referee's whistle, teams must stop warming up and immediately return to their own bench</li> <li>If players need to change their jerseys, they must leave the playing court and return immediately with the approval of the 1st referee</li> <li>All players must wear their match uniforms</li> </ul>
-03:30	Referee, linejudges and teams are ready to enter the court		
		<p>First referee whistles, the 14 players of each team together with the referees, and linejudges enter the court., lining up laterally in the middle of the court facing the spectators.</p> 	

Minutes Before First Ball Served	Action	Action of Referees	Action of Teams
-03:00	Announcement of the match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the 1<sup>st</sup> referee's whistle, both referees and line judges go to the middle of the court, perpendicular and close to the net, facing the spectators.</li> <li>The speaker announces the match</li> <li>After the announcement of the match, the first referee whistles for the players of the two teams to shake hands.</li> <li>The referees return to their respective position.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If not already completed in a previous section, at this point, at the 1<sup>st</sup> referees whistle, the 14 players of each team enter the court, lining-up laterally in the middle of the court facing the main spectator stand</li> <li>The players of the two teams shake hands and return to their respective benches</li> <li>The coach, assistant coach, doctor, trainer, starting-six players and the 1<sup>st</sup> libero sit on the bench for the individual presentation while the reserve players can remain near their team bench or be in their warm up area</li> </ul>
02:30	<p>Fanfare</p> <p>Presentation of match referees</p> <p>Followed by the presentation of the starting players, 1<sup>st</sup> libero &amp; coaches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both referees, accompanied by a fanfare, March to the middle of the court, close to the net, facing the spectators. After being introduced, the 1<sup>st</sup> referee goes to the referee's chair and the second referee stands in the area in front of the scorer's table</li> <li>The speaker announces the name and player's number of all starting players, Starting libero and coach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After a second fanfare, each starting player and the libero of team A (on left of the score table as seen by the scorer) enters the court, waving his/her hands at the announcement of their name. The coach stands up, raising his/her hands when his/her name is announced.</li> <li>Following this, team B (on the right of the score table) is announced in the same way</li> <li>The other team members will be presented during the match, when they enter as substitutes</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The second referee distributes FOUR match balls to the ball retrievers in the corners of the court.</li> <li>The 2<sup>nd</sup> referee checks the players' starting position, comparing them to those on the line-up sheet</li> <li>He/she asks the scorer if he/she has also finished checking and is ready to start</li> <li>The second referee will then give the ball to the server.</li> </ul>	
0:00	First Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 1<sup>st</sup> referee blows the whistle authorising the first service, at the scheduled time.</li> </ul>	

## Appendix E: Referee Fees + Increases

1. Scottish Volleyball as a partner of sportscotland, is committed to the Scottish Government's Fair Work First policy. Scottish Volleyball ensures that both we and our partner organisations delivering services connected to us, pay the current Real Living wage at all times.
2. The following adjustment to the SV Referee pay scales (as per Scottish Volleyball Competition Rules 2024) have been adopted to ensure compliance and is based on matches lasting no more than 2.5 hours:
  - Grade 4: £30 (minimum amount)
  - Grade 3: £32
  - Grade 2/1: £35
3. Any subsequent notifications of increases to the Real Living Wage will also have to be implemented and these will be notified in advance as these would supersede any published rules.
4. Please note that all payments should also comply with current HMRC regulations with tax deducted at source. It is the responsibility of the club to declare to HMRC, any non-expense payments that are made to individuals.
5. The Real Living Wage Foundation announces its recommendations in the autumn (September/October) and we have a maximum of 6 months to implement. If this is the case, SV will communicate this change as a matter of priority to all clubs.