

COMPETITION RULES

**Amended December
2019**

VOLLEYBALL IRELAND

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1. INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definitions

Calendar Year	Defined as the period from 1 January to 31 December each year.
Club	Defined as any organisation registered as a Club with the Volleyball Ireland.
Club Secretary	Defined as the official Club representative/main point of contact whose main responsibilities involve liaising with Volleyball Ireland and the various Commissions on all volleyball matters.
Club Volunteer	Defined as a designated Club volunteer willing to actively serve on a Volleyball Ireland Commission or be co-opted onto the Volleyball Ireland Board for a specified time period.
FIVB	Federation Internationale de Volleyball or the International Volleyball Federation. The FIVB is the governing body responsible for all forms of volleyball on a global level.
Fixture List	Defined as the timetable of League and/or Championship/Association Cup Fixtures issued by the Competitions Commission for the Season.
Forfeit	Defined as a situation where a Team fails to fulfil all its obligations for a Match and is normally reflected in a 25-0, 25-0, 25-0 loss, fine and a penalty point. Other sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the Competitions Commission.
Indoor Season	Defined as the period from 1 September to 31 May each year.
Federation of Origin	Defined as the National Volleyball Federation of the country from which the player originated. The Federation of Origin changes after a player has established residence in another country for a minimum of two years and has obtained the nationality of that country.
Match	Defined as a game in which two registered Teams compete against each other and for the purposes of these Rules shall mean a Match in a sanctioned Volleyball Ireland Competition.
Match Official	Means the Referee, and shall include, when appointed, the scorekeeper and any lines persons for a given Match.
Medical Personnel	Means doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, and physical therapists who are professionally qualified and licensed to practice within the jurisdiction of Ireland permitted to be part of the authorised bench personnel as they have registered with Volleyball Ireland.
National League	Means all divisions of the indoor National League, both men and women, comprising the Premier League, Division 1 and Division 2, depending on the number of Teams competing each Indoor Season.

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National Volleyball Federation	Defined as the national bodies of volleyball recognised in a country or territory to administer and govern all forms of volleyball, structured and organised.
NIVB	Defined as the Northern Ireland Volleyball Association.
Referee	Means a person who is eligible to officiate a Match having registered with Volleyball Ireland, after meeting the necessary qualification criteria.
Rules	Defined as the Volleyball Ireland Competition Rules as amended from time to time by the Volleyball Ireland Board.
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 of Volleyball Ireland.
Volleyball Ireland Board	Means the Board of Administration or Board of Directors of Volleyball Ireland.
Volleyball Ireland Calendar	Defined as the calendar of events notified to members at the beginning of each Season and shall include all Volleyball Ireland Competitions and Tournaments, National Squad Training/Competition dates, International Matches involving the National Squads, Volleyball Ireland Board meetings and other events recognised by the Volleyball Ireland for Volleyball Ireland Calendar purposes.
Website	Refers to www.volleyballireland.com and the Competitions Section of the website where the official Fixture Lists are displayed.

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

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

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2. VOLLEYBALL IRELAND COMPETITIONS

2.1 The Volleyball Ireland Competitions shall comprise the following:

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

2.2 These Rules are subject to periodic review; and subject to approval by the Volleyball Ireland Board.

The Volleyball Ireland Competition Rules are divided into three sections:

- Section A – Volleyball Ireland Indoor Competition Rules which cover the National League; the Association Cup and Association Shield; the Junior and Intermediate Championships sanctioned by the Competitions Commission.
- Section B – Volleyball Ireland Schools Competition Rules which cover all school competitions sanctioned by the Schools Commission.
- Section C – Volleyball Ireland Beach Competition Rules which cover all beach/outdoor competitions sanctioned by the Beach Commission.

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SECTION A – VOLLEYBALL IRELAND INDOOR COMPETITION RULES

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

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<p>1.10 The rules of the game of volleyball that shall apply to all Volleyball Ireland Competitions shall be those currently issued by the FIVB and any changes ratified by the Board of Volleyball Ireland.</p>	
<p>1.11 Each Team entered in the National League should have a minimum of 8 registered players at least 5 working days before the first scheduled Match (unless explicitly excused in writing by the Competitions Commission). A Team shall not be allowed to compete unless it has complied with these conditions.</p>	<p>3.2 3.6</p>
<p>1.12 Clubs must register each player for the Team he/she will represent in Volleyball Ireland Competitions and all registrations must be approved by the Club Secretary.</p>	<p>3.1 3.2</p>
<p>1.13 Teams joining the National League will be entered into the lowest division unless the Competitions Commission determines otherwise, and only upon receipt of an application.</p>	
<p>1.14 All official correspondence with Volleyball Ireland in connection with these Rules must be conducted in writing (either by letter or email), addressed from the Club Secretary to the Volleyball Ireland Office, and marked for the attention of the Competitions Commission at the following address:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Attention: Competitions Commission Volleyball Ireland First Floor, 141 Thomas Street, Dublin 8. Email: info@volleyballireland.com competitions@volleyballireland.com </p>	

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2. INDOOR COMPETITION FORMAT

2.1. Competitions Structure

The Competitions structure shall be determined by the Competitions Commission each Season. The Competitions Commission shall prepare the Volleyball Ireland Calendar for the following Season, obtaining input from relevant bodies (Referees Commission, National Squads Commission, Board, etc.) and submit the proposed Volleyball Ireland Calendar for final approval to the Volleyball Ireland Board.

2.2. League Tables

League tables for all Leagues shall be compiled as follows:

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

2.3 Tie-Break

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

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

8.1

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

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<p>2.4. Team withdrawal</p>	
<p>2.4.1 Where a Team withdraws or is eliminated during a League Competition, all Matches involving that Team shall be null and void unless the Team has played all other Teams in the League once before withdrawing or being eliminated (forfeited Matches do not count as Matches played). Where the Team has played all other Teams in the League at least once the results of the first round of Matches will stand and any second round results will be ignored.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>2.4.2 A Team withdrawing from the National League after the closing date for Club affiliation and League entry shall be subject to a fine. Teams withdrawing from the National League within six weeks (after the fixtures have been issued, usually by 1 September) of the start of the league may be subject to a further fine. The Team may be subject to additional sanctions as determined by the Competitions Commission, including but not limited to disqualification from participating in further Volleyball Ireland Competitions. All sanctions and fines will be the responsibility of the Club.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>2.4.3 Where a Team withdraws from a knockout competition (including but not limited to Association Cup, Association Shield or Championships) following the scheduling of fixtures and/or the appointment of Match Officials, such Team shall be subject to a fine. A Team is deemed to have withdrawn from a knockout competition if they forfeit one or more matches (two or more matches in the case of the Championships) in said competition. The Team may be subject to additional sanctions as determined by the Competitions Commission.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p>
<p>2.4.5 If a Team withdraws from any Volleyball Ireland Competition, it may be required to pay the reasonable expenses unavoidably incurred by the Volleyball Ireland, Match Officials and/or the other affected Teams in preparation for the scheduled Matches which will not be played. Such matters shall be determined by the Competitions Commission on an application from the Volleyball Ireland Board and/or the affected Teams.</p>	<p>4.7</p>
<p>2.4.6 If a Team withdraws from a fixture without authorisation, this is deemed as a Forfeit and the Team is issued with a fine and in the case of a league fixture, receives one penalty point.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>

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3. PLAYER REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY	
3.1. Only players duly registered with Volleyball Ireland may participate in Volleyball Ireland Competitions. To compete in the Premier League, players must be 14 years of age by 1 September of the year in which the league commences. For all other leagues, players must be 12 years of age by 1 September of the year in which the league commences.	1.12
3.2. Players must register with Volleyball Ireland by completing the relevant Player Registration Form providing the previous year's registration card (or passport size photograph for new players), transfer approval letter from the Competitions Commission (if necessary) and the appropriate registration fee to the Volleyball Ireland Office.	3.3 3.10 – Foreign (Registered) Players 1.11 1.12 3.4 3.8 9.5
3.3 All registered National League players will be issued with a player registration card for the relevant season once they have complied with the requirements in 3.2, completed the Anti-Doping online assessment and submitted the certificate to the Volleyball Ireland Office.	3.2 14.1
3.4 All National League players must produce a valid player registration card or other official proof of registration at each Volleyball Ireland Competition. Failure to do so may result in a fine. Replacement cards may be obtained from the Volleyball Ireland Office subject to a replacement charge. Referees have the right to ask for alternative photo ID as proof of name and surname of a player.	3.2 Schedule of Fees 6.4.1.3
3.5 Where a player participates in a set where he/she was ineligible, the points won by this Team while the illegal player was on court are cancelled. If the set has been completed, the set will be awarded to the opposing Team 25-0. If the Match is over when the error is noticed the whole Match is awarded to the opposing Team 25-0, 25-0, 25-0. In this instance, a forfeit penalty point is not imposed. The Competitions Commission shall determine whether any fine or other sanctions should apply.	Appendix I – 3.1 Schedule of Fees
3.6 Following the commencement of the Season, new players, (namely players not registered with any National League Team) may register to play with a Team in a Cup/Championship competition provided it is at least 3 working days before the first Match they participate in. No new player may register for any National League competition after the last working day before 17 March of the year the league concludes unless sanctioned by the Competitions Commission. A player can register for a Team playing in the Association Cup or Shield up to the semi-final stage.	1.11 9 10
3.7 All players must be eligible to play in the division in which they play.	3.8 3.11.3 3.12
3.8 A player in a Club can be re-graded downwards only when sanctioned by the Competitions Commission. The appropriate written application from the Club Secretary should be included at the time of registration.	3.2 3.7 3.11.3

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	3.12.4
3.9 A player may only be registered with one Club and one National Volleyball Federation at any time.	3.10.1 3.11.1
3.10 Foreign (Registered) Players	
3.10.1 Players who have previously been registered with another National Volleyball Federation must provide evidence as required that they have (a) obtained the relevant transfer documentation to enable them to register with the Volleyball Ireland (the FIVB Transfer Form available at www.fivb.org) and (b) where relevant, that the applicable transfer fees have been paid. The FIVB Rules governing international player transfers shall apply to such players.	FIVB Sports Regulations, Section II, Chapter I, Clause 1.6 3.2 3.9
3.10.2 Players who have lived outside Ireland and who wish to register with Volleyball Ireland and who have not previously been registered with another National Volleyball Federation must at the time of registration certify same in writing. Volleyball Ireland may at its discretion require the player to provide evidence to this effect. This may take the form of a letter from the National Volleyball Federation in the player's Federation of Origin stating that such player is not and has never been registered with that National Volleyball Federation.	3.2
3.11 Indoor Player Transfers In and Out of Season	
3.11.1 During the out of season period (1 June to 31 August) a player must inform both National League Clubs (departing and receiving) of their wish to transfer and request a letter of release from the departing club. The departing Club must confirm or deny the release for the player within 5 working days of receipt of the request. The player should then apply in writing to the Competitions Commission via the Player Transfer Form attaching the written approval from the departing Club confirming his/her release and intention to transfer club. A player who has not been registered with a Club during the previous 2 seasons does not require Competitions Commission approval to transfer Clubs. In the event of a dispute between the player wishing to transfer and a Club refusing to release, the player has a right to protest against the refusal following the Transfer Dispute Resolution procedure.	3.9 3.11.3 Schedule of Fees Transfer Dispute Resolution Procedure - 12.5
3.11.2 The transfer will take effect on the morning of the date specified in writing by the Competitions Commission to the player, the receiving Club and the Volleyball Ireland Office. No transfer will be effective until the Competitions Commission has reviewed the transfer documentation and until such notification has been issued by the Competitions Commission in writing.	
3.11.3 A transferred player can only play at the same level or higher at the new Club unless sanctioned by the Competitions Commission.	3.7 3.8 3.11.1 3.11.4
3.11.4 During the Indoor Season, a player must inform both Clubs (departing and receiving) of their wish to transfer and request a letter of release from the departing club. The departing Club must confirm or deny clearance for the transfer within 5 working days of receipt of the request.	3.9 3.11.3 Schedule

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<p>The player should then apply in writing to the Competitions Commission via the Player Transfer Form attaching the written approval from the departing Club confirming his/her release and intention to transfer. A player who has not been registered with a Club during the previous 2 seasons does not require Competitions Commission approval to transfer Clubs. In the event of a dispute between the player wishing to transfer and a Club refusing to release, the player has a right to protest against the refusal following the Transfer Dispute Resolution procedure.</p>	<p>of Fees Transfer Dispute Resolution Procedure - 12.5</p>
<p>3.11.5 The transfer will take effect on the morning of the date specified in writing by the Competitions Commission to the player, departing Club, receiving Club and the Volleyball Ireland Office. No transfer will be effective until the Competitions Commission has reviewed the transfer documentation and until such notification has been issued by the Competitions Commission in writing.</p>	
<p>3.11.6 A player registration card for a transferring player will not be issued without official written authorisation from the Competitions Commission.</p>	
<p>3.11.7 A player transferred from one Club to another may not play for the new Club in any competition in which he/she has already competed in the same season.</p>	<p>10.5</p>
<p>3.12 Playing Up and/or Down</p>	
<p>3.12.1 In League competitions only, a player aged 19 years of age or over by 1 September of the year in which the league commences may play 9 sets for a higher division Team in their Club without affecting their own grade. On playing the 10th set, the player is automatically upgraded to the higher division Team. From this point on in the season, the player may not play with the lower division Team again in any Volleyball Ireland competition. Stepping on court for a set shall constitute participation in that set for the purposes of counting the sets.</p>	<p>3.7 3.12.4 3.12.5 3.12.6</p>
<p>3.12.2 The responsibility of tracking a player playing 'up' lies with the Club and the Competitions Commission cannot be held responsible for any late notification to a Club regarding a player upgrade. Where there is any doubt the Club Secretary should contact the Competitions Commission for further guidance.</p>	<p>3.12.6</p>
<p>3.12.3 In League competitions only, a player aged 18 years of age or under by 1 September of the year in which the league commences may play an unlimited number of sets for a higher division Team in their Club without affecting their own grade.</p>	<p>3.7</p>
<p>3.12.4 Players may only play up for one Team in any season, irrespective of whether that Team is one or more grades ahead of the players' initial grade.</p>	<p>3.7 3.8 3.12.1</p>
<p>3.12.5 No player may play down into a lower division Team.</p>	<p>3.7 3.8 3.12.1</p>
<p>3.12.6 If a Libero from a lower division Team is named on the scoresheet they are deemed to have played every set in that Match unless otherwise specified by the Match Officials.</p>	<p>3.12.1 3.12.2</p>

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<p>4. FIXTURE PROCEDURES</p>	
<p>4.1 The Competitions Commission shall decide the dates of all Matches in Volleyball Ireland Competitions. It will also allocate who the 'Home' Team is. For National League fixtures, these dates and 'Home' Team designations will be sent to all Club Secretaries at least 4 weeks before the commencement of the National League.</p>	
<p>4.2 At the start of the Indoor Season, upon issuance of fixtures by the Competitions Commission, all Clubs will be given at least 1 week to finalise their home fixtures. Clubs will also be given an additional window (generally 1 week) during which time they can agree with opposing Teams (in writing) to swap home advantage or change dates as required. The Competitions Commission will set a date for finalisation of home fixtures. A fine may be imposed where Clubs do not comply with these procedures. Any Matches not rescheduled during this time slot, which subsequently require rescheduling, must follow the fixture changes procedures as set out in these Rules.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees 5.1 6.1 5.1 to 5.12</p>
<p>4.3 The Competitions Commission has allowed for a further window (generally 1 to 2 weeks) during the month of December to reschedule National League Matches for the second half of the season. Any Matches not rescheduled during this time slot, which subsequently require rescheduling, must follow the fixture changes procedures as set out in these Rules.</p>	<p>Calendar 5.1 to 5.12</p>
<p>4.4 Club Secretaries should ensure all details relating to home fixtures as stated on the Website are correct. This includes information relating to rescheduled fixtures. In the case of disputed fixture details, the fixtures as they appear on the Volleyball Ireland Website are the official fixtures. If a fixture alteration is approved it does not take effect until the updated fixture is uploaded onto the Website.</p>	<p>5.1 5.11 5.13</p>
<p>4.5 For all Volleyball Ireland Competitions, all Matches must be played at venues that are acceptable to the Match Officials on Match day.</p>	<p>6.3.2 6.3.3</p>
<p>4.6 Failure by the 'Home' Team to provide an acceptable venue shall not be accepted as a reason for cancelling Matches. Such Matches shall be deemed forfeit by the 'Home' Team and a 25-0, 25-0, 25-0 result shall be awarded against them.</p>	<p>6.3.66.4.1. 26.4.4.7 Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>4.7 A Team withdrawing from a Match fixture for any reason shall (save in truly exceptional circumstances) provide a full written statement of the reasons for the withdrawal which must be submitted to the Competitions Commission, the Volleyball Ireland Office, the Referees Commission and the opposing Team at least 5 working days before the scheduled Match fixture. A Team withdrawing from a fixture shall forfeit the Match in question.</p> <p>Where a Team fails to fulfil a Match fixture, the Team may be required to pay a fine and the reasonable expenses unavoidably incurred by Volleyball Ireland, appointed Match Officials and/or the other affected Teams in preparation for the scheduled Match which will not be played. Such matters shall be determined by the Competitions Commission on an application from Volleyball Ireland and/or the affected Teams.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees 2.4.5</p>

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

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<p>National Team(s) for International competition or Tournament, or by a Club Team in an International fixture approved in the calendar or participating in an International Club Championship.</p>	
<p>5.9 In relation to 5.8, notice must be given in writing to the Competitions Commission by the Team requesting the fixture change at least 20 working days before the scheduled fixture (save in exceptional circumstances). This must be accompanied by a signed and dated letter from the relevant National Team Coach or Club Secretary confirming that the players are required by the National Team or Club Team on the date/period in question.</p>	5.8
<p>5.10 In the event that either Team deems the weather too dangerous to travel to a Match and an Garda Síochána/National Road Safety Authority are officially advising a Team not to travel, the Match should be postponed and details sent to the Competitions Commission to review, including a copy of the official advice. If it is subsequently deemed that there was no safety issue, the Team refusing to travel shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Match without authorisation and will forfeit the Match.</p>	Schedule of Fees
<p>5.11 A change in the time of a Match only, does not constitute a change of fixture. However for such a change to be recorded; the Team making the change must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Have written agreement from the opposing Club; b) Have agreement from the Competitions Commission; and c) Have ensured that the new time has been correctly recorded on the Website. 	4.4 5.13
<p>5.12 All changes or corrections to the final Fixture List must be notified to the Competitions Commission. Clubs should not contact the Volleyball Ireland Office for such changes.</p>	5.1
<p>5.13 Where a fixture change request has been granted by the Competitions Commission, it is the duty of the requesting Club to ensure that the appropriate entry on the Website is updated. The agreed new Fixture details only come into effect when the Website is updated.</p>	4.4 5.11

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<p>6. MATCH PROCEDURES</p>	
<p>6.1 All Matches shall start between 11am (10:30am warm-up) and 6pm (5:30pm warm-up) at the weekend (Saturday or Sunday) unless agreed in writing in advance with the opposing Team.</p>	4.2
<p>6.2 Clubs should book a minimum of 2 hours playing time plus 30 minutes warm-up for each Premier and Division 1 Match and 1 hour 30 minutes playing time plus 30 minutes warm-up for Division 2. Matches abandoned due to the hall closing are deemed to be a failure to fulfil a Match fixture and will be forfeit by the 'Home' Team.</p>	Schedule of Fees
<p>6.3 'Home' Team Responsibilities</p> <p>The 'Home' Team, or in the case of a 'neutral venue', the 'designated Home' Team (unless otherwise stated) is responsible on Match day for the following:</p>	
<p>6.3.1 To set up the equipment and venue prior to the official warm-up time before the first Match in that venue.</p>	
<p>6.3.2 To ensure that a Volleyball Ireland approved Match ball, net system (with appropriate height as specified in FIVB Rules), appropriately marked court, official scoresheet, scoreboard, rotation slips, Team benches, scorekeeper's table, referees stand, and antennae (mandatory for all National League and Association Cup Matches) are available in the venue at set-up time. In cases of doubt, the First Referee's decision as to the suitability of the equipment shall be final.</p>	4.5 6.4.1.2
<p>6.3.3 To ensure that the venue is sufficiently clean, heated, and safe and that all equipment is in place to commence the warm-up so that the Match can start at the scheduled time. The First Referee's decision on these matters is final.</p>	4.5 6.4.1.2
<p>6.3.4 The 'Home' Team or 'designated Home' Team must ensure that the rules and regulations laid down by the venue (the sports centre, school or community centre in which the Match is scheduled to be played) are adhered to by the participants and spectators in that venue.</p>	
<p>6.3.5 It is the responsibility of the 'Home' Team to provide all Match Officials. A competent scorekeeper is mandatory and an assistant scorekeeper and/or lines people are optional.</p>	6.4.4.4 Schedule of Fees
<p>6.3.6 The failure of the 'Home' Team or 'designated Home' Team to adhere to the above rules is subject to sanction as determined by the Competitions and Referees Commission.</p>	Schedule of Fees 4.6 6.4.1.2

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<p>6.4 Match Day Procedures</p>	
<p>6.4.1 Pre-Match</p>	
<p>6.4.1.1 Teams and Match officials should arrive at least 30 minutes before the Match start time.</p>	
<p>6.4.1.2 Should the First Referee declare the equipment or venue unsuitable for play the First Referee shall advise the Volleyball Ireland Office and the Competitions Commission in writing of the reasons for his/her decision within 5 working days. The Competitions Commission shall decide within 10 working days of receipt of the Referee's written notification, whether the Match(es) shall be forfeit by the 'Home' or 'designated Home' Team or replayed and decide who shall bear the reasonable associated costs.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees 4.6 6.3.2 6.3.3 6.3.6</p>
<p>6.4.1.3 The Referees must check the registration cards of the coaches, players and medical personnel. They must also check the regulation kit, the venue, and the sufficiency of Match Officials. Referees have the right to ask for alternative photo ID as proof of name and surname of player, coach or medical personnel.</p> <p>Failure to produce player, coach, medical personnel and referee cards may be subject to fines per the Schedule of Fees.</p>	<p>3.4 6.4.1.4 6.4.1.5 Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>6.4.1.4 Coaches will not be allowed to coach if they are not registered as a coach with Volleyball Ireland. No coach can be deemed registered without having been Garda Vetted at least every 3 years and having completed the Code of Ethics/Safeguarding I course which must be renewed every 4 years. Coaches who do not have their coaching registration card present may coach but may be subject to a fine. The Referee should note the event on the scoresheet. Where a coach participates in a Match where he/she was ineligible, the Match shall be awarded to the opposition as a Forfeit with the offending Team receiving a penalty point and a fine shall be imposed. The Competitions Commission shall determine in the first instance if any other sanctions should apply.</p>	<p>6.4.1.3 Schedule of Fees Appendix I – 2.2, 3.1</p>
<p>6.4.1.5 Medical personnel will not be allowed to sit on the bench if they are not registered with Volleyball Ireland. Medical Personnel who do not have their registration card present may sit on the bench but may be subject to a fine. The Referee should note the event on the scoresheet. The Competitions Commission shall determine in the first instance if any other sanctions should apply.</p>	<p>6.4.1.3 13 Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>6.4.1.6 In all Matches the Referee shall ensure that, while normal warm-up times and breaks are allowed to all Teams, there is no deliberate time-wasting by any Team. In the event of a Team being involved in the previous Match (either officiating or playing), a maximum of 15 minutes extra time may be requested before the official Match protocol begins. The decision is at the Referee's discretion.</p>	

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6.4.1.7 A Team failing to appear on court to play when the Referee calls the first 6 players on court shall forfeit the first set, 25-0.	
6.4.1.8 A Team failing to appear on court ready to play within 15 minutes of the Referee calling the first 6 players on court shall forfeit the Match 0-3 (25:0, 25:0, 25:0) and a fine shall be imposed on that Team.	6.4.4.7 Schedule of Fees
6.4.1.9 Any reasonable verified expenses incurred by a Team or appointed officials due to the late arrival of their opposing Team shall be paid by the late Team. Where the delay is due to the late arrival of the backup officials or the Match officials the home Team shall pay with the exception of where the Match Officials are appointed by Volleyball Ireland. Any application under this section must be made to the Referees Commission.	Schedule of Fees

6.4.2 Post-Match	
6.4.2.1 If a dispute arises during the Match and a Team captain wants to have a comment or objection noted on the scoresheet, he/she must inform the Referee of same when the incident occurred. The First Referee will enter a short note about the incident on the scoresheet at the conclusion of the Match. The Team captain through its Club Secretary must submit a written report to the Referees Commission within 10 working days if they wish any action to be taken. Post-mark or email date will be taken as proof of the date. Failure by the Referee or scorekeeper to enter a note onto the scoresheet shall not prevent the Referee from later giving a report to the Referees Commission and/or Competitions Commission in respect of the incident.	6.4.4.7
6.4.2.2 Where the First Referee is of the opinion that any of the Match Officials provided by the Home Team are unable to perform their duties to a reasonable standard or there are insufficient numbers of Match Officials as set out in these Rules then the Referee will note the observation on the scoresheet and the Home Team may be fined.	Schedule of Fees 6.4.4.7
6.4.2.3 It is the First Referee's responsibility to hand out the scoresheets to the Teams at the end of the Match. It is the responsibility of the Teams to ensure that they have received the appropriate scoresheet(s).	
6.4.2.4 After a Match fixture:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The winning Team shall be responsible for notifying the result of the Match to the Volleyball Ireland Office by email (info@volleyballireland.com), phone 016707165 or WhatsApp Scoresheet to 0858725946) before 10pm on the day the match takes place. Failure to inform on time will result in a fine being imposed. b) The winning Team shall be responsible for the return of the original scoresheet to the Volleyball Ireland Office at or before 4pm on the 4th working day (usually a Thursday) after the Match takes place. Failure to return the scoresheet on time will result in a fine being imposed. A Team liable for 3 fines will, in addition, have a penalty point imposed. 	Schedule of Fees
6.4.2.5 Referee fees and mileage reimbursement for every Match at	Schedule

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which he/she officiates shall be split 50/50 between each Team in all competitions at all levels (except for the Junior and Intermediate Championships and Matches hosted by Volleyball Ireland).	of Fees
6.4.2.6 A Team reduced to less than 6 players during the Match due to injury or due to a player(s) being disqualified shall lose the Match but shall retain any points and sets already won.	
6.4.2.7 If a Team wishes to make a complaint which is not a protest (see Section 12 for Protest Procedures) they must submit their complaint via their Club Secretary using the appropriate official form which is available from the Volleyball Ireland Office.	Section 12

6.4.3 Irregular kit	
6.4.3.1 No player shall be permitted to play without a numbered jersey. The jersey must be numbered front and back and be of a standard colour and design for the whole Team (save the libero who should be in a contrasting colour but appropriately numbered jersey). Jersey numbers must be between 1 and 20 inclusive. Shorts are not required to be numbered.	
6.4.3.2 A player playing in the Premier League may play in irregular shorts but this must be noted by the Referee on the scoresheet and a fine per offending player shall be incurred per Match.	Schedule of Fees
6.4.3.3 Irregular shorts are not permitted in the Association Cup.	Section 9
6.4.3.4 Lower division Teams are permitted to wear irregular shorts without penalty.	
6.4.4 Refereeing	
6.4.4.1 All Teams must have one qualified, active, registered Referee by the second Friday in September. Referees will be defined as active if they officiate (as First or Second Referee) more than 5 Matches at their grade across all Volleyball Ireland competitions during the Calendar Year in addition to attending a VI Hosted referees refresher course once every 3 years. These competitions include Irish Schools, Third Level/Colleges, National League, Association Cup, Championship, Mixed Recreational and other VI tournaments. Referees who officiate matches for a Club, which is not their own affiliated Club will count for double. It is the Referee's responsibility to submit a list of matches officiated on a monthly basis to the Referees Commission. Failure to officiate more than 5 matches in any one season may result in re-grading and/or re-assessment. The Referees Commission will review this on a case by case basis.	6.4.4.2 6.4.4.4
6.4.4.2 Any Team with a non-playing and non-coaching active Referee registered with the Club may apply to the Referees Commission for an exemption from rule 6.4.4.1. In this case, 1 non-playing and non-	6.4.4.1 6.4.4.3

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<p>coaching Referee can cover for 2 Teams. The exemption can only be applied for if the relevant Referee has officiated (as First or Second Referee) a minimum of 10 competitive Matches across all Volleyball Ireland Competitions in the previous Calendar Year and is up to date with refresher course attendance. Applications for exceptions must be submitted to the Referees Commission in writing when said Referee is registering. Each application will be dealt with on a case by case basis.</p>	6.4.4.4												
<p>6.4.4.3 Where a Club is granted an exemption on the basis of 6.4.4.2, it is expected that its non-playing and non-coaching Referee will make himself/herself available to officiate a minimum of 10 Matches in the coming Calendar Year. Failure to officiate this number of Matches may result in the exemption not being granted in the following/subsequent registration period.</p>	6.4.4.2 6.4.4.4												
<p>6.4.4.4 If a Club does not have sufficient active Referees (as defined by 6.4.4.1 or 6.4.4.3) for 1 Calendar Year, it may be subject to a fine.</p>	6.4.4.1 6.4.4.2 6.4.4.3 Schedule of Fees												
<p>6.4.4.5 It is the responsibility of the Home Club to find and appoint appropriately graded registered Referees. Home Teams must notify the Referees Commission by email of their Referee appointments 3 working days before the fixture.</p>	6.3.5 6.4.4.6												
<p>6.4.4.6 Appropriately qualified Referees depends on the division that the Match takes place. The grading of Referees acceptable to each division is as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="316 1167 1150 1317" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>1st Mandatory</th> <th>2nd Manatory</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Premier</td> <td>G1 or above</td> <td>G2 or above</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Division</td> <td>G2 or above</td> <td>G3 or above</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second Division</td> <td>G3 or above</td> <td>G3 or above</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		1 st Mandatory	2 nd Manatory	Premier	G1 or above	G2 or above	First Division	G2 or above	G3 or above	Second Division	G3 or above	G3 or above	6.4.4.5 6.4.4.7
	1 st Mandatory	2 nd Manatory											
Premier	G1 or above	G2 or above											
First Division	G2 or above	G3 or above											
Second Division	G3 or above	G3 or above											
<p>6.4.4.7 If the Home Club is unable to find a suitably graded registered Referee for one of the Home Teams after exhausting all options, the Home Club must notify the Referees Commission a minimum of 3 working days prior to the fixture with the background of who has been contacted, who is unavailable and a proposed alternative lower grade Referee who is available and willing to officiate. If the Referees Commission cannot assist in finding a suitably graded Referee (which is unlikely if all options have been exhausted by the Club already), the Referees Commission may permit an exception to be made and a Referee of a lower grade to be permitted to officiate the match. Both Teams should be informed of this in advance once approved by the Referees Commission.</p>	6.4.4.5												
<p>6.4.4.8 Where a Referee records an objection on the scoresheet or the Match is forfeit, he/she must notify the Competitions Commission, Referees Commission and the Volleyball Ireland Office within 3 working days.</p>	4.6 6.4.1.8 6.4.2.1 6.4.2.2												

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<p>7. COMPETITION WINNERS</p>	
<p>7.1 Trophies and/or medals shall be presented to the winners of each League, Championship, and Cup Competition (incorporating Shield).</p>	
<p>7.2 The winning Teams in the Premier League may be nominated by Volleyball Ireland to participate in a suitable European tournament or competition. Entry to such tournament or competition shall be a matter for discussion and agreement between Volleyball Ireland and the respective successful Team and its Club.</p>	
<p>7.3 Perpetual trophies must be engraved at the winning Team/Club's expense. Trophies must be returned to the Volleyball Ireland clean, engraved and in good condition by 31 March of the following Season. Failure to comply will result in a fine.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>7.4 Should a perpetual trophy be damaged or lost while under the care or custody of a Club/Team, the Club responsible will be required to meet the cost of repair or replacement.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>7.5 All-Star Awards are presented to the best player in each position (7 in total) in the Premier League for both men and women. The format of voting is at the discretion of the Competitions Commission. Only Premier graded players who have played a minimum number of sets (as determined by the Competitions Commission) during the Season are eligible to be selected for this award. An annual All-Star Match may be played. All-Star winners are expected to make themselves available for this event.</p>	

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

9. ASSOCIATION CUP	
9.1 Clubs will be required to register Team(s) for the Association Cup by completing the entry form and paying the appropriate fee by the designated	Schedule of Fees

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date.	1.3
9.2 Association Cup Matches will be played in accordance with the Competition Rules outlined in Sections 1 to 7.	Sections 1-7
9.3 Each Team competing will be required to register a Team list, on the appropriate entry form, which should be sent to the Volleyball Ireland Office no later than 5 working days before the first Match.	9.1
9.4 Any addition to a Team list must be notified in writing to the Volleyball Ireland Office at least 3 working days (except in exceptional circumstances) before the next round of Matches. If the additional player is not registered, all relevant forms and documentation must be completed before the player is eligible to participate in the tournament. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all Team lists are up to date and the Volleyball Ireland Office has the most up to date list.	3.6
9.5 A Team may comprise of any players registered with that Club provided that they are in possession of a valid Volleyball Ireland player registration card and have been allocated to a Team.	3.2
9.6 A Shield Competition will take place and the format will be determined at the discretion of the Competitions Commission.	

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

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

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12. PROTEST PROCEDURES

Note:

- All Protests must be submitted on the appropriate Volleyball Ireland protest form (along with the relevant Protest Deposit) which can be obtained from the Volleyball Ireland Office;
- Protests relating to Indoor Competition Rules or the interpretation of the rules should be referred in the first instance to the Competitions Commission (procedures are outlined in 12.1 and 12.2);
- Protests relating to refereeing issues should be referred in the first instance to the Referees Commission (procedures are outlined in 12.3 and 12.4);
- Protests relating to transfer disputes should be referred in the first instance to the Competitions Commission (procedures are outlined in 12.5);
- Protests relating to any other matter should be referred in the first instance to the Board of Administration (procedures are outlined in 12.6);
- If it is not clear, in the first instance, where the protest should be directed, it should be referred to the Board of Administration who will decide on how the matter will be dealt with;
- If the Referees or Competitions Commission believes that it is beyond their scope to deal with a matter; they may refer it to the Board of Administration.

12.1 Protests relating to the Indoor Competition Rules or the interpretation of the Competition Rules

12.1.1 If a Club or Team wishes to lodge a protest relating to the Indoor Competition Rules or the interpretation of the Competition Rules the following procedures shall apply:

- a) A Team must make the protest through its Club Secretary or Club President;
- b) The protest must be lodged in writing on the official protest form (available from the Volleyball Ireland Office) and should be addressed to the Competitions Commission, with a copy to the Volleyball Ireland Office, before the protest/complaint may be considered. The opposing Club must also be notified by the protesting Club;
- c) The protest must be received **no later than 5 working days** after the incident. It must be accompanied by payment of the Protest Deposit.

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12.1.2 The Competitions Commission shall acknowledge receipt of the protest, in writing, as soon as is practicably possible, and shall provide all parties concerned with details of the protest in question and afford all parties a reasonable opportunity to make representations and present their case.

12.1.3 When the Competitions Commission adjudicates on a matter, a Competitions Protest Committee will be convened to decide on the matter **within 10 working days** of the receipt of the protest. This committee shall constitute at least three members, one of whom shall be nominated to act as chairperson.

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<p>12.1.4 Members of the Competitions Protest Committee shall not have had personal involvement with the relevant case and must declare this before taking part in the decision process. If there are not sufficient Commission members eligible because of this rule then suitable persons may be co-opted to the Committee by the Committee Chairperson, subject to approval by the Board of Administration.</p>	
<p>12.1.5 The decision of the Competitions Protest Committee shall be made by a majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson of the Committee shall have a casting vote.</p>	
<p>12.1.6 All parties will be informed, in writing, of the decision of the Competitions Protest Committee within 5 working days. This communication will be copied to the Competitions Commission Secretary, the Referees Commission Secretary, the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration and the General Manager. Minutes of all meetings and any relevant information in the decision process should be sent to the Honorary Secretary.</p>	
<p>12.1.7 The Protest Deposit will be returned if the protest is successful. It is forfeited otherwise.</p>	
<p>12.1.8 Any sanction/penalty imposed by the Competitions Protest Committee shall not, ordinarily, take effect until the period allowed for an appeal has elapsed or the appeal has been determined.</p>	
<p>12.1.9 A decision made by the Competitions Protest Committee can be appealed to the Competitions Technical Committee.</p>	12.2
<p>12.2. Appealing a decision made by the Competitions Protest Committee</p>	
<p>12.2.1 If a Club or Team wishes to appeal a decision made by the Competitions Protest Committee (or the Competitions Commission, in the case of a transfer dispute per Section 12.5) the following procedures shall apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) A Team must make the appeal through its Club Secretary or Club President; b) The appeal must be lodged in writing on the official appeal request form (available from the Volleyball Ireland Office) to the Volleyball Ireland Office and should be addressed for the attention of the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration. It must state the written grounds for appeal and contain all relevant evidence and correspondence relating to the original protest/dispute; c) The appeal must be received no later than 5 working days after notification of the decision by the Competitions Protest Committee was issued to the Club Secretary/President. It must be accompanied by payment of the Appeal Deposit. 	<p>12.1 12.5</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Schedule of Fees</p>

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<p>12.2.2 The Board of Administration shall appoint the members of the Competitions Technical Committee upon receipt of an appeal. This committee shall constitute at least three members, one of whom shall be appointed as Chairperson. No person who was part of the Competitions Protest Committee (or the Competitions Commission, in the case of a transfer dispute) who made the decision being appealed may be part of the Competitions Technical Committee.</p>	
<p>12.2.3 The Competitions Technical Committee shall conduct any appeal/adjudication, within 10 working days of the receipt of the appeal, in accordance with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Respond in writing acknowledging the appeal and receipt thereof; b) Determine how the appeal/hearing will be conducted e.g. by correspondence, by way of a hearing etc.; c) It shall be entitled to request such further information as it considers necessary; d) It shall be entitled at its discretion to rehear the whole or any part of the evidence given before the Competitions Protest Committee (or the Competitions Commission, in the case of a transfer dispute), as it considers appropriate. 	
<p>12.2.4 Members of the Competitions Technical Committee shall not have had any personal involvement with the relevant case and must declare this before taking part in the decision process. If there are not sufficient Commission members eligible because of this rule then suitable persons may be co-opted to the Committee by the Committee Chairperson, subject to approval by the Board of Administration.</p>	
<p>12.2.5 The Chairperson of the Competitions Technical Committee shall have the power to co-opt from time to time additional persons to adjudicate on any case where the specialist skills and/or experience of that individual is required with the approval of the Board of Administration.</p>	
<p>12.2.6 General Procedures relating to proceedings of the Competitions Technical Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) All hearings shall take place in private; b) The non-attendance of a party at a hearing in respect of which that party has been notified shall not prevent the matter being dealt with in their absence. 	
<p>12.2.7 The Competitions Technical Committee shall have the power to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Allow or re-affirm, or dismiss the appeal; b) Vary the decision in such a manner as it sees fit (including the power to reduce, uphold, increase or cancel any penalty). 	
<p>12.2.8 The decision of the Competitions Technical Committee shall be made by a majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson of the Competitions Technical Committee shall have a casting vote.</p>	
<p>12.2.9 All parties will be informed, in writing, within 5 working days of the decision of the Competitions Technical Committee. This communication will be copied to the Competitions Commission Secretary, the Referees Commission Secretary, the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration and the General Manager. Minutes of all meetings and</p>	

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<p>any relevant information in the decision process should be sent to the Honorary Secretary.</p>	
<p>12.2.10 The Appeal Deposit will be returned if the Appeal is successful. It is forfeited otherwise.</p>	
<p>12.2.11 A decision made by the Competitions Technical Committee is final and cannot be appealed.</p>	
<p>12.3 Protests relating to the Refereeing Commission</p>	
<p>12.3.1 If a Club or Team wishes to lodge a protest relating to a refereeing matter the following procedures shall apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A Team must make the protest through its Club Secretary or Club President; b) The protest must be lodged in writing on the official protest form (available from the Volleyball Ireland Office) and should be addressed to the Referees Commission, with a copy to the Volleyball Ireland Office, before the protest may be considered. The opposing Club must also be notified by the protesting Club/Team; c) The protest must be received no later than 5 working days after the incident. It must be accompanied by payment of the Protest Deposit. 	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>12.3.2 The Referees Commission shall acknowledge receipt of the protest, in writing, as soon as is practicably possible, and shall provide all parties concerned with details of the protest in question and afford all parties a reasonable opportunity to make representations and present their case.</p>	
<p>12.3.3 When the Referees Commission adjudicates on a matter, a Referees Commission Protest Committee will be convened to decide on the matter within 10 working days of the receipt of the protest. This committee shall constitute at least three members, one of whom shall be nominated to act as chairperson.</p>	
<p>12.3.4 Members of the Referees Protest Committee shall not have had any personal involvement with the relevant case and must declare this before taking part in the decision process. If there are not sufficient Commission members eligible because of this rule then suitable persons may be co-opted to the Committee by the Committee Chairperson, subject to approval by the Board of Administration.</p>	
<p>12.3.5 The decision of the Referees Protest Committee shall be made by a majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson of the Committee shall have a casting vote.</p>	
<p>12.3.6 All parties will be informed, in writing, within 5 working days, of the decision of the Referees Protest Committee. This communication will be copied to the Referees Commission Secretary, the Competitions Commission Secretary, the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration and the General Manager. Minutes of all meetings and any relevant information in the decision process should be sent to the Honorary Secretary.</p>	

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<p>12.3.7 The Protest Deposit will be returned if the protest is successful. It is forfeited otherwise.</p>	
<p>12.3.8 Any sanction/penalty imposed by the Referees Protest Committee shall not, ordinarily, take effect until the period allowed for an appeal has elapsed or the appeal has been determined.</p>	
<p>12.3.9 A decision made by the Referees Protest Committee can be appealed to the Referees Technical Committee.</p>	12.4
<p>12.4 Appealing a decision made by the Referees Protest Committee</p>	
<p>12.4.1 If a Club or Team wishes to appeal a decision made by the Referees Protest Commission the following procedures shall apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A Team must make the appeal through its Club Secretary or Club President; b) The appeal must be lodged in writing on the official appeal request form (available from the Volleyball Ireland Office) to the Volleyball Ireland Office and should be addressed for the attention of the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration. It must state the written grounds for appeal and contain all relevant evidence and correspondence relating to the original protest; c) The appeal must be received no later than 5 working days after notification of the decision by the Referees Protest Committee was issued to the Club Secretary/President. It must be accompanied by payment of the Appeal Deposit. 	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>12.4.2 The Board of Administration shall appoint the members of the Referees Technical Committee upon receipt of an appeal. This committee shall constitute at least three members, one of whom shall be appointed as Chairperson. No person who was part of the Referees Protest Committee who made the decision being appealed may be part of the Referees Technical Committee.</p>	
<p>12.4.3 The Referees Technical Committee shall conduct any appeal/ adjudication, within 10 working days of the receipt of the appeal, in accordance with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Respond in writing acknowledging the appeal and receipt thereof; b) Determine how the appeal/hearing will be conducted e.g. by correspondence, by way of a hearing etc.; c) It shall be entitled to request such further information as it considers necessary; d) It shall be entitled at its discretion to rehear the whole or any part of the evidence given before the Referees Protest Committee, as it considers appropriate. 	
<p>12.4.4 Members of the Referees Technical Committee shall not have had any personal involvement with the relevant case and must declare this before taking part in the decision process. If there are not sufficient Commission members eligible because of this rule then suitable persons may be co-opted to the Committee by the Committee Chairperson, subject to approval by the Board of Administration.</p>	

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<p>12.4.5 The Chairperson of the Referees Technical Committee shall have the power to co-opt from time to time additional persons to adjudicate on any case where the specialist skills and/or experience of that individual is required with the approval of the Board of Administration.</p>	
<p>12.4.6 General Procedures relating to proceedings of the Referees Technical Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) All hearings shall take place in private; b) The non-attendance of a party at a hearing in respect of which that party has been notified shall not prevent the matter being dealt with in their absence. 	
<p>12.4.7 The Referees Technical Committee shall have the power to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) allow or re-affirm, or dismiss the appeal; b) vary the decision in such a manner as it sees fit (including the power to reduce, uphold, increase or cancel any penalty). 	
<p>12.4.8 The decision of the Referees Technical Committee shall be made by a majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairman of the Committee shall have a casting vote.</p>	
<p>12.4.9 All parties will be informed, in writing, within 5 working days, of the decision of the Referees Technical Committee. This communication will be copied to the Referees Commission Secretary, the Competitions Commission Secretary, the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration and the General Manager.</p>	
<p>12.4.10 The Appeal Deposit will be returned if the Appeal is successful. It is forfeited otherwise.</p>	
<p>12.4.11 A decision made by the Referees Technical Committee is final and cannot be appealed.</p>	
<p>12.5 Transfer Dispute Resolution</p>	<p>3.11.1</p>
<p>12.5.1 If a player wishes to lodge a protest relating to their transfer which is being blocked by the releasing Club the player may deal directly with the Competitions Commission (as the player cannot operate through his/her departing or receiving Club Secretary at this stage).</p>	
<p>12.5.2 Details of the dispute must be lodged in writing to the Competitions Commission (with accompanying Protest/Dispute Deposit payment) with a copy to the Volleyball Ireland Office before the case may be considered.</p>	<p>Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>12.5.3 The Competitions Commission shall acknowledge receipt of the case, in writing, as soon as is practicably possible, and shall provide all parties concerned with details of the case in question and afford all parties a reasonable opportunity to make representations and present their case. For example, the departing Club may be asked to provide evidence that the player owes monies to the Club or the player may be asked to provide evidence that they have paid all monies to the departing Club.</p>	
<p>12.5.4 All parties will be informed, in writing, of the decision to either:</p>	

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<p>a) overrule the Club and allow the transfer, or; b) concur with the Club's decision to block the transfer.</p> <p>This communication shall be provided within 5 working days and will be copied to the Competitions Commission Secretary, the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration, the General Manager, the player, the departing Club and the receiving Club. Minutes of all meetings in the decision process must be available for review by the Board of Administration if requested.</p>	
<p>12.5.5 This decision can be appealed in accordance with the procedures outlined in 12.2.</p>	12.2
<p>12.5.6 The Deposit will be returned if the dispute is upheld. It is forfeited otherwise.</p>	
<p>12.6 Other Protests/Complaints</p>	
<p>12.6.1 If a Club or Team wishes to lodge a protest relating to a matter not covered by the Competition or Refereeing Rules, or their interpretation, the following procedures shall apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A Team must make the protest/complaint through its Club Secretary or Club President; b) The protest/complaint must be lodged in writing on the official protest form (available from the Volleyball Ireland Office) and should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration with a copy to the Volleyball Ireland Office, before the protest/complaint may be considered; c) The protest/complaint must be received no later than 5 working days after the incident. It must be accompanied by payment of the Protest Deposit. 	Schedule of Fees
<p>12.6.2 The Board of Administration shall acknowledge receipt of the protest, in writing, as soon as is practicably possible, and shall provide all parties concerned with details of the protest in question and afford all parties a reasonable opportunity to make representations and present their case.</p>	
<p>12.6.3 When the Board of Administration adjudicates on a matter, a Board of Administration Protest Committee will be convened to decide on the matter within 10 working days of the receipt of the protest. This discussion shall include at least three members, one of whom shall be nominated to act as chairperson of the Committee. This committee will be referred to as the Board of Administration Protest Committee.</p>	
<p>12.6.4 Members of the Board of Administration Protest Committee shall not have had personal involvement with any case. If there are not sufficient Commission members eligible because of this rule then suitable persons may be co-opted to the Committee by the Committee Chairperson with the approval of the Board of Administration.</p>	
<p>12.6.5 The decision of the Board of Administration Protest Committee shall be made by a majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson of the Committee shall have a casting vote.</p>	

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<p>12.6.6 All parties will be informed, in writing, within 5 working days, of the decision of the Board of Administration Protest Committee. This communication will be copied to the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration and the General Manager.</p>	
<p>12.6.7 The Protest Deposit will be returned if the protest is successful. It is forfeited otherwise.</p>	
<p>12.6.8 Any sanction/penalty imposed by the Board of Administration Protest Committee shall not, ordinarily, take effect until the period allowed for an appeal has elapsed or the appeal has been determined.</p>	
<p>12.6.9 A decision made by the Board of Administration Protest Committee can be appealed to the Judicial Commission.</p>	12.7
<p>12.7 Appealing a decision made by the Board of Administration Protest Committee</p>	
<p>12.7.1 If a Club or Team wishes to appeal a decision made by the Board of Administration Protest Commission the following procedures shall apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) A Team must make the appeal through its Club Secretary or Club President; b) The appeal must be lodged in writing on the official appeal form (available from the Volleyball Ireland Office) to the Volleyball Ireland Office and addressed for the attention of the Judicial Commission Chairperson, care of the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration. It must state the written grounds for appeal and contain all relevant evidence and correspondence relating to the original protest/dispute; c) The appeal must be received no later than 5 working days after notification of the decision by the Board of Administration Protest Committee was issued to the Club Secretary/President. It must be accompanied by payment of the Appeal Deposit. 	Schedule of Fees
<p>12.7.2 The Board of Administration shall appoint the members of the Judicial Commission upon receipt of an appeal. This committee shall constitute at least three members, one of whom shall be appointed as Chairperson. No person who was part of the Board of Administration Protest Committee who made the decision being appealed may be part of the Judicial Commission.</p>	
<p>12.7.3 The Judicial Commission shall conduct any appeal/adjudication, within 10 working days of the receipt of the appeal, in accordance with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Respond in writing acknowledging the appeal and receipt thereof; b) Determine how the appeal/hearing will be conducted e.g. by correspondence, by way of a hearing etc.; c) It shall be entitled to request such further information as it considers necessary; d) It shall be entitled at its discretion to rehear the whole or any part of the evidence given before the Board of Administration Protest Committee, as it considers appropriate. 	
<p>12.7.4 Members of the Judicial Commission shall not have had personal involvement with any case and must declare this before taking part in the</p>	

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<p>decision process. If there are not sufficient Commission members eligible because of this rule then suitable persons may be co-opted to the Judicial Commission by the Commission Chairperson, subject to approval by the Board of Administration.</p>	
<p>12.7.5 The Chairperson of the Judicial Commission shall have the power, to co-opt from time to time additional persons to adjudicate on any case where the specialist skills and/or experience of that individual is required with the approval of the Board of Administration</p>	
<p>12.7.6 General Procedures relating to proceedings of the Judicial Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) All hearings shall take place in private; b) The non-attendance of a party at a hearing in respect of which that party has been notified shall not prevent the matter being dealt with in their absence. 	
<p>12.7.7 The Judicial Commission shall have the power to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Allow or re-affirm, or dismiss the appeal; b) Vary the decision in such a manner as it shall think fit (including the power to reduce, uphold, decrease or cancel any penalty). 	
<p>12.7.8 The decision of the Judicial Commission shall be made by a majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson of the Committee shall have a casting vote.</p>	
<p>12.7.9 All parties will be informed, in writing, within 5 working days, of the decision of the Judicial Commission. This communication will be copied to the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration and the General Manager.</p>	
<p>12.7.10 The Appeal Deposit will be returned if the Appeal is successful. It is forfeited otherwise.</p>	
<p>12.7.11 A decision made by the Judicial Commission is final and cannot be appealed.</p>	

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13. MEDICAL PERSONNEL	
13.1 Medical Personnel including doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, and physical therapists who are professionally qualified and licensed to practice within the jurisdiction of Ireland shall be permitted to enter the playing enclosure during Matches as part of the authorised bench personnel if they have registered with Volleyball Ireland.	
13.2 Applications for a registration card should be submitted to the Volleyball Ireland Office together with a copy of the individual's relevant certificate of qualification and the registration fee. All Medical Personnel shall be registered with and/or represent a Club. However this shall not prevent such persons from representing multiple Clubs/Teams in their capacity as Medical Personnel.	
13.3 The Referee is entitled to request that Medical Personnel produce their valid registration card prior to entry into the playing enclosure as part of the authorised bench personnel.	Schedule of Fees
13.4 Rules regarding Medical Personnel on Match day are contained in 6.4.1.5.	6.4.1.5
13.5 Only one Medical Person is permitted per Team as authorised bench personnel.	
14. ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS	
14.1 Volleyball Ireland condemns the use of prohibited substances and prohibited doping methods in volleyball and has adopted the Irish Anti-Doping Rules. The Irish Anti-Doping Rules form part of the Volleyball Ireland Competition Rules and apply to all persons with membership of Volleyball Ireland.	3.3 Irish Anti-Doping Rules
14.2 Any breach of the Irish Anti-Doping Rules shall be governed in accordance with the provisions set out therein.	Irish Anti-Doping Rules
15. CODE OF CONDUCT	
15.1 All Clubs, Teams, players, and supporters must ensure that they will not deliberately bring the game of volleyball into disrepute by any willful action.	Appendix I – 4.1
15.2 Volleyball Ireland participates in the CEV “Fair Play, Volleyball Way” campaign and all members of Volleyball Ireland are expected to participate in the sport in compliance with the ethos of this campaign.	

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SECTION B – VOLLEYBALL IRELAND SCHOOLS COMPETITION RULES

1. AGE GROUPS

- a) Junior - All students in 1st and 2nd year in full time second level education must play at junior level.
- b) Cadette - Under 16 years of age and in full time second level education on the 1st June preceding the current academic year.
- c) Senior – 5th and 6th year students in full time education

2. REGISTRATION

2.1 All Team players must be registered with the Volleyball Ireland Office before their first Match. (This must include a list of their respective divisional Teams). Any Team playing an illegal or unregistered player will lose the point for the Match(es) in which the player was involved and is liable for a fine. Team registration lists should be made available for every Match by the Team coach.

3. PLAYING RULES

3.1 All Matches will be played in accordance with the FIVB rules of the game as adapted by the Volleyball Ireland, subject to the following exception:

No heading of the ball or contacting the ball below the knee will be allowed at Junior level.

4. NET HEIGHT

3.1 The net height for Matches at schools levels will be as follows, depending on the age group:

Senior/Cadette Girls:	2.24m	U16/Junior Boys:	2.24m
U16 Boys:	2.35m	Junior Girls:	2.10m
Senior Boys:	2.43m		

5. MATCHES

5.1 Division A, B and C Matches will be played on a league basis or by using some other system designed by the Schools Commission and/or its President.

5.2 All Matches are the best of 3 sets to semi-final stages.

5.3 All Ireland Finals and Semi-Finals at Senior, Cadette and Junior level will be the best of 3 sets, with the exception of schools cup which is one off best of 5 set matches

5.4 For a competition to commence there must be a minimum of five Teams entered.

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<p>5.5 The deciding set in a 3 set and a 5 set Match must have a 2-point margin regardless of the scores involved.</p>	
<p>5.6 For pool Matches where Teams have the same number of points the winner will be decided in the following ways:</p>	
<p>For two Teams on the same points: a) The winner is the Team with the better head to head</p>	
<p>For three Teams on the same points: a) The winner is the Team with the largest points difference b) If points difference is the same, then the winner is decided using only the points for</p>	
<p>5.7 All first round Matches must be played.</p>	
<p>5.8 Pool organisers do not have an automatic right to a home venue.</p>	
<p>6. PLAYERS</p>	
<p>6.1 Two players from a lower division may play up to a higher division - Namely from Cadette to Senior level and from Junior to Cadette level. These players must be nominated in writing at the start of the relevant competition and they may not be changed after that. Examples of who to play up are provided below: U16 C to Senior A or B or C only. U16 B to Senior A or B only. U16 A to Senior A only. Junior Plate to U16 A or B or C only. Junior Cup to U16 A or B only.</p>	
<p>6.2 The Coach must notify the Schools' Commission President in writing with the name of the player(s) and the movement involved.</p>	
<p>6.3 The coach may only play these players when sanction has been received from the Schools' Commission President. The Schools' Commission President may use his/her discretion when allowing additional players to play up.</p>	
<p><i>Failure to notify the schools officer of players playing up may have serious consequences</i></p>	

<p>7. GRADING</p>	
<p>7.1 Grading of schools is at the discretion of the Schools' Commission and will be applied to schools at the commencement of the school year.</p>	

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8. UNIFORM

8.1 All Teams must be neatly dressed with uniform tops numbered front and back. At Semi-final and Final stages, uniform tops and shorts must be worn. No player out of uniform will be allowed on court.

9. RESULTS

9.1 All score sheets must be returned to the Volleyball Ireland Office within 5 days of the Match day (pool organisers are responsible) and the results should also be phoned into the relevant schools' competition organiser as quickly as possible. [Volleyball Ireland Office, First Floor 141 Thomas Street, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-6707165]. Failure to do so may result in the loss of one Match point or some other relevant penalty decided by the Schools' Commission President.

10. PROTESTS & DISPUTES

10.1 In the event of protests or disputes arising, Team coaches must submit a letter of protest/complaint etc. to the Schools' Commission President. (Note: No verbal protests will be entertained). The Referee only will indicate on the score sheet in the remarks column provided (e.g. protest or dispute by Team A or B; report to follow).

11. HALL & REFEREES COSTS

11.1 All of the Teams involved at a venue shall share the associated hall and referee expenses

12. REFEREES

12.1 (a) All Matches should be refereed by a neutral qualified referee - preferably a Volleyball Ireland qualified (student) referee, except where referees are appointed by Volleyball Ireland. The Matches refereed by these qualified students must not be interfered with by teachers/coaches or anyone else involved on that day), OR:
(b) By a person acceptable to both Team coaches/captains in the event of the unavailability of a referee as outlined above.

12.2 In the Semi-finals, schools should arrange to have a Grade 3 or higher Volleyball Ireland referee (cost to be borne by schools).

12.3 For the Finals (subject to approval by Volleyball Ireland) Volleyball Ireland appointed referees shall be made available.

13. OFFICIALS

13.1 On Match days, Teams must provide back-up officials

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14. CHANGES TO FIXTURES	
14.1 Teams unable to meet a fixture must notify: a) all the Teams involved; b) the officials; and c) The Schools' Commission President.	
14.2 All parties concerned must agree an alternative date prior to the original date of the fixture. In the event of agreement not being reached, points will be awarded against the Team wishing to have the fixture changed. No changes can be made to Semi-final or Final dates.	
15. FINES	
15.1 Teams failing to fulfil an organised fixture and/or not adhering to Rule 14 will be fined €25 in addition to covering all costs incurred by the opposing Team(s), officials, and hall hire.	
15.2 Teams may appeal this fine on receipt of a €15 deposit, which is returnable if the appeal is successful. In the event of a second offence, the fine is doubled and the Schools' Commission may apply further penalties.	
16. MISCONDUCT	
16.1 School authorities shall be held responsible for any misconduct or damage caused by their player(s) or supporters	
17. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ('AGM')	
17.1 All schools must be represented at the schools AGM, failure to do so will result in a €25 fine. Entry to the following year's competition will not be accepted until this fine is paid.	
18. MISCELLANEOUS	
18.1 The Schools' Commission, whose decision is final, shall decide any matters arising, which have not been covered in these School Rules.	

SECTION C – VOLLEYBALL IRELAND BEACH COMPETITION RULES	
1. REGISTRATION	
1.1 Any Volleyball Ireland registered player, as per the previous indoor season, is eligible to play in the Outdoor Season. Any player not registered with the Volleyball Ireland is eligible to play once the relevant	

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fee has been paid. This fee will be reviewed by the Board annually according to the insurance costs.	
1.2 All players must fill out a Player Registration Form.	
1.3 Team registration occurs on the morning of competition. Once registered a Team cannot change. Any changes required due to unavoidable circumstances will be authorised at the discretion of the Beach Commission.	
2. UNIFORM	
2.1 All players should wear a uniform as follows; a Team uniform consists of Matching tops or t-shirts and the same colour range shorts or bottoms. Any Team without uniform will pay a tournament entry fee of 15 Euro per person. Teams in Matching uniform will pay 10 Euro per person per tournament.	
3. CALENDAR & TOURNAMENT FORMAT	
3.1 The Beach Commission will publish an Outdoor Calendar at least one month before the first outdoor event.	
3.2 The Competition Format is as follows: a) Group Stages – played as pool Matches b) Double Elimination System	
3.4 The Rules of play will be decided by the Beach Commission before each event and posted on all score sheets used at that event	
3.3 Over the full season points are accumulated on an individual basis. The points system will be determined by the commission before the first calendar event.	
4. PRIZES	
4.1 The Beach Commission will award monetary prizes at each tournament. The Beach Commission reserves the right to calculate the amount of each prize and to decide on the recipient. Prizes will be forwarded to the winners within two weeks of the Tournament.	
5. PROTESTS	
5.1 Protests relating to the Beach Competition Rules or the interpretation of the Beach Competition Rules	
5.1.1 If a Team wishes to lodge a protest relating to the Outdoor Competition Rules or the interpretation of the Competition rules the following procedures shall apply: The protest/complaint must be lodged in writing on the official protest form (which is available on the Volleyball Ireland Website) addressed to the Beach Commission (with the accompanying Protest Deposit) to the Volleyball Ireland Office before the protest/complaint may be considered.	

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<p>The protest and deposit must be received not later than 5 working days after the incident.</p>	
<p>5.1.2 The Beach Commission shall acknowledge receipt of the protest, in writing, as soon as is practicably possible, and shall provide all parties concerned with details of the protest in question and afford all parties a reasonable opportunity to make representations and present their case.</p>	
<p>5.1.3 When the Beach Commission adjudicates on a matter, a meeting will be convened within 14 days of the receipt of the protest. This meeting shall be attended by at least three members, one of whom shall be nominated to act as chairperson of the Committee. This committee will be referred to as the Beach Protest Committee.</p>	
<p>5.1.4 Members of the Beach Protest Committee shall not have had any personal involvement with any case. If there are not sufficient Commission members eligible because of this rule then suitable persons may be co-opted to the Committee by the Committee Chairperson with the approval of the Board of Administration.</p>	
<p>5.1.5 The decision of the Beach Protest Committee shall be made by a majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson of the Committee shall have a casting vote.</p>	
<p>5.1.6 All parties will be informed, in writing, of the decision of the Beach Protest Committee within 5 working days. This communication will be copied to the Beach Commission Secretary, the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration and the General Manager.</p>	
<p>5.1.7 The Protest Deposit will be returned if the protest is successful. It is forfeited otherwise.</p>	
<p>5.1.8 Any sanction/penalty imposed by the Beach Protest Committee shall not, ordinarily, take effect until the period allowed for an appeal has elapsed or the appeal has been determined.</p>	
<p>5.1.9 A decision made by the Beach Protest Committee can be appealed to the Beach Technical Committee.</p>	
<p>5.2 Appealing a decision made by the Beach Protest Committee</p>	
<p>5.2.1 If a Club or Team wishes to appeal a decision made by the Beach Protest Commission the following procedures shall apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The appeal must be lodged in writing on the official appeal request form (which is available on the Volleyball Ireland website) to the Volleyball Ireland Office and addressed for the attention of the Beach Technical Committee Chairperson C/O the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration. It must state the written grounds for appeal and contain all relevant evidence and correspondence relating to the original protest /dispute. b) The appeal must be received not later than 5 working days after notification of the decision by the Beach Protest Committee was issued and must be accompanied by the 	

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Appeal deposit.	
<p>5.2.2 The Beach Technical Committee shall conduct any appeal/adjudication, within 14 days of the receipt of the appeal, in accordance with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Respond in writing acknowledging the appeal and receipt thereof. b) Determine how the appeal/hearing will be conducted e.g. by correspondence, by way of a hearing etc. c) It shall be entitled to request such further information as it considers necessary. (d) It shall be entitled at its discretion to rehear the whole or any part of the evidence given before the Beach Protest Committee, as it considers appropriate. 	
<p>5.2.3 No person who was part of the Beach Protest Committee who made the decision being appealed may be part of the Beach Technical Committee.</p>	
<p>5.2.4 Members of the Beach Technical Committee shall not have had personal involvement with any case.</p>	
<p>5.2.5 The Chairperson of the Beach Technical Committee shall have the power, to co-opt from time to time additional persons to adjudicate on any case where the specialist skills and/or experience of that individual is required with the approval of the Board of Administration.</p>	
<p>5.2.6 General Procedures relating to proceedings of the Beach Technical Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) All hearings shall take place in private. b) The non-attendance of a party at a hearing in respect of which that party has been notified shall not prevent the matter being dealt with in their absence. 	
<p>5.2.7 The Beach Technical Committee shall have the power to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Allow or re-affirm, or dismiss the appeal; b) Vary the decision in such a manner as it shall think fit (including the power to reduce, uphold, increase or cancel any penalty). 	
<p>5.2.8 The decision of the Beach Technical Committee shall be made by a majority. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson of the Committee shall have a casting vote</p>	
<p>5.2.9 All parties will be informed, in writing, within 5 working days of the decision of the Beach Technical Committee. This communication will be copied to The Honorary Secretary of the Board of Administration and the General Manager.</p>	
<p>5.2.10 The Appeal Deposit will be returned if the Appeal is successful. It is forfeited otherwise.</p>	
<p>5.2.11 A decision made by the Beach Technical Committee is final and cannot be appealed.</p>	

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

1. Sanction Scale

1.1 The following disciplinary points will be awarded against a Team/player/coach or Medical Personnel according to the penalties imposed on them by a Referee at any recognised Volleyball Ireland Competition:

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

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

2. Penalties

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

Players, Coaches & Medical Personnel:

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

3.1

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

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Teams

Cumulative points in-season	Penalty
20	Fine
40	Fine
50	League Penalty Point
60	Fine
80	Fine
100	2 League Penalty Points + Fine

Schedule of Fees

For accumulated penalty points over 100, the Competitions and Referees Commission will review the situation and apply appropriate penalties on a case by case basis.

2.2 A coach or player or any Medical Personnel, who is suspended for a Match, is not permitted to sit on the bench or participate in the coaching of a Team for the duration of the warm-up & Match.

3.1

Section A
- 6.4.1.4,
6.4.1.5

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<p>3. Match Suspensions</p>	
<p>3.1 Suspensions apply to the next match or matches in all competitions organised by Volleyball Ireland. It is the responsibility of the Team to monitor points accumulated by each player on its Team and to take the necessary actions. All Matches in which a suspended Team member participates will be forfeited. Disciplinary points are erased when the stipulated suspension is served, but will be kept on record.</p> <p><i>For example if a player is disqualified in a league match on a Saturday and has an Association Cup match on the Sunday, they cannot play in the Association Cup match.</i></p>	<p>2.1 2.2</p> <p>Section A - 3.5, 6.4.1.4</p> <p>Schedule of Fees</p>
<p>3.2 Suspensions will be confirmed to the Club Secretary, player and coach of the relevant Team by the Competitions Commission in due course. Ignorance of the rule or number of disciplinary points against a Team/player will not be an acceptable excuse for playing a suspended player or for a coach or medical personnel sitting on the bench. Any Team requiring clarification of the status of a player or Team staff in this regard, can seek clarification by contacting the Competitions Commission in writing.</p>	<p>5.1</p>
<p>3.3 Disciplinary points shall not carry forward from one Indoor Season (deemed to include the League, Championship and Association Cup) to the next. However if a Team member/coach/medical personnel has to serve suspension(s) and there is no opportunity for them to do so in the current Indoor Season then such a suspension will be served in the next available Match in the following Indoor Season.</p>	
<p>3.4 Team members/coaches or medical personnel who aggregate 40 disciplinary points during an Indoor Season will have their cases reviewed by the Competitions Commission. The Competitions Commission may require them and their Club Secretary to attend a disciplinary meeting with representatives from the Competitions and Referees Commissions</p>	
<p>4. Misconduct</p>	
<p>4.1 A player, Team, coach, Medical Personnel, or supporter whose actions prior to, during, or after a fixture are considered to bring the game into disrepute should be referred to the Referees Commission in the first instance who may refer the matter to the Board of Volleyball Ireland.</p>	<p>Section A – 15.1</p>

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5. Responsibilities	
<p>5.1 The Competitions Commission will inform the Club Secretary in the cases when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) A player/coach/medical personnel accumulates 10 points or is suspended;b) A Team accumulates 20 points and so on. <p>Lack/delay of these updates from the competitions commission is not an excuse to not self-apply the penalties by the club. If a player accumulates enough points for sanctions the penalties still apply.</p>	3.2
<p>5.2 The Competitions Commission will inform the Referees Commission when a player, coach, or medical personnel is suspended.</p>	
<p>5.3 The Referees Commission will inform all registered Referees of any active suspensions by email.</p>	
<p>5.4 A table of disciplinary points will be held and maintained by the Competitions Commission and a copy held in the Volleyball Ireland Office.</p>	

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Appendix II – Irish Anti-Doping Rules

Refer to Separate Document

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