



**RULES OF NATIONAL COMPETITIONS –
LEAGUE & CUP**

National League Competition Rules – 41st Edition

1. Title and Management

- 1.1 The Scottish Volleyball Association organises each season a National League competition for men's and women's teams.
- 1.2 The National Competitions are run by the Competitions Commission of the SVA chaired by the President of the Competitions Commission. The Competitions Commission is responsible to the SVA Board.

2. Entry to the Leagues

- 2.1 Clubs entitled to enter a team in one of the National Leagues must signify their wish to do so by returning their league entry form, together with the annual SVA affiliation fee and league entry fee. Fees and team details must be returned by 31st May. A club whose entry is received after a specified date will be charged an additional £25.00 to cover administration costs.
- 2.2 Late entries may only be accepted at the discretion of the Competitions Commission, which reserves the right to allocate a late entrant into the highest possible division which has spaces, regardless of the team's league status in the previous season.
- 2.3 Each club must send the name and address of the secretary of each team, club administrator, Child Protection officer, press officer and nominee for the SVA Appeals & Disciplinary Commission with its confirmation of entry. A telephone number and e-mail address where the club administrator (or another club member) can be contacted must also be provided. University and college teams must provide an address for contact during the summer vacation.
- 2.4 A team changing the details of its secretary after the fixture list has been printed must inform the Competitions Commission immediately. A charge of £10.00 may be made to cover administrative costs.
- 2.5 All teams entering the National Leagues must submit the name of one suitably qualified referee (in accordance with Rule 6.1) who is willing to be associated with that team. Referees named as taking part in the appointment system must not be named additionally as being associated with any team or club to fulfil Rule 2.5.

- 2.6 A team wishing to change its name after the fixture list has been agreed must pay a charge of £20.00 to cover administration costs.
- 2.7 Prospective new entrants to the National Leagues must have competed in another SVA-sanctioned competition (e.g. local District League, Junior National League or University League) in the season prior to their proposed National League entry. Such teams should signify their intention to seek National League entry in writing by April 1. Only in exceptional circumstances will a team which has not played in a subordinate league for one season be allowed entry to the National Leagues. The Competitions Commission will then determine the need to run a qualifying tournament for National League entry.

Only players who have been registered with their respective teams during the current season will be eligible to participate in the qualifying tournament.

- 2.8 In entering a team in the National League, a club undertakes to abide by the rules and conditions of the competition and to abide by the decisions taken by the Competitions Commission. All entrants to the National League must satisfy the Competitions Commission of their ability to fulfil the administrative requirements of competing at National League level. Continued participation in the National League is dependent on this, and teams which are unable to fulfil their administrative obligations may be declined entry to the National League.

3. League Format and Rules

- 3.1 There shall be one First Division, one Second Division and one Third Division for men. There shall be one First Division and one Second Division for women.
- 3.2 All leagues shall normally consist of 8 teams, however a maximum of 10 teams and a minimum of 6 teams will be allowed.
- 3.3 In each league, every team shall play every other team twice and all fixtures shall be single matches. All matches shall be played to FIVB Rules. Matches outside Division One shall be played for all five sets. Matches in Division One shall be to the best of five sets.
- 3.4 League tables shall be compiled as follows:

3 points for a win, 1 point for a loss, 0 points for a forfeit match.

When a match is declared null and void, the Competitions Commission may award 1 point or 0 points to both sides, both sides will be awarded 5 sets against them. Where league points for two teams are equal, their positions in the table shall be decided according to FIVB rules. The team having won the higher percentage of the total number of sets it has played in the competition shall be placed higher. Where these percentages are equal, the same calculation is applied to match points.

3.5 A system of playoffs shall operate in each Division. The format of these playoffs shall be as follows;

(i) Division One Championship:

The top four teams, based on league placings at the conclusion of the regular season shall contest the championship over a home-and-away series of matches, on dates displayed in the National Calendar.

The team finishing first in the regular season programme shall compete against the team placing fourth, and the team placing second shall compete against the team placing third at the semi-final stage. The teams finishing first and second in the regular season shall be favoured with home court advantage in the second match of the playoff semi-final.

The team winning the series involving the first-placed team from the regular season shall be favoured with home court advantage in the second match of the playoff final.

Teams defeated at the playoff semi-final stage shall contest the third/fourth places playoff, over a home-and-away series. The higher-placed of these teams, (based on regular season placings) shall be favoured with home court advantage in the second match of the series.

Should each team win one match in the playoff series, the result of the series shall be decided by means of a “golden set” to 15 points.

(ii) Playoffs

Playoffs involving other divisions: A series of playoffs shall operate to determine the minor promotion/relegation places in all other national divisions. The teams placing seventh in Division One and Division Two (men) shall participate in a home-and-away series of matches, on dates displayed in the National Calendar, against the teams placing second in Division Two and Division Three (men) respectively.

The higher placed of these teams (based on regular season placings) shall be favoured with home court advantage in the first match of the series.

Should each team win one match in the playoff series, the result of the series shall be decided by means of a “golden set” to 15 points.

- 3.6 The teams winning the First Division gain the title of “Scottish Champions” and are entitled to enter the CEV Challenge Cup of the succeeding season. The next best placed teams in each First Division are entitled to enter the CEV Challenge Cup of the succeeding season. Teams intending entering the CEV Challenge Cup and having earned the right to do so must inform the Competitions Commission by no later than 15th May. Where neither the Scottish Champion nor the team placing second in the First Division elects to enter the CEV Challenge Cup, the eligibility for entry may be extended to the team placing third, but this is not a right, and the entry eligibility cannot be extended lower than third place.
- 3.7 There will be one team promoted and one team relegated from all men’s and women’s divisions where applicable.

All teams are obliged to accept normal promotion as outlined above. Where vacancies are left in a Division by teams withdrawing, either mid-season or at the end of competition, places shall be filled in the first instance by teams who would (under normal circumstances) be relegated from that division. If vacancies remain, additional teams may be promoted from the divisions below. Should a team wish not to take up its right of promotion, it must notify the Competitions Commission in writing by no later than 31st December in the season of competition.

- 3.8 Teams winning the individual divisions in the National League are obliged to send at least one representative to the annual presentation of league trophies. Failure to attend will result in a fine of £25.00.

4. Registrations

- 4.1 Players and Coaching Personnel participating in the National Leagues must be registered with the SVA, in accordance with Bylaw 3.2, prior to the first match in which they participate. **Exceptionally a maximum of two players may register on the day of the match. This registration requires the sending of the national league player registration fee plus an additional £5.00 administration charge (payment by cheque or BACS only) and a photo with the player's details in with the scoresheet.**

A team playing a player or being coached by a coach who is not registered shall forfeit the match in question and be liable to a fine of £25.00

- 4.2 It is the responsibility of the team captain to ensure that registration numbers are correctly recorded on the scoresheet, prior to signing it. A team or individual failing to provide a valid collective licence with which they have been issued prior to a match shall be liable to a fine of £20.00. A team which fails to produce a valid collective licence more than twice in the same season will be liable to a forfeit. Where a player or coach is registered on the day of the match, they must produce a valid photo ID to back up their eligibility, and this should be noted in the remarks box on the scoresheet.

- 4.3 No National League player may play for two clubs in any one season unless he/she is officially transferred.

Players registered outwith the National League (e.g. in District League, University League or Junior National League) may play for a National League team of another club if their own club does not have a National League team. Such a player may play for only one National League club and for a maximum of 10 sets after which they register as a National League player under article 4.7.

- 4.4 A player transferring from another Association/Federation and registering for a team of a member club of the SVA will be subject to the conditions of Byelaw 4, with particular reference to paragraphs 4.4 and 4.8.

- 4.5 It is possible for a club to have more than one team in the National Leagues.
- i. Where a club has two teams in the same division of the National League, no movement of players between these teams will be allowed during the course of a single season, including any post-season playoffs.
 - ii. Where there are two or more teams from one club in different divisions of the National Leagues they shall be referred to as Higher and Lower teams according to the division they are in (e.g. NL1 - upper team, NL2 - lower division). In such cases players may move freely between teams within the club subject to the following restrictions:
 - (a) No player may be recorded on the scoresheet for two teams on the same fixture date. For the purposes of this article, matches which are scheduled for the same day, as published in the SVA Fixture List are regarded as being on the same fixture date, regardless of when the match is actually played.
 - (b) Any player who appears on the scoresheet in more than seven National League matches played by a Higher team within their club may not then participate in post-season playoffs involving any Lower team within their club.
 - (c) It should be understood that subject to (a) and (b) above, players may play for any of their club's teams in playoffs.
- 4.6 Except with the express written permission of the SVA Board, and only in exceptional circumstances, no player under the age of 14 years may play in any National League match.
- 4.7 A team shall forfeit all points for a match should one of their players be found to have been ineligible. A fine of £25.00 may also be imposed.

5. Fixture Procedures

- 5.1 The Competitions Commission decides the dates and venues of all matches in the National Leagues.
- 5.2 A fixture list shall be forwarded to all team secretaries at least six weeks prior to the first match of the season. In all divisions the team listed first shall be the home team.

- 5.3 All teams must submit the times and venues of their league fixtures for the coming season on the SVA website at least 14 days prior to any fixture. Once submitted, this information may not be altered without the prior consent of the Competitions Commission and any opponents affected by the alteration.
- 5.4 All match venues must previously have been approved as suitable by the Competitions Commission. A list of approved venues is available upon request from the SVA Office. Should a club wish to play at a venue which has not previously been approved, they must be prepared to meet the cost of an inspection visit by a member of the Competitions Commission.
- 5.5 The scheduled day for a National League fixture shall be Saturday. However, by mutual consent, teams may play the match during the week leading up to the Saturday. In this instance, teams should be aware of the content of Rule 5.9.
- 5.6 It is the responsibility of the home team secretary to inform the away team of the time and venue of the match and to provide the away team with clear instructions of how to reach the venue. This information should be sent on an official SVA fixture sheet which indicates the start of play, accompanied by details of the directions to the match venue, and must reach the away team secretary at least fourteen days prior to the fixture date. A copy of these arrangements should be sent by e-mail at the same time to the Competitions Commission (competitions@scottishvolleyball.org)

A home team failing to forward a fixture sheet and map on time will be liable to a fine of £40.00.

- 5.7 The home team may dictate the time of the match taking into account (i) the transport available to the visiting team, (ii) that, unless previously agreed, the visiting team should not be required to leave their home town before 8.00am and, (iii) unless previously agreed, that the visiting team should be able to arrive back at their home town by 8.00pm. Wherever possible matches should be played between the hours of 12 noon and 6.00pm. For the purposes of this article, the “home town” of a team shall be the one in which the venue at which they play their home matches is situated.

For matches played midweek, either by mutual consent, or through rearrangement (NL Rule 5.10) no away team should be required to leave their home town before 5.30pm, unless previously agreed.

- 5.8 All National League matches will be played on the dates scheduled in the fixture list unless rule 5.9 applies.
- 5.9 **In certain circumstances a team will be allowed to bring forward a fixture.** In this case the team should (i) request this in writing to the Competitions Commission two weeks prior to the date on which they wish to play and, (ii) have received the written agreement of the opposing team, a copy of which must be sent to the Competitions Commission. When a request is granted, normal fixture procedures will apply and may also result in Rule 5.12 being invoked.
- 5.10 No team may apply in advance for the postponement of a scheduled fixture. Only in the following circumstances shall fixtures be allowed to be played after the scheduled date; (i) inclement weather which prevents travel to the fixture, (ii) cancellation of the hall hire at late notice (written confirmation from the letting authority is required), (iii) where a player or coach is required for official SVA business e.g. European Cup ties. Matches to be must be played within 4 weeks of the original fixture date. Failure to comply with this may result in the match being declared null and void. The home team must offer a minimum of three dates within the four week time frame in which to play the postponed match, at least one of these dates **MUST** be a weekend. These three dates must be offered at the same time. The away team must, within 14 days of the original fixture, accept one of the three dates offered, and this arrangement must be communicated to the Competitions Commission. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine of £25.00, and may result in the match being declared forfeit.
- 5.11 Where a team withdraws from a fixture for any reason, other than those outlined in 5.10, the match shall be declared forfeit against them. **A full statement of the reasons for cancelling the fixture must be submitted to the Competitions Commission by first class post on the day of the match.** Failure to contact the Commission will result in a fine of £10.00.
- 5.12 In the event of a team withdrawing from a fixture at late notice, they must inform their opponents of this immediately. Failure to contact the opposing team at least 24 hours prior to the match start time will result in a fine of £10.00.
- 5.13 Where a team cancels or fails to appear this will result in a fine of £75.00. This fine will be paid to the opposing team for any unavoidable cost they have incurred.

- 5.14 A team withdrawing (at whatever notice) without good reason from three fixtures in the same season may be eliminated from the National League competition. A team eliminated from the National Leagues under Article 5.14 shall be liable to a fine of £10.00.

6. Match Officials

For all SVA matches the status of the match officials **MUST** conform to the following rules:

Division	1st Official	2nd Official
Men's First	Grade II at least	Grade III at least
Women's First	Grade III at least	Grade III at least
Men's Second	Grade III at least	Grade IV at least
Women's Second	Grade IV at least	Grade IV at least
Men's Third	Grade IV at least	Grade IV at least

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

- 6.2 All First or Second Officials taking charge at any match under the auspices of the SVA must hold a valid SVA licence. The licence card confirms the official's qualifications for the current season. The card number of both officials must be recorded on the scoresheet prior to the match - failure to record the licence numbers of officials on the scoresheet will be subject to a fine of £5.00.

The correct licence fee, existing card, and any change of address for any official must be sent to the SVA office to arrive at least 2 working days prior to the match. **No referee can register on the day of the match.**

- 6.3 The home team shall pay (prior to the match) to a qualified referee, whether acting as First or Second Official, the following fees and expenses:

Appointed League or Cup match in Appointments System (National League Division One, Top Teams Cup or Scottish Cup) Appointed Referee £20 per match plus travel expenses

Other Matches (Lower Leagues and matches outwith Appointments System

Grade 1 SVA Referee	£ 18 per match plus travel expenses
Grade 2 SVA Referee	£ 16 per match plus travel expenses
Grade 3 SVA Referee	£ 14 per match plus travel expenses

Grade 4 SVA Referee £ 12 per match plus travel expenses

Travel Expenses - The official shall be paid the current cost of a gallon of petrol for every thirty miles travelled and/or a proportion of the cost for a lesser distance. The cost of public transport shall be fully reimbursed.

- 6.4 All match officials must wear a navy blue shirt and carry red and yellow cards. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in a fine of £10.00
- 6.5 A home team who, without good reason, fails to provide a first and/or second Official in accordance with Articles 6.1 and 6.2 and/or a competent scorer will be fined £15.00 and may forfeit the match. A letter explaining their failure to fulfil the requirements of Article 6.1 must be forwarded to the Competitions Commission on the day of the match. Failure to contact the Commission will result in a fine of £10.00.
- 6.6 A home team failing to provide a minimum of two competent line judges shall be liable to a fine of £10.00.
- 6.7 A player who is listed on the scoresheet as part of a team cannot line judge the same match. A team using such a line judge will be fined under Article 6.6.
- 6.8 The remarks box on the scoresheet is to be used by the officials for a specific protest about the Referee's interpretation of a rule. It must not be used for the latter situation when the team captain has not at the time expressed his/her protest and the intention to have it recorded in the remarks box at the end of the match.
- 6.9 The scorer must ensure that the player registration numbers are recorded on the scoresheet. Failure to comply will result in a £5.00 fine being issued.

7. Match Procedures

- 7.1 All matches must be played with the Mikasa MVA200 match ball of correct inflation, type, colour and texture. Antennae must be used for all matches. In cases of doubt the referee's decision as to whether the equipment and venue is suitable for play shall be final. If equipment and venue are not suitable then the referee must record in the remarks box on the scoresheet the reasons why the above were not suitable.

- 7.2 It shall be the responsibility of the home team to provide the visiting team with a minimum of six warm up balls. A team failing to do this shall be liable to a fine of £5.00.
- 7.3 All players in a team must have correctly numbered uniform jerseys and shorts according to the following criteria.

Men Division I, Women Division I

Jersey and shorts of the same colour, style and make.

Men Division II , Womens Division II, Men Division III

Jersey and shorts of the same colour and style

Match officials, and only match officials, are required to record the details of any discrepancies in the remarks box. Teams failing to comply with the above will be fined £10.00.

- 7.4 For the benefit of Articles 7.5 to 7.12 the game shall be deemed to commence at the start of the warm up over which the referee has control.
- 7.5 A home team must ensure that matches start as close to the scheduled start time as possible. If, however, the start of the match is delayed due to a prior game, the away team should wait until the preceding game has been completed (or terminated at the discretion of the home team). Where possible, every effort must be made by both teams to then play the second match in the remaining hall booking for that game. In the event that the hall booking expires without the game being completed the home team must contact the Competitions Commission detailing the reasons for the delay. The Commission will then make a ruling on the result of the match.
- 7.6 Where a hall let is reduced due to circumstances outwith the control of the home team and the match is not completed as a result, the match will be replayed in accordance with article 7.7.
- 7.7 Clubs should allow for a minimum of two hours in which to play a match. Where both teams are ready to start play at the scheduled starting time, two hours have elapsed since the start of play and the hall booking for that game has expired without the game being completed, then the game shall be completely replayed at the same venue with all costs of the replayed match being equally divided between the two teams.

- 7.8 In the case that both teams are ready to start play at the scheduled starting time and the hall booking expires before the match has been completed, the match shall be awarded to the visiting team unless two hours have elapsed between the start of play and the expiration of the hall booking. When a match is awarded under this ruling, the home team shall be awarded one league point and shall retain any points and sets already won.
- 7.9 Where a team without good reason fails to appear on court ready to play within 15 minutes of the agreed start of play, the match may be forfeit and a fine of £20.00 imposed. The team who are not ready to play must inform the Competitions Commission of the reasons on the day following the match at the latest. However, where possible every effort should be made by both teams to play the match in the remaining hall booking for that game.
- 7.10 Where a team without good reason is not ready to start play at the scheduled start time but is ready less than 15 minutes after the agreed start of play, the match shall be played, but, in the event of the hall booking expiring without the match being completed, the match shall be awarded to the team which was ready to start play at the agreed time. Article 7.8 applies as regards the awarding of game and league points to the losing team. A team arriving late under the terms of this Article shall be liable to a fine of £20.00.
- 7.11 In all matches the referee shall ensure that, while normal warm-up times and breaks are allowed to both sides, there is no deliberate time-wasting by either team. All reasonable attempts should be made by a home side to extend a hall booking if this is necessary to complete a game. Any extra expenditure incurred by a team due to the late arrival of their opponents shall be paid by these opponents.
- 7.12 A team reduced to less than six players during the game, due to injury or to a player or players being sent off the court, shall lose the match but shall retain any points and sets already won. A team losing a match in this way shall be awarded one league point
- 7.13 The scoresheet must be correctly headed (e.g. first/second team, men/women, first/second Division, etc.) and completed (e.g. all registration numbers, shirt numbers and substitutions shown). The scoresheet must be an SVA National and International scoresheet and no other, however similar. A home team failing to provide an SVA scoresheet shall be liable to a fine of £20.00.

- 7.14 At the end of the match the secretary of the home team must send the top (white) copy of the scoresheet to the SVA office. This must be posted first class on the day of the match. Failure to do this will make the home team liable to a fine of £40.00. A second copy should be given to the visiting team.
- 7.15 Only match officials and scorers may write on the scoresheet and then only when authorised to do so by the First Referee.
- 7.16 After every National League match, the home team secretary must notify the full result to the Press Officer Roddy Mackenzie (0131 665 1557) and the Competitions Administrator Steve Scott (0141 770 1900) within two hours of the conclusion of the final match.

The home team secretary must also telephone if the match has not been played for any reason regardless of whether this has been previously communicated to the Competitions Commission.

- 7.17 A home team failing to make telephone calls as required on the scheduled day shall be liable to a fine of £40.00.
- 7.18 All National League matches shall be open to the general public, media personnel, photographers and any person using a video recorder, subject to the following:
- (a) Any person not directly involved with the match shall at no time be on the court area.
 - (b) No person should be behind the service zone.
 - (c) No person or equipment should be positioned and/or used in such a way that they present risk of injury or obstruction to players or officials.
 - (d) Cameras should be manned at all times so they can be moved quickly.

8. League Trophies

- 8.1 Trophies and medals shall be presented to the winners of each league.
- 8.2 The trophies must be engraved at the winners' expense and returned to the SVA office by April 30 of the following season. Teams who fail to return or engrave the trophy by this date will be fined £25.00.

- 8.3 Should a trophy be damaged or lost whilst under the care of a club, the club will be required to meet the cost of repair or replacement.

9. Fines

- 9.1 The Competitions Commission is empowered to impose the penalties and fines set out in the preceding and following articles. All fines will be increased on failure to pay 28 days from date of notice.
- 9.2 The Competitions Commission will exclude from the following season's National Leagues any club failing to pay outstanding fines from the previous season.
- 9.3 A team withdrawing from the National League after the season's fixtures have been drawn up and prior to August 1 shall be liable to a fine of £25. A team withdrawing after this date shall be liable to a fine of £50.
- 9.4 All matches involving a team eliminated or withdrawing from the National Leagues shall be null and void. That team shall be liable for any expenses unavoidably incurred by other teams in their division in preparation for games now not being played.
- 9.5 A player registered for a team eliminated or withdrawing from the National Leagues may not play for another National League team in the same season until the fines under Articles 9.3 and 9.4, or monies due to another member club of the Association have been paid and permission is given by the Competitions Commission. If such permission is given the player must re-register and pay the normal registration fee.

10. Disciplinary Action

A player who both plays and coaches, shall be regarded as a player for the purposes of the following rules.

- 10.1 A player or coach being sent off for the remainder of a National League match shall be suspended from all National League activity for a minimum of two matches. The match referee shall submit to the Competitions Commission a signed statement giving details of the sending-off, either along with the scoresheet or separately by first class post on the day following the match at the latest.
- 10.2 A player or coach being sent off for the remainder of one set of a National League match shall be suspended from all National League activity for a minimum of one match. The match referee shall submit to

the Competitions Commission a signed statement giving details of the sending-off either along with the scoresheet or separately by first class post on the day following the match at the latest.

- 10.3 A player or coach receiving a third yellow card in any one season shall be suspended from all National League activity for one match and shall also be suspended for one match for every other yellow card subsequently received in that same season. A yellow card received by a player who is subsequently sent off in the same match shall be disregarded for the purposes of this Article.
- 10.5 In all cases suspensions shall apply immediately to the next fixture date as scheduled in the calendar. (i.e. National League and Cup Competitions). Warning letters and letters confirming suspensions shall be sent out by the Competitions Commission, but it is the duty of all teams to ensure that a player or coach does not play while suspended and that their name does not appear on the scoresheet.
- 10.6 A team playing a suspended player or being coached by a suspended coach shall forfeit the match in question and shall be liable to a fine of £25.00.
- 10.7 A player or coach sent off more than once or receiving more than 4 yellow cards in one season shall automatically be referred to the Disciplinary Commission. The duties of the Disciplinary Commission are given in the statutes of Bylaw 10 of the Association.
- 10.8 The home team/organisers are responsible for spectator control. Any spectator affiliated or not whose behaviour is, in the referee's opinion, interfering with his/her control of the match may be asked to leave the hall by the home team/organisers. The referee has the power to suspend the match until the home team/organisers have restored order. The referee shall be required to submit a report on the incident to the Competitions Commission by first class post on the day of the match.

11. Complaints Procedures

- 11.1 All complaints about competitions matters must be addressed in writing to the Competitions Commission President. Please do not phone either the SVA office or members of the Competitions Commission.**
- 11.2 Whenever possible letters of complaint about a particular match should accompany the scoresheet. No complaints received more than seven days after the match will be considered.

12. Right of Appeal

- 12.1 Notwithstanding Article 2.8, clubs have the right to appeal against decisions taken by the Competitions Commission. The full schedule of appeals process and procedure is contained in Byelaw 11 of the SVA Byelaws.

13. Cup Competitions

- 13.1 The Scottish Cup Competition includes the Plate and Bowl events and all references to “Scottish Cup Competitions” in the preceding and following Articles should be interpreted accordingly.

13.2 Teams defeated in the early rounds of the Cup events may compete in the Plate and Bowl events. Entry to the Cup events implies participation in the Plate and Bowl events. However, at the discretion of the Competitions Commission and if vacancies exist within the Plate competition prior to the First Round draw, direct entry to the Plate may be offered to interested teams.

- 13.3 The competition shall consist of a number of rounds. The first three rounds of the cup will be played in sections. Thereafter, teams compete on a knockout basis. All fixtures shall be single matches and all matches shall be played to FIVB rules to the best of five sets.

- 13.4 The teams participating in the First Division of the National League shall be exempted from participating in the first three rounds of the cup, and shall join the competition at the first knockout phase.

- 13.5 Teams eliminated at the group stage of the Scottish Cup shall participate thereafter in the Scottish Plate.

- 13.6 Teams eliminated at the first knockout phase of the Scottish Cup shall participate thereafter in the Thistle Bowl.

- 13.7 All draws will be random.

- 13.8 It is possible for a club to have more than one team in the Scottish Cup, but a player may only play for one team in Scottish Cup Competition. A player is deemed to be ‘cup-tied’ to a particular team once they have appeared on court for the first time.

- 13.9 In all matches prior to the semi-finals of the Cup and the finals of the Plate and Bowl, the first-named side shall be the home team. All other matches shall be held at venues to be decided in advance by the Competitions Commission.
- 13.10 All matches prior to the quarter finals must be officiated by an SVA Referee Grade IV at least. In the quarter-finals of the Cup and Plate and semi-finals of the Plate and Bowl, the 1st official should be an SVA Referee Grade III at least and the 2nd official should be an SVA Referee Grade IV at least. All matches in the Top Teams Cup must be refereed in accordance with the minimum specification applied to National League Division One matches. The Referees Commission will appoint First and Second officials to the semi-finals of the Cup and the finals of the cup events.

Appointed Officials

National League Men's First Division

1. A fixture list shall be forwarded to all participating team secretaries and all referees involved in the appointment system at least six weeks prior to the first match of the season. This list shall show the name and telephone number of the SVA appointed official.
2. It is the responsibility of the home team secretary to inform the away team and the appointed referee of the time and venue of the match. This information must be sent on an official SVA fixture sheet which indicates the start of play and must reach the secretary of the away team and the appointed referee at least fourteen days prior to the scheduled day.

A home team secretary failing to forward a fixture sheet on time shall be liable to a fine of £25.00.

3. In dictating the time of the game, the home team must take into account:
 - (a) The transport available to the appointed referee.
 - (b) That the referee should not be required to leave their home town before 8.00am.
 - (c) That the referee is able to arrive back in their home town by 8.00pm.
4. The home team must inform the referee and the Referees Commission once a fixture re-arrangement has been granted so that all possible alternative arrangements can be put in motion.
5. In the event of a team withdrawing from a fixture at late notice, they must inform their opponents and the appointed referee of this immediately by phone. Failure to contact the opposing team and the appointed referee will result in a fine of £10.00.
6. Where a team cancels a fixture at late notice (e.g. on the day of the game) they shall pay the match fee and travel expenses due to the appointed referee.

7. Referees involved in the appointment system will be asked to signify their agreement and commitment to the scheme by completing a pro forma prior to the beginning of the season.
8. For 2011/12 the fees for appointed referees are £20.00 per match plus travel expenses, regardless of the grade of official appointed to the match.
9.
 - (a) The Referees Commission will appoint a first official to every match in the Men's First Division of the National League.
 - (b) Additional referees of equivalent rank will be asked to remain on "Standby". All referees will be rotated throughout the season to give an even distribution of games.
 - (c) Appointed Referees and standby Referees will be listed for each game and for each Saturday of the National League. This list will include the Referee's addresses and telephone numbers.
 - (d) Any appointed Referee who, for any reason, is not able to fulfil his/her commitment **MUST INFORM, WITHOUT DELAY**, the responsible members of the Referees Commission. If this should arise on the day of the match he/she **MUST ALSO** inform the secretary of the home team.
 - (e) Should the Standby Referee not be contacted prior to 10.00am on the morning of the game, he/she has the right to agree to referee elsewhere.
 - (f) The home club's appointed second official must be prepared to take over as first referee in an emergency, if time, distance or weather conditions make it impossible for an alternative appointed Referee to arrive on time.
 - (g) The home club must additionally provide an alternative second referee in the case of 9(f). This second referee must fulfil all the criteria of SVA Rules for National Competition with respect to match officials.
10. Appointments need not be intimated at the same time as the league fixtures are intimated to the clubs.
11. A system of monitoring the performance of appointed referees shall be put in place.

12. No action or fine will be imposed on any team whose SVA appointed referee is unable to either arrive on time or conduct the match provided that the home team supplies:
 - (a) A qualified Grade III second referee and
 - (b) An additional person of Grade III status who would be able to move in should the referee by take unwell. (i.e. the second licensed official).
13. If 15 minutes before the agreed start time, the referee still has not arrived, the home team's second referee must be prepared to conduct the match in his/her stead, and the club's (additional) qualified personnel must be prepared to move up and fill the gap.

These editions of the rules governing SVA National Competitions supersede any other editions.