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1. Title and Management

1.1 The Scottish Volleyball Association (SVA) organises each season Scottish Volleyball League (SVL) and Cup competitions for men’s and women’s volleyball teams.

1.2 These Rules of National Competition are ratified by the SVA Board under the Articles of Association of the SVA and are the rules, unless otherwise stated, which govern all matters arising from the organisation and management of all National Competition, Cup and Playoff Competitions, governing all matters arising from the organisation and running of the SVL and Cup Competitions.

1.3 The Senior & Junior National Competitions are managed by the Competitions Advisory Group (CAG) which is administered by the Competitions and Performance Officer and Club & Participation Development Officer.

1.4 With respect to all the following Rules, contact with the organiser and CAG should be made in the first instance by e-mailing competitions@scottishvolleyball.org.

1.5 Any uncertainty arising from the Rules shall be exclusively open for interpretation by the CAG.

2. Competition Entry

2.1 Clubs affiliated to the SVA are entitled to enter teams into the National Competitions and must signify their wish to do so by completing the online registration and club nomination form together with the annual SVA affiliation and league entry fee. Fees and team details must be returned by the date set by the Competitions Officer.

2.2 Late entries may only be accepted at the discretion of the CAG, which reserves the right to allocate a late entrant into the highest possible division which has spaces, regardless of the team’s league status in the previous season. A club which is late with its entry will receive a Level 1 administration fee to cover administration costs (See page 22 for list of administration charges).

2.3 Club Administrators must be contactable each year from May until April. If this person is not contactable, they must inform the competitions officer with a suitable replacement.

2.4 All teams entering the SVL must ensure that they have enough suitably qualified referees.

2.5 As per Rule 8, Referees named as taking part in the appointment system must not be named as the suitably qualified referee.

2.6 In entering a team/teams into a National Competition, clubs undertake to abide by the rules and conditions of the competitions and to abide by the decisions taken by the CAG.

2.7 Applicants to the competitions must ensure they meet all administrative tasks set by the CAG. Continued participation in these competitions are dependent upon this.

2.8 The CAG has the right to request any club to change its club administrator or team secretaries if it feels they do not meet the obligations of the role. Failure to comply with this request will result in a Level 3 administration fee being imposed on the club.

2.9 Clubs entering the SVL receive automatic entry to the corresponding Scottish Cup competition. If the club does not wish to take up this spot, they must inform the organiser by the deadline allocated for entry.
3. SVL Format

3.1 There shall be a Premier, One, Two, U18, U16 and regional conferences for male and females.

3.2 All leagues shall consist of a maximum of 11 teams and a minimum of 4 teams. The CAG has the right to restructure the leagues if deemed necessary.

3.3 All matches will be played to FIVB rules, unless stated otherwise.

3.4 The Format of the matches will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>League</th>
<th>Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SVL Premier, SVL ONE &amp; SVL TWO</td>
<td>Best of five sets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVL Junior &amp; Conferences</td>
<td>All Three sets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.5 The arrangement of the matches will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>League</th>
<th>Arrangement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SVL Premier, SVL ONE &amp; Conferences</td>
<td>Singular Matches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest SVL Senior League, SVL Junior</td>
<td>Triangular Matches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.5.1 With the prior written agreement of opposition and CAG, matches can be arranged as singular or triangular matches.

3.6 League Tables shall be compiled as follows:

**Best of Five**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winner 3:0 or 3:1</td>
<td>3 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winner 3:2</td>
<td>2 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loser 2:3</td>
<td>1 Point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loser 1:3 or 0:3</td>
<td>0 Point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forfeit</td>
<td>-3 Points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**All Three Sets (3\textsuperscript{rd} set played to 15, with 2 clear points required)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winner 3:0 or 2:1(2:0)</td>
<td>3 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winner 2:1</td>
<td>2 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loser 1:2</td>
<td>1 Point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loser 0:3 or 1:2 (0-2)</td>
<td>0 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forfeit</td>
<td>-3 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**League Table Criteria:**

1. Ranking Points
2. Matches Won
3. Percent Sets Won
4. Percent Points Won
5. Head to Head

3.7 The CAG has the discretion to amend forfeit points to \(-2\), \(-1\) or 0, given exceptional circumstances.

3.8 When a match is declared Null and Void, the CAG may award 0 point or 1 point to both sides. Decisions taken on this matter will be at the exclusive discretion of the CAG.

3.9 The team who are top of the league after all SVL matches have been completed, will be declared National Champions of that Division.
3.10 The teams winning the SVL Premier gain the title of “Scottish Champions” and are entitled to enter the CEV Cups of the succeeding season. Teams intending entering the CEV Cups and having earned the right to do so must inform the CAG by no later than 30th April of this intention. Where neither of the Men’s or Women’s “Scottish Champions” elect to enter the CEV Cups, the eligibility for entry will be offered to the team finishing in 2nd place in the SVL Premier and then the National Cup Champions.

3.11 There will be one team promoted (1st place) and one team relegated (last place) directly from each division where applicable.

3.12 Teams finishing in 2nd place will playoff against the teams finishing in 2nd last place of the division above.

3.13 No team can voluntarily demote itself/refuse promotion from any division. Any team wishing to voluntarily demote/refuse promotion for extenuating reasons, must do so by in writing to CAG 14 days before the first match of the promotion/relegation play-offs. Any team which fails to meet this deadline and which wishes to continue playing in the SVL in the succeeding season, must pay a Level 4 administration fee in order to gain entry.

3.14 Teams which win the SVL titles will, where feasible, receive their respective trophies by the final SVL match of the season from an SVA Representative.

4. Player and Coach Registration

4.1 Players, coaches and assistant coaches participating in the SVL must be members of and registered with the SVA, in accordance with SVA Byelaw 3.2, prior to the first match in which they participate.

4.2 Same-Day Registration

4.2.1 Exceptionally, a maximum of two players and one coach may register on the day of the match but only if they do not require a transfer (see article 5).

4.2.2 This registration requires the sending of the relevant SVL Registration Fee, the Same-Day Registration form, a picture and an additional Level 1 administration fee per person.

4.2.3 The player should also provide the scorer with photographic I.D.

4.2.4 Same-Day Registrations should be noted in the ‘Remarks’ box on the scoresheet.

4.2.5 Failure to provide the above with the scoresheet will result in a Level 2 administration fee being levied against the club who submitted the Same-Day registration.

4.3 It is the responsibility of the team captain & head coach to ensure the shirt numbers, team member names and registration numbers are correctly recorded on the scoresheet, and Same-Day Registrations are correctly noted, prior to signing it. Failure to check and sign the scoresheet will result in a Level 2 administration fee being levied against the club in breach of this rule. Match results may be altered retrospectively by the CAG if a player takes part in a match without being properly recorded on the scoresheet.

4.4 It is the responsibility of the first official to enter any discrepancies with the team licence in the remarks box of the scoresheet. A team or individual failing to provide a valid signed collective licence with which they have been issued prior to the match shall be liable to a Level 2 administration fee.
4.5 With the exception of teams competing in the SVL Junior & Conference, no SVL player may register for two clubs in any one season unless he/she is officially transferred (see article 5).

4.6 Players registered outwith the Senior SVL may play for a Senior SVL team of another club if their own club does not have a Senior SVL team. Such a player may play a maximum of 10 sets, after which they must register as a Senior SVL player. No player may play for 2 clubs if they have used any of the 10 sets available to them.

4.7 A team playing a player who has not been correctly registered, whether in advance or using the Same-Day Registration process (see Rule 4.2) before the start of the match, shall forfeit the match in question and shall be liable to a Level 4 administration fee.

4.8 Clubs may have more than one team in the SVL. The following rules apply to movement of players between teams within the same club:

4.8.1 Regular Season Matches

4.8.1.1 Where a club has two teams in the same division of the SVL, no movement of players between these teams will be allowed after initial registration of the players to the teams.

4.8.1.2 Where a club has teams in different divisions of the senior SVL, they shall be referred to as higher and lower teams according to the division they are in (e.g. SVL Premier – Higher Team, SVL1 – Lower Team). In such cases, players, may move freely from the lower team to appear on court for the higher team for 1/3 (rounded up) of the scheduled matches (total possible matches in SVL Regular season). After 1/3 of the scheduled matches, the player shall be considered as being only a higher team player and may no longer play for the lower team. In order to move players from the higher team to the lower team, a special dispensation request must be made to the CAG stating the reasons why this player should be re-registered for the lower team. This process will not apply to playoff matches (see Rule 4.8.2.2). Please Note: The Regular season includes pre and post-split matches.

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

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

4.8.2 Playoff Matches:

4.8.2.1 Any player who plays in more than a total of 10 sets or in 1/3 of SVL (whichever is the smaller) matches in the regular season played by a higher team within their club, may not participate in any post-season playoffs involving a lower team from within their Club.
4.8.2.2 Only players who have been registered or who have appeared on the scoresheet during the regular season with the club may play in the playoffs, unless special dispensation is granted by CAG.

4.8.2.3 Any player who is eligible to play in the SVL Junior League, may only play for one team within their club in the SVL Playoffs.

4.9 With the exception of SVL Junior leagues, no player under the age of 14 years may play in the SVL, except with the express written permission of the CAG.

4.10 A team playing an ineligible player shall forfeit the match in question and shall be liable to a Level 4 administration fee.

4.11 A team using a coach or assistant coach who is unlicensed may receive a Level 3 administration fee.

5. Transfers

5.1 A player has the right to be released from a club of which he/she is a registered player and thereafter to transfer to another club within the transfer window.

5.2 The following is the procedure for a player to transfer between clubs in Scotland only:

5.2.1 A player wishing to be released from the club of which they are a member must notify the Competition Officer in writing, requesting to be released. A player may only request this twice in one season (May to April each year).

5.2.2 On receipt of this written request, the Competitions Officer will send a Player Transfer Form to the player's club for completion; this must be returned within 14 days by the Club Administrator.

5.2.3 If the SVA is not in receipt of the completed Player Transfer Form within 14 days, the player will automatically be released from the club concerned and will be informed that they are free to transfer to and register for another club. Any transfer allowed under this rule is without prejudice to any remaining obligations to the previous club. In such cases the club will be subject to a Level 2 administration fee for failing to comply with Rule 5.2.2 and SVA Byelaw 6.4.

5.2.4 The Club Administrator must indicate at the time of notification of transfer that the club (i) approves the release of the player or (ii) refuses to release the player, stating the reasons for this on the form.

5.2.5 If the club refuses to release the player, the reasons for this must be intimated. Clubs may refuse to release a player only on the grounds that:

(i) the player owes the club money

(ii) the player owes the club goods (strip, tracksuit, balls etc.)

(iii) the player is subject to disciplinary action within the club. This disciplinary action should have been notified to the Competitions Officer before the transfer request had been submitted by the player.

The club must inform the Competition Officer of the reason(s) why they have declined this transfer request.
5.2.5.1 In such cases, the player’s request to be released will be considered and a decision made by the CAG.

5.2.5.2 Should the player’s request to be released be upheld, the club and the player will be informed. The player will then be free to transfer to, and register for, another club.

5.2.5.3 Should the decision to refuse to release the player be upheld, this will be communicated to the club and the player who will also be informed of the reasons why release from the club has been refused. The player will be free to transfer when their obligations to the club are fulfilled.

5.2.6 No request for a transfer made by a club or a player will be granted by the SVA if either club or player are, at the time of the transfer request, subject to any disciplinary proceedings by the SVA. The request will be suspended until such time as said disciplinary proceedings, and any appeal relative to said proceedings have been completed. A request may be made to the disciplinary committee to allow discretion on this ruling.

5.3 The following is the procedure for a player transfer from their Federation of Origin to Scotland.

5.3.1 • Player Completes Transfer from Federation of Origin form
• Accompanied by Photographic page of passport and a passport photo

5.3.2 • Competitions Officer contacts Players Federation of Origin to negotiate transfer fee

5.3.3 • Once the fee is negotiated, Competitions Officer notifies Club Administrator
• Club must pay International transfer and International Bank Transfer fees

5.3.4 • Once FIVB VIS System is updated, Competitions Officer will forward transfer certificate to Club Administrator

5.3.5 • Any transfer not completed after 90 days will be automatically deleted
5.4 Date of Release – this is determined by one of the following:

(i) Fourteen days after the date on which the SVA received the request to be released from the player, should there be no reply from the club administrator.

(ii) The date of receipt by the SVA of the notification of transfer indicating that the player has been released.

(iii) The date on which the player’s request to be released is upheld by the CAG.

(iv) The date on which the releasing club notifies the SVA that a disputed transfer has been resolved and the player is free to transfer.

5.5 Transfer Window

5.5.1 Players may only transfer between Scottish Volleyball clubs between 9 am on May 16th and 5 pm on January 15th inclusive (times for receipt of documentation). The transfer window does not prejudice any player wanting to register with the Scottish Volleyball Association for the first time.

5.5.2 Any player released outwith these dates will not be allowed to transfer their registration to, and play for, another club except in exceptional circumstances.

5.5.3 Any player wishing to apply for exceptional circumstances must do so in writing to the Competitions Officer together with a Level 2 administration fee. The request for exceptional circumstances will not be actioned until payment has been made.

5.6 Date of Transfer

This is the date on which the SVA receives the written notification from the Club Administrator of the club to which the player is transferring, indicating that the player is now a playing member of that club. This written notification must be accompanied by the appropriate registration fee.

5.7 The SVA Board reserves the right to refuse any transfer it considers may not be in the interest of the Association. In that event the relevant fees would be returned.

5.8 A club seeking to obtain the service of a player from his/her current club may initially approach either the player’s current Club Administrator or the player themselves. If the player is willing to transfer, the procedure outlined in Rule 5.2 should be followed.

5.9 If a player is subjected to repeated unwelcome approaches by members or representatives of another club to join that club, the player should report the matter to their Club Administrator who shall seek clarification from the club concerned. If the Club Administrator is unable to resolve the situation the matter should be referred to the Board for deliberation and, if deemed appropriate under Byelaw 11, Disciplinary Action.

6. Fixture Procedures

6.1 The CAG fixes the dates of all SVL and Cup matches.

6.2 Match Venues

6.2.1 All match venues must previously have been approved by the CAG.

6.2.2 A list of approved venues is available from the SVA website.
6.2.3 Should a club wish to play at a venue which has not yet been approved, the club must be prepared to meet the cost of an inspection by a member of the CAG and complete the approval of a competition venue form.

6.2.4 If a club competes at a venue that has not been approved by the CAG, a Level 4 administration fee will be levied against the club.

6.3 A fixture list shall be forwarded by the Competitions Officer to all Club Administrators at least 6 weeks prior to the first match of the season. Clubs will have 7 days to respond to the Competitions officer of any problems or issues in relation to the fixtures.

6.4 Clubs will be given a weekend to play the match. Clubs will have a period of 3 weeks to negotiate the day the matches can be played. If clubs cannot come to an agreement on the day of the match, this will default to a Saturday. SVL Junior Matches will default to a Sunday.

6.5 All clubs must submit the venue and First Ball Served time to the SVA Website, opposition Team Secretary, opposition Club Administrator and the Competitions Officer 28 days prior to the match. The referee appointment officer must also be informed, in the case of matches to which referees are normally appointed. Once submitted, this information may not be altered without prior consent from the opponents and the CAG. An SVA Fixture Sheet (see web site for details) should be used for this purpose and an extra copy should be sent by email to the Competitions Administrator.

6.6 Failure to provide a fixture sheet within 28 days of the fixture will result in a Level 1 administration fee being imposed.

6.7 Failure to provide a fixture sheet within 7 days of the fixture will result in a Level 3 administration fee being imposed.

6.8 Clubs may play the match during the week leading up to the weekend fixture. In this instance, clubs should be aware of Rule 6.10.1.

6.9 Match Start Times

6.9.1 The home team must take into account the following when selecting a match time:

6.9.1.1 that, unless previously agreed, the visiting team should not be required to leave their home town before 8am (for teams not subject to Rule 6.9.2). For the purposes of the article, the ‘home town’ of a team shall be that in which their home match venue is situated. For matches played midweek, either by mutual consent, or through rearrangement (Rule 6.12), no away team should be required to leave their home town before 5pm, unless previously agreed.

6.9.1.2 that, unless previously agreed, the visiting team should be able to arrive back at their home town by 10pm (for teams not subject to Rule 6.9.2).
6.9.2 In the case of a team who must travel to or from an island in Scotland, the opposition must contact the club within 7 days once the fixture is announced to determine the best course of action for this fixture. Failure to engage in this communication within the 14 days will result in a Level 2 administration fee. The match will be given a weekend date to fulfil this fixture. The opposition must be willing to travel the day before the match is scheduled to be played in order to fulfil the fixture. If a team fails to travel to or from the island, a Level 4 administration fee will be levied against the club.

6.10 Bringing Fixtures Forward

6.10.1 In certain circumstances a team may be allowed to bring forward a fixture. In this case the team should request this in writing to the CAG 28 days prior to the date on and which they wish to play, sending with their request a written agreement from the opposing team.

6.10.2 When a request is granted, normal fixture procedures will apply and may also result in Rule 6.13 being invoked.

6.10.3 Requests received later than 28 days but no less than 14 days before may be considered by CAG with a Level 1 administration fee attached.

6.10.4 Requests received later than 14 days prior to proposed new fixture date will not be considered unless there is a written agreement from the opposition.

6.11 Postponements

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

6.11.1.1 Inclement weather preventing travel or making travel dangerous.

6.11.1.2 Cancellation of the hall hire within 48 hours of the fixture (written confirmation from letting authority required). If subsequent cancellations occur, the CAG may enforce a change of home venue for the club.

6.11.1.3 Where a player or coach is required for official SVA business, that is to say European Cup Ties or any other SVA business from time to time determined by the CAG.

6.11.2 The CAG reserves the right to allow for a postponement to take place if they deem the club has reasonable grounds for this request.

6.11.3 Arranging a new fixture date

6.11.3.1 Postponed matches must be played within 28 days of the original fixture date. For the purposes of these rules, the 28 days shall be 4 fixture weeks, or the final day of the season, whichever is sooner.

6.11.3.2 Matches will automatically be moved to a designated re-arranged date if one is available.

6.11.3.3 Within five days of the postponement being granted, the home team must offer a minimum of three dates within the 28 days’ time frame in which to play the postponed match. At least one of these dates MUST be a weekend date which doesn’t clash with any other
SVA fixtures involving the away team’s club. The dates must all be offered AT THE SAME TIME.

6.11.3.4 The away team must, within 7 days of being offered the dates, accept one of them, and this arrangement must be communicated to the CAG. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a Level 2 administration fee, and may result in the match being declared forfeit.

6.11.3.5 CAG can use their discretion to shorten the time allowed to play the match if the re-arranged fixture will have a knock-on effect to important end of season matches (e.g. Playoffs, Cup/Plate Semi-Finals/Finals).

6.12 Withdrawing from a fixture

6.12.1 Where a team withdraws from a fixture for any reason, other than those outlined in Rule 6.11, the match shall be declared forfeit against them and a Level 4 administration fee will be levied.

6.12.2 A full statement of reasons for cancelling the fixture must be submitted to the CAG by first class post or by email on the day of the match or, if earlier, the day of withdrawal.

6.12.3 Failure to contact the CAG (and the referee appointment officer in case of the appointment system) will result in a Level 2 administration fee.

6.12.4 Any team withdrawing from a fixture will result in the team being deducted 3 points and they will lose the match 0-25, 0-25, 0-25. Their opposition will be awarded 3 league points and they will win the match 25-0, 25-0, 25-0.

6.13 Where a team cancels or fails to appear without notifying the opposing team and the CAG a Level 4 administration fee will be applied. A proportion of this will be paid to the opposing team to cover any unavoidable cost incurred. Referee travel costs incurred because of this failure to notify must also be paid. This rule will also be in addition to Rule 6.12.

6.14 A team withdrawing (at whatever notice) without good reason from three matches in the same season will be relegated, regardless of their league position.

7. Match Procedures

7.1 As per Rule 3.3, all matches must be played to the FIVB rules.

7.2 Equipment

7.2.1 All matches must be played with the Mikasa MVA200 match ball of correct inflation, as according to FIVB rules.

7.2.2 It shall be the responsibility of the home team to provide the visiting team with a minimum of six warm up balls of correct standard. A team failing to do this shall be liable to a Level 2 administration fee.

7.2.3 Antennae must be used for all matches.
7.2.4 In cases of doubt, the 1st referee’s decision as to whether the equipment and venue is suitable for play shall be final. If equipment and venue are not suitable then the referee must record in the remarks box on the scoresheet the reasons why the above were not suitable.

7.2.5 Failure to comply with this rule will result in an administration fee at the CAG’s discretion.

7.3 Player Uniforms

7.3.1 A player’s uniform consists of jersey and shorts.

7.3.2 All players in a team must have correctly numbered uniform jerseys and shorts according to the following criteria.

7.3.3 SVL Premier
   Jersey, shorts of the same colour, style and make, and socks of the same colour.

7.3.4 SVL ONE & SVL TWO
   Jersey and shorts of the same colour and style.

7.3.5 SVL Conference & SVL Junior
   Jersey and shorts of the same colour

7.3.6 Match referees, and only match officials, are required to record the details of any discrepancies in the remarks box. Teams failing to comply with the above will be subject to a Level 1 administration fee.

7.4 The match shall be deemed to commence at the start of the warm up over which the 1st Referee has control. See Rule 0 for the full pre-match protocol.

7.5 Clubs should allow for the following minimum hall lets (unless reduced at the agreement of both teams):
   - 30 minutes warm-up plus:
     o 2½hrs for a best of 5 set match
     o 1½hrs for a 3 set match

   The minimum hall let requirement for a triangular series is 7 hours (5 hours for best of 3 set matches).

7.6 A home team must ensure that matches start as close to the scheduled start time as possible. If, however, the start of the match is delayed due to a prior match, the away team should wait until the preceding match has been completed (or terminated at the discretion of the home team).

7.7 Where possible, every effort must be made by both teams to then play the subsequent matches in the remaining hall booking for those matches.

7.8 In the event that the hall booking expires without the match being completed, the home team must contact CAG detailing the reasons for the delay, who will then make a ruling on the result of the match.
7.9 Where both teams are ready to start play at the scheduled starting time, and the stated time required for the match (as per rule 7.5) has elapsed since the start of play, and the hall booking for that game has expired without the match being completed, then the match shall be completely replayed at the same venue with all costs of the replayed match being equally divided between the two teams. The same ruling applies if the hall let time is reduced due to circumstances outwith the control of the home team and the match is not completed as a result.

7.10 Where both teams are ready to start play at the scheduled starting time and the hall booking expires before the stated time required for the match (as per rule 7.5) has passed since the scheduled start time, then the match shall be awarded to the visiting team. The home team shall retain any points and sets already won. The away team shall retain the sets already won and be awarded 25 points (or more, if necessary, to gain a 2 point advantage necessary to win an incomplete set) in all remaining sets, whether incomplete or as yet un-played.

7.11 Teams within a triangular series may alter the schedule of the matches. Any change to the allocated schedule must have the written agreement of all three teams.

7.12 All matches, with exception of triangular fixtures, will use Technical Time-Outs. With the exception of SVL Premier and Scottish Cup matches, if both teams are in agreement, these may be removed from the match. This must be communicated to the 1st referee at the coin toss.

7.13 Failure to Appear

7.13.1 Where a team, without good reason, fails to appear on court ready to play within the following time limits, the following sanctions will be allocated:

- 15-30 mins after FBS – Opponents awarded 1st set 25-0
- 30-45 mins after FBS – Opponents awarded 2nd set 25-0
- 45-60 mins after FBS – Opponents awarded 3rd set, either 25-0 or 15-0, depending upon level of competition.

7.13.2 The team who are not ready to play must inform the CAG of the reasons on the day of the match at the latest.

7.13.3 Where possible, every effort should be made by both teams to play the match in the remaining hall booking for that game. All reasonable attempts should be made by a home team to extend a hall booking if this is necessary to complete a match.

7.13.4 If a match starts late due to one of the teams not being ready to play, and the minimum hall let period specified in rule 7.5 has elapsed since the scheduled start time, and the hall booking expires before the match has completed, then the team that was not ready shall forfeit the match.

7.14 A team reduced to less than six players after play begins, due to injury or to a player or players being disqualified (i.e. the team is declared incomplete), shall lose the match but shall retain any points and sets already won.
7.15 Scoresheets

7.15.1 After every match, the home Team Secretary must notify the full result to both the SVA Press Officer AND the Competitions Administrator before 2000hrs, unless the matches finish after this time.

7.15.2 The Team Secretary must take a picture or scanned copy of the scoresheet and email it to:
Roddy Mackenzie (roddy@finalwhistlemmedia.co.uk)
and
results@scottishvolleyball.org

7.15.3 If the quality of the emailed file is deemed not to be sufficient, the Team Secretary will be required to post the scoresheet to the SVA 1st class on the day of the match being played.

7.15.4 A home team failing to make contact as required on the scheduled day shall be liable to a Level 2 administration fee unless a suitable reason is provided.

7.16 All SVL matches shall be open to the general public, media personnel, photographers and any person using a video recorder, subject to the following:

7.16.1 Any person not directly involved with the match shall at no time be on the court area.

7.16.2 No person should be behind the service zone unless there is a structured seating area available.

7.16.3 No person or equipment should be positioned and/or used in such a way that they present risk of injury or obstruction to players or officials.

7.16.4 Any photographs or film must comply with the SVA Child Protection Policy

7.16.5 All material can be used for Scottish Volleyball Promotional Purposes

7.16.6 The match organiser has the right to ask any spectator to leave the hall, should this be deemed required.

7.17 The minimum standards below are expected to be maintained by all SVL Clubs:

- Post Padding
- Approved Referee Stand
- 12 Warm Up Balls and 1 Match Ball
- Minimum lighting of 500 Lux
- Match teas & catering for opposition and supporters
- Provide a match report for local & national press
- 1 set of four Line Judge Flags
- Sponsors and Club branding around court
8. Match Officials

8.1 For all SVA matches the status of the match officials MUST conform to the minimum standards below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>1st Official</th>
<th>2nd Official</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SVL Premier Men</td>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>Grade 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVL Premier Women</td>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>Grade 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVL ONE Men</td>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVL ONE Women</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVL TWO Men</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVL TWO Women</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVL Regional Conferences</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Cup Rounds 1 -3</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Plate Rounds 1-QF</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Cup Rounds 4 - QF</td>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Syer Grand Prix</td>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>Grade 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVL Junior</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Junior</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

8.2 It is permitted to officiate as 1st or 2nd referee in a higher league than is stated above, provided that it is during assessment by an SVA approved assessor, who must sign the scoresheet in the Remarks Box.

8.3 All 1st or 2nd Officials taking charge at any match under the auspices of the SVA must hold a valid SVA licence. The membership card confirms the official’s qualifications for the current season.

8.4 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 by the home team will be subject to a Level 1 administration fee.

8.5 No referee can register on the day of the match.

8.6 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 Official / FIVB Referee**
  - £25 per match plus travel expenses (SVL Premier, John Syer Grand Prix, and Scottish Cup)

- **Other Matches**
  - Grade 1 SVA Referee: £20 per match plus travel expenses
  - Grade 2 SVA Referee: £18 per match plus travel expenses
  - Grade 3 SVA Referee: £15 per match plus travel expenses
  - Grade 4 SVA Referee: £10 per match plus travel expenses
  - SVA Scorer: £5 per match plus travel expenses
  - SVA Line-Judge: £3 per match plus travel expenses

8.6.1 Travel Expenses - the official rate shall be 25p per mile travelled. The cost of public transport shall be fully reimbursed.
8.7 The Referees Commission will appoint referees to all SVL Premier matches subject to availability.

8.8 A home team (or named refereeing team in triangular fixtures) who, without good reason, fails to provide a 1st and/or 2nd Referee in accordance with requirements in 8.1 and/or a competent scorer will be subject to a Level 2 administration fee and may, upon the discretion of the CAG, forfeit the match.

8.9 A team failing to provide appropriately qualified officials must notify the CAG in writing on the day of the match, explaining their failure to fulfil the requirements of Rule 8.1. Failure to contact the CAG will result in a Level 1 administration fee.

8.10 A home team (or named refereeing team in triangular fixtures) failing to provide a minimum of two competent line judges and a scorer shall be liable to a Level 2 administration fee.

8.11 A player who is listed on the scoresheet as part of a team cannot line judge the same match. A team using such a line judge will receive a Level 2 administration fee.

8.12 The remarks box on the scoresheet is to be used by the officials for an immediate and specific protest about the Referee’s interpretation of a rule. It must not be used for the latter situation when the team captain has not at the time of the incident expressed his/her protest and the intention to have it recorded in the remarks box at the end of the match.

8.13 Scoresheet

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SMITH, J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1234</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.13.2 Failure to comply will result in a Level 1 administration fee being issued and, in accordance with the FIVB’s Official Volleyball Rules, may lead to the match result being altered retrospectively by the CAG.

8.13.3 The scoresheet must be correctly headed (e.g. match number, first/second team, men/women, Premier/SVL ONE/SVL TWO, etc.) and completed (e.g. all registration numbers, shirt numbers and substitutions shown).

8.13.4 Failure to ensure the scoresheet is completed correctly will result in a Level 1 fine being levied against the club.

8.13.5 The scoresheet must be an SVA Scoresheet and no other, however similar. A home team failing to provide and use an SVA Scoresheet shall be liable to a Level 2 administration fee.

8.13.6 Scoresheets can be ordered from the SVA by contacting the SVA office.
SVL Pre-Match Protocol to be followed for all SVL & Cup matches:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minutes Before First Ball Served</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Action of Referees</th>
<th>Action of Teams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| -30:00   (Start of the warm up at which the 1st referee has control) | Check of the Net height and tension, entrance of the teams | Referee’s check  
- Height and tension of net  
- Position of antennae and side bands | Both teams are requested to enter the playing area  
- Teams wear the official playing uniforms  
- Team documentation handed to the scorer’s table |
| -14:00 Toss of the coin to choose service and court | The two referees’ report to the area in front of the scorer’s table  
- The 1st referee blows his/her whistle to call the Team Captains  
- The toss of the coin follows and the 1st Referee informs the scorer of the result | Both team captains’ report to the area in front of the scorer’s table  
After the Toss  
- Team captains and coaches sign the scoresheet  
- Teams go to their respective benches and bring in any equipment, which they place behind the team benches |
| 13:00 Start of the Official Warm-Up at the net | The 1st Referee blows the whistle to signal the start of the Official Net Warm-Up (5 minutes minimum for each team or 10 minutes together). The Referees:  
- Check the game balls, official playing uniforms, team documentation  
- Give any necessary instructions to Line Judges, ball retrievers, moppers and scorers. | The Teams:  
- Start to warm-up at the net  
- Must wear their playing uniform for the official warm-up |
| 9:00 Line-Up sheets for the first set | The 2nd referee must:  
- Ensure that the coach or assistant coach submits the original signed line up sheet for the first set | The coach or the assistant coach of each team gives the line-up sheet for the first set to the 2nd referee/scorer. |
| 3:00 End of team warm up at the net | The 1st referee blows the whistle to indicate the end of the warm-up of the teams | At the 1st referee’s whistle, teams must stop warming up and immediately return to their own bench  
- If players need to change their jerseys, they must leave the playing court and return immediately with the approval of the 1st referee  
- All players must wear their match uniforms |
| 1:00 Check court positions of the players matches the Line-up sheet | The 2nd referee:  
- Checks the players standing position, comparing them with those on their respective line-up sheet  
- Invites the Libero to enter, replacing one of the players in the back zone  
- Asks the scorer if he/she has also finished checking and is ready to start (two handed OK from scorer)  
- Gives the ball to server  
- Gives a two handed OK | Both teams are ready to start the match |
| 0:00 First Service | The first referee blows the whistle authorising the first service, within the scheduled time. | |

9. Scottish Cup and Scottish Plate Competition

9.1 The Scottish Cup Competition includes the Scottish Plate event and all references to “Scottish Cup Competitions” in the preceding and following Articles should be interpreted accordingly.

9.2 The competition shall consist of a number of rounds. The first three rounds of the cup will be played in pools. 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.
9.3 The teams participating in SVL Premier shall be exempted from participating in the pool rounds of the cup and shall join the competition in the 4th Round.

9.4 Teams participating in Rounds 1 to 3, with agreement from the opposition teams & CAG, may play their preliminary round fixtures in a triangular tournament format.

9.5 Teams eliminated at the pool stage of the Scottish Cup shall participate thereafter in the Scottish Plate.

9.6 All draws will be overseen by the Competition organiser.

9.7 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.

9.8 In all matches prior to the semi-finals of the Cup and plate, the first-named side shall be the home team.

9.9 No player may participate in any finals unless they have been previously registered before the semi-final stage.

9.10 Each team is required to provide the minimum number of officials stipulated by the Competitions Officer in line with the playing/officiating schedule provided prior to the Semi-Finals and Finals Weekends.

10. Junior Scottish Cup Competition

10.1 There shall be an Under 16 and an Under 18 Scottish Cup for boy and girls, aligned to the age criteria for SVL Junior.

10.2 The competition shall comprise a semi-final tournament, which will take place over a single day and the Junior Scottish Cup Final, which will be contested as part of the SVA’s Finals Weekend

10.3 The format of the competition will be dependent upon the number of entries and is at the discretion of the organiser.

10.4 Seeding’s for the tournament will be according to the final positions in the SVL Junior. Clubs who did not compete in the SVL Junior will be seeded last and be ordered by previous appearances in competition, if applicable.

10.5 The top two teams at the semi-final tournament will qualify for the final of their respective Junior Scottish Cup, which will be contested as part of the SVA’s Finals Weekend.

10.6 All rules of the SVL Junior are applicable to the Junior Scottish Cup with the exception of the following:

10.6.1 Players may transfer between teams within a junior club for the purposes of the Junior Super Cup.

10.6.2 Players registered on the scoresheet for a team at the semi-final stage will be cup-tied, to that team, should they qualify for the final.

10.6.3 All players who compete in the Junior Scottish Cup Final must have been registered with their respective club on or before the date of their semi-final, unless given special dispensation from CAG.
11. John Syer Grand Prix

11.1 A player will not be cup-tied for the Scottish Cup Competitions if they participate in the John Syer Grand Prix. A player may only participate for one team in this competition as per Rule 4.8.

11.2 As per Rule 4.8.1.4, no player may be registered on a scoresheet on the same fixture date for 2 teams.

11.3 Winners of each pool will progress to the John Syer Grand Prix Final.

12. SVL Playoffs

12.1 Matches between the upper and lower teams will be played over 2 matches at a Home and Away venue. The upper team will host the first match and the lower team will host the second match.

12.2 In the event of a tie (level on ranking points), a Golden set will be played as a tie break to 15 points at the conclusion of the final set of Match 2. In the case of a 14-14 tie, play is continued until a 2 point lead is achieved (16-14, 17-15 etc.).

12.3 Each team is required to provide the correct minimum number of officials in relation to the upper playoff team’s division of play. (The higher ranked team’s division determines which grade of Referee is required to be in charge of the match)

13. SVL Regional Conference Addenda

The Regional Conference will be played to the Rules of the Competition with exception to below:

13.1 There shall be up to four conferences for both Men’s and Women’s.

13.2 Conferences will be based upon geographical boundaries.

13.3 The number of times each team shall play the others in its conference will be dependent upon the number of team entries received. This information will be communicated to participants, by the organiser prior to the start of the season.

13.4 A crossover semi-final will take place between the winning teams of each conference. If any winner of the conference does not wish to take up their place in the Regional Conference Finals, the place will be offered to the next available team in their conference. The Competition Officer reserves the right to ask another team from within another conference to compete in the Regional Conference Finals if a team in its respective conference cannot fulfil these fixtures. The draw for the semi-finals will be made at random.

13.5 Teams may play a maximum of two registered players who have competed in SVL ONE or SVL TWO during the current season.

13.6 No player that has been registered with an SVL Premier team may play in the SVL Conference.
14. SVL Junior Addenda

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

14.1 League Format and Rules

14.1.1 The U18 SVL Junior will run from September to December.

14.1.2 The U16 SVL Junior will run from December to April.

14.1.3 If the number of entries into a league exceeds 9 then the organiser may split the league into two divisions. Which teams play in which league will be at the discretion of the CAG and the Youth & Schools Commission.

14.1.4 The number of times each team shall play the others will be dependent upon the number of team entries.

14.1.5 Barring exceptional circumstances, on each fixture date, teams will play no less than two and no more than three matches.

14.1.6 This competition will not involve play-offs.

14.2 Registrations (as per Rule 4)

14.2.1 Players who are eligible for U16 age group may also play in the U18 age group, under one junior registration. These players must still be shown on the team licence. Players must re-register, however, if they play for different clubs in different age groups.

14.2.2 No SVL Junior player may play for two SVL Junior clubs in one age group during the course of the season.

14.2.3 It is possible for a club to have more than one team in the SVL Junior but where a club has two teams in the same age group of the SVL Junior, no movement of players between these teams will be allowed during the course of a single season.

14.3 Eligibility

14.3.1 Players should conform to the following criteria:

14.3.1.1 For U18 competition, all players must be Under 18 on the first fixture date or in full time secondary school education to be eligible in the season of competition.

14.3.1.2 For U16 competition, all players must be Under 16 on the first fixture date or in full time secondary school education in years S1-S4 to be eligible in the season of competition.

14.3.2 Coaches

Team coaches should possess a minimum coaching qualification of UKCC Level 1 (or equivalent) and be a SVA member. Persons wishing to coach in JNL who do not hold this qualification should ascertain their eligibility to coach by consulting the organiser.

14.4 Match Procedures

14.4.1 Teams hosting SVL Junior fixtures must conform to the order of play and dates provided by the organiser. Any change to the schedule must have the agreement of all teams; this must then be communicated to the organiser.
14.5 Variances from FIVB rules of the game:

14.5.1 Net heights will be as follows:
U18 Male: 2.35m
U18 Female: 2.24m
U16 Male: 2.24m
U16 Female: 2.18m

15. Competition Awards

15.1 Trophies and medals shall be presented to the winners of each competition.

15.2 Runners-up medals will be presented for Senior and Junior Scottish Cups, Scottish Plate, and Regional Conferences.

15.3 The trophies must be returned to the SVA office by 31st January of the following season. Teams who fail to return the trophy by this date will be liable to a Level 2 administration fee.

15.4 Scottish Volleyball will engrave all trophies.

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

16. Administration fees

16.1 The CAG is empowered to impose the penalties and administration fees set out in the preceding and following articles.

16.2 All administration fees will be increased to the next level immediately upon failure to pay within 28 days from the date of notice.

16.3 Any team who fails to satisfy an administration fee imposed on them after 56 days will be suspended from competition until that administration fee has been paid in full or at the discretion of the CAG. Subsequent administration fees, e.g. failure to complete match, shall accumulate from the date of suspension.

16.4 The CAG will exclude, from the following season’s Competitions, any club failing to pay outstanding administration fees from the previous season.

16.5 A team withdrawing from the SVL after the season’s fixtures have been released shall be liable to a Level 4 administration fee.

16.6 All matches involving a team eliminated or withdrawing from the SVL shall be null and void. That team shall be liable for any expenses unavoidably incurred by other teams in their division in preparation for games now not being played.

16.7 A player registered for a team eliminated or withdrawing from the SVL may not play for another SVL team in the same season until the administration fees under Rules 16.5 and 16.6, and monies due to another member club of the Association have been paid and permission is given by the CAG. If such permission is given, the player must re-register and pay the normal registration fee.
16.8 **Administration Fee Levels:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>SVL Senior, Scottish Cups &amp; JSGP</th>
<th>SVL Junior &amp; Conference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>£10</td>
<td>£5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>£20</td>
<td>£10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>£50</td>
<td>£30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>£80</td>
<td>£40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>£150</td>
<td>£100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 17. Disciplinary Action

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

#### 17.1 Disqualification

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

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

#### 17.2 Expulsion

17.2.1 A player or coach being EXPELLED (i.e. sent off for the remainder of one set of a SVL or Cup match) must remain seated in the penalty area for the remainder of that set and shall be suspended from all SVL and Cup activity (playing, coaching and refereeing) for a minimum of one match.

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

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

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

#### 17.5 Suspensions

17.5.1 In all cases, suspensions shall apply immediately to the next fixture date(s) as scheduled in the calendar i.e. SVLs and all Cup Competitions.

17.5.2 Warning letters and letters confirming suspensions shall be sent out by the CAG, but it is the duty of all teams to ensure that a player or coach does not participate while suspended and that their name does not appear on the scoresheet.
17.5.3 A team playing a suspended player or being coached by a suspended coach shall forfeit the match in question and shall be liable to a Level 3 administration fee.

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

17.7 Spectators

17.7.1 The home team/organisers are responsible for spectator control.

17.7.2 Any spectator, affiliated to the SVA or not, whose behaviour is, in the 1st referee’s opinion, interfering with his/her control of the match, may be asked to leave the hall by the home team/organisers. The 1st referee has the power to suspend the match until the home team/organisers have restored order. The 1st referee shall be required to submit a report on the incident to the CAG by first class post or by e-mail on the day of the match.

18. Complaints Procedure

18.1 This section concerns official complaints made about matters falling within the scope of these rules.

18.2 All complaints must be sent using the Official Complaints Form on the SVA website to the Competitions Administrator of the CAG. Complaints made to anyone else will not be accepted.

18.3 Official complaints may be made by any member of the SVA.

18.4 Whenever possible, Official Complaint Forms about a particular match should accompany the scoresheet for that match.

18.5 Where a complaint relates to a match already played, official complaints received more than seven days after the match will NOT be considered.

18.6 Within 2 working days of the complaint being received, the CAG shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint and advise all other interested parties. At the same time, the Group may request relevant information and responses from anyone they deem appropriate. Failure to respond to this request will result in a Level 2 administration fee being levied.

18.7 The CAG will report back to the interested parties within 10 working days from the date of acknowledging receipt of the complaint. The decision will be issued to the complainant and the Club Administrators of the clubs involved.

18.8 The CAG, when considering a complaint, shall attempt to provide a solution where possible within the terms of these rules. They may apply an administration fee if necessary within the terms of these rules.

18.9 If the CAG deem a matter outwith the scope of these rules and/or the CAG remit, then the matter may be referred to the SVA Board as a disciplinary matter under Byelaw 11 of the SVA Byelaws.
19. Referral to CAG

19.1 Where members are in dispute over the application of these rules, or the general organisation and running of the SVA Competitions, and are unable to resolve the dispute, then any member may make an application to the CAG for a ruling on the matter.

19.2 Such a request shall follow Rule 18 in terms of the method of advising the CAG of the matter and timescales involved.

19.3 Where a referral to the CAG under this Rule does not relate to a match already played then the referral must be made as soon as possible but only after the parties have attempted to resolve the matter between themselves.

19.4 Clubs should try and resolve issues amicably between themselves. They should never hesitate in bringing a matter to the CAG’s attention to allow for an amicable conclusion to the problem.

20. Right of Appeal

20.1 Clubs have the right to appeal against decisions taken by the CAG.

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

This edition of the rules
governing SVA National Competitions
supersedes all previous editions.