BVA league Rules 2024/5 to 2025/26 Changes

Below is an extract of the rules showing the changes. Yellow shows the additions, strikethrough shows what has been removed.

**Introduction**

These rules describe local rules and administrative arrangements for the operation of the Berkshire Volleyball Association Leagues, under the auspices of the Berkshire Volleyball Association (BVA). Where not otherwise specified Volleyball England (VE), the National Governing Body, rules and policies for the National Volleyball League (NVL) will apply. The BVA Committee reserves the right to issue amendments or clarifications to these rules as necessary.

Where fees or fines are referred to in the rules these are detailed in the associated Schedule of Fees and Fines as advertised on the BVA Website. The amounts will be determined by the AGM each year.

All changes (additions / amendments / deletions) to these rules must be voted upon during the AGM.

### 1.3 League structure

The BVA usually runs four volleyball Leagues:

1. **Men’s,** in which men, women, or juniors may play.
2. **Women’s,** in which only women and female juniors.
3. **Mixed,** in which there must be at least three women or ~~juniors on court at all times. Juniors (a junior is defined as a player who is aged Under 16 on the 31st August prior to the start of the season) may continue to play as male or female players in the Mixed League.~~~~Where a male junior is to be used to fulfil the role of one of the three women or juniors, this must be notified on the scoresheet before the match starts. Male juniors who are NVL registered or of National Squad Standard will not be eligible to participate in the Mixed League as j~~unior girls on court at all times.
4. **Juniors**,in which Junior males or females who are U16 on 31st August prior to the start of the season may play.

The number of divisions within each League may vary from season to season and will be determined by the Committee at the beginning of each season. Factors considered include the League position of the teams from the previous season, including relegation and promotion, the number of teams entering the League, and to achieve a balanced number of fixtures for all teams. **~~The Competitions Secretary decision will be final.~~**

The decision shall be made by a majority of whoever is available of the whole BVA committee including clubs: at a short notice online meeting (invitations out before 1pm on the same day) as soon as the decision needs to be made.

### 1.4a Player registration

During a season, no player may play for more than one club in a given League unless they are officially transferred ~~exception for Junior players),~~, although they may play for different clubs in different Leagues (e.g. Men’s and Mixed).

After a player is on a club’s roster (with the players agreement), a player may transfer once during a season, providing that the transfer takes place prior to 1st February, and that the Competitions Secretary is notified in advance of playing for the new club and is satisfied that the club they are leaving is not left unable to put out a competitive team due to the transfer. (The commitment of the player to the club needs to mirror the commitment the club is making in entering a team for that season.)

### 1.6 National League players

The numbers of registered National League players that may be on court for a team at any one time are limited by division as follows:

* In the top men’s and women’s division for any League, a maximum of two registered National League (NVL Division 2 or higher) players on court at any one time.
* In the top mixed division, a maximum of two registered National League (NVL Division 2 or higher) players on court at any one time, of whom a maximum of one may be male.
* In any lower divisions, a maximum of one registered National League player ~~(NVL Division 2 or higher)~~ on court at any time.
* ~~If a Junior is~~In the junior league, if there are 2 divisions, then in junior division 1, a maximum of 2 NVL registered or of National Standard~~, then for the purposes of~~ players are permitted on court at any time. NVL registered or of National Standard players are restricted to the role of helpers in Junior division 2
* In the junior league if there is only 1 division then NVL registered or of National Standard players are restricted to the role of helpers in Junior League ~~they will be considered a Non-Junior player (Helper)~~

National League players (NVL Division 2 or higher) must be notified by the team to the officials prior to the start of the match and recorded in the remarks section of the scoresheet. If this is not done the affected player will be deemed ineligible.

### 2.4 Match confirmation

The BVA will publish a list of fixtures at the start of the season. This list of fixtures will be published on the BVA website and will be circulated to all nominated club representatives.

Under exceptional circumstances, fixtures may be rearranged with the prior consent of the other teams involved and the Competition Secretary. Notification of the rearrangement must be received by the Competitions Secretary at least fourteen days before the original fixture date. ~~The rearrangement will only be approved when a new date has been arranged and agreed by the teams involved.~~

If a match needs to be rescheduled, the teams involved must propose the new date, and the other teams must agree before the change is finalized. Where agreement cannot be reached the Competition Secretary will specify a date, convenient to the teams not requesting the rearrangement, on which the match will be played.

A maximum of three changes allowed per season per team except in circumstances beyond the control of team e.g. the venue closing for repairs.