

BVA league Rules 2025/6 to 2026/27 Changes

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

Note for the avoidance of doubt.

- 1) in rule 1.6 related to NVL players in lower divisions means only players that play in BVL division 2 or 3 can play in the lower division, there can be **no** division 1 or super league players (or equivalent) in the lower divisions.
- 2) For the following change **Unless otherwise agreed with the other teams, earliest start time for a fixture shall be 9:00am and latest finish time shall be 8:30pm.**
This means that the latest start time (unless otherwise agreed) is 4:30p.m.
- 3) We have also agreed to update the match protocol in line with VE, so that line-up sheets must be submitted to the referee before the net warmup

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 junior girls on court at all times~~ **a maximum of three male players** (adult and/or junior) on court at all times. A team playing with liberos or fewer than six players, including when using a phantom player, must still comply with the maximum of three male players on court rule.
4. **Juniors**, in which Junior males or females who are U16 on 31st August prior to the start of the season may play.

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 on court at any time (NVL division 2 or lower).
- In the junior league, if there are 2 divisions, then in junior division 1, a maximum of 2 NVL registered or of National Standard 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 the Junior division

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.

1.7 Phantom players

If a team has fewer than six **five** players present for a match, one phantom player may be included in the line-up. The phantom player is indicated on the line-up sheet by a zero and must rotate within the team. When a phantom is front court, the team has one fewer front court attacker. When a phantom rotates round to serve, the team immediately loses its serve and the opposition sides out. The BVA envisages that phantom players will only be used as a last resort, in order to enable matches to be attended, rather than abandoned.

When a team uses a phantom player due to the late arrival of the team's sixth player, the sixth player may not enter the game until the start of the next subsequent set. This is the same rule that applies to a seventh or more player who arrives after the start of a match.

If a team becomes incomplete during the game due to injury/illness or expulsion/disqualification (i.e. 5 players) a phantom player can be used.

If at the time the team becomes incomplete i.e. they have 5 players + libero, a phantom player can be used as a regular player and can be replaced by the libero when backcourt.

2.1 Match venues

The BVA Committee will endeavour to publish the fixture list for a new season as soon

as possible after entries for the League have been received. The first named team on the fixture in the fixtures list is considered to be the home team. Allocation of home teams for triangular matches will be made taking account, in so far as is possible, of three factors:

- Balancing the number of home fixtures for each team.
- Maximising the use of free or low-cost venues.
- Minimising the amount of travel required.

Consequently, in order to try to obtain the best overall benefit for the League as a whole, the numbers of fixtures hosted by each team may be different.

The home team is responsible for provision of the venue and suitable match equipment. A booking of 4 hours is ~~normally~~ required for a triangular fixture.

Unless otherwise agreed with the other teams, earliest start time for a fixture shall be 9:00am and latest finish time shall be 8:30pm.

3.2 Late or non-arrival

Providing the court is available, fully equipped and one team is ready to commence play:

- Any team failing to appear on court, ready to play, within 15 minutes of the published start time shall forfeit the first set 25-0.
- The second set shall commence 15 minutes later, i.e. 30 minutes after the published start time. A team arriving between the start times shall be able to use the available time for warm-up. If a team is not on court ready to play 30 minutes after the published start time they shall forfeit the second set 25-0, and hence forfeit the match 2-0.

For triangular matches, the start time of the first match will be 20 minutes after the published time for the fixture (which shall be the start of the warm up for the first match). For the second and third matches of a triangular, the start time shall be 20 minutes after the finish of the preceding match, as recorded on the scoresheet.

The venue not being ready counts as late or non-arrival for the home team, so they are disadvantaged, not the visiting teams. The lateness of the venue being ready is the

difference between the published start time and the actual start time as recorded on the scoresheet e.g. if the website shows 14:00 the start time of the match is 14:20, the actual match start time is 14:35, this means the venue was 15 minutes late and the home team loses the first set of the 2nd match 25-0.

If the venue is not ready 30 minutes after the published start time then the home team shall forfeit the second set of the 2nd match 25-0, and hence forfeit the match 2-0.

If the venue was 70 minutes late and the home team loses the first set of the 3rd match 25-0.

If the venue is not ready 85 minutes after the published start time then the home team shall forfeit the second set of the 3rd match 25-0, and hence forfeit the match 2-0.

Last updated: ~~12 July 2025~~ 3 Aug 2026

~~Andrew Tatarek~~

~~BVA Secretary~~