

Sussex Volleyball Association



Members' Handbook
2023/2024 Season

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President's Address

Our handbook comprises all relevant FIVB, Volleyball England, and Sussex Volleyball Association rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and guidance information as may be published from time to time. The hierarchy of these documents will be used by the Sussex Volleyball Committee as and when needed for the day to day operation of our competitions, leagues, events, and organisational operations.

Sussex Volleyball Association is doing everything we reasonably can to ensure our member clubs are kept informed of developments in the Volleyball England "return to play" advice and guidance. Information is changing frequently and we therefore cannot accept any responsibility for any inaccuracies in our information. Clubs and members are asked to regularly check Volleyball England's website www.volleyballengland.org for the very latest information.

Have a great season 2023/24

Dr Zuzana RESETAROVA

President SVA

SVA Committee

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League Entries

Men's 1 division

1. Brighton Jaguars
2. Brighton Wolves
3. Dolphins 1
4. Eastbourne Phoenix
5. Worthing Cubs
6. Worthing Sharks
7. Worthing Vipers

Men's 2 division

1. Brighton Scorpions
2. Dolphins 2
3. Dolphins Juniors
4. East Grinstead Aces
5. Eastbourne Ravens
6. Worthing Jets
7. Worthing Wasps

Women's division

1. Brighton Starlings
2. Brighton Sparrows
3. Dolphins Ladies 1
4. Dolphins Ladies Juniors
5. East Grinstead Queens
6. Eastbourne Valkyries
7. Worthing Angels
8. Worthing Demons
9. Worthing Devils

Notes

- All fixtures must be played as per official schedule, unless there are exceptional circumstances as laid out in this manual; some clubs do not have any dates to re-arrange a fixture to.
- Some fixtures will seem irregular to some teams. This is in order to accommodate venues, multiple teams, National League fixtures and non-availability requirements of some clubs.
- All League matches will consist of the best of 5 sets. In the case of league matches 3 points are awarded for a win, 1 point for losing a match, and no points for forfeiting a match.

League structure

All teams will play each other once at home and once away, as laid out in the fixtures.

Junior volleyball in Sussex and the South East

There has been a surge in juniors wanting to play volleyball and Sussex clubs providing a junior offering through and since COVID-19.

Dolphins brought some juniors to the advanced Worthing sessions and have now started their own juniors training with over 40 registered juniors and a junior's team entered into the league for the first time.

East Grinstead have a handful of juniors of varying ability, which they had separate sessions for over the summer and are supporting them to attend Dolphin junior sessions or incorporating into their own beginners adult training.

Worthing Volleyball Club with COVID-19 restrictions on indoor and adult volleyball started outdoor junior sessions on tennis courts. This developed as restrictions were lifted to the beach and then indoor volleyball. At points running an advanced junior session on a Friday as well as the juniors training. While there has been limited opportunities for matches, they have taken junior teams to play New Forest and hosted EG and with Volleyball England starting junior competitions again next season have got their first sponsor for junior's kit. This enthusiasm for volleyball has seen several of the juniors attending South East training and one making the England squad. The Sussex Volleyball Association supported with funding for additional balls in the junior training and softballs for sessions in a local junior school.

There will also be the usual program of South East Training, check the SEVA website below for dates.

SEVA: <http://www.southeastvolleyball.co.uk/>

LGBTQ+ inclusion in Sussex Volleyball

As the outcome of committee meeting 21st September 2022 Sussex Volleyball Association would like to clarify the position of our competitions regarding the Transgender policy recently announced by FIVB and VE. Competitions organised outside of the National League are regarded as RECREATIONAL activities and therefore the policy does not apply to Sussex leagues.

Sport, especially volleyball, is a powerful tool for social development. Social development is about improving the well-being of every individual in society so they can reach their full potential. Success of a community is linked to the well-being of each and every citizen. Volleyball is not just physical activity, it promotes health (physical and mental) and education, fosters cognitive development, teaches social behaviour and helps social cohesion. Volleyball can be used to increase the social capital and social integration of LGBTQ+ peoples into the wider community, as well as empowering them and giving them skills that will help them give back to the community.

LGBTQ+ peoples still face barriers when trying to enter and participate in sports. They face discrimination and harassment at all levels of sport, from the community and recreational levels to the professional and elite levels. For sport to be used as a tool for development and inclusion, we must work to change sport culture to be more welcoming to gender and sexual minorities.

Making sports inclusive for everyone increases the accessibility of sports. Sports are for everyone.

To learn more about how to make your volleyball teams and clubs more inclusive for LGBTQ+ peoples please check out the following resources:

- [Coach New Brunswick: A Coach's Guide: LGBTQI2S Sport Inclusion](#). Disponible en Français
- [Via Sport BC's LGBTQI2S Policy Readiness Checklist](#)
- [One Team](#) from Team Canada. Disponible en Français
- [Leading the Way: Working with LGBT Athletes and Coaches](#) from Canadian Women & Sport. Disponible en Français
- [You Can Play](#) (based in Canada & U.S.A)
- [Pride Sports](#) (based in U.K.)
- [Athlete Ally](#) (based in the U.S.A)

SVA competition rules

Club/Team administration

EVA rules will apply to the conduct of SVA matches where not varied by local rules.

1. The Sussex Volleyball Association has a zero tolerance policy against poor behaviour on court and specifically any bad behaviour directed at the match officials or across the net to the opposing team. This applies to players, substitutes, coaches and anyone associated with your club. Penalty points will be applied for any "Penalty, Expulsion or Disqualifications" given by the referee in accordance with Rule 37 of the SVA handbook.
2. All league entry forms and fees must be paid by the closing date agreed at the AGM.
 - 2.1 Team with adults and juniors - £100 (£50 entry + £50 player registration).
 - 2.2 Team with ONLY juniors - £50.

Paid to:

Lloyds Bank
Sussex Volleyball Association
Sort Code: **30-99-50**
Account No.: **54266068**

3. Each team must register with the SVA the names of all players in that team by completing the player registration form via the google docs form sent to team secretaries. Player registrations must be completed before the start of the team's first game. Further registrations may be made on the day of a match as long as a message is sent to the division secretary via the league WhatsApp. Once this message has been sent, the name must be added to the live form before the match is played.
4. After the end of January, there will be no transfers between teams or clubs unless an exemption is made by SVAC.

Fixture arrangements

5. The Fixture Secretary will schedule all matches a month before the beginning of the season and will send this via email to the clubs entered in the league. Throughout the year, this can be found on the SVA website.
6. Fixtures may only be re-arranged at short notice during the season in the following circumstances, or with the agreement of the league manager:
 - a. The venue is unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances. The home team must inform the designated club contact of the visiting team at least 3 days before the fixture date.
 - b. Difficult weather conditions on the day of the match...and in both cases the League Secretary and Fixtures Secretary **MUST** be informed.

7. Fixtures may be re-arranged for other reasons with the agreement of both teams. All re-arrangements are subject to the following rules:

A date for the postponed match must be agreed within 28 days of the date the game was postponed. The team postponing the game is primarily responsible for rearranging the game and will be liable for the penalty points under rule 32 if adequate arrangements are not made. If a suitable date cannot be found the team who did not initiate the postponement can claim the game. All games must be played by the end of the season, prior to the Sussex Cup 2024.

8. All disputes shall first be considered by the League Secretaries and when necessary referred to the SVAC.
9. All League matches will consist of the best of 5 sets. In the case of league matches 3 points are awarded for a win, 1 point for losing a match, and no points for forfeiting a match. League positions are decided on points won. In the event of teams being equal on points the final league positions will be decided on sets difference, then sets for, then sets against and if this doesn't give a clear placing with respect to promotion/demotion to have a playoff at a neutral venue.
10. Failure of teams to attend matches (except as under Rules 6 and 7) will be dealt with as shown in the penalty point table rule 37.

In the case of this, the team must inform the League Secretary.

Any expenses **MUST** be claimed through the SVAC and not directly from the offending team. The final decision on the level of any expenses to be claimed will rest with the SVAC.

League match arrangements

11. It is the Home team's responsibility to **email or message** the away team to confirm the fixture a minimum of **two** weeks prior to the match.
12. The time published on the fixture list is the warm-up start time, except where varied by the home team via the confirmation of the match, and the first ball is due to be served 30 minutes later.
13. The first ball will not be served until both teams and officials are on court. Any team causing a delayed start will be penalised as follows:

DELAY	PENALTY
Team not available for match start time	Loss of first set
Over 15 minutes	Loss of second set
Over 30 minutes	Loss of third set

14. It is the responsibility of the home team to start on time and provide enough court time to play the game. If the game then overruns the home team forfeits the match.
15. The minimum number of players for the Men's lowest Division and the Women's Division is five, in which case three shall be front court players. Serving penalties shall apply for teams playing with five.
16. In a situation where a team is playing with 6 players and libero, and a member of the team gets injured, then the libero is able to substitute as a normal player immediately. If a team playing with six suffers an injury and can only continue the match with 5 players - serving penalty will be applied.
17. Clubs may field mixed teams in the Men's Divisions, but the net must remain at Men's height.
18. The minimum roof height shall be 7 metres all matches. Teams can elect to play at home (by informing the Fixtures Secretary before the beginning of the season) if their opponent's hall does not meet this requirement.
19. All teams are asked to turn out in matching shirts with numbers attached. If not able to, we ask they have a shirt with a number on.
20. The home team must arrange for the following officials at matches:-
 - EVA Qualified Referee or competent referee
 - Competent 2nd Official
 - preferably 2 lines persons but none will be acceptable
 - Scorer

The home team must provide a competent 1st referee for **ALL** matches (Men's and Women's). If there is any doubt over the referee's qualifications or competency, the game must be played on the night with any comments being put on the score sheet. A final decision on the match result will then be made by the SVAC.
21. The home team in any fixture must make available at least four good quality balls for the use of the visiting team if they require them.
22. The home team secretary must text or email the appropriate League Secretary within 24 hours two photos of the score sheet.
 - 1, Whole score sheet

2. Close up of the remarks, summary and players
- a. *Score sheets must be completed legibly with team names, set scores and the names of all players and officials. All matches must be recorded on EVA score sheets.*
 - b. *Only the 1st referee may complete the remarks box on the score sheet provided the correct FIVB protocol has been observed.*
 - c. *Home teams must have available team sheets for both home and away teams for the scorer. These can be viewed on electronic devices or printed from the registration form.*
 - d. *Coaches/captains must advise the Scorer of players playing up or down and must be stated on the score sheet.*
23. Teams consistently guilty of inadequate match organisation will be subject to penalties as laid out in Rule 37 and to review by the SVAC.
24. Promotion and relegation will in general operate on a "one up, one down" basis but may be subject to variation by the SVAC in order to administer variable entries at the start of the season.

Eligibility of players

25. No player may play for more than one club in the league. This rule also applies to Challenge Cup matches. Exceptions will only be made with the agreement of SVAC. Women may play in the men's division for another club if they do not play for the men's team within their women's team club. These women should be highlighted to the SVAC before the start of the season.
26. Movement of Players within a Club. Where a club has more than one team within the leagues, they must register players for a single team within that club. However, one player per match may play up any number of times for a team within that club for which they are not registered as a player. However, a player may only play down if the team would otherwise only have 5 players.
27. When a club expands to have an additional men's or women's team for the first season they can play two players up at any point. They can also play two players down to make up a team of 6 players.

In the case of players under 18 as of 1st September, they are eligible to play for any team within the club therefore overriding any rule restricting only 1 player to be played up/down in a match. This rule does not apply to Cup matches.

If any club suspects an infringement of this rule the League Secretary shall check the score sheets to assess the validity of the allegation.

28. Players transferring between clubs during the season will have to wait one game from the date the relevant league secretary is notified in writing of the transfer request.
29. Players transferring between teams within the same club, will be eligible to play for the new team from the date the relevant league secretary is notified in writing. If the same player wishes to transfer a second time they will have to miss one game from when the league secretary is notified in writing.

Sussex Player of the Season award

30. There will be one award for each division. After each match the team captains shall nominate a player of the match from the opposing team and the referee will confirm that he agrees with the selection. If necessary, the referee may change the vote if he considers that either captain's vote is unsportsmanlike. The player with the most recommendations at the end of the season will be the winner.

The player of the match nomination shall be made at the end of the match, before the players leave the hall.

Players playing up or down should be noted on the score sheet and are ineligible to receive the player of the match award.

EVA requirements

31. U18 players in a team must be clearly identified on the player registration forms. The SVA remind all clubs with U18 players to ensure that they are aware of and follow the guidelines contained in the EVA Child Protection Policy. All clubs affiliated with the SVA should have received a copy of this policy from the EVA. If this is not the case please contact the EVA National Office on 01509 227722. Further any club with U18 players should also ensure that at least one member of their club possesses the appropriate CRB check and that person is in attendance where U18 players are either playing or training if a parent is not in attendance.
32. All clubs must be affiliated to the EVA. (See Constitution Para. 10) This has personal indemnity implications and is an imperative. Affiliation applications and payment of fees must be made directly between the club and the EVA in August each year. No matches may be played by a club unless the SVAC has received confirmation that the club is affiliated. If during a season it is discovered that a club has not affiliated to the EVA all teams within the club will have all points won to that date deducted.
33. Each club should have a qualified coach who is registered with the EVA and whose registration is up to date with the EVA.

SVA administration

34. It is compulsory for each club to be represented at every SVAC meeting (see Constitution Para. 4). Failure to attend SVAC meetings is a breach of SVA rules and will result in penalties as listed in the table under Rule 30.
35. The SVAC reserves the right to vary the number of divisions depending upon the number of entries that are received for the league.
36. Registered EVA coaches have free membership to the SVA if they submit the details of their registration number with the player registration form.

37. Teams will receive penalty points for poor or inadequate organisation. For every 10 points accumulated by a team they will be deducted 1 league point. Any team accumulating 100 points will be immediately suspended for the remainder of the season from all SVA competitions.

Rule	Action	Points
1	Any team whose player receives a red card*	10
3	Non-registered player (per player, per match). The match is also awarded to the other team	5
8	Failure to follow correct protocol for rescheduling a match	10
10	Failure to attend a match with less than 24 hrs notice	20
20	No 1 st Referee	Forfeit game
20	No 2 nd Referee	Forfeit game
20	No Scorer	Forfeit game
22	Failure to email/text score sheet within 24 hours	3
22a	Incomplete Score Sheet	2
34	1 st failure to send a representative to a SVAC meeting	5

* Any cards given by a referee must come with a report from the referee and both team captains and will be brought to the committee for discussion. This will be in accordance with the EVA sanctions stated as follows:

Warning - No Sanction Yellow Card

Penalty - Sanction Red Card

Expulsion - Sanction Red and Yellow Card jointly

Disqualification - Sanction Red and Yellow card separately

38. Should there be any circumstances not covered by the preceding rules, the final decision will rest with the SVAC.