

JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

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A. Competition Philosophy

Volleyball England has a competition pathway for juniors aged 7 to 18 years old irrespective of ability, disability, gender, ethnicity, or beliefs.

The nature of competition is passionate, committed and, on occasions, controversial however an environment of respect, responsibility and reflection must be created and maintained by all involved in every aspect of competition.

The interaction between players, coaches, officials, organisers, volunteers, and spectators, both on and off court, must always be:

Respectful: in the language used, support given, actions taken and the care towards the facilities and our surroundings

Responsible: in the care of everyone to ensure a safe environment and a positive experience for all

Reflective: in a calm, constructive, progressive, and affirming manner aware that not everyone will be able to perform to the best of their ability all the time.

Through competition juniors are learning the various roles, whether player, coach, official or spectator, and the standards and expectations associated with these roles. It is for everyone to respect, reflect and be responsible so they continue to enjoy and grow through the challenge of competition in their journey to becoming volleyballers for life. We ask that all hosts, clubs, schools, and organisations make every effort to ensure all those associated with them are made aware of the competition's philosophy.

This document refers to National Junior Competitions.

The FIVB Rules of the Game will apply unless modified by the Regulations below.

Please see [this page](#) for details of other relevant governance documents.

Please also note that the [Volleyball England NVL regulations](#) also apply to junior competitions except where modified below.

Teams in national junior competitions are to be entered via VolleyZone, details of which will be sent to all interested teams.

The following Regulations are designed to ensure integrity, fairness and give the maximum competitive playing opportunities for our juniors.

B. Definitions:

1. In this document "Organisation" means School, Academy, College, Club, or Region. The constituted organisation to which teams belong.
2. Unless explicitly described otherwise, "Lead" means, the individual named by the Competitions Working Group as overseeing the event at any particular location. It could be the organiser of a round, a deputy for the Competition Lead or the Competition Lead him/herself.

C. Eligibility:

1. All Organisations must be currently affiliated to Volleyball England. Which can be done at time of entry.

D. Multiple Entries

1. Each Grand Prix is part of a series of events for Tier and Age Group (this is inclusive of Last 8 competitions).
2. An Organisation may enter more than one team in the same Grand Prix.
3. Teams will be named 'A', 'B' in order of strength.
4. No player may play for more than one team in any one round / weekend of a Grand Prix from the same age group.
5. Matches between teams from the same Organisation in the same pool are played first.

E. Player Age:

1. Ages are as of 1st September in the season of the competition, e.g., U14 on 31st August etc. This is in line with School Years. For further details see Appendix B.

F. Players

1. For each age group there will be 2 competitions: Boys and Girls. Please refer to the [Transgender Policy](#) for eligibility into the Girls competition.
2. The Boys competition is open to all players of a specific age group.
3. Teams can list up to 12 players in a single match. They are permitted to bring a larger squad to a Grand Prix. If the squad size exceeds 12 the team must submit an individual team sheet for every match.
4. All players must be individually registered for the 23-24 season and aligned to the team on VolleyZone. The cost of registration is £5.50 per player. All payments will also incur a 3.2% and 50p transaction fee.
5. All players must be listed on the team sheet presented at the start of each Grand Prix, with their date of birth and VE registration number clearly shown.
6. No player may play for more than one Team in each Grand Prix round (per age group).
7. Players may play in more than one age group.
8. In Tier 2 – Players can play in different Grand Prix for different Teams/Clubs/Organisations.
9. In Tier 1 – Players may not play in different Grand Prix for different Clubs/Organisations*.
10. In Tier 1 - Players who have competed for any team may play for any other team within that same club at any stage of the competition.
11. A Tier 2 Player may play in Tier 1 – If 2 rounds are played in Tier 1, the player may not return to Tier 2 within the same age group.
12. A Tier 1 Player may only play in Tier 2, if only 1 round has been played as Tier 1 with in the same age group.
13. It is the organisations responsibility to ensure the eligibility of their players competing in the Junior Grand Prix Series. If a team is found to have played an ineligible player in a match that match will be defaulted 25-0, 25-0. It is the responsibility of the team to keep records of all players competing until the next competition season.
14. If a player is not in attendance at any specific Grand Prix, they must have their name deleted from the team list at the end of the Grand Prix.
15. Only players who have been on a validated team sheet in a previous Grand Prix may play in the Last 8's or Final of any Competition for that Team.

* Except in exceptional circumstances which must be submitted in writing at least 14 days in advance of the next Grand Prix. This would be decided by the Competition's Working Group.

G. Withdrawal of Teams

1. Any Organisation wishing to withdraw from any competition it has already entered, at whatever stage of the competition, must give at least 14 days' prior notice, via email, to the relevant Competition Lead and the Volleyball England Hub. The refund will incur an administration fee of £10.
2. Failure to notify of withdrawal before the 14 days deadline will result in that Organisation being required to pay for their share of the hosting costs and no return of the entry fee.
3. Teams failing to arrive on the day of the competition will be fined £50.00 dependent on relevant circumstances, be required to pay for their share of the hosting costs and no return of the entry fee.

H. Coaching Staff

1. All individual schools, academies, and colleges that enter the Age Group competitions must either be coached by a member of staff from that school, academy, or college or by a qualified coach who is registered with Volleyball England. It is strongly recommended that any member of a school, academy or college staff who chooses to coach should obtain the Volleyball England Coach Award or equivalent.
2. A qualified coach who is registered with Volleyball England should coach all club teams. It is strongly recommended that the coach should hold at least a Coach Award qualification or equivalent.
3. Coaches must include their name and Volleyball England number when handing in their team list at the start of each Grand Prix.
4. All coaches and bench personnel whether teachers or club coaches should have a completed DBS check, ideally through Volleyball England. Information and guidance about DBS checks is available from [Safeguarding & Welfare \(volleyballengland.org\)](#) or email safeguarding@volleyballengland.org for more information.
5. For Tier 2 Grand Prix events the team must be accompanied by a competent adult.

I. Libero Players

1. In 6v6 competition, teams may list multiple Liberos, and these can be changed between matches. However only 2 can be used in any given match.

J. Team Kit

1. Tier 1, shirts recommended numbers 1-20 (numbered front & back) and shorts should be uniform.
2. Tier 2, ideally as above, however, players not in uniform shorts and numbered shirts will be allowed to play.

K. Balls and First Aid Kit:

1. Teams should bring their own warm-up balls. Unless stated otherwise in Grand Prix confirmation by the host.
2. If a match ball is not provided, the teams playing should provide a match ball.
3. To ensure that the young people get maximum enjoyment it is recommended that an FIVB approved ball is used. For U14/U15 Tier 2 competitions reduced weight balls are permitted (see U14/U15 Tier 2 adaptations).
4. Tier 1 Match balls must comply with the NVL Match ball regulations ([NVL Accepted Balls](#)).
5. Each team should bring a first aid kit to all Grand Prix.

L. Rules of Play

1. The games will be played under [FIVB Rules](#) except where modified by the Volleyball England Regulations of Competition, or the regulations of individual Competitions as indicated below.

M. Net Heights

	Girls	Boys
U14	2.17 metres	2.24 metres
U15	2.17 metres	2.24 metres
U16	2.24 metres	2.35 metres
U17	2.24 metres	2.43 metres
U18	2.24 metres	2.43 metres

N. Match Points

1. Starting point best of 3 sets, 25, 25,15.
2. Tier 1 must be played to best of 3 sets.
3. For Tier 2 - Competition leads can vary this depending on pool size, hall booking and other factors but best of 3 sets is preferred.
4. In all pool matches, match points will be awarded as follows:
 - a. Win 2 points.
 - b. Lose 0 points.
 - c. Draw (Where appropriate) 1 point.

O. Venue Rules

1. All participants should respect the rules of hosts / venues in use for events. These rules can include:
 - a. The wearing of footwear with non-marking soles.
 - b. Taking food into the arena.
 - c. Use of drinks containers.
 - d. All venues should be left in the same tidy state as found.
 - e. The use of items that may make excessive noise. For example, drums and airhorns.

P. Non-payment of Fines

1. Failure to pay an issued fine may lead to entry being refused from future Volleyball England competitions.

Q. Discipline & Code of Conduct

1. Any Player, Coach, Bench Personnel or Team Manager expelled or disqualified at any stage of any Junior Competition shall be automatically suspended for the next match in any of the competitions and the matter shall be referred to the Competitions Working Group.
2. Any organisation or organisation representative breaching these regulations may be subject to disciplinary action.
3. Please refer to NVL Regulations (Section G. Penalties, Protests and Appeals) for further information.

R. Expectations and conduct of spectators.

1. All spectators are expected to follow the guidelines of the Competition Philosophy and be a positive role model to the junior participants at all levels of competition.
2. All Organisations are responsible for the expectations and conduct of their spectators.
3. Any scenarios of inappropriate behaviour or conduct by a spectator should be brought to the attention of the competition host, Volleyball England Event Lead, or the designated Safeguarding Officer at the earliest opportunity.
4. This designated person will listen to the concerns raised and make appropriate action in line with Volleyball England Safeguarding Policy.
5. If the incident requires intervention, then it will be recorded and processed in accordance with the safeguarding procedure, this will then be sent to the Volleyball England Competitions Lead and Safeguarding Officer.
6. Volleyball England will assess the scenario and take appropriate action and record the incident as stipulated in the Safeguarding Policy.
7. The Competition Host, Volleyball England Event Lead or designated Safeguarding Officer have the right to ask the spectator to leave the court/facility if the incident has breached the Competitions Philosophy or the Safeguarding Guidelines to protect the junior participants from further negative behaviours.

S. Disputes

1. In tournament or multi-round style competitions where more than one round is played on either the same day or weekend, to complete the day/weekend matches, the decision of the Competition Lead shall be final.
2. Any team wishing to dispute the results of matches at any stage of any competition must bring it to the attention of the Competition Lead at the time the result is handed in, and at that time make their protest via email.
3. In the spirit of the competition, we do not expect to see many if any disputes. The primary scenario in which a protest may be entertained is regarding the age or eligibility of a player.
4. Any Team that wishes to dispute the results of matches (or other matters) at any stage of any competition, shall forward its complaint, via email, to the Competition Work Stream Lead within 7 days of the dispute. A fee of £100.00 must accompany the email. The fee will be refunded if the dispute is found in favour of the disputant. Due to the limited time between Grand Prix events, there will be no opportunity to appeal the Competition Work Stream Lead.

T. Appeals

1. Please refer to NVL Regulations (Regulation G 6. Appeals) for further information.

U. Late arrival of teams

1. If a team is likely to be late, they must notify the Competition Lead at the earliest possible opportunity.
2. Where possible the Competition Lead will adapt the order of play to compensate for late arrivals.
3. Teams arriving less than 20 minutes late for their first pool match will forfeit the right to time outs in the first set.
4. Teams arriving more than 20 minutes late for their first pool match will forfeit the first set to nil. If the team is not ready within a further 20 minutes, then they will forfeit the match to nil.

V. Non-arrival of teams

1. On the day: the coach should contact the Lead for the Competition by phone as soon as possible if they are unable to attend the event.
2. If a team fails to arrive at a Grand Prix #1, #2, #3 or #4 or Last 8's event, it will finish bottom of the pool with all matches conceded 25-20, 25-20.
3. If a team fails to arrive at the Inter Regionals or Finals, it will be eliminated.

W. Adverse (Weather, etc.) Conditions

1. In the event of a competition being cancelled or a team(s)/player's inability to attend a competition(s) due to circumstances beyond the control of Volleyball England, the Association will not be liable for any costs associated to the team(s) or individuals because of the cancellation or non-attendance (venue hire, hotel accommodation or transportation etc).
2. The Competition Lead will advise participants as soon as possible of any cancellations or amendments to competitions due to severe weather conditions, safety concerns or any other reason resulting in a competition being cancelled.
3. It is the club's responsibility to ensure that any concern over safety and the inability to attend a competition is notified immediately to the competition lead and Volleyball England. Should an event be cancelled, all affected persons must be notified immediately.
4. If unsure as to the course of action to take, please seek advice from the Volleyball England Competitions Team.

Specific Regulations for the Tier 1 U15, U16 & U18 Junior Grand Prix Series

X. Definitions

Grand Prix event – A round robin competition where every team will play each other once. Each age group can compete in up to three Grand Prix events across the series.

Pool points – The points earned during a Grand Prix event which contribute to the team's position in the Grand Prix.

Grand Prix points – The points assigned to each team at the end of each Grand Prix event based on their final position.

Grand Prix Series standings – The overall ranking of teams based on their number of accumulated Grand Prix Points

Preliminary Round –The Preliminary Round Pools will be seeded from the previous year's final rankings.

There will be no Preliminary Round in the U15 competition. Grand Prix #1 in January will be regionally based and then follow the structure below for Grand Prix #2 and Grand Prix #3 with the Gold Pool being the top tier.

Grand Prix #1 - Gold/Silver/Bronze Pools – After the Preliminary Round teams will be assigned into ranked tiers based on their Prelim performance. Gold being the top tier, Silver being the 2nd tier, and Bronze the 3rd tier. NB more Pools maybe created if entries warrant it.

Grand Prix #2 - Platinum/Gold/Silver/Bronze Pools – After Grand Prix #1 teams will be assigned into Nationally ranked tiers based on their Grand Prix Series standings. Platinum being the top tier, Gold being the 2nd tier, Silver 3rd tier and Bronze 4th tier. NB more Pools maybe created if entries warrant it.

Grand Prix #3 – Last 8's will play to compete for the Golden Ticket to the Cup Finals. Gold Cup, Silver Cup and Bronze Cup will conclude with a gold and bronze medal match.

Weightings – The multiplication of Grand Prix points to reward teams competing in higher ranked pools as they will be playing stronger opponents.

Y. How pools are decided

1. Semi Finalists from the U16 and U18 competitions in 2022-23 will be given a bye in the Preliminary Round and placed into the gold pool for Grand Prix #1.
2. Preliminary Round – U18 and U16 Teams will be seeded into pools based on last year's final rankings.
3. Grand Prix #1 (U16 & U18) –Teams will be allocated into ranked pools based on Grand Prix Rankings from Preliminary Round. The Semi Finalists from 2022-23 will be seeded into the Grand Prix Rankings from Preliminary Round in positions 1-4.
4. Grand Prix #1 (U15) - Teams will be seeded on the previous U15 rankings and organised into geographical pools to reduce travel times.
5. Grand Prix #2 (including U15) –Teams will be allocated into ranked pools based on Grand Prix points from Grand Prix #1
6. Grand Prix #3 / Last 8's – Teams will be allocated into ranked pools based on accumulated Grand Prix points from Grand Prix #1 and Grand Prix #2.
7. Teams will be allocated into pools of four where possible. If the entries result in a pool of three or five teams, they will be assigned to the lowest ranked pool.

Z. Pool Points

1. U16 & U18 Preliminary Round Ranking Points

Position	3 team pool	4 team pool	5 team pool
1 st	5 points	5 points	5 points
2 nd	4 points	4 points	4 points
3 rd	3 points	3 points	3 points
4 th		2 points	2 points
5 th			1 point

2. U15 Grand Prix #1 Series Points

Position	3 team pool	4 team pool	5 team pool
1 st	8 points	8 points	8 points
2 nd	6 points	6 points	6 points
3 rd	4 points	4 points	4 points
4 th		2 points	2 points
5 th			1 point

3. Grand Prix #1, #2 and #3 (excluding U15 Grand Prix #1)

Position	Bronze Pool	Silver Pool	Gold Pool	Platinum Pool
1 st	8 points	12 points	16 points	22 points
2 nd	6 points	10 points	14 points	20 points
3 rd	4 points	8 points	12 points	18 points
4 th	2 points	6 points	10 points	16 points

AA. Grand Prix Series National Rankings

1. Shall be decided on total Grand Prix points accumulated across the series.
2. If teams are tied, they will be ranked based on sets difference per matches played.
3. If teams are tied, they will be ranked based on points difference per sets played.
4. If teams are still tied, they will be ranked based on the result between the teams.
5. In 4 above the teams haven't played each other the order will be decided on a toss of a coin.

BB. How pools are tiered and weighted in U16 & U18 Grand Prix #1.

1. The number of entries will determine the composition of each competition.
2. The 4 teams awarded byes and the teams with the highest preliminary round ranking points will be allocated into the gold pools.
3. Subsequent teams based on preliminary round ranking points will be allocated into the silver and bronze pools in sequence.

CC. How pools are tiered and weighted in Grand Prix #2

1. 1st – 4th ranked teams based on Grand Prix points will be allocated into the platinum pool for U16 & U18.
2. All U15 teams and all subsequent U16 & U18 teams based on Grand Prix Points will be allocated into gold, silver, and bronze pools in sequence.

DD. Grand Prix #3 / Last 8's

1. The top 8 ranked teams after Grand Prix #2 will qualify for the Last 8's.
2. The event will be hosted by Volleyball England.
3. No Pool shall commence before 10.00am without the written consent of all participating teams.
4. The Last 8's will be split into 2 pools based on Grand Prix ranking position.
 - a. Pool A – 1st, 4th, 5th and 8th
 - b. Pool B – 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th
5. All teams in the Pool shall play each other in a round robin format.
6. All matches shall be played to the best of three sets.
7. Grand Prix points will be awarded.
8. On the completion of the pools, crossover semi-finals will take place: 1st Pool A v 2nd Pool B. 1st Pool B v 2nd Pool A. The winners will progress to the National Final.
9. Volleyball England will provide qualified 1st officials if possible. Teams may be expected to provide competent 2nd officials, live stream scorers, scorers (to complete a NVL scoresheet) and at least 2 competent linespersons in neutral matches.

EE. Grand Prix #3 (Tier 1 teams ranked 9 onwards)

1. The teams ranked 9th onwards after Grand Prix #2 will qualify to compete for the Gold, Silver or Bronze Cup.
2. Each cup will consist of 8 teams and will be hosted at a two-court venue.
3. 9th – 16th ranked teams based on Grand Prix points will be allocated into the Gold Cup.
4. 17th – 24th ranked teams based on Grand Prix points will be allocated into the Silver Cup.
5. 25th – 32nd ranked teams based on Grand Prix points will be allocated into the Bronze Cup.
6. Any lower ranked pools will be a pool of 4 and will be hosted by one of the teams involved in the pool.
7. Grand Prix points will be awarded.

This is the format of the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Cups, top three placings will receive medals and the winner a trophy.

		Match	Round 1		
Court 1	Q Finals	1	Rank #1	vs	Rank #8
Court 2	Q Finals	2	Rank #2	vs	Rank #7
Court 1	Q Finals	3	Rank #3	vs	Rank #6
Court 2	Q Finals	4	Rank #4	vs	Rank #5

		Match	Round 2		
Court 1	5th - 8th	5	Loser 1	vs	Loser 4
Court 2	5th - 8th	6	Loser 2	vs	Loser 3
Court 1	S Finals	7	Winner 1	vs	Winner 4
Court 2	S Finals	8	Winner 2	vs	Winner 3

		Match	Round 3		
Court 1	5th - 6th	9	Winner 5	vs	Winner 6
Court 2	7th - 8th	10	Loser 5	vs	Loser 6
Court 1	Gold Match	11	Winner 7	vs	Winner 8
Court 2	Bronze Match	12	Loser 7	vs	Loser 8

FF. Cup Finals Weekend

1. The Finals shall be the best of 5 sets as per FIVB Rules.
2. Volleyball England will provide all Officials after consultation with the Officials Working Group.
3. The "3 or 5 ball system" will normally be used.
4. The venue shall be decided annually by the Competitions Working Group.
5. A Team trophy shall be awarded to the Champions.

Specific Regulations for the Tier 2 U14, U15, U16 & U18 Junior Grand Prix Series

GG. How pools are decided

1. Teams will be seeded into pools based on:
 - a. The geographical location of teams – aiming for the least combined travel time.
 - b. The availability of hosts to accommodate the pool.
2. Teams will be allocated into pools of four where possible, however in some circumstances it may only be possible to be a pool of 3 or 5.
3. For Grand Prix #3 (U16/U18) to Grand Prix #5 (U15) teams may have the option to be allocated into pools covering a larger (sub regional) distance to enable them to compete against different teams. If you wish to do this, please contact the Competitions Team.
4. The U15 Tier 2 will have 5 Grand Prix events starting in October.
5. The U14 Tier 2 will be a Regional Grand Prix followed by a Divisional Grand Prix.

HH. U14 & U15 Tier 2 adaptations

1. The U14 & U15 Tier 2 competition will be played as a 4 v 4 format.
2. It is recommended that matches are played on badminton courts using the outside tramlines (approx. 13.4m x 6.1m)
3. Due to the number of matches being played at once (up to 4 matches in a standard sports hall) we advise the competitions to run using a timed format:
 - a. The timed format will be 3 sets, each of 8 minutes, teams win 3-0 or 2-1. Timing can be adjusted as required.
 - b. One time out is permitted per set when the first team reaches 8 points.
 - c. No substitutions are permitted in the last 3 minutes of the set.
 - d. When the whistle is blown to signify the end of the set, if the ball is in play the point shall be concluded and counted.
 - e. If the teams are tied at the end of the set, a final point will be played to decide the winner of that set.
4. Teams with more than 4 players in their squad can choose one of the below options for substitutions:
 - a. The traditional substitute rule i.e., Player A replaces B and then Player B can only go back on for A.
 - b. A rotation system where players rotate off and then rotate back on to serve.
5. If a player scores 3 successive serves the team will rotate but keep the serve.
6. If a team scores 6 successive serves they will pass the ball to the opposition, the score doesn't change.
7. Contact the ball is allowed with any part of the body, the ball is allowed to strike the foot, but kicking is forbidden. A kick will result in a loss of a point.
8. Roles are not specialised to individual players.
9. The server is a backcourt player.
10. To provide a positive experience to the players we advise the use of reduced weight balls – Mikasa VS170W is recommended.

II. Hosting Grand Prix series events

1. If your interested in hosting a Grand Prix please fill in the [Hosting Junior Competitions form](#) and we will be in contact.
2. Teams entering the Junior Grand Prix Series are asked to voluntarily determine which of the fixed competition dates that they can host.
3. All Grand Prix series event except Tier 1 Last 8's will be hosted by organisations. The Last 8's events will be held at a venue provided by Volleyball England.
4. The costs of hosting will be supported by visiting teams. They will pay the host an amount based on the below criteria:
 - a. 1 court booking - 3 team competing = £35 or 33% of the hall hire. Whichever is the cheapest amount.
 - b. 1 court booking - 4 team competing = £35 or 25% of the hall hire. Whichever is the cheapest amount.
 - c. 1 court booking - 5 team competing = £35 or 20% of the hall hire. Whichever is the cheapest amount.
 - d. 2 court booking - 5 team competing = £50 or 20% of the hall hire. Whichever is the cheapest amount.
 - e. 2 court booking - 6 team competing = £50 or 16% of the hall hire. Whichever is the cheapest amount.
 - f. 2 court booking - 7 team competing = £50 or 14% of the hall hire. Whichever is the cheapest amount.
 - g. 2 court booking - 8 team competing = £35 or 12% of the hall hire. Whichever is the cheapest amount.
 - h. For Tier 2 U14's / U15's the sports hall cost will be split as the lower of, £25 or equal percentage for all teams competing.
5. The visiting teams are required to pay the hosting fee directly to the host in accordance with the hosts confirmation.
6. Tier 1 Last 8's will be hosted by Volleyball England.

JJ. Entry costs excluding hosting fees*.

	Tier 1		Tier 2
	Preliminary Round & Grand Prix #1 #2, #3	Last 8's	All Grand Prix
Under 14			£16
Under 15	£132*	£70	£16
Under 16	£132*	£70	£16
Under 18	£132*	£70	£16

*All Prices have been increased by Volleyball England's Competitions inflation rate of 5%. All payments will also incur a 3.2% and 50p transaction fee.

1. The Junior Competitions Entry Window will open early July.
2. There is an expectation that teams entering Tier 1 will enter before Monday 11th September 23 and be committed to play all 4 Grand Prix at a cost of £132 (£33 per event).
3. If teams enter Tier 1 before the 31st July, they can use a discount code (ENTRYJR23) to reduce the overall cost of their entry for Tier 1 to £120*.
4. Tier 2 entries will be £16 for each Grand Prix and can be entered throughout the year.
5. The U15 T2 Grand Prix #1 entries will close on Monday 11th September 23.
6. The U15 T1 entry will be available until Monday 04th December 23.
7. The Competitions Lead shall nominate an organisation to host each pool group on behalf of the Competitions Working Group.
8. Tier 1 competitions shall not commence before 11am and Tier 2 competitions shall not commence before 10am without the written consent of all participating teams.
9. Officials, Linespersons and Scorers shall be organised by the competition host selected from the teams in the pool.
10. Ideally, courts in these rounds should conform to Volleyball England specifications as in the Official Rule Book. Because of cost implications, however, a good gymnasium may be used.

KK. Recommended Format for Grand Prix Events

Teams in Pool	Matches	Recommended Minimum Time
3	3 set matches	5 hours
4	3 set matches	6 hours
5	3 set matches reduced to 21 points	7 hours
6 (2 pools of 3)	3 set matches	5 hours
6 (2 pools of 3) with crossover	3 set matches	7 hours

1. Competitions Leads may deviate from the above only with the prior permission of the relevant Volleyball England Competitions Lead. The most important factor, however, is that all matches are completed within the available time.

Specific Regulations for the Inter Regional Championships U15 and U17 Boys and Girls

LL. Players

1. The competition will be 6 v 6 players.
2. Players must have a connection to the Region they play for. This may be residence, attending a school, or be registered as a player with a club in the Region.
3. All representatives of each region that are included on the official team sheet and the team manager should always wear Regional representative clothing. Any representative involved in a game will not be permitted to participate in any games if they do not have the correct regional clothing.

MM. Format

1. Each region can enter a maximum of one team per age category.
2. The competition format will depend on the number of Teams entered.
3. The competition will commence with teams playing in pools. Each team will play each other in a round robin format. The top 2 teams in each pool will progress to a knockout phase to determine overall winners.
4. The knockout phase may consist of cross over matches between groups as outlined in the match schedule.
5. Matches will immediately follow on from each other. If there is a walk over (due to a region not entering a team), the court will be unavailable for access for 30 minutes after which time the next two teams can use it for warm-up and the next match will begin at the time agreed by the Competition Organiser and the 1st Referee for the next match.
6. After each match, it will be the winning Captain's responsibility to get the score sheet to the Competition Organiser.
7. For each 20 minutes, a team is not ready to play, after the preceding match has finished, the team will forfeit the set 25-0. The one exception being if a team is playing or officiating on another court.
8. Volleyball England will provide qualified 1st officials if possible. Teams may be expected to provide competent 2nd officials, live stream scorers, scorers and at least 2 competent linespersons in neutral matches.
9. Teams will get 10 minutes to warm up on court. 5 minutes general and then 5 over the net. However, at the discretion of the Event Lead this may change considering the overall running of the tournament.
10. Team lists must be handed in during registration. Teams can list up to 12 players in a single match, including up to 2 Liberos. A new team list may be created for every match played.

NN. Changeover between competitions

1. After the Finals on the Sunday there will be a medal presentation.
2. All coaches and players should respect this presentation and refrain from warming up on courts until this is completed.
3. All warm ups for the following competition will start after the presentation has commenced. Each game will have the opportunity to a 10-minute warm up in line with the competition format.

Appendix A

OO. Basic Volleyball Rules for Playing the Game (for tier 2 reference)

1. 6 players on court, 3 on the front row and 3 on the back row.
2. Maximum of three contacts per side (excluding the block).
3. A player may not hit the ball twice in succession (A block is not considered a hit).
4. The ball may be played off the net during a rally and on a serve.
5. A ball hitting a boundary line is "in".
6. A ball is "out" if it hits an antennae, the floor completely outside the court, any of the net or cables outside the antennae, the referee stand, the ceiling, or any object outside the court.
7. It is legal to contact the ball with any part of a player's body (except in U14/U15, see U14/U15 Tier 2 adaptations).
8. It is illegal to catch, hold, or throw the ball (refer to refereeing in Tier 2).
9. If two or more players contact the ball at the same time, it is considered one play and either player involved may make the next contact (provided the next contact isn't the teams 4th hit).
10. A player cannot block or attack a serve from on or inside the 3m line.
11. After the serve, front line players may switch positions at the net.
12. It is not a fault if the ball contacts the net during a serve.
13. A back court player cannot play an attacking shot whilst in the front court (3m line) when the ball is played above the height of the net.

PP. Refereeing for Tier 2

1. The first principle of refereeing is to enable the game to flow. As such the referee should set a level of handling that facilitates game play. The officials for each match will come from the teams competing in the pool and they will be able to pitch the level of refereeing to match the players development capabilities. This should ensure the game flows without too many interruptions whilst maintaining the critical aspects of the game.

Appendix B

The below table illustrates the age criteria for the competitions.

Age Group	Not born before	Up to school year
Under 14	01/09/2009	9
Under 15	01/09/2008	10
Under 16	01/09/2007	11
Under 17	01/09/2006	12
Under 18	01/09/2005	13

Appendix C – VolleyZone

Please use the following VolleyZone URLs to login to the most appropriate area of VolleyZone for you; The VolleyZone URL remains <https://www.volleyzone.co.uk>. However, if that fails for any reason, please try the URLs below;

Player and Coach – <https://volleyzone.sportsmanager.ie/sportlomo/users/login>

Administrator (including Club / Team and Referee Admin) – <https://volleyzone.sportsmanager.ie/maint.php>

Referee – <https://volleyzone.sportsmanager.ie/referee/login.php>

All Membership, Event Entry and National Transfer Fees are as per the prices listed on VolleyZone. The stated fees will have a Service Fee of 3.2% + 50p added per Transaction.

Refer to the [Volleyball England website for more guidance on VolleyZone](#). or the [FAQ page](#).