

NVL Promotion and Relegation for 2019-2020 Season

The competitions working group agreed a staged process for finalising the 2019/2020 season;

Stage 1 – finalisation of the NVL league tables (this was published on 30 April 2020)

Stage 2 – determination of promotion and relegation, and league structure for season 2020/2021

The competitions working group met this week to determine promotion and relegation for 2019-20 season. This document covers the process we went through, the rationale and the outcome. It is important to understand that in these extraordinary times we have had to make difficult choices, however we have maintained the values of Volleyball England, in particular being Open and Respectful in our discussions and recommendations. We are sharing this document so that you are aware of the information we considered, the process we followed and the results. We are circulating this paper to team secretaries for the purposes of consultation on the promotion and relegation.

At the same time as determining promotion and relegation we need to determine the league structure for next season, this is impacted by teams discontinuing (both those who have already dropped out this season and for those planning to drop out for the upcoming season) and at the lower divisions by teams entering the league.

We realise that it very difficult for all of us to make firm commitments in these uncertain times however for us to determine the best league structure and start planning for an on-time season start (government allowing) we need teams to give a clear indication as to their intentions as part of this consultation otherwise we will be left with potential gaps in divisions and teams unnecessarily unpromoted.

We are also in parallel with this considering contingency planning in case through government decisions we have to delay either the planning or the start to the season. Our default planning assumption for now is an on-time start; expect to hear more on this in the coming weeks.

We carefully considered the following information as part of the process

- 1) What other sports have done
- 2) What the input from our membership was (via email, conversations, webcast, etc.)
- 3) Any information previously submitted in relation to team's promotion or relegation as part of the consultation and appeal process.
- 4) Regulation I4 Promotion and Relegations from the NVL regulations

Constraints

- a. No Play-offs – this has already been communicated
- b. We need to make this decision now so that we can plan for our default assumption
- c. Number of teams entering/leaving

Scope

- All NVL leagues

Process

- 1) We firstly thought about the principles we should apply to this process and decided the following.
 - a. The decision needs to be transparent
 - b. Apply the same across all leagues
 - c. Fairness
- 2) We then considered a few key questions
 - a. Do we want to get a result or is null and void an option? Or put another way do we want to reward success and ensure those that struggle play at the right level (Promotion and Relegation). We felt that sufficient matches had been played that it was important that the teams who had earned promotion were promoted.
 - b. Would promotion without relegation be OK? No – we felt that sufficient matches had been played to determine which teams should be relegated to maintain fairness to all teams. Therefore, their position should be relegated even in these extraordinary times.
 - c. Do we want to apply our expert judgement or have no subjectivity – We decided that we should not apply subjectivity. The main reason for this is that although some decisions would be clear many would be finely nuanced and therefore divisive, we felt that continuing to be respectful and fair to all teams, we should not use subjectivity.
- 3) We then looked at the options we had and using the principles and answers to the key questions above we decided earlier to choose option b. **Option in Bold was the chosen option.**
 - a. No promotion or relegation – No
 - b. **Promote top and follow relegation rules.**
 - c. Promotion only (top of each league), no relegation – No
 - d. Promotion only (top of each league), relegation only when teams want – No
 - e. Promotion only (top of each league), relegation only when teams want, or they have lost every match – No
 - f. Promotion and relegation based on performance and CWG expertise? – We decided that we should not apply subjectivity.
- 4) We then applied that decision to each league and reviewed the final standings and concluded that this did indeed result in a fair and reasonable outcome for promotion and relegation based on our key questions and principles above.

VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND WOMEN'S NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE STRUCTURE 2020-21 PROPOSAL

Division:

Super League
Bristol VC 1
Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University
DARKSTAR Derbyshire
Durham Palatinates Women
London Inter Orcas
Malory Eagles UEL
Polonia SideOut London
TeamBU Wessex
Tendring (Essex) Ladies
University of Nottingham Volleyball Women

Division 1
Birmingham Volleyball Club
Coventry & Warwick Riga
Dartford
Leeds RGA VC
London Inter Orcas 2
London Lionhearts
Oxford Ladies
Richmond VB
Team South Wales
Team Sunderland

Division 2 North
Black Country VC
Chester Amazons
City of Salford VC
Herts VC
Leicester Athena
Manchester Marvels 1
MK City
Tameside
Urmston Grammar Volleyball
York Falcons

Division 3 North
Ashfield Vipers
Hull Thunder
Leeds RGA Panthers
Liverpool
Manchester Marvels 2
Sheffield Honeybees
The Miners Doncaster Volleyball Club
York Vipers

Division 3 Central
Coventry & Warwick Riga 2
Lincoln Cannons
Loughborough Students
Newcastle Staffs
Northampton
Nottinham Rockets
Tamworth Spartans
Telford Ladies
UK Armed Forces Ladies

Division 2 South
Bristol VC 2
Cardiff Falcons
Ipswich Ladies
London Giants
Norwich Spikers
Reading Aces
Southampton Volleyball Club Ladies 1
Sussex Dolphins 1
Team Essex Trinity SR
Wessex W2

Division 3 South East
Ashcombe Dorking 1
Portsmouth
Richmond VB 2
South Hants
Sussex Dolphins 2
Urbond Volleyball Club Portsmouth

Division 3 South West
City of Bristol Ladies
New Forest Ladies
PETROC Beach Academy (North Devon)
Plymouth
Plymouth Mayflower VC
Southampton Volleyball Club Ladies 2
Yeovil

Key:
Promoted team
Relegated team

League Structure notes:
 1) New NVL teams are still to be added.
 2) Geographical split for Division 2 and 3 is still to be considered and finalised.
 3) The competitions working group reserves the right to change the league structure if required e.g. if teams chose to leave or if government guidance requires it.



MEN'S NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE STRUCTURE 2020-21 PROPOSAL

Division:	Super League	Division 1	Division 2 North	Division 3 North
	Durham Palatinates Men	Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University	Black Country Men 2	Lincoln Cannons
	IBB Polonia London	Cardiff Celts	DARKSTAR Derbyshire	Loughborough Students
	Leeds RGA VC	City of Bristol	Haughton Darlington	Manchester Marvels 2
	Malory Eagles UEL	London Aces	Hull Thunder	Newcastle Staffs 2
	Newcastle Staffs	Stockport Volleyball Club	Intervolley Manchester	Nottingham Rockets 1
	Richmond Docklands	Team Essex Blaze SR	Leicester Volleyball Club	Wombourne VC
	Sheffield Hallam	Team Essex Estonians	Liverpool VC	York VC
	Team Sunderland	The Miners Doncaster Volleyball Club	Manchester Marvels 1	
	TeamBU Wessex	University of Nottingham Volleyball Men	Sheffield 2	
	Tendring (Essex) Men	Weymouth Beach Volleyball Club	Tamworth Spartans	
			Division 2 South	Division 3 Central
			Bristol VC	Cambridge VC (M2)
			Coventry & Warwick Riga	England Cadet Boys
			Guildford International	Norwich Spikers
			MK City	Rhinos Volleyball Cambridge
			New Forest	Stowmarket
			Newmarket VC	
			Oxford & Brookes Students	Division 3 South
			Richmond VB	Dartford
			UK Armed Forces Men	Gloucester Eagles
			Urbond Volleyball Club	London Baks
			Portsmouth	London Giants
				Richmond VB 2
				South Hants
				Southampton Volleyball Club Men
				Surrey Spikers
				Team Bristol
				Wiltshire Mavericks

Key:
Promoted team
Relegated team

League Structure notes:

- 1) New NVL teams are still to be added.
- 2) Geographical split for Division 2 and 3 is still to be considered and finalised.
- 3) The competitions working group reserves the right to change the league structure if required e.g. if teams chose to leave or if government guidance requires it.

- 5) We then discussed what appeals we would consider and on what basis and who would hear those appeals. Appeals could be made on the process followed or option decided and not on how when applied this impacted teams. E.g. teams can't appeal and say they agree on the process followed and the option chosen but feel that they should not have been relegated as they feel that if the remaining matches had been played, they would not have been relegated. Appeals would be considered by a judicial panel in line with NVL Regulation G7.
- 6) It is important to note that the competitions working group reserves the right to change the league structure if required e.g. if teams chose to leave, to adjust geographically for new teams entering, or if government guidance requires it.

Next Steps & Timetable

- Send out this document to clubs for consultation – Any replies are required by 17:00 on 14th May 2020
- Teams to indicate their intention to play in their allotted league in the NVL next season - All replies are required by 17:00 on 14th May 2020
- Review the responses to the consultation and change if required 15th May 2020
- Submit to board for approval 18th May 2020
- Publish League Structure for 2020-21 (subject to appeal) 22nd May 2020
- Any appeals to be submitted by 17:00 on 29th May 2020
- Appeals process
- Publish finalised League Structure for 2020-21 (after appeal)