

Suffolk Volleyball Association

SVA Competition Rules

- All clubs **must** be affiliated to Volleyball England.
- All Clubs to pay a goodwill deposit to the SVA.
- For all matches, the home team must confirm fixture date, location and time at least one week before the match, to the visiting team contact.
- Teams unable to play and wishing to postpone a match must give at least 7 days' notice to the opponents.
- By the end of December at least half matches of the teams SVA cup and league matches must be played and all matches completed by Mid April.
- SVA encourages all clubs to have qualified refs, but failing this referees of a competent standard. Home team is responsible for providing at least one competent official, preferably neutral, for each fixture. **Division One / Cup games:**
 - should have a second ref.
 - Only one first referee is allowed for a game, however the second referee can be changed between sets, but not during sets: this can involve players participating in the match. The home team must inform the away team, prior to the match, of the how the officiating will be conducted. I.e., if 2nd ref will be changed between sets.
- Home team is responsible for ensuring adequate playing facilities as per FIVB Rules, including scoreboard and antennae. If facilities are inadequate the game must still be played, (except where player safety is compromised) but a comment written on the score sheet. If the visiting team feels this affected the outcome of the match they should discuss with a committee member within a week of the match
- Home team is responsible for providing official SVA score sheet. All clubs must complete SVA score sheet at every match, including player names and signatures of both captains and officials. If any problems, please indicate in comments boxes, including any remedial action and outcome if appropriate. Please ensure this is signed by both captains.
- Matches must commence play within 25 minutes of the start time.
- The home team is responsible for ensuring completed score sheets are posted or emailed to the SVA Indoor Competitions Director within one week of the match and the scores and date are emailed to the Indoor Competitions Director within 48 hours of the match.
- No player can play for more than one team in any SVA Cup/Plate Competition.

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- All matches will be played to FIVB rules, the best of five sets. Exception to these rules may apply:
 - a) Matches may be played best of 3 sets, but only after the teams involved have discussed with the SVA fixtures secretary and approved by the SVA committee
 - b) The phantom player rule is allowed to be utilised up to two occasions during the season by a team.
 - c) 5th set in Cup/Plate competition played to 15 points and handicap are halved
 - d) Matches unable to be completed in time, if a team is identified as causing a delay then match is forfeited e.g. late arrival
 - e) Lower net height can be used if agreed by both team when both teams are junior or ladies players.

The phantom rule

When a team only has five players they effectively line up with a sixth 'phantom player/invisible player' – i.e. the missing player. During the game the side will rotate the 'six' players (5 real & 1 phantom) in the normal manner. This culminates in 3 rotations only having 2 real players at the net and 3 at the back, and for the other 3 rotations only having 2 at the back and 3 at the front. When the phantom or missing player is at position 2, and the team win a side-out, the missing player rotates to the serving position (position 1). Obviously the team cannot physically serve the ball, so they automatically lose the serve, and the opponents 'win' a point (i.e. as if the server hit the ball out). Apart from this variation, all other aspects of the game rules are the same. If teams do utilise this rule, both teams involved in the match must complete a rotation slip prior to the start of each set. Only one 'phantom player' will be allowed – If the team only has 4 players they will be deemed illegal and the match regarded incomplete. The other team involved may claim this as a win, or more preferably, play the game as a friendly and arrange another date to play the match.

Points will be awarded as follows:

1. Three points will be awarded to the team winning a match, one point to the losing team if the score is 3-2, no points for 3-0 and 3-1 losses.
2. If a team cannot field a team for a scheduled match and provides less than eight days notice, their opposition have two options:
 - a. Claim the match 3-0; 25:0, 25:0, 25:0.
 - b. Agree to rearrange the match. The incomplete team will be deducted one point from in recognition of the inconvenience caused to the opposition.

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3. In the event of a tie at the end of the season, the teams will be classified in the order of the:
 - a. Number of matches won
 - b. Fewer matches lost
 - c. Sets-for less sets-against
 - d. Number of sets won
 - e. Points-for less points-against
4. If two teams are still tied they will be classified in terms of the matches between the two teams.

Any team contravening the SVA Competition Rules will be subjected to the penalties below or others as deemed suitable by the SVA Committee.

- Cancellation of match with insufficient notice: Forfeit match (details above) and be liable for any match expenses.
- Failure to return correctly completed E-mail and/or SVL score sheets in required time: Lose 1 league point.
- Inadequate playing facilities: Lose 1 league point.
- Failing to complete half of matches by the end of December: Lose 3 points for each match not played and fined £10 for matches not completed by end of the season.
- Unable to play match: Forfeit match (details above)

The penalties are automatic and will be imposed by the SVA Indoor Competitions Director and will be ratified by the subsequent SVA Committee meeting when any appeals may be heard. In addition the SVA Committee can impose additional financial penalties as deemed appropriate.