

The Yorkshire Volleyball Association has a duty of care to establish that all Volleyball matches played within its Region allow for a positive, safe and enjoyable experience for all.

Our Code of Conduct recognises the variety of interests and the complexity of needs of a diverse mix of people who come together to make volleyball an enjoyable and inclusive activity.

At all matches, Players, Coaches, Officials and Spectators enter into “an unwritten contract” of mutual respect or agree not to take part and leave the venue.

Referees and Scorers officiate at matches on behalf of The Yorkshire Volleyball Association.

It is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that the referee has a good working knowledge of our League Rules and our Code of Conduct so that the match is officiated in a fair and equitable manner.

It is the responsibility of both teams to ensure that the match officials are treated with respect. A team captain may approach the referee for clarification of a decision, no other player may do so. No player, will approach the second referee or scorer.

As an Association we will not tolerate verbally abusive or intimidating behaviour directed at “our” officials.

“Respect the Server” - once the referees whistle has blown there shall be no distractions.

Drums are not permitted at Yorkshire Volleyball matches - we are all here to “play” volleyball. The banging of drums does nothing to improve the quality of the players performance and absolutely nothing to promote the quality of our game, as we strive to encourage and increase participation in our sport. The beating of drums does not encourage fair play nor improve the quality of play. Its sole intention is to provide a nuisance factor intended to distract or unsettle the opposition.

Vuvuzelas are not permitted at Yorkshire Volleyball matches.

Alcohol is not permitted in the hall at any time. *(nor drugs, smokes or vapes)*

Any player or spectator who is clearly inebriated or under the influence of other substances will be denied access to the match.

Anyone directing obscene language at opposition players or officials will be removed from the venue or the game terminated.

Derogatory chanting and comments directed at opposition players or officials will not be tolerated and MUST be reported.

Every club in Yorkshire is a responsible club and therefore will be held to account for the behaviour of their players AND their supporters.

Social Media

If you cannot find something positive to say about your opposition in your post match report, then please say nothing at all.

Social Media is a great way to attract new players to our sport, please do not use it to try and attract players away from clubs where they already play.

Occasional disagreements and disputes are part of any healthy sporting competition. It is how we resolve them that is important. We don't encourage moaning or grumbling or bitter recrimination. We believe that any dispute should be amicably resolved at the point of contact, "the match itself".

If this cannot be achieved an email must be sent immediately to the League Secretary pointing out how the YVA League Rules have not been applied or how YVA's Code of Conduct has not been implemented and the opposition club contact **MUST** be copied into any such complaint.

The League Secretary will not consider any complaint if the opposition club contact is not copied into the complaint for transparency.

The League Secretary will not take any complaint seriously unless it is formally and correctly received. Telephone calls and personal emails do not allow the League Secretary to consider the opinions in both sides of the argument nor adjudicate in a fair and open manner.

We believe that the YVA Rules are comprehensive.

We believe that if every club read, understood and applied these rules, disagreements between teams would be rare.

"Know the rules of the competition you are playing in"

If a polite request made to any referee to implement the YVA Code of Conduct is met with "I'm Sorry, there is nothing I can do about it", then this must be reported immediately by email to the League Secretary.

Please remember that we are all trying to promote our sport in an exciting, enjoyable and non threatening manner. We are all responsible for showing our sport to be the best it can be to the casual observer and to the next new potential player.

We are custodians for our sport, we set our standards high and we are not apologetic about it.

Yorkshire Volleyball Association

September 2023

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