

1. Rule One “All clubs in our Association must be well organised” All clubs must have a constitutionally elected committee and be capable of supporting a full fixture programme across the Yorkshire Region at a suitable venue, with suitable equipment.

2. League Format

2.1 Yorkshire Super League Men & Yorkshire Super League Women

The Super Leagues are where your “regular” NVL players should be competing. If you are blessed with a larger group of outstanding performers, then the Super League is where they should be showcasing their talents. NVL Super League and NVL Div 1 players are not permitted to play in this League. Each team in this League will play every other team once only, either home or away.

2.2 Yorkshire Premier Men & Yorkshire Premier Women

No National League Div 1 or NVL Super League players are permitted in these leagues. National League Div 2 & 3 players are permitted to play in this league provided that they are not ranked as a “top 8” NVL player by their club. “Top 8” is fluid. It should be the “Top 8” NVL players who are having the most court time in the National League and should be regularly reviewed and if necessary changed by club secretaries. If they are marked as a “Top 8” player on the Yorkshire website, then they are not permitted to play Yorkshire Premier League Volleyball.

2.2a – Please see rule 8.5 regarding the upload of scoresheets. This is to check compliance and also as an information aid for complaints. There can never be an exact science on “Top 8”, therefore any complaint received will be dealt with by the Executive Committee fairly and their decision will be final. *[The Executive Committee will never be involved with a decision directly relating to their team.]*

Each team in the league will play the other home and away. Teams may enter both the Yorkshire Super and Yorkshire Premier Leagues.

2.3 York’s Men’s Championship & York’s Women’s Championship

No National League players permitted

Premier League players are permitted in this league. However, it is “expected” that clubs will play their “fringe” Premier League players in this league. Although an entry level league, it must not be undervalued as it underpins our 3 league structure which allows for the continuous upward development of players. Teams will play every team either home or away and then the League will split later in the season.

2.4 U18 players may play in any league.

3. Registration – Teams

Before the season commences:

- 3.1 All clubs must be affiliated to Volleyball England
- 3.2 All teams must be registered with Yorkshire Volleyball
- 3.3 League Fees (£50) per team must be paid before or at the pre-season meeting
- 3.4 If league fees are not paid by 1st October the team may be asked to leave the league.
- 3.5 Each club shall pay a goodwill bond of (£100) when they first join the league. The fee is returned should a club leave the league at the end of a season with the deduction of any fines should they be levied.

4. Registration – Players

- 4.1 All players must be registered with Yorkshire Volleyball **before** competing in any match.
- 4.2 It is the responsibility of each club to keep their registrations up to date on their club page of the YVA website. All player registrations require a photo. The site will not accept a registration without a photo. All photos must be a head and shoulders passport style photo with a plain background.
(No holiday snaps or selfies please)
Any photos that do not meet the required standard will be rejected and your player will not be registered.
- 4.3 A minimum of 8 players must be registered by the start of the season.
- 4.4 Additional players may be registered after the start of the season. These players must be registered **before** the first game in which they are involved. **No excuses!**
- 4.5 No player may be registered after or transferred between teams after March 1st of any given season. (*We get calls every year, please do not ask!*) The registration page closes automatically on 1st March
- 4.6 A player may transfer between teams during the season. The player does not need the permission of the original team, but no transfer will be accepted unless the original team has been contacted first by the new team. An email of intent must be sent to the original team and the League Secretary before any transfer takes place. A player may only make one transfer per season. Respect other clubs in the league. Poaching players is not in the spirit of a “happy Yorkshire Volleyball family.”

5. Meetings

5.1 The Pre-Season/Fixtures Meeting (September) This is an important meeting because we can give clarity to any misconceptions about how the leagues operate and we can all set expectations for the season ahead. It is important that you send your fixtures secretary to this meeting so that our league fixtures can be effectively organised. The date and venue for this meeting will always be set at the AGM at the end of the previous season.

5.2 The End of Season Meeting or AGM (June/July) is held to draw the season to a close. It is a time to celebrate success and a time to review the season and make important decisions about the new season to come. It is vital that your club is represented. It is the time when these league rules are ratified for the following season. The date and venue for this meeting will be set at the Pre Season Meeting in September.

5.3 Yorkshire Volleyball is only as good as its member clubs. It is your Association, your support is necessary to ensure fair and equitable competition. Each club needs to be represented at both of these meetings. However, if a club fails to be represented they will be sanctioned accordingly.

6. Arranging Matches

6.1 We have a “flexible” fixtures programme to allow clubs with multiple teams in various Leagues to more effectively manage their commitments. However, each team is expected to work to a prescribed series of deadline dates and failure to keep up with this schedule may result in a team being removed from the League.

6.2 It is the responsibility of the home team to get their own home fixtures organised and entered on the webpage. Once entered and the “away” team has “confirmed” then the fixture will be “locked” on the page.

6.3 Once a match has been confirmed and “locked”, should a team have a “justifiable” reason to call it off they must contact the Secretary of the League. A team may only rearrange once.

6.4 Teams cancelling matches with less than 7 days notice will default automatically. The only exception to this rule will be if there are exceptional circumstances, e.g. adverse weather conditions, venue closed or traffic gridlock. If teams can field six players, then they should field those six and never cancel just because certain members of the squad or players in a certain position are unavailable.

In the event of any dispute the matter shall be referred to the League Secretary.

6.5 24 to 48 hours before any match club secretaries must make a courtesy call to re-confirm arrangements. This is best done by phone or text, but it may be done by email providing an answer is received. An answer must be received and not assumed!

6.6 Where possible we ask that all matches should be played by the last day in April. However, recognizing that some teams are facing challenges with venues, this has been extended to the last day in May

6.7 Any team who is experiencing difficulty in contacting an opposing team should contact the league secretary immediately.

7. Match Organisation

It is the responsibility of the home team:

7.1 To provide a 1st referee.

The referee must be qualified and registered with Volleyball England for their own protection, the clubs protection and protection of the league – *(At the AGM in July 2023, it was discussed whether clubs could mutually agree for a very competent, unqualified/unregistered referee to take the stand. If both sets of coaches, captains and players agree on confirmation of the fixture or on the night, then this may be something that clubs consider between themselves, but we wouldn't be able to get involved in this as an association or accept any liability.)*

7.2 To provide a capable and experienced 2nd referee. It is vital that this person is a member of your club for insurance purposes and has a good understanding of the rules.

7.3 To provide a competent scorer with regulation score sheet and a clearly visible scoreboard.

7.4 To make a copy of the league rules available.

7.5 To provide a minimum of 2 hours court time.

Two hours is considered adequate to complete a match, including warm up, time outs and turnarounds, provided the following timings are observed:

The match must begin no later than 20 minutes after access to the court.

If either team (home or away) is not ready to play for any reason after 20 minutes, they will forfeit the 1st set (25-0)

If the team is still not ready to play 40 minutes after the start time, they will forfeit the 2nd set (25-0)

If the team is still not ready to play 60 minutes after the start time, they will forfeit the 3rd set (25-0) and the match (3-0)

7.6 If the court is only available for the minimum 2 hour period, the home team must make it clear from the start, the time at which play must stop and the court cleared.

Should the court be available for longer than 2 hours this must also be made clear to the visiting team.

7.7 All matches shall be the best of 5 sets.

7.8 If only 3 sets have been completed and there is less than 5 minutes of court time remaining, the match will end and the score will stand as a 2 – 1 result.

If there is 5 minutes or more of available time left, the 4th set must start immediately and the team leading at the end of time will be deemed to have won that set (provided that they lead by at least one point)(there shall be no time outs)

If the match is then tied at 2 sets each, the winner will be the team with the highest accumulative points from the 4 sets played. If the teams are still tied then both teams

shall be awarded 2 league points.

7.9 If the 4th set has been completed and there is 5 minutes or more of available time left, the 5th set must start immediately and the team leading at the end of time (provided that they lead by at least one point) will be deemed to have won that set. (there shall be no time outs in this 5th set)

7.10 It is the duty of the referee to monitor the use of time during any such 5 minute (plus) periods of play to ensure that no team seeks to gain an advantage and to inform both teams when 1 minute of playing time remains and to inform them when the last serve of the match is about to be played.

7.11 All playing kit must be numbered and of uniform colour (with the exception of the libero who must have a numbered shirt of a different colour) – these are regional, competitive leagues and so high standards of kit are mandatory

7.12 Any deviations from usual Volleyball court and off court measurements, including roof height, should be discussed with and agreed by the away team well before travelling to the match. If an agreement cannot be made, then the Home team is expected to host the match in a venue that doesn't have restrictions or offer to pay for the Away team to host if a court cannot be found. A compromise may need to be reached with assistance from the YVA Chair and/or a Secretary. This is a regional league, so venues should be of good quality, whilst also understanding that venues can be hard to find and facilities do not need to be 'State of the Art.'

7.13 Players in all of our leagues hit the ball hard. Posts must be of good standard and have a double anchor system on each post to ensure security of the post to the ground. If unsure, please ask us!

8. Score sheets

8.1 It is the responsibility of both teams to ensure that all details are accurately recorded on the score sheet.

The score sheet must be signed by the coaches and captains of both teams prior to the start of the match.

8.2 After the match it is the responsibility of the scorer to ensure that all scores are accurately recorded, totaled up and that any players' sanctions are recorded. The referee shall then check the score sheet which must then be "signed off" by both captains.

8.3 Only the referee can write comments on the score sheet.

The league secretary must be informed by email within 7 days of any dispute or complaint arising from a match.

8.4 Both teams should take a photo of the full score sheet for their records. It is the home teams responsibility to enter the scores on the website and to upload the photograph of the scoresheet.

This must be done within 7 days of the match.

8.5 If any club has VE National League players playing in our Yorkshire Leagues

then they must also take a photo of the full scoresheet from their VE NVL games and submit them on the YVA web page for scrutiny by the League Secretaries.

9. Points and Tables

League points will be awarded as follows; 3 points for a win, 1 point for a loss, points, 2 points for a “shared” match (see 7.8), -1 point for a loss by “default”

9.1 The league champions will be the team who have the most points at the end of the season.

9.2 In the event of a tie positions will be decided as follows;

- i. least matches lost by default
- ii. sets difference
- iii. points difference
- iv. the results of the matches played between the tied teams.

10. Promotion and Relegation

10.1 Promotion and relegation will very much depend on the amount of teams entered each season. A decision will be made before the season commences and will be communicated at the fixtures meeting

10.2 Currently there are no relegation issues in any leagues.

As the membership of our leagues grows we will reconsider how the issues of Promotion and Relegation should be handled.

10.3 If a team defaults 3 matches they shall be removed from the league for the remainder of the season and all their results to that point shall be removed from the League table. They will need to reapply for any following seasons and their application will be considered by the Executive Committee.

11. Sanctions

11.1 As an association we believe in fair and equitable competition and so all rules must be adhered to without exception. These league rules are voted on and ratified by you the membership at the AGM at the end of every season.

11.2 We are not a punitive association but there are sanctions to safeguard the sanctity of these rules. Rarely, if ever are they needed to be applied. Let’s keep it that way!

11.3 Any complaint or dispute must be submitted in writing to the league secretary within 7 days. Copies must be sent to all parties concerned. All decisions made by the Executive Committee of YVA are final and binding.

11.4 Player sanctions should be recorded on the score sheet by the scorer / referee.

Yellow card = 1 point Redcard = 3 points

11.5 Any player who accumulates 3 points will receive a one match ban.

11.6 Failure to send a team representative to any compulsory meeting (pre-season or AGM) = £30

The only exceptions are adverse weather, breakdown and road network gridlock.

11.7 Failure to attend a “confirmed” match :

Home team at fault: they shall meet the travelling expenses of the visiting team and the referees expenses.

Visiting team at fault: they shall meet the court expenses and officials expenses of the home team where appropriate.

In all cases where one team is claiming costs from another the league secretary must be notified **immediately**.

The team claiming the costs shall be paid by the league treasurer from the offending teams goodwill bond.

The team at fault will default the match to the team that attends (3-0) (25-0, 25-0, 25-0) and shall have 1 league point deducted.

11.8

i. Failure to provide the necessary facilities for a home match

ii. Failure to provide a registered 1st referee for a home match

iii. Failure to send in the scores within 7 days. All carry the same penalties:-

1st and 2nd offence – a written warning.

3rd and subsequent offences – a deduction of 1 league point.

11.9 Use of any unregistered player – the match will be defaulted to the opposition.

11.10 Use of a player serving a one match ban – the match will be defaulted to the opposition.

12. Goodwill Bonds

12.1 A Goodwill Bond of £100 is held by the League for each club with teams in our leagues

Any fines levied will be subtracted from the clubs goodwill bond and any shortfall in the bond must be made good within 14 days.

12.2 A club must have cleared its debts by the time of the AGM or its application to join the league for the following season will be declined.

12.3 A club with outstanding debts to the league must clear them before they receive any awards or trophies.

13.0 In the event of a situation arising not covered herein the YVA Executive Committee will meet and their decision shall be final.

14.0 The use of drums and vuvuzelas is not permitted in the Yorkshire leagues to ensure good sportsmanship and player health and safety.