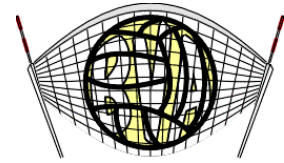


# **Berkshire Volleyball Association Mixed Development League Rules 2005-2006 Season**

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**PROVISIONAL**

## **Introduction**

These rules describe local rules and administrative arrangements for the operation of the Berkshire Volleyball League Mixed Development League, under the auspices of the Berkshire Volleyball Association (BVA). Where not otherwise specified the English Volleyball Association (EVA) rules for the National Volleyball League will apply. The BVA Committee reserve the right to issue amendments or clarifications to these rules as necessary.

The purpose of the development league is to introduce new players to competitive volleyball, and to encourage participation in teams within the BVA area. The accent of the league is the "spirit of the game". Referees will be instructed to officiate games accordingly. The aim is to give development teams approximately one match per month during the playing season.

## **1 Registration and pre-season arrangements**

### **1.1 EVA registration**

Clubs wishing to participate in BVA competitions must be affiliated to the English Volleyball Association. Non-affiliated teams put their opponents at risk by being uninsured. Clubs who have registered an interest in playing in the Berkshire Volleyball League (BVL) and are not recorded by the EVA as being affiliated at the beginning of the BVL season will receive a written warning from the Committee. Failure to affiliate within the time limit specified in the warning may lead to the club being barred from the League and other BVA competitions.

### **1.2 League entry**

In order to compete in the BVL each team must, before the published closing date, have:

- (i) submitted a completed application form;
- (ii) paid the Annual League Subscription to the BVA. Where the closing date is likely to cause problems for any club or team, requests for deferral of payment may be made to the Committee, providing that such requests are received well in advance of the entry closing date;
- (iii) paid the specified Goodwill Deposit to the BVA. The Goodwill Deposit is held by the BVA in order to guarantee payment of any fines that may be imposed during the course of the season. It is refunded when a team withdraws from the League at the end of a season, provided that no unpaid fines or fees are outstanding. The Goodwill Deposit will be doubled for re-entry into the League where a team has defaulted on more than one fixture during the previous season.

Note: No entry fee or goodwill deposit will be charged for the 2005-6 season.

### **1.3 League structure**

The Development League is a mixed league, where at least two female players must be on court at all times. Matches will be scheduled as triangular matches to be played on Friday evenings, starting no earlier than 7.00 and no later than 8.00.

Teams will be allowed to play up to two “experienced players” on court at a time as part of the development team. These players will be expected to participate within the spirit of the development league, and referees will be instructed to penalise experienced players not playing within the spirit of the league by the loss of a rally.

## **2 Pre-match arrangements**

### **2.1 Match venues**

The BVA Committee will publish the fixture list for a new season as soon as possible after entries for the League have been received. The first named team on the fixture in the fixtures list is considered to be the home team. Allocation of home teams for triangular matches will be made taking account, insofar as is possible, of three factors:

- (i) balancing the number of home fixtures for each team;
- (ii) maximising the use of free or low-cost venues;
- (iii) minimising the amount of travel required.

Consequently, in order to try to obtain the best overall benefit for the League as a whole, the numbers of fixtures hosted by each team may be different.

The home team is responsible for provision of the venue and suitable match equipment. A booking of three hours is required for a triangular fixture. All matches will be played on Friday evenings starting no earlier than 7.00 and no later than 8.00.

### **2.2 Playing Conditions**

Playing conditions at the venue provided should meet the venue requirements specified in the EVA rulebook. If for any reason playing conditions fail to meet the required standard, this should be noted on the match scoresheet.

### **2.3 Cost of venues**

The home team is responsible for paying the cost of the venue. The BVA will attempt to schedule an approximately equal number of home matches for each team except where a team provides a free venue, when the BVA may schedule extra fixtures at such free venues.

### **2.4 Match confirmation**

The BVA will publish a list of fixtures at the start of the season. This list of fixtures will be published in the BVA website, and will be circulated to all nominated club representatives

**Under exceptional circumstances fixtures may be rearranged with the prior consent of the other teams involved and the Competition Secretary. Notification of the rearrangement must be received by the League Secretary at least fourteen days before the original fixture date.** The rearrangement will only be approved when a new date has been arranged and agreed by the teams involved. Where agreement cannot be reached the Competition Secretary will specify a date, convenient to the teams not requesting the rearrangement, on which the match will be played.

In any season, all BVA fixtures must be completed by the end of April.

Failure to inform the Competition Secretary of a rearranged fixture will incur a fine. When rearrangement results in a non-refundable cost for a venue booked for the original date, then the team requesting the rearrangement will be liable for the full cost of the cancelled booking.

### **3 Match-day arrangements**

#### **3.1 Order of matches**

The order of matches to be played in triangular fixtures is:

- (i) the two visiting teams;
- (ii) the home side versus the third named team;
- (iii) the home side versus the second named team.

Because matches are played on Friday evenings, a degree of flexibility should be allowed for the late arrival of a team, particularly those with long distances to travel, and the order of play should be changed if necessary to ensure completion of the fixture.

#### **3.2 Match scoring**

Matches in the Development League will be decided over the best of three sets, each set to fifteen points with a two point advantage (eg 16-14, 17-15 etc)

In each set, the referee will call a two minute technical timeout when the first team reaches six points. Each team is then allowed one thirty second timeout per set.

#### **3.3 Match officials**

The BVA will ensure an EVA Grade 4 or better qualified referee is present for all matches. The non-playing team will be required to provide second referees and scorers, and it is expected that experienced players will use this as an opportunity to help developing players to understand scoring and the job of a referee.

The BVA will provide instructions to referees for use in Development League matches.

#### **3.4 Match equipment**

For the Mixed League the net height shall be set at the standard height used for men.

In the Development League, at the start of a match, a match ball, or match balls of a particular manufacturer and type must be selected and agreed on by all teams. This (type of) ball must be used for all matches in the fixture.

### **3.5 Team uniforms**

All players in a team must wear shirts with different numbers on. Numbers may be from 1-99 and must be clearly marked on both the front and back of the shirts, in a contrasting colour to that of the shirts. Shirts must be of same design, style and colours, with the exception of the Libero player(s) who must wear shirts of a different colour, which may be of a different design.

Each team may play a number of experienced players in a team. Up to two such players may be on court at a time. These experienced players must be noted on match scoresheets, and must be identifiable on court by wearing a different colour shirt, or by wearing an armband.

A degree of flexibility will be allowed with shirt designs, but all shirts must be uniquely numbered for each team.

### **3.6 Libero**

In the Development League each team may nominate a libero of each sex so that the correct numbers of men and ladies can be maintained on court. However, only one libero may be on court at any one time.

### **3.7 Scoring**

A set is won by the team which first scores fifteen points with a minimum lead of two points. In the case of a 14-14 tie, play is continued until a two-point lead is achieved (16-14, 17-15,...). The match is won by the team that wins two sets. In the case of a 1-1 tie, the deciding set (the third) is played to fifteen points with a minimum lead of 2 points.

### **3.8 Scoresheets**

Scorepads will be supplied by the BVA to all teams with home fixtures. The home team is responsible for ensuring that scoresheets are completed for all matches, including the division, date, venue, surnames of all players and the signatures of the two team captains, two referees and scorer. Fineable offences should be noted in the Remarks section and initialled by the reporting official or team captain before the scoresheet is signed.

The officiating team should nominate a Player of the Match in the appropriate box on the scoresheet. Players nominated as "experienced players" are not eligible for player of the match awards.

The top copy of the completed scoresheet is returned to the Competition Secretary; the second and third copies should be given to the two competing team captains.

### **3.9 Notification of results**

On completion of a fixture the home team is responsible for notification of results.

- (i) The match scores should be notified to the Competition Secretary, preferably by e-mail, as soon as possible and in any event within two days after the match.
- (ii) The top copy of each scoresheet must be sent to the Competition Secretary to arrive no later than one week after the match.

Failure to report the results and post the scoresheet on time will result in a fine for the home team.

## **4 End-of-season arrangements**

### **4.1 League tables**

One league point will be awarded for each set won. An additional point is awarded to the team winning the match. In the event of two or more teams being equal on points in a particular division at the end of the season, rank order will be established by considering the following criteria, in the order listed:

- (i) lowest number of sets lost over the whole competition;
- (ii) highest number of points scored over the whole competition;
- (iii) lowest number of points conceded over the whole competition.

The Committee has the right to alter this arrangement if they consider it necessary in order to maintain a balanced league structure.

### **4.3 Withdrawal from League**

A team may withdraw from the League without penalty at the end of the season on fulfilment of all their fixtures. Withdrawal during the season, at any stage after publication of the fixtures schedule, is considered to be default of all outstanding matches and is subject to the corresponding fines and sanctions.

Teams intending to withdraw, or change Leagues between seasons are requested to notify the Committee as early as possible to allow adequate planning for the new season.

### **4.4 Attendance at AGM**

Each team wishing to participate in the League in the following season must have at least one representative present at the BVA AGM (which is held on the same day as the BVA Plate tournament, at the end of the season). Teams not having at least one representative present will receive a fine.

## **5 Sanctions and misconduct procedures**

### **5.1 Fines**

The decision to impose fines or loss of league points is taken by the Competition Secretary who will issue written notification of any such judgements to both the offending team and the BVA Treasurer. Payment of fines must be received by the Treasurer within 28 days. If payment is not received within 28 days the value of the fine will be deducted from the team's goodwill deposit, which must then be restored to the full amount. A further late payment penalty will be deducted for every additional 14-day period that the deposit remains incomplete, until the goodwill deposit is exhausted, at which point the club in question may be barred from further participation in the Berkshire Volleyball League.

## **5.2 Appeals**

A club may appeal against any judgement of fines or loss of points by writing to the BVA Secretary within 14 days of the decision. A deposit to the value of the total fine outstanding is required for an appeal to be heard. If the club wins the appeal, the deposit will be returned; if the club loses the appeal, the deposit will be retained by the BVA as payment of the outstanding fine. The appeal will be considered by the BVA Committee, whose decision is final. The Committee may require a representative of the appealing team to attend and present the grounds for appeal at the first appropriate Committee meeting following receipt of the appeal.

## **5.3 Misconduct and Disciplinary Procedure**

In the event of players, coaches or authorised bench personnel receiving a yellow card, red card or red and yellow card together as a result of misconduct during a match, a procedure of penalty points and suspensions will be applied as specified in the current EVA NVL handbook. The match referee should note any such sanctions in the remarks section of the match scoresheet.

## **5.4 Disputes**

Disputes which cannot be resolved by the BVA Committee will be referred to the EVA whose decision and jurisdiction will be final.