

CVA County League Rules

The following constitute the rules which govern the Cambridgeshire Volleyball Association Leagues (Men's, Women's and Mixed/Beginner's). Please note that all teams should make every effort to ensure that all league matches are played. Teams are expected to be proactive, and act with good sportsmanship, when rescheduling a game is necessary. It is not beneficial to the sport of Volleyball, or for players and their development, if a match is decided by Walkover, so this will only be awarded as an absolute last resort, after all other options have been exhausted. Any disputes surrounding postponements, aggressive or abusive behaviour on court or towards referees, results and completion of fixtures, claims for compensation and the interpretation of the below guidelines, should be submitted to the CVA League Committee for resolution. It is the responsibility of Teams to ensure that their emergency phone contact details are up to date.

1. MATCH PROCEDURE

A league season will consist of each team entered into the league playing one home and one away fixture against every other team. Dates and times of matches will be set out in the League Fixtures at the start of the season and published on the CVA website. Teams may rearrange fixtures (see Rule 2).

a. Fixture confirmation

It is the responsibility of the HOME team to confirm the match time and location (providing directions as needed) with the opponents and referees (using provided contact details), at least one week before the fixture.

b. Match details

Bookings will be for 2 hours. Matches are best of 5 sets (FIVB scoring and rules). Sets are first to 21 points (capped at 25) for the first four sets and the deciding set is first to 15 (capped at 17). A CVA league scoresheet should be completed by the scorers and referees. Any disputes should be added to the comments section and signed off by both teams and referees. Missing referees should be noted on the scoresheet for the CVA League Committee to set fines.

Digital images of scoresheets should be sent to the League Organiser (see Rule 5). One league point is awarded for teams attending the fixture. One league point is awarded for a match win. One league point is also awarded for each set won in the match. League positions are based on league points > sets for > sets against > results between tied teams (sets for > sets against > points for).

c. Match completion

A match result will be conclusive at the fixture if play has commenced and a two hour booking time has been completed (unless both teams are agreed to replay the fixture at expense arranged between the teams, and the league organiser is informed – should the match remain unplayed at the end of the season it will be resolved as below from the scoresheet). This will avoid the need to replay or conclude a match at a later date using the same team members and additional booking time. Inconclusive match results at the end of a two hour booking may be resolved by;

- i. **Normal play:** both teams are ready and complete at the conclusion of the warmup period (first 20 minutes of the booking). In the event of 5 sets not being completed to decide a match (due to evenly matched teams, a prolonged period of time for an injury or equipment failure) the match result will be resolved as a win for the team leading (in sets or points) at the end of the booking time. In the event of a tie (2-2 in sets, or points in a 5th set) teams will play a deciding point to resolve the match winner. Referees are encouraged to avoid slow play or extended time between sets. In the event of a deciding point not being played (for example a 2-2 set draw or point draw in the 3rd, 4th or 5th set that does not result in a resolved set winner) then the winning team will be decided on a total points countback for the points that were played in the whole match. If this also results in a draw then the match result will be resolved by the winner of the first set played.
- ii. **Late start:** one team is not present at the conclusion of the warmup period (first 20 minutes of the booking). The match will start normally on arrival of the late team (who can choose to have an additional warmup period or not). If the match is completed in the remaining booking time then the result will stand. If the match is not completed then the late team will default any remaining points and sets to the other team to conclude the match. For example; a late team leading 25:15, 20:25, 25:10 and 10:2 in the 4th set at the end of the booked time would lose the fixture by 2 sets to 3 (25:15, 20:25, 25:10, 10:25, 0:15).
- iii. **Incomplete team:** one team does not have 6 players at the conclusion of the warmup period (first 20 minutes of the booking), or is reduced to less than 6 players during the match (due to injury). Teams must compete with 6 players on court, teams with less than 6 players will default the remaining match sets and points to the other team to conclude the match. In the event of a team starting a match with less than 6 players, the result will be notified as a 3:0 win and a scoresheet completed and signed. Teams

are encouraged to use the remaining booked time to play a “friendly” match which will not count as a result.

2. MATCH POSTPONEMENTS

Once the fixtures list for the season has been finalised, any rescheduling of matches is the responsibility of the teams involved, and the CVA Fixtures Organiser must be informed of any changes to match dates and/or venues.

Postponed matches are generally easily resolved by both teams mutually agreeing on a new date. In exceptional circumstances where games are postponed at short notice, or where teams cannot mutually agree on a new date, the rules outlined below will apply (please note that absence of a key player would not be considered exceptional circumstances!).

Teams should work together to establish a new fixture date. This may be at the Teams’ venue or any other Teams’ venue that has suitable availability. The new date should be;

- No less than 1 week from the original cancellation.
- Not on a day when either team is scheduled to play in another CVA League game.
- At a time when CVA League games are usually played (i.e. weekday evenings/weekends)
- Before the end date of the current season.

a. HOME Team Postponement:

Should the HOME team need to postpone a match, they should notify the AWAY team as soon as possible, ideally with more than 1 weeks notice. In the event of an emergency or short notice cancellation, the HOME team should call the AWAY team contact to explain the situation. If the AWAY team have already travelled to the venue (in the event, for example, of equipment failure or venue emergency closure) this will be deemed as unfortunate, but beyond the control of the HOME team. In either of these scenarios the procedure will be;

- The HOME team will propose suggestions for a new date in a timely manner, following the above criteria.
- If none of these are possible for the AWAY team, with good reason, the AWAY team may offer suggestions of a new date at their venue (or choice of venue).
- If a mutually acceptable date cannot be found within the season, the HOME team will forfeit the match.

If the AWAY team have already travelled to the venue and the HOME team have cancelled at very late notice (in the event, for example, of lack of players) then the match will proceed as for a “late start” (Rule 1c).

b. AWAY Team Postponement:

Should the AWAY Team need to postpone a match, they must notify the HOME team **with at least 8 days notice**. It is then the HOME team's responsibility to make arrangements with their venue to avoid any financial loss, or use the court time for other purpose (such as training).

In this scenario the procedure will be;

- The HOME team will propose suggestions for a new date in a timely manner, following the above criteria.
- If none of these are possible for the AWAY team, with good reason, the AWAY team may offer suggestions of a new date at their venue (or choice of venue).
- If none of these are possible for the HOME team, with good reason, the AWAY team will forfeit the match.

In the event of a cancellation **less than 8 days prior to the match**, and where financial loss for court booking cannot be avoided, the HOME team are justified in claiming compensation from the AWAY team goodwill deposit. In the event of an emergency or very short notice cancellation, the HOME team should call the AWAY team contact to explain the situation.

In this scenario the procedure will be;

- The AWAY team can opt not to pay court cost compensation and forfeit the match.
- The AWAY team can agree to pay court cost compensation and teams will attempt to rearrange the match;
 - The HOME team will propose suggestions for a new date in a timely manner, following the above criteria.
 - If none of these are possible for the AWAY team, with good reason, the AWAY team may offer suggestions of a new date at their venue (or choice of venue).
 - If none of these are possible for the HOME team, with good reason, the AWAY team will forfeit the match (no compensation will be paid).

c. Consecutive Postponements

If a rescheduled match is subsequently postponed again (regardless of the reason for the original postponement) it is at the discretion of the teams to decide;

1. If the subsequent postponement was for a reason beyond the control of a team (for example emergency venue closure) the teams can elect to try to rearrange the fixture again in good sport. Any further postponement will default to (2).
2. The team who caused the subsequent postponement will forfeit the match.

d. Referees

In the event of a postponement, it is the responsibility of the postponing team to also notify the club contact of the allocated referees, if applicable. The allocated referee club should also be included in the process to find a date for the match rearrangement and should provide referees on this date (see Rule 3). If a date is selected by agreement of the teams playing and the allocated refereeing team is, with good reason, not available (for example due to other league commitments such as a match or other refereeing commitments) then it will be the **responsibility of the original postponing team to arrange alternative referees** (or be fined for lack of referees – see Rule 3).

e. Disputes

On review of any disputes, the CVA League Committee may decide to resolve the situation by any one of the following methods, depending on which they deem most appropriate for the circumstances presented:

- Awarding a Walkover (winning team 5 points, losing team 0 points).
- Voiding the match (no points are awarded to either team).
- Deeming the match a tie (3 points will be awarded to each team).
- By coin toss to elect a winner.

3. REFEREEING

All teams have a duty to provide first and second referees as neutral officials for matches. Referee duties are indicated on the fixtures list. Special exceptions (based on travel) have been agreed with the CVA League Committee.

Scorers will be provided by the HOME team.

Teams not providing referees for appointed matches, as determined by the signed scoresheet or complaint from the teams playing, will be fined from their league deposits (£10 for 1 referee, £20 for no referees). The match will then be officiated by the mutual agreement of the teams involved.

In the case of a rearranged match date see Rule 2d.

4. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Unlike the Spring Cup competition, there is no restriction for players to be tied to one team. This allows teams to fulfil matches when short of players (especially if two teams are entered from one club). Guest players are allowed at the discretion of the clubs concerned (there are no player registration lists). Players of either sex are eligible in the Men's League (but matches will be played on men's height net). Only women are eligible to play in the Women's League.

5. RESULT REPORTING

The HOME team will email the result of the match to the league organiser within 3 days of the match being played, including images of the completed CVA match scoresheet. Missing scoresheets will result in a three league point fine for the HOME team. In the event of a missing result the AWAY team are also encouraged to report the result and send in a scoresheet image.

6. LEAGUE RESULTS

An updated league table will be maintained at <http://www.cambsvolleyball.org.uk/>. Fixtures will be completed by the end of April. Rearranged fixtures will be completed by the end of May, or by the CVA Walton Shield Tournament, whichever is sooner, or Walkovers awarded. League winners will receive the CVA County league trophy and certificates.

7. TEAM GOODWILL DEPOSITS

Each CVA Club is required to have a total goodwill deposit held by the CVA of £100 per League entered. At the end of the season any fines/compensation will be taken from this deposit. Teams will not be able to register for the next season without a full deposit and can opt to top up their account or receive their remaining refund and not compete in the league.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Teams sending representatives to the AGM will receive a discount on the league fees for the next season.

APPENDIX 1: Spring Cup/Plate Additional Rules

1. Match dates. As most teams will be fitting fixtures into their existing schedules, matches will be played at any convenient time before a set date for each round. The drawn HOME team will provide a 2 hour booking at their venue (and cost). The HOME team will offer a choice of at least 2 dates to play the fixture. If these dates are not convenient for the visiting team (with good reason), the HOME team should offer a 3rd date. If a mutually convenient date can still not be found, the visiting team should offer a date at their HOME venue (and cost). If a fixture date cannot be found before the cut-off date for the round, the matter should be referred to the competition organiser to determine which team will receive a bye into the next round.

a) Postponements. Once the fixture date has been agreed, emergency rearrangements (eg due to venue cancellations, bad weather, NOT team absentees!) are the responsibility of the teams involved. Teams should make every effort to play matches. HOME team postponement. As much notice as possible of postponement should be given. If a team turns up to a venue to find the match cancelled, without notice, a bye will be awarded to the visiting team (unless the teams agree to rearrange). The HOME team should endeavour to find a new fixture date (see 1).

b) Visiting team postponement. A minimum of 8 days notice is required for not attending an AWAY fixture (usual venue booking cancellation time), otherwise a bye will be awarded to the HOME team. If ample warning (to avoid financial loss) has been given, the HOME team should endeavour to find a new fixture date (see above).

c) Bye. Will score as a 3-0 victory to the awarded team, which will progress to the next round, or receive the winner's Trophy.

2. Refereeing. Due to the travel distances involved, referees have not been allocated for Cup/Plate rounds. The HOME team will have responsibility to find referees and scorers for the match. These officials should be competent and neutral, but not necessarily qualified. Please try to find volunteers from another team located close to your venue (and help by volunteering yourself if asked). Where neutral referees cannot be found by the HOME team, the visiting team should be asked to help find neutral referees. By agreement of both teams, non-neutral referees may be used. In this case, or where agreed referees fail to show-up, the suggested option is to have one official from each team, by set-rotation if necessary. Unfairly refereed matches should be protested to the competition organiser, and a note made on the scoresheet. POSTPONING teams must inform referees!

3. Match Procedure. It is the responsibility of the HOME team to confirm the match time and location (providing directions as needed) with the opponents and referees (using provided contact details), within the week before the fixture. Bookings will be for 2 hours, matches best of 5 sets (FIVB scoring and rules). Matches not finished in this time will be resolved at the agreement of the teams involved (replayed, continued, result decided). Lack of completion due to long play will default to leading team winning if no other fair agreement can be made. Lack of completion due to late start of play will default to one set lost per 20 minutes late against the offending team (after first 20 minutes warmup). A scoresheet should be completed including any disputes signed off by both teams. The winning team will proceed to the Cup competition (Preliminary Round), First Round, Semi-Final, or receive the Winner's Trophy. The losing team will proceed to the Plate competition (Preliminary Round), or be knocked out of the competition.

4. Player Eligibility. If a player competes in a Cup/Plate match with one team, the player is not eligible to play for another competing team (cuptied). Players of either sex are eligible

(but matches will be played on mens height net). Cases for playing ineligible players should be referred to the competition organiser. The offending team will forfeit the match and the opponent will receive a bye.

5. Result Reporting. Both teams will email the result of the match, with images of the completed scoresheet, to the competition organiser on or before the cut-off date for the Round (asap after the match is preferable). Scoresheets will be kept and passed onto or sent to the competition organiser immediately after the match (to allow checks for ineligible players).

Cambridgeshire Volleyball Association Committee
(last revised Oct 2025 – J Clarke)