



SUNRAYSIA
VOLLEYBALL INC.

Competition By-Laws

Version 8
April 2023

Playing conditions:

- Rules of Play for all local divisions
- Duty team and main referee responsibilities
- Explanation of penalties

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Playing Conditions (Rules)

The Playing Conditions outline the **rules** for the conduct of competition specific to Sunraysia Volleyball Incorporated and augment rules as set out by the FIVB.

Playing Conditions are determined by the Committee according to the courts available, time available and the number of teams entered in each division. These conditions may vary between divisions and may include adjustments to all facets of the game including, but not limited to the time allowed for a match, scoring system, time out regulations, equipment used, and methods of substitution allowed. The Committee reserves the right to adjust playing conditions at any time via a majority vote of current members.

At the start of each season, a copy of the By-Laws shall be distributed to each team and made available on the SVI website.

Section 1: Administration & responsibilities

1.1 Roles and responsibilities

1.1.1 Competition Manager

The Competition Manager's responsibilities shall include:

- Developing community awareness of the sport of volleyball using media outlets.
- Ensuring matches are conducted efficiently and in accordance with the rules of volleyball and the local By-Laws and constitution.
- Ensuring courts are set up prior to and packed up all SVI equipment after competition.
- Maintaining equipment.
- Defining roles of duty teams and assisting with their understanding of their duties.
- Ensuring all score sheets are correctly completed in accordance with the rules and By-Laws.
- Attend Committee meetings.
- Provide written/verbal reports to the Committee on the progress of the competition and any matters that require special attention.
- Collate match results weekly and calculate and update ladders weekly.
- Post results and updated ladders on all SVI platforms and via media outlets.
- Formulate draws for each division and season of competition.
- Ensure that players are registered for both their SVI team and VVI membership.
- Maintain a record of registered players (both SVI and VVI) and game record for each season.
- Organise trophies and awards for the end of each season for each division.
- Coordinate SVI events (tournaments, training camps, grand final nights, etc.)

1.1.2 Treasurer

The Treasurer has the responsibility of collecting all SVI team fees.

1.1.3 Chief Referee

The Committee may appoint one or more members as Chief Referees for the competition. The Chief Referee's role is to resolve any on-the-spot disputes regarding the By-Laws that cannot be managed by the main referee. They liaise with the Competition Manager and the Committee to ensure the competition is run as per the By-Laws.

1.2 Duty Team Responsibilities

1.2.1 Minimum Duty team numbers - Preliminary season

All teams in all divisions will be required to perform duty for other matches. They will be required to supply a minimum of **three** players, including:

- 1 x **Main referee** (ideally will have completed the online course – email secretary@sunarysiavolleyball.com.au for more information)
- 1 x **Net referee**
- 1 x **Scorer** (for the score sheet and the digital screen/flip cards)

Failure to supply the minimum number of people will result in a financial penalty. See [1.2.5](#).

1.2.2 Minimum Duty team numbers - Finals matches

Some teams across all divisions will be required to perform duty for finals matches – both semi finals and/or grand finals – depending on the structure of the draw and the ladder positioning. These duty teams will be required to supply a minimum of **five** players, including:

- 1 x **Net referee**
- 2 x **Scorers** (for the score sheet and the digital screen/flip cards)
- 2 x **Lines people** (for diagonally opposite corners of the court – please see a Committee member if you are unsure of the responsibilities of these roles).

The SVI Committee will provide suitably qualified and experienced Main Referees for all finals matches.

Failure to supply the minimum number of people will result in a financial penalty. See [1.2.5](#).

1.2.3 Score sheet responsibilities

a) Ensure the Score sheets are completed correctly, including:

- Making sure that team member names are provided in full (i.e. given names and surnames. No nicknames) by the Scheduled Start Time.
- Keeping and tallying correct scores throughout the game.
- Accurately record Substitutions and liaise with Net referee (where relevant).
- Complete 'Game Summary' section (adding point totals up, time outs, etc.)
- Getting captains and match officials to sign before and after the game where applicable.
- Assigning MVP votes in conjunction with the referees.

b) Check uniforms at the beginning of the match (as per [3.3](#)) and advise Committee of any infractions by way of score sheet comment field.

c) Check the names on the score sheet match with the players present and participating at the start of the match, including identified Fill-in players, and Playing Coaches.

1.2.4 Duty team - other responsibilities

As well as officiating for the duration of the match, the Duty Personnel must also:

- a) Arrive at least 5 minutes prior to the **Scheduled Start Time** of the match to perform score sheet responsibilities as per [1.2.2](#).
- b) Not be distracted by mobile phones, other technologies or other people while scoring.

1.2.5 Penalties

Duty teams failing to meet the requirements from [1.2.1–1.2.5](#) will incur a financial penalty of **\$100.00** which must be paid before that team can take the court for future matches. Until the penalty is paid, they will forfeit all matches as per [3.7.3](#).

This fee must be paid to Sunraysia Volleyball (a receipt will be provided upon payment).

Section 2: Player eligibility and registration

2.1 Registration and Competition Fees

2.1.1 Volleyball Victoria registration and fee

All players, coaches and officials must be registered with Volleyball Victoria (VVI) prior to participating in the local Sunraysia Volleyball Competition.

Below are the VVI membership levels required for registration:

Membership type	Volleyball activities	Annual fee
WHITE	Technical (coach, official), admin, volunteer, off-court	FREE
BLUE	Spikezone, Juniors program, Youth League, Academy, Training only	\$30
BRONZE	All schools cup events, VVJO	\$44
SILVER	Regional leagues, social leagues and events, Country Champs	\$55
GOLD U21	State League, National Events, Youth State Team	\$85
GOLD ADULT	State League, National Events, Junior State Team	\$115

- Juniors program players need **BLUE**
- Players playing in our local competition (Social, B grade, C grade, Women's, A Reserve, A grade) need **SILVER** (this includes those participating in representative tournaments).

VVI membership registration process only needs to be completed once per calendar year, resetting in April.

VVI registration fees are in addition to the Sunraysia Volleyball Team Fees.

2.1.2 Sunraysia Volleyball registration

The process for registering to play in a Sunraysia Volleyball competition is:

1. Team Captain **registers the team** with SVI ([using link on website](#)). Captain will receive a team code.
2. All **players register themselves to the team** as individuals using the team code.

2.1.3 Sunraysia Volleyball fees

Sunraysia Volleyball Team Fees will be set at the start of each season by the Committee and visible on the SVI website. These fees are to be paid in one payment via the 'Payments' portal on the SVI website <http://www.sunraysiavolleyball.com.au/payments>.

2.1.4 Fee due dates

All applicable VVI registration fees ([2.1.1](#)) and SVI fees ([2.1.3](#)) must be paid on or before week 4 of competition of any given season. Players who are unregistered on or before the fourth

week of competition will be deemed “*ineligible to play*” and not be allowed to take the court until these fees have been paid. Playing of an ineligible player will result in the offending team forfeiting that match as per rule [2.2.6](#).

2.2 Player Eligibility

It is the responsibility of individual players and their teams to ensure that all players are eligible to play in the Sunraysia Volleyball Competition.

2.2.1 Preliminary season – Player eligibility

To be eligible to compete in the local Sunraysia Volleyball competitions a player must have:

- a) registered with Volleyball Victoria (VVI) and paid the appropriate fees.
- b) completed an online Sunraysia Volleyball (SVI) “Player-to-Team” registration form for any respective teams they are playing in regularly.

2.2.2 Preliminary season – Team eligibility

To be eligible to compete in the Sunraysia Volleyball competitions, a team must:

- a) only include players that have met all criteria in [2.2.1](#).
- b) have paid the SVI team fees as set out in [2.1.4](#) by week 4 of the competition in any given season.

2.2.3 Playing in multiple teams/divisions

A registered player can only play regularly with one team in any one division during a given season, unless as a fill-in player (see [4.3](#)).

2.2.4 Eligibility for finals

To be eligible to compete in a finals match for a team in any division in a particular season, a player must:

a) SVI & VVI Registration

Players must comply with Rules in [2.1](#) and [2.2](#).

b) Number of games played

Have played at least 50% of games, or 5 games (whichever is less) for that team in that division, in that season.

c) Finals in multiple divisions

Players can only play finals matches for one team per season. Players cannot play in finals matches across multiple divisions. Rookies and Playing Coaches are exempted (see rule 1.2 and 1.24 respectively).

2.2.5 Women’s division

A Female player that is registered to play in the women's division can also register and play in one other team in the mixed divisions.

2.2.6 Eligibility penalties

If a player, who does not comply with Rules 1.1.1 through to 1.1.5 but takes the court for a team in a Sunraysia Volleyball competition preliminary match or final, the offending team will forfeit that match. The team will also incur a financial penalty of **\$100.00**, which must be paid

before that team can take the court for future matches. Until the penalty is paid, they will forfeit all future matches.

2.2.7 Representative teams

To be eligible to play on a Representative Tournament Team (such as part of the Country Championship tournament) a player must have:

a) VVI Registration

Registered with VVI and paid the appropriate fee (“Events”),

b) SVI Competition currency

Representative team players must be playing in a current SVI local competition (as per [2.1](#) and [2.2](#)), or

c) Invited players

Where insufficient current SVI players are available, a past SVI player (‘Invited Player’) may be invited to represent SVI – as approved by the Committee.

2.3 Movement of Players between Divisions

2.3.1 Playing in higher divisions

Once a player has played 5 games in a higher division, they are no longer eligible to play for a lower division during the remainder of that season (excluding Rookies [see rule [4.1](#)] and Playing Coaches [see rule [4.2.2](#)]).

2.4 Movement of Players between Teams

2.4.1 Transferring between teams within a division during a season

A player will require a clearance from the Committee ([2.4.3](#)) if they wish to move from one team to another within the same division in any current season of competition.

2.4.2 Changing teams between seasons

A player does not require a clearance to move from one team to another between one season and another.

2.4.3 Applying for a clearance

A clearance request must be lodged with the Competition Manager via email to competition.manager@sunraysiavolleyball.com.au

2.5 Team withdrawal

In the event of a team withdrawing during the season or being expelled from the competition:

- a) If the team withdraws at such a time as the draw has reached a full cycle (that is, each team has played each other team an equal number of times), then the set points earned from playing the withdrawing team will remain thus.
- b) If the draw has not completed a full cycle at the time of the team withdrawing, then all sets and points earned from the withdrawing team shall be declared void and removed from the ladder.
- c) If the team withdrawing results in an unfair advantage to any other team in that division, the ladder will be readjusted.

- d) The draw may need to be readjusted to allow for any Byses that have been created by the withdrawing team.

2.6 Season Length

Season length will be determined by the Committee at the start of each season and will be communicated with players and to Captains at the Captain's Meeting.

Section 3: The playing space

3.1 The Playing Space

All matches will be played on a full-size volleyball court where possible. When this is not possible, priority use of any full-sized court will be allocated first to A Grade, then second to A Reserve, and so on.

3.2 Net Heights

3.2.1 A grade: 2.43m

3.2.4 B grade: 2.35m

3.2.2 A reserve: 2.40m

3.2.5 C grade: 2.35m

3.2.3 Women's division: 2.24m

3.2.6 Social division: 2.24m

3.3 Uniforms

3.3.1 All divisions

It is a requirement that teams be in full uniform as per the below points by the third week of competition in any season. An exemption to this Rule may be granted to teams awaiting the delivery of new uniforms by liaising with the Competition Manager. Failure to notify the Competition Manager prior to the game will result in the team being classed as out of uniform and subject to the uniform penalty.

3.3.2 All Grades other than Social

Teams must have shirts consistent in style and/or color. Tops are required to be numbered clearly on the front and/or back.

3.3.3 Social

Social team tops are not required to be consistent in colour or style but must be numbered clearly on the front and/or back.

3.3.4 Libero

A Libero player must have a top that is of contrasting color to that of the rest of the team.

Social teams cannot play a Libero Player.

3.3.5 Out of Uniform Penalties

Each player whom it is not in correct uniform as specified* will incur a penalty of 2 points for their team in each set that they take the court after the fourth week of competition. The 2 points will be added to the oppositions score as soon as the player enters the court for the set.

*Players out of uniform may be used as a Libero without incurring a penalty provided their top is consistent with Rule [3.3.2](#) or [3.3.4](#).

3.4 Match Duration

3.4.1 Preliminary season match duration

Match duration for each division will be communicated by the Committee at the commencement of each season.

3.4.2 Guaranteed warm-up time

Each team will have guaranteed warm up time which will be communicated by the Committee at the commencement of each season.

3.5 Intervals Between Sets

In all Preliminary and Finals matches, the interval between sets will be restricted to **2 minutes** as timed by the Main Referee or duty team.

3.6 Time Outs

3.6.1 Duration and maximum time outs

A Time Out will last for **30 seconds** as timed by the Main Referee or duty team.

In all matches, teams will be allowed 2 Time Outs per set.

3.6.2 Preliminary matches only

Time outs cannot be taken during the last 2 minutes of the match.

3.6.3 Finals matches only

Time outs cannot be taken in a deciding set after either team has reached 15 points.

3.7 Forfeits and teams not ready at start time

3.7.1 Scheduled Start Time

Scheduled Start Times for matches will be the time that is published on the draw for each game and division.

3.7.2 Actual Start Time

The **Actual Start Time** for a match will be when the duty personnel are in position and the main referee begins the game. The **Actual Start Time** must be written on the score sheets as the start time.

3.7.3 One team not ready at Actual Start Time

If one team is not ready at the **Actual Start Time**:

- a) They will immediately forfeit the first set (points score 0 - 25).
- b) If, after 10 minutes they are still not ready, they forfeit the second set (points score 0 – 25) and the match (for preliminary and Semi Final games).
- c) In a Grand Final match, if they are still not ready after an additional 10 minutes, they will forfeit the third set (points score 0 – 25) and the match.

3.7.4 Both teams not ready at Actual Start Time

During preliminary season matches if **both teams** are not ready at the **Actual Start Time**:

- a) The **Actual Start Time** will be adjusted to when the first of the two teams is ready to play. The second team will then forfeit sets or the match if the start is delayed, in accordance with rule [3.7.3](#).
- b) If neither team is ready to start play 20 minutes after the **Actual Start Time** determined by the referee, then the match is declared a double forfeit. This means that neither team is credited any sets or points for the match.

3.7.5 Referee and/or duty personnel not ready at the Scheduled Start Time:

If the Referee and/or duty personnel are not ready at the **Scheduled Start Time**:

- a) The **Actual Start Time** will begin when the Referee and Duty personnel are in place and ready to start.
- b) If the match is a preliminary season match, then the full game time will be played out beginning from when the referee begins the match.
- c) Duty team and/or Referee will incur penalties as per 1.2.4.

3.8 Minimum Numbers

3.8.1 Minimum player numbers to play

The minimum number of eligible players per team that must be ready to take the court at the **Scheduled Start Time** ([3.7.1](#)) of the match is **5 players** for all divisions.

Players must be fit to play as determined by the referee.

3.8.2 Injuries

Teams may continue a match if their player numbers drop below the minimum number ([3.7.1](#)) due to one of their players becoming injured during play or is forced off due to exceptional circumstances as agreed to by the referee.

3.8.3 Players expelled for Disciplinary Reasons

If a team is reduced to less than the minimum number of players ([3.7.1](#)) due to **disciplinary actions** taken by the referee, they will forfeit the remainder of the match. The match result will be sorted according to the following Rules:

- a) Scores of completed sets stand and contribute to the result.
- b) The score of any uncompleted set will be wiped and the set awarded 25 – 0 to the team who is complete.
- c) Any remaining un-started sets will be awarded to the complete team 25 – 0.

If both teams are reduced to five or less due to disciplinary actions taken by the referee, the match will be abandoned, all scores cancelled, and the result treated as a double forfeit.

3.8.4 Ghost Player rotations

a) All divisions

When a team starts a set with five players but is expecting a sixth, the full name of the player who is absent must be listed on the score sheet, and "GP" (Ghost Player) listed next to their name.

When the Ghost Player rotates into position 1 to serve, the team forfeits their serve. The opposing team immediately rotates positions and takes their serve.

A Ghost Player can be substituted for a real player if a replacement player becomes available, providing their full name was listed on the scoresheet before the match commenced.

b) A grade, A Reserve & Women's divisions

In addition to the points in 3.8.4 a), the following addendums apply to A grade, A Reserve & Women's Divisions in relation to Ghost Players:

At the beginning of the game, the Ghost Player must be listed in the team rotation as "GP" (Ghost Player).

The rotational order of the six-player lineup must be maintained - including when the Ghost Player rotates into the front row (positions 2, 3, 4).

When the Ghost Player rotates to position 1 (to serve), that team immediately forfeits their serve, the opposing team is awarded a point and then rotates immediately for their serve.

3.9 Substitutions

3.9.1 A Grade substitution rules

The 12-Sub Rule will apply to all matches. This Rule means that:

- a) A team can only make a maximum of 12 substitutions per set.
- b) Each player is permitted to enter the court a maximum of 3 times per set (starting on the court at the beginning of a set counts as one entry), excluding Libero players.
- c) Players can only be substituted through the one rotational position (1-6).
- d) More than one player can be substituted through the one rotational position.

3.9.2 All Other Division substitution rules

Teams may adopt the Rotational Sub Rule (as below) or the 12 Sub rule (as [3.9.1](#)). These may be alternated between sets but not during a set.

- a) The Rotational Sub Rule means that as the team rotates to serve, they must substitute player/s off and new player/s on from the same court position/s. This must be done every rotation.
- b) Generally, this is executed through position 1 with a new player coming on to serve and the player from position 2 going off the court. It is also possible to substitute 2 players during each rotation, with one substitution going through position 1 and the other through position 4.

3.10 Scoring and Results

3.10.1 Preliminary season scoring and results

When the allocated match time expires, the game ends immediately after the current rally.

All Division preliminary match sets are played to 25 points with no ceiling. This means a team must have at least 25 points **and** be two points in front to win the set. A set is not awarded until a team gains a two-point advantage.

When the game time runs out, if a team has 15 or more points **and** is two points or more in front, that set will be considered complete and they are awarded that set. If not, the set is **not awarded to either team**. In this case, the game is considered a draw and the sets and points won in the final set are added to each team's total points.

3.10.2 Preliminary Season Results

The winner of a match will be the team with the most completed sets won.

In the situation of both teams having been awarded an even number of sets, the match will be considered a draw. Both teams will have their set/s and points added to their ladder total.

3.11 Ladder Position Method

The ladder will always be determined in order by:

1. Set Percentage
2. Point Percentage
3. Cumulative head-to-head countback through the regular season (first by Set percentage, and then Point percentage)

3.12 Disputes and Protest Resolution

3.12.1 Chief Referee/s

Disputes arising during matches involving the Rules of Play (either in accordance with the FIVB Rules or those contained within this document) will be resolved on the spot by the Chief Referee/s.

If there is no one in this role or they are involved in the match in question, a Committee Member or another suitable person identified by the Committee may resolve the dispute.

The Committee will advise who the Chief Referee/s are at the beginning of each season.

3.12.2 Failed resolution

If the dispute is not resolved to the satisfaction of any party, they must accept the decision in the moment. They may lodge an appeal in the Comments section of the score sheet in accordance with FIVB regulations. The appeal will then be reviewed by the Committee to determine appropriate action.

Alternatively, any feedback may be made in writing (letter or email) to the Committee at secretary@sunraysiavolleyball.com.au

3.13 Player and Team Sanctions

Any player, official or team may be reported for unsavory conduct whereby they have breached the Code of Conduct. The person making the report should do so in writing (including by email), lodging their complaint with the Committee. The committee will then respond to the report in accordance with Section 7 of the Model Rules of the Association.

3.14 Finals

All finals matches are played to a result, regardless of time.

Semi-final matches will be played to best of three sets, with the third set going to 15 points with a two-point advantage.

Grand finals will be played to the best of five sets with the deciding set going to 15 points with a two-point advantage as per the FIVB rule.

Section 4: Special roles

4.1 Rookies

A Rookie is any player 16 years of age or under at the starting date of competition (first game).

A Rookie may play finals in more than one division if they are registered with and have played at least 30% of the matches for that team during the relevant season.

4.2 Coaches

All Coaches must be identified on the Score Sheets at the beginning of each match.

4.2.1 Non-playing Coaches

Teams in all divisions may have a Non-playing Coach who does not take the court but provides courtside advice and assistance during games and duty sessions.

4.2.2 Playing Coaches

Teams in all divisions (other than A Grade) may have an identified 'Playing Coach' who is also registered with and regularly plays with a team in a higher division.

For example, a person could be the Playing Coach in their C grade team, and also play in A grade.

- a) Playing Coaches are permitted to take the court and play in all preliminary games and finals for their respective team, providing they play in the '*Spirit of the Competition*' (see Player codes of conduct) and have completed separate registration forms and paid associated team fees for both teams.
- b) Playing Coaches must be registered as such via the online registration form prior to round 3 of the competition in each season.
- c) Playing Coaches will be monitored by the Committee and referees to ensure they are following these guidelines.
- d) Playing Coaches are **not eligible** to receive Most Valuable Player (MVP) votes in the division in which they are the Playing Coach. They are, however, eligible for MVP votes in the higher division that they play in.

4.3 Fill-in Players

4.3.1 Unregistered fill-ins

Unregistered means the person has not completed online registration with Volleyball Victoria or Sunraysia Volleyball as per [2.1](#) and have not paid any fees.

a) Maximum matches

Unregistered players may “Fill In” for a maximum of three (3) matches. Before the fourth occasion, they must register with VVI and complete an SVI Player Registration Form.

b) Noting Fill ins on the scoresheets

Unregistered “Fill In” players must be identified as such on the score sheet in each game they play.

c) Fill ins - Most Valuable Players

Unregistered “Fill in” players are not eligible to receive Most Valuable Player votes.

d) Fill ins – other requirements

Unregistered “Fill In” players must acknowledge and sign the “Code of Conduct Form” and “Photo Release Form” before they play their first game.

4.3.2 Registered fill ins

‘Registered fill in’ means the player filling in for a team has completed online registration with Volleyball Victoria and with at least one Sunraysia Volleyball team as per [2.1](#) and paid all associated fees.

a) ‘Playing up’ or ‘Playing down’

A registered player may “Fill in” for a team in a higher division than their regular division only. For example, someone playing in B Grade cannot ‘play down’ as a fill in player for C grade. However, a C grade player may ‘play up’ and fill in for B Grade.

b) Maximum fill in games

Once a player has played 5 games in a higher division as a fill in player, the higher division will then be deemed as their new regular division, and they will no longer be able to play in their original lower division during that season.

c) Maximum matches per division per round

A Registered “Fill in” player cannot play two matches in the same division in the same round.

d) Noting Fill ins on the scoresheets

Registered “Fill in” players must be identified as such on the score sheet in each game they play.

Section 5: Feedback and complaints

5.1 Compliments, questions, and complaints

Any compliments, questions, feedback, or complaints should be directed to the SVI Committee, via the email address secretary@sunraysiavolleyball.com.au