

Hertfordshire Volleyball Association

Competition Rules (Updated 2018)

A. INTRODUCTION

1. This programme requires your full co-operation and goodwill.
2. The HVA will be firm in its dealings with offenders of the rules.
3. Make sure you read the rules. Failure to do so may result in fines/disciplinary action as ignorance is no defence.
4. Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their members at all HVA competitions. Club members are expected to behave both on and off court in an exemplary manner that promotes the spirit of the game of volleyball.

B. REGISTRATION and AFFILIATION

1. All clubs must be affiliated to the England Volleyball Association and provide their affiliation number to the Competitions Secretary before their first match is played. See K6.
2. All clubs, teams and players must be registered with the HVA.
3. League and KO Cup entry fees are to be paid to the treasurer by the 31st of December or within 21 days of receipt of the invoice, whichever is the latest. See K7.

C. CLUBS, TEAMS and PLAYERS

1. Players are only allowed to play for the club with which they are registered, in any competition organised by the HVA.
2. Players may transfer from one club to another, provided that the HVA Competitions Secretary is informed in writing.
3. Clubs must confirm the teams and the competitions they wish to enter to the HVA Competitions Secretary before 30th September.
4. Clubs can add players to their club roster via the website directly, or by request in writing to the Competitions Secretary, at any time during the season.

5. Team Player Restrictions

5.1 Every club player registered can be assigned to a club team when they are added to the club's roster. When an unassigned player plays their first league match, they are immediately assigned to that team. Players cannot change their team assignment during the season (exceptions will be considered by the committee if they receive a request in writing).

5.2. During any league match, at least four players listed as assigned to that team must be recorded as present on the court. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that club players can play up, across or down in other club teams any number of times during the season regardless of which team they are assigned to.

5.3 If one of the core players of a team is injured during a match and cannot be legally substituted by another core league player, one of the other players may be used as long as the reason is clearly recorded on the scoresheet.

5.4 Appendix A gives more information on this rule, special rules to cover libero players (who are never recorded as "present on court") and a worked example.

6. Only one player from the NVL Super 8 / SVA Division 1 can be on the score sheet for any team in the HVA. All NVL Super 8 / SVA Division 1 players must be identified on the team sheet.

7. Men/Women Players

7.1. Men cannot play for women's team in any competition.

7.2. Women may play for men's teams in the league competition, but the team player restriction rules still apply.

7.3. Women who play for a club that does not have a women's team in the Hertfordshire league competition may play in a women's team at a different club and is registered with that club as usual, effectively being registered at two clubs. It must be made clear to the Competitions Secretary, which club is the primary club as the player is not eligible to play in men's matches at their secondary club.

8. Junior Players

8.1. Any player, male or female, under the age of 16 on 1st September of the current season is considered a "Junior" player.

8.2. A Junior player registered with a club, may play in any of the club's teams, but the team player restriction rules still apply.

9. All players registered with a club are eligible to play in the Mixed Division. Each team shall have a minimum of three ladies or juniors on court at all times. The team player restriction rules do not apply for this division.

10. Any breaches of these rules mean the team has fielded an ineligible player and therefore forfeit the match.

D. MATCH ARRANGEMENT

1. Matches are to be played on a Home and Away basis.
2. The first named team on the match schedule is the home team.
3. The home team is responsible for:
 - a) All match arrangements
 - b) Sending directions
 - c) Sending in the score sheet to the HVA Competitions Secretary immediately after the match.
 - d) Appointing and informing match officials in writing of match details.
 - e) Sending match information to the opposing team, in writing at least 21 days before the match date.
 - f) Informing the Competitions Secretary, in writing of any changes to the match details from the published fixture list.
4. The away team is responsible for confirming match information, in writing at least 14 days before the scheduled match date.
5. All leagues fixtures must be completed 10 days before the KO Cup final. Any match not completed before that deadline will be declared null and void.
6. Re-arranging matches.
 - a) Matches will be played on the dates specified in the fixture list.
 - b) Only under exceptional circumstances will changes to the fixture list be allowed. The Competitions Secretary's approval must be sought in writing and in advance for any change.
 - c) If the home team wish to re-arrange a match, they must offer the away team suitable alternative dates in writing. This must be done not less than 14 days before the date set in the fixture list and not less than 14 days before the proposed rearranged date(s).
 - d) If the away team wish to re-arrange a match, they must ask the home team in writing to provide alternative dates. This must be done not less than 14 days before the match date in the fixture list.
 - e) It is the home team's responsibility to notify the away team, Competitions Secretary and match officials, in writing once any revised match arrangements have been agreed between teams.
 - f) Any team who requests the re-arrangement of a match, which in turn is not completed by the end of the season (D5) or has not abided by the re-arrangement rules (D6) will forfeit the match. See K6.
 - g) Some exceptional situations will not bring a forfeit, but the match must be re-organised between the teams (with the approval of the Competitions Secretary).
7. Any forfeited match is lost 3-0 with a score of 25-0 for each set awarded to the opposition.

E. MATCHES OFFICIATION

1. All matches are to be played as per FIVB "Rules of the Game".
2. All HVA matches are to be played in sports halls, the size of which will be in accordance with EVA rules.
3. If local conditions require rule changes, this must be declared on the league entry form. HVA approval for such changes is required.
4. All shirts to be numbered.
5. The home team is to supply the match ball.
6. Net aerials are compulsory for all matches.
7. There must be a minimum of two hours available for play.
8. Players not recorded on the score sheet at the start of the match may not take part. Players recorded on the score sheet, but who arrive late, may not play in the set in progress, but may play in subsequent set(s).
9. At least 15 minutes warm-up time should be allowed after the confirmed start time.
10. Any team who is not ready to start at any time between 15 and 30 minutes after the confirmed start time is in default and loses the right to a complete match. The match should be played in the usual way, but if there is insufficient time to complete the match, the defaulting team loses the remaining set points and any remaining sets to concede the match. See K2.

11. Time Restricted Venues

- 11.1 If a venue is restricted by time, this must be communicated by the home team captain to the first referee and the opposition captain before the start of the match. They must agree under what situation the match will end, e.g. at a specific time or "when the caretaker arrives".
- 11.2 If the match runs over the scheduled court time, the referee should allow the match to finish as much as possible.
- 11.3 Based on information available to the referee, they should call time on the match when it can no longer continue as agreed under E11.1.
- 11.4 An incomplete match would be awarded in favour of the team with the most sets won (unless the rules at D10 apply because the match did not start on time).
- 11.5. For this purpose, an incomplete set is counted as a win for the team with a lead of 2 or more points, otherwise a tie. If set scores are tied, the winner is the team with a "points total" of at least two more than their opponent's.
- 11.6. If teams are still tied, the match is considered a draw and the two teams each get 1 league point for drawing the match.

F. OFFICIALS

1. The home team must appoint match officials and a competent scorer, as detailed below. It is preferred but not mandatory to use a neutral first referee for league matches. The officials for the CUP finals are provided by the HVA. [See K1.](#)

Division	First Referee	Second Referee	Scorer
Men Division 1	Qualified	Preferable	Present
Men Division 2	Present	Optional	Present
Women Division	Present	Optional	Present
KO Cup	Qualified and Neutral	Present	Present

2. In the event of the non-appearance of an official, the captains of the two teams concerned shall agree to the appointment of an available official. This must be recorded on the score sheet.

3. All matches are to be recorded on official EVA score sheets. [See K3a.](#)

4. The score sheet should be marked clearly with the type of match, including division and the correct match number as per the published fixture list.

5. The home team is responsible for entering the results on the HVA website as soon as possible after each match: entering player rosters, match results and uploading a legible copy of the full scoresheet as completely as possible. The home team may request in writing that the Competitions Secretary undertakes this on their behalf, but they must still provide a legible copy of the full scoresheet, which must always be uploaded to the website for fixtures transparency. Note that the away team is also able to perform this function, although they do not have ultimate responsibility for doing so. [See K3b.](#)

6. All scoresheets must be presented at least 3 days before the KO Cup Final, else the home team forfeits the match. [See K3c.](#)

G. LEAGUE

1. League points will be awarded as follows:

- 1 point for playing the match, plus
- 1 point for every set won or half a point for a tied set, plus
- 2 points for winning the match (or 1 point to each team for drawing the match).

Where a team loses a match as a result of a forfeit, no points will be awarded to the team. However, the opposition still receives a league point as if they had played the match.

2. If two or more teams tie on league points, their league position will be decided on:

- Most matches won then
- Least matches lost then
- Most sets for then
- Least sets against then

- The set result of the matches played between the teams in the league then
- Most set points won then
- Least set points lost.

3. Generally, promotion and relegation is on the basis of 2 up, 2 down for divisions 1 and 2 although in practice an assessment is made at the beginning of each new season. Women's/Mixed divisions - there will be no automatic promotion. Any team from these divisions may apply to enter Division 2. The HVA executive will consider their application.

4. Teams who cancel or forfeit more than 50% of their matches, have all their matches declared null and void at the end of the season. All league points earned in these fixtures are cancelled before the end of season league table is finalised.

5. MVP (Most Valuable Player)

5.1. After each match, the captain must nominate a "Most Valuable Player" (MVP) from their opponent's team.

5.2. The nomination for each team is indicated either by a star marked next to the player's name or in the remarks section of the scoresheet.

5.3. The nomination should be made in good faith and in the spirit of the game. The first referee can override either decision at the offended team's captain's request. If the first referee feels the nomination to be unfounded, they may freely and with no input or pressure from the offended team, decide upon an alternative MVP.

5.4 The first referee has the responsibility for ensuring MVPs are marked correctly and clearly on the scoresheet. They cannot be added or amended after the event.

5.5 The HVA may make an award to the most nominated MVP in each league at the end of the season.

H. DISPUTES

1. The HVA executive will adjudicate all disputes and their decision is final.

2. Disputants must submit the request for a hearing in writing to the Chairman.

3. All parties in the dispute will be asked for a written statement and may be required to attend the executive meeting considering their dispute.

I. KO CUP

1. All rules A – H apply except that:

1.1. No male players, regardless of age, will be allowed to play in the Women's KO Cup competition

1.2. No female players, regardless of age, will be allowed to play in the Men's KO Cup competition.

2. All KO Cup players must have been registered with the club before 1st March to be eligible to play for that club in that season's KO Cup.

3. Players already having played for a team in the KO Cup may not (even if transferred) play for another team in the KO Cup of that season.

4. The KO Cup competition is only open to those clubs who play in one of the HVA leagues.

5. All HVA KO Cup matches are to be played in sports halls as per HVA Division 1 regulations.

6. Officials for all KO Cup matches must be neutral and qualified and shall be organised by the home side, as noted in the cup draw. Opposing teams will share the cost of referees.

7. Two teams from the same club in the Cup play as separate teams. These can be different to the teams registered in the league.

7.1. All players from each team must be registered for this purpose.

8. For the KO Cup finals, each team must supply two line judges and a scorer to officiate at the other match.

9. For KO Cup matches, opposing teams will share the cost of the hall hire.

J. GOODWILL DEPOSIT

1. All clubs will make a deposit of £30, from which any HVA fines are taken

2. The deposit is carried over between seasons. It must be made back up to the full agreed amount at the start of each season.

3. This deposit (or any season top-up) will be invoiced separately from the club registration fees as it must be paid before any match is played.

4. A club can withdraw its current deposit balance at any time. This request must be made in writing to the Treasurer.

5. If a club's deposit is reduced to a zero or negative balance, the club is deemed to be in breach of not paying their Goodwill Deposit and the deposit must be made back up to its full amount before the breach is considered resolved. **See K12.**

6. Any HVA executive member can issue fine with no need to notify the club in advance of their intention to do so.

7. The Treasurer will maintain the current balance of each club's Goodwill Deposit.

7.1. The Treasurer will notify the club in writing of any fine and of their balance after the fine is applied.

7.2. The Treasurer will report on each club's current deposit balance as part of their report at each committee meeting.

8. Any fine can be disputed by the affected club. The fine remains imposed until the dispute is upheld by the committee.

K. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

	Rule	Description	Sanction
1	Section F1	Failure to provide sufficient and suitable officials and where a complaint is received	£10
2	Section E10	Late start of a match	Forfeit of remaining points and sets and hence match if match incomplete
3a	Section F3	Incompetently completed scoresheet or use of non-EVA scoresheet	£5
3b	Section F5	Providing scoresheet late (more than 14 days after the match has been played)	£5 initially and then £5 for every additional 7 days
3c	Section F6	Failure to send completed scoresheet	Forfeit of match
4	Section D6	Failure to inform Competitions Secretary of change to match date	Forfeit of match if the away team has not been informed more than 14days in advance
5	Section E6	No net aerials (excluding those broken in a match)	£5
6	Section B1	Failure to provide confirmation of affiliation to EVA for current season	Forfeit of all matches scheduled to be played until provided
7	Section B3	Failure to pay League/KO Cup fees by the date specified.	Forfeit of all matches scheduled to be played in that competition until paid
8	Section H	Any action considered by the HVA executive that brings the game of volleyball into disrepute	HVA executive decision
9	n/a	Failure to send a representative to HVA committee meeting	£10 if no apologies sent to HVA Secretary or Chairman before meeting
10	Section G4	Team who cancels or forfeit more than 50% of their matches	The team's results are removed from the league tables. Registration fees will not be refunded
11	Section C10	Playing an ineligible player	Forfeit of match
12	Section J5	Failure to pay or top-up the Goodwill Deposit as requested by the Treasurer	Forfeit of all matches scheduled to be played until paid

Appendix A: Team Player Restrictions

This Appendix explains the team player restriction rules defined in section C5, which were introduced for the 2018/19 season. It does not replace or override those rules but aims to explain why they have been introduced and how they will operate. There is a worked example on the next page.

Introduction

Don't think of the team player restrictions as indicating the player is "locked" to a team like in previous seasons; it merely reflects the team to which the player "belongs".

The new rules are to encourage a core group of players to play as a team within the league, whilst providing flexibility to draw on other club players when team numbers are down for a fixture. The HVA feel that players assigned to a specific team should make up more than half the players on the court, hence 4 players. There's a bit of flexibility added for libero players because their usage during a match cannot be determined from the scoresheet.

The Competitions Secretary will check for breaches of the rules when confirming the fixture result, by checking the scoresheet for starting players and substitutions. It is up to the team to make sure they do not breach the rules as a breach means they forfeit the match. Neither the opposition nor officials have any responsibility for checking for breaches before, during or after a match.

Player Registration

Every player can be assigned a team when added to the club roster, although clubs don't have to assign a player to a team at that time. However, when an unregistered player plays their first match for a team, they are added to the club roster and assigned to that team, and when a registered, but unassigned player plays their first match, they are also assigned to that team.

It is in the interest of the club to pre-register and assign players to a team in advance, so they are assigned to the team the club would normally expect them to play for, rather than the team they first play for. Pre-registering players also has the benefit that the player is then eligible to play in the KO Cup (if performed before the noted deadline), even if they haven't played before that deadline. As stated in the rules, you cannot change a team assignment once it is set without good reason.

Benefits

The new rules prevent the same group of players playing as two different teams between divisions.

As an individual player can play up/across/down as many times as required, there is no need for the club or HVA to monitor how many matches a player has played for each team. As individual players no longer get locked to a team after a certain number of matches, player availability does not diminish as the season progresses and clubs should not find it so difficult to get a team together, thus avoiding fixture changes or cancellations.

The HVA think the new rules should allow a team to operate with a slightly smaller squad than in previous seasons and we're hopeful this may encourage some clubs to enter additional league teams. The rules should enable a new/improving player to play up through the club more easily encouraging player progression.

Appendix A: Worked Example

Club Roster

Players assigned/belonging to **Team A**: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧

Players assigned/belonging to **Team B**: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧

This is a Team A match

Players Available ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩ (player ⑩ is a Libero)

Bench ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑩

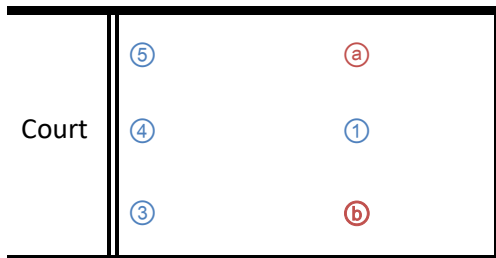


It's the start of the match and the players take to the court.

There are 5 (at least 4) core players from **Team A** recorded as on court.



Bench ② ⑥ ⑧ ⑩



The team substitute sub ⑦ for player ②.

There are 4 (at least 4) core players from **Team A** recorded as on court.



Bench ① ② ⑥ ⑩

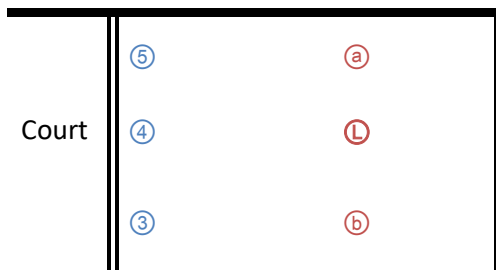


The team want to substitute sub ⑧ for player ①.

This would leave only 3 core players from **Team A** recorded as on court, which means an ineligible player is being played.

✘ If this substitution occurs, the match would be forfeited.

Bench ① ② ⑥ ⑩



Instead, the team bring on libero player ⑩ to replace player ①.

Team A now only have 3 core players *actually* on court, but the scoresheet still records player ① as on court, so 4 core players are *recorded* as on court, which is fine.



END

HISTORY OF AMENDMENTS

AGM 2018

New

- C4. Player registration mechanism added.
- C5. New player team assignment rules. See also new Appendix A.
- C10. Statement that fielding an ineligible player means match is forfeit.
- D7. Statement added on score assigned for any forfeited match.
- E11. Formal addition of all the rules used for matches played at venues that are time limited.
- F5. New rules on responsibility for supplying match result information.
- G4. New rules that teams who miss more than 50% of their matches have all results removed from the league results at the end of the season.
- G5. "Most Valuable Player" mechanism added.
- J. New Goodwill Deposit description and operation.

Updates

Numbering changes to sections as required. A few grammatical errors corrected. Use of word "match" in all instances to replace "game" as appropriate

- B1. Addition of EVA registration number requirement
- B3. Addition of payment date specified.
- C3. Changes to what clubs must confirm to the Competitions Secretary and when, in-line with other rule changes.
- C7. Clarification of team player eligibility based on gender.
- C8. Clarification of team player eligibility based on age.
- D5. Clarification of when all league results must have been received.
- D6. Amendments to rules for re-arranging matches.
- F1. Minor changes to required officials and now presented in a table.
- G1. Formal addition of 1 league point awarded to opposition for forfeited match.
- G2. Two extra metrics to decide current league position.
- I2. Revision that players must have been registered (not played) before the given date before being eligible to play in the KO Cup.
- K. Revision of Disciplinary Actions. Cross references between Disciplinary Actions and the Rules to which they relate.

AGM 2017 (agreed at 2017 Fixtures meeting)

Reformatted

Update

F1. Old: These shall be neutral and qualified for all Division 1 matches.

F1 New: These shall be qualified for all Division 1 matches.

F5 Old: If time runs out before the completion of a match where no team is in default (i.e. the minimum two hours were available and the match started on time) both teams retain the sets already won and the away team is awarded the current set, plus any incomplete sets.

F5 New: If the match runs over scheduled court time, the referee should allow the match to finish as much as possible.

1. Based on information available to the referee, he/she should call time on the match when it can continue no more.
2. An incomplete match would be given to the team with the most sets won (as long as the match has started on time - if not the home team forfeits).
3. For this purpose, an incomplete set is counted as a win for the team with a lead of 2 or more points, otherwise a tie. If set scores are tied, the winner is the team with a 'points total' of at least two more than their opponent's.
4. If teams are still tied, then the two teams each get 1 league point.

AGM2011

Update

C4. Clubs must specify their teams and players (including any NVL Super 8 / SVL Division 1 players - male or female) in those teams to the HVA before 30th September.

C7. Two teams in the same division, from the same club, will play as separate teams; each team submits a team of 6 named players. Any player not named, may play for the other team, up to a maximum of 2 separate occasions (i.e. the 3rd match played for either team, ties the player to that team). The details must be entered in the remarks section of the score sheet as „Match1“ or “Match2”.

C8. Only one player from the NVL Super 8/SVA National League Division 1 can be on the score sheet for any team in the HVA. All NVL Super 8/SVA Division 1 players have to be identified on the team sheet.

C9. Women may play for men's teams, in the league competition.

C11 Junior Players

C11.1 Any player, male or female, under the age of 16 on 1st September of the current season will be considered to be a “Junior” player.

C11.2 A “Junior” player registered with a club, may play in any of the club's teams, without the playing up or playing across rule being applied.

D3.e) Sending match information to the opposing team, in writing at least 21 days before the match date.

D4. The away team is responsible for confirming match information, in writing at least 14 days before the scheduled match date.

F1. These shall be neutral and qualified for all Division 1 matches.

F1.1 These shall be neutral and qualified where possible, for all other divisions.

F3. All clubs playing in Division 1 are required to provide two officials (1st & 2nd referee) for other clubs as set out in the fixtures list.

F3.1 For all other divisions two officials are required (1st and 2nd referees), although these can be members of the home club.

G1. League points will be awarded as follows:

- 1 point for playing the match +
- 1 point for every set won +
- 2 points for winning the match

Where a team loses a match as a result of a forfeit, no points will be awarded to the team.

G2. If two or more teams tie on league points, their position will be decided on:

- Most matches won then
- Least matches lost then
- Most sets for then
- Least sets against then
- The result of the matches played between the teams in the league.

I1. All rules A – H apply except that:

1.1. No male players, regardless of age, will be allowed to play in the Women's KO Cup competition

I8. Two teams from the same club in the Cup play as separate teams. These can be different to the teams registered in the league.

J11. Failure to send in team lists to Competitions Secretary by end September in current season.

New

C12. All players registered with a club are eligible to play in the Mixed Division.

C12.1 No playing up rules apply.

C12.2 Each team shall have a minimum of three (3) ladies on court at any time.

F3.2 The home team is required to provide a competent score for all matches.

I8.1 ALL players from each team must be registered for this purpose.

I1-1.2. No female player, regardless of age, will be allowed to play in the Men's KO Cup competition

AGM2010

Correction/clarification

New

Update

AGM2009

Reformatted +

New

C3 The HVA reserves the right to refuse the registration of a player who has outstanding debt within the association.

I3 All KO Cup players registered before 1st February must have played at least one game (league or Cup).

Updated

C4 Clubs must specify their teams and players (including any NVL/SVL Division 1 players male or female) in those teams to the HVA before 30th September.

E1 All matches are to be played as per FIVB "Rules of the Game".

E4 All shirts to be numbered as per FIVB "Rules of the Game"

F3 All clubs playing in Division 1 are required to provide two officials (1st & 2nd referee) for other clubs as set out in the fixtures list. For all other divisions the minimum number of officials is one (1st referee), and where possible two (1st and 2nd referees), although these can be members of the home club.

J1 £10 + 1 league points deducted

Added to C6 - The higher team must nominate 6 players. These players must play for the team before the end of January or another player should be nominated.

AGM 2008

Updated Rule: I6

Old: Officials for all KO Cup matches must be neutral and qualified and shall be supplied by a third club, as noted in the cup draw. The Competitions Secretary will assign the club responsible for each match.

New: Officials for all KO Cup matches must be neutral and qualified and shall be organised by the home side, as noted in the cup draw. Opposing teams will share the cost of referees.

AGM 2007

New Rule: B13

All leagues fixtures must be completed two weeks before the KO Cup final. Any games not completed after that deadline will be declared null and void. [votes: 9 for / 1 against]

New Rule: I9

For KO Cup matches, opposing teams will share the cost of the hall hire [votes: 10 for / 0 against]

AGM 2006

Updated Rule: B8g:

Old: Clubs with two teams in the same division will play as separate teams. If a senior team is designated, then players will be allowed to play up a maximum of two times. When this situation of playing up arises, it must be stated clearly on the score sheet. (This rule does not apply to the KO Cup Competition).

New: Two teams in the same division from the same club play as separate teams each team submits a list of players. Any player can play for the other team up to maximum of 2 separate occasions. The details must be entered in the remarks section of the score sheet as Match 1 or Match 2.

Proposed by MP Seconded AB

New Rule: 17

Two teams from the same club in the Cup play as separate teams. These can be different to the teams registered in the league.

Proposed by AW Seconded TA

Updated Rule: B8h

Only one player from the EVA/SVA National League Division 1 can be on the score sheet for any team in the HVA. All Division 1 players have to be registered on the team sheet.

Proposed by NJ Seconded AW

New Rule: 18

For the cup finals each team must supply 2 line judges & a scorer to officiate at the other match.

Proposed by AB Seconded GD