

2019/2020 Season – Men’s League Conclusion

Introduction

With the suspension of the 2019/2020 Men’s HVA GP Series back in March, the committee decided to cancel the finals day, but left open the possibility of completing the matches scheduled for GP5, originally scheduled for 29th March.

It has looked increasingly unlikely that we would be able to reschedule that event, and so the committee have decided to officially cancel the Men’s GP5 and to resolve this season’s league.

Below is a summary of the decision that the committee has made, followed by a more detailed outline:

Summary

The committee have decided to use a method whereby each team’s “league points per match” is calculated, and each team with unplayed matches is scaled up by that amount for each unplayed match.

This results in the following final league table (the full league table is available at https://www.hampshirevolleyball.org.uk/leagues_men.php):

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Original Points*	Points per Match	Matches Remaining	Projected Points
1	SUVC Men's First	8	7	1	22	2.75	0	22
2	South Hants Men	5	4	1	13	2.6	3	20.8
3	Roke Polonia	6	4	2	15	2.5	2	20
4	Purbrook Park	8	4	4	19	2.38	0	19
5	Pars VB	7	4	3	15	2.14	1	17.14
6	Guernsey Men	7	2	5	13	1.86	1	14.86
7	Blues	8	2	6	14	1.75	0	14
8	South Hants Eagles	6	2	4	10	1.67	2	13.33
9	Southampton VC	5	1	4	8	1.6	3	12.8

* Under normal conditions, teams are awarded 1 point per match they play and 1 point per set they win. Teams playing an incomplete team can still gain a point for playing the match but forfeit the result 0-22 (0-25, 0-25). League position is decided on league points, then matches won, then set difference, then points difference.

Southampton University Men are officially crowned as the league winners, with South Hants Men in second place.

2019/2020 Season – Men's League Conclusion - Details

What was the state of the league?

Upon suspension, there were six matches remaining. Five of these matches were due to be played at GP5, and the sixth was to be played on the morning of the finals day.

- South Hants Men v. Southampton VC Men
- South Hants Men v. Roke Polonia
- Southampton VC Men v. Roke Polonia
- South Hants Men v. South Hants Eagles
- Southampton VC Men v. South Hants Eagles
- Guernsey Men v. Pars (already canceled along with the finals day)

The league was well beyond half way complete, and with the finals days being canceled, Southampton University Men were at the top of the table and no other team could catch them: only South Hants Men could have matched them on league points but would have had an inferior set difference.

What are the decisions the committee needed to make?

The remaining matches in the league could affect the final positions of every team from 2nd place down, and with an outside chance of the SEVA finals still happening, those positions could have been important. With the SEVA finals canceled, the committee only have to decide how to conclude the league for our own purpose.

Question 1: Should we keep delaying and attempt to play the remaining matches?

The committee unanimously decided not to delay the remaining matches and to conclude the league now. Reasons for this decision included:

- Following the process that Volleyball England have taken with the national leagues of accounting for unplayed matches and finalising the league tables.
- Allowing clubs to have a clear focus on next season
- The longer teams are not training, the higher the risk of injury should we schedule the matches immediately after restrictions are lifted.

Question 2: If we do not delay, then should we nullify the season?

The committee unanimously decided not to nullify the season. As the season is well over half way through, and with some teams having completed all of their matches, we decided to conclude the season without playing the remaining matches. Again, this is in line with Volleyball England's approach to the national league.

Question 3: If we do not nullify the season, then how do we decide the remaining matches?

The committee agree that if we are going to conclude the season, then it is unfair to just leave the table in an unadjusted state. The committee considered a number of methods for taking account of the remaining matches.

- *Method 1: Calculate each team's "league points per match" and increase each team's score by that amount for their unplayed matches*

This scales the team's league points score based on match history this season. Using this method results in every team having a different number of league points, although some of those are not whole numbers of points.

- *Method 2: All remaining matches assigned as a draw, and teams are assigned 2 points for each remaining match.*

This is the method that Volleyball England took for the national leagues, but the GP series uses a different scoring system, and so when this was applied to the table there were 3 teams tied on 19 points and three teams tied on 14 points.

Usually, we would use wins, then set difference, then points difference to distinguish between those teams, but in this case most of the teams didn't have completed wins, completed sets or points scores either, so those numbers were unusable.

- *Method 3: Take account of wins not increasing in method 2 so that teams get 2 points per remaining match, and also for each match unplayed they receive +0.5 Win, +0.5 Loss, +1 Sets For, +1 Sets Against, +45 points for, +45 points against.*

In an attempt to compensate for the flaws of Method 2, teams would also be assigned adjustments to their wins, sets and points scored. This was viewed as overly complicated, uses values that are subjective and essentially just scaled up the numbers so doesn't actually change the sets difference or points difference.

- *Method 4: We use method 2, but say that we cannot distinguish between teams on equal league points, so they are tied*

This overcomes the problem of distinguishing between teams tied on points by saying that we don't and we just have those team positions tied.

The committee decided to go with ***Method 1: Calculate each team's "league points per match" and increase each team's score by that amount for their unplayed matches.***

The committee felt it was right to have distinct league positions, and that the different scoring system used in the GP series justified us taking a different approach to Volleyball England.

What happens now?

All teams should have been refunded their match fees for the finals days (and Guernsey and Pars for their one match scheduled for that day). The remaining teams that were due to play at GP5 will now also be refunded for those unplayed matches.

The 2019/2020 season is now concluded, and planning will start for next season.