

Hampshire Volleyball Association



Grand Prix Series 2024-2025

Handbook

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1 How the Grand Prix Series Works

The Grand Prix Series follows a league structure with all teams playing each other in their league. The series consists of a number of individual events, scheduled on several Sundays across the season. Teams do not necessarily attend every event but must attend the events where they have matches scheduled.

1.1 Entering the Series

[1.1.1] In order to enter the HVA Grand Prix series, teams must:

- Have paid a goodwill deposit of £40 on or before the entry deadline.
- Have no outstanding debts with HVA.
- Nominate a team representative to receive all communications from HVA.
- Nominate a team member as their designated qualified referee.

[1.1.2] Before each season starts, the team representatives from the previous season will be invited to enter the new season. An invitation will also be extended to any other teams interested in entering the league. An entry deadline will also be published to the invitees.

1.2 Venue and Timings

[1.2.1] Unless otherwise stated, all Grand Prix events will be held at *The Bay House School, Gomer Lane, Gosport, PO12 2QP*, with all events being scheduled on Sundays.

[1.2.2] Unless otherwise stated, the warm up for the first match will start at 10am, and all matches should finish by 5pm.

1.3 Site rules for Bay House

- [1.3.1] Smoking is strictly prohibited on Bay House School property.
- [1.3.2] It is not permitted to bring alcohol onto Bay House School property.

1.4 Fixtures

[1.4.1] The full match schedule for the season will be made available to all teams before the first event. Teams may provide dates of other competitions they take part in and HVA will attempt to avoid scheduling matches for those teams on those dates.

[1.4.2] A reminder for each event will be sent to the team representative of each team that is playing one week prior that event.

[1.4.3] Only under exceptional circumstances (such as event cancellation due to bad weather) will matches be rescheduled.

1.5 Withdrawing from the Series

[1.5.1] Teams may withdraw from the series and reclaim their goodwill deposit as long as they withdraw after the last event of the season that they take part in, and they have no outstanding debts with HVA.

[1.5.2] If a team withdraws from the series during the season (after the entry deadline has passed, and before the last event in the series), that team's goodwill deposit will be forfeited.

1.6 Late Arrival and Missing an Event

[1.6.1] For the first match of each individual event:

- The warm up is 15 minutes long, timed from the event start time. If a team arrives during the warm up, they may take part in that warm up, but they forfeit any of the warm up time already lost.
- If a playing team arrives no later than 15 minutes after the match start time, they may play the first set, but they forgo their warm up.
- If a playing team has not arrived 15 minutes after the match start time, they forfeit the first set.
- If a playing team has not arrived 30 minutes after the match start time, they forfeit the match.

[1.6.2] For all subsequent matches, if a playing team has not arrived by the start of the match then they forfeit that match, with each set being scored as 25-0.

[1.6.3] In all cases, a team has "arrived" if it has 6 legal players on court, and the list of names have been entered and signed on the score sheet.

[1.6.4] An individual player may arrive after the start of the match and may play in that match, as long as their name is on the score sheet at the start of the match. Any player arriving part way through a set is not allowed to take part in that set.

1.7 Event Cancellations

[1.7.1] In the case of an event cancellation, HVA will contact each of the affected team's representatives by phone and email as soon as HVA know that the event is cancelled. Reasons for cancellation include bad weather or the hall being unavailable for use.

[1.7.2] In the case of bad weather, HVA will communicate with the teams in the week leading up to the event. If a team feels that it is unsafe for them to travel due to bad weather, they may withdraw from that event without financial penalty. Where possible, matches will be rearranged. If the matches cannot be rearranged then the results will be forfeited.

[1.7.3] In the case of an event cancellation, all matches will be rearranged, and HVA will work with the team representatives to find a suitable date for those matches.

1.8 SEVA Qualification

[1.8.1] At the end of the season, for the men's and ladies' leagues, the two highest placed teams from clubs that are based in Hampshire will be eligible to play in the SEVA finals representing Hampshire.

[1.8.2] A club's base will be judged on their registered training venue with Volleyball England.

[1.8.3] The Channel Islands shall be considered as a part of Hampshire



2 Matches

2.1 Match Rules

[2.1.1] Matches shall be played to FIVB rules as published by Volleyball England, with the following overrides:

[2.1.2] Each match will be played as best of 3 sets.

[2.1.3] The first two sets will be played as first to 25 points, and 2 clear with no ceiling. The third set should be played to 15 points, and 2 clear with no ceiling.

[2.1.4] Teams refereeing should provide at least a 1st and 2nd referee, a scorer and 2 lines people.

[2.1.5] Referees decisions will be accepted by both teams on court.

[2.1.6] Teams will have 15 minutes to warm up at the start of the match, consisting of 7 minutes general warm up, followed by 8 minutes over the net

2.2 Refereeing

[2.2.1] Each team should have a designated individual that has gained a grade 4 refereeing qualification. Teams will be asked who their designated referee is upon entry.

[2.2.2] Referees should apply the rules to a suitable standard; the HVA Grand Prix series is intended to sit above local leagues and below the National Leagues, so referees should be strict on handling faults and rotation faults specifically.

2.3 Score sheets

[2.3.1] The list of players on the score sheet must be filled in and signed before the match starts. The list of players must not be altered once the match has started; any players that are not on the list of player names are not eligible to play that match.

2.4 Player Kit

[2.4.1] All players, apart from the liberos, should play in a kit of matching colour and with unique numbers. Libero players must wear a contrasting colour kit.

[2.4.2] In mixed competitions, a male and female player may have the same number and can be identified on the score sheet with a suffix of 'M' and 'L' respectively.

[2.4.3] Shirts must be uniquely numbered with an integer between 1 and 99 inclusive.

2.5 First Aid Kits

[2.5.1] Teams are expected to bring their own first aid kits and to have a competent first aider.

2.6 Blood Injuries

[2.6.1] A player is not allowed to play with a bleeding wound, regardless of the seriousness of the injury. Any blood on a player's skin, playing kit, floor or equipment must be dealt with immediately. Referees should stop the game immediately.

[2.6.2] Although the player does not have to be substituted immediately they should leave the court for treatment. An assessment of the likelihood of the player returning within 3 minutes should then be made. During this period the floor and any equipment should be cleaned.

[2.6.3] If the blood flow cannot be stemmed or dealt with within the 3-minute period, then the player may have to be substituted legally or exceptionally. If a player does not recover and a substitution cannot be made then the team will be considered incomplete.

3 Grand Prix Rules

[3.0.1] Teams are awarded 1 league point for each match they play, plus 1 league point for each set that they win.

[3.0.2] League position will be decided, in order of precedence, by the following:

- Number of league points
- Number of matches won
- Set difference
- Total points difference

[3.0.3] If a team is unable to field 6 legal players, they forfeit the match result 2-0 (with each set lost 25-0). They may still play the match and receive the league point for playing that match.

[3.0.4] In terms of eligibility for gendered competition, HVA competitions abide by Volleyball England's transgender policy

3.1 Promotion and Demotion

[3.1.1] If a competition contain multiple divisions then at the end of the season, the two lowest place teams will be demoted to the next division down and the two highest place teams will be promoted to the next division up

3.2 Player Transfers

[3.2.1] Players must only play for one team across a Grand Prix event.

[3.2.2] Players should only play for one team across the series as a whole, unless they play up to a higher division, or explicitly transfer between teams. Transfers between teams can be requested by contacting HVA. The transfer request must be approved by at least 2 HVA committee members, before the start of the first match of the next Grand Prix event that the player's new team are scheduled to play at.

[3.2.3] Players are free to transfer teams between seasons.

3.3 Playing up

[3.3.1] Where a club has teams in more than one division, players on the team in the lower division may play for any team in any higher division without limits, as long as this does not break rule 3.2.1

3.4 Duty of care for juniors and at-risk adults

[3.4.1] HVA delegates all duty of care to the teams entering the Grand Prix series. Teams with juniors and at-risk adults must have a dedicated Child Welfare Officer and must have at least one individual with the responsibility of duty of care at each Grand Prix event.