

TVVA League Rules - applicable from 2008/9 Season

1. Before competing in any TVVA League or Competition the club must both be affiliated to the EVA and have paid required TVVA League and Competition fees.
2. Teams are required to enter the League each season. Entry forms and fees are to be submitted to the TVVA League Secretary by the specified closing date. The TVVA will decide which Division new teams can enter.
3. The playing rules that are applied will be those currently endorsed by the EVA.
4. All players must be registered with the League Secretary prior to playing in any league or competition (each player will be assigned a TVVA Registration Number).
 - a. One registration covers all competitions.
 - b. For each team entered, at least 6 players must be registered for the entered team (i.e. a full squad).
 - c. A player may only be registered for one club team but may, if attending a school/college on a nominal full time basis (i.e. the school/college is their primary place of study or work) , also be registered and play for the attended school/college team registered with the TVVA (no such restrictions apply outside the TVVA). However, where match/tournament conflicts exist, the club team representation will have priority.
 - d. For all league matches a minimum of 4 members of the registered team must be on court at all times.
 - e. Tournaments/competitions - players may play for only one team in each tournament/competition category. After their first match, a player becomes cup-tied.
5. League Matches:
 - a. Team Captain's/Coaches must include their team players full name and/or their TVVA Player Registration Number on the match score card prior to the match commencing.
 - b. All players' names and/or TVVA Registration Number recorded as per Rule 5a must be included when sending league match results to the Fixtures Secretary.
 - c. No player may play for more than one club within the TVVA Leagues with the exception stated in Rule 4c.
 - d. Referees - for Premier League matches the Referee must be independent see the published rota.
 - e. National League registered male players over 17 years of age on 01-September; season start may not play in the 1st or lower Divisions. NL registered male players younger than 17 years on 01-September, season start, may not play in Division 2 or lower Divisions. There is no restriction on players playing above their registered Division. However, within these limitations, players can only sub down a maximum of 3 matches per season.

- f. It is desirable for Players to display a visible shirt number in all league matches Division 2 and higher and in all competition matches.
- g. All league matches shall be of 5 sets duration using the 'rally point' in all sets up to 25 points (15 points for 5th set), with a 2 point lead and no cut off apart from the 5th set which will end at 17 points.
- h. All league matches must be played on the pre-arranged date specified by the TVVA League Secretary. Any changes to the fixture dates, with new suggested dates (agreed by both teams) must be made to the TVVA League Secretary within 2 weeks of publication for the first draft, then 1 week for the final draft.
- i. League matches can only be postponed in the event of exceptional circumstances. Notification of the postponement and reason must be sent to the League Secretary within two weeks of the fixture date. Otherwise the match will be cancelled (see Rule 5m) and neither team will gain any points. Subsequently, a rescheduled fixture date has to be arranged and notified according to Rule 6a, ii.
- j. Unless both teams agree, matches shall not be scheduled to start before 6 pm.
- k. Any team arriving late & not on court ready to play 10 minutes later than the scheduled start time shall forfeit the 1st set. After a further 15 and 30 minutes the 2nd and 3rd set will also be forfeited. This applies to all TVVA League Matches.
- l. Warm - up time is a minimum of 10 minutes, provided the visiting team arrives on time.
- m. Cancellation - matches can only be cancelled by teams due to exceptional circumstances. The Fixtures Secretary will cancel fixtures in accordance with the TVVA League Rules. In these cases neither team will score any points for the cancelled fixture.

6. Home team responsibilities are:

a. Confirming the fixture to the match opponents no later than 8 days prior to the specified date, which must include date, venue, warm-up time, start time and when requested, travel directions.

i. All fixtures are to be played in the week they are scheduled unless the TVVA is advised of the postponement fixture within two weeks of the scheduled fixture date (use any contact method listed on this site).

ii. Following postponement of a fixture, a rescheduled date has to be arranged by the home team and agreed by the away team. The Fixtures Secretary must also be notified of the rescheduled date by the following cut of dates:

Fixtures scheduled Sept to December – second Sunday of the New Year.

Fixtures scheduled Jan to March – the longer of; within one week of the scheduled fixture date or by the Easter Sunday (this is to ensure all fixtures are scheduled before the 'mop-up' period after the last scheduled fixture).

Failure to notify by these dates will result in the fixture being declared a Cancellation (see Rule 5m) and neither team will gain any points.

- b. Ensuring that equipment is checked and playable prior to the fixture.
- c. Providing the venue, suitable equipment and officials.
- d. Providing Officials which will consist of a Referee (also see Rule 5d) and Scorer as a basic minimum for any League match.
- e. Providing a visible score-board.
- f. Completing the Score Card (see Rule 8a regarding submission of results).

7. Fixture Claims:

- a. If the home team fails to contact the away team to confirm a fixture in accordance with Rule 6a, the away team may claim the fixture.
- b. If the home team makes reasonable efforts but is unable to contact the away team to confirm the fixture, the home team may claim the fixture provided the details of the attempts are forwarded to the TVVA.
- c. In the event of a default to attend a fixture by either team, the fixture may be claimed against the defaulter.
- d. Failure to notify the opponents of the inability to play a confirmed fixture at least three days (72 hours) prior to the fixture date may be treated as a 'default' by the opponents and claimed accordingly.

8. League Points:

- a. It is the responsibility of the winning team to obtain the completed Score Card and submit the results to the TVVA Fixtures Secretary within 5 days of match. The preferred results submission method is via the TVVA website but if unable to use the website, email, post or phone may be used as an alternative.
- b. If submitted Score Card information is missing, the Fixtures Secretary will assume matches/sets are won by the minimum margin. For example, if no set scores are provided, a 25-23 win will be assumed.
- c. Three points will be awarded for every match played and won.
- d. One point will be awarded for every match played but lost.
- e. Zero points will be received by both teams for a cancelled fixture whether or not the fixture is played.
- f. Un-played fixtures will be recorded as a default for both teams and they will both score zero points.
- g. If a fixture is defaulted on and claimed, the defaulting team will gain no points and will be recorded as losing the match 3-0 with each set lost 25-0. The claimant will be awarded 3 points, the match won 3-0 and sets won 25-0.

h. League ranking will be in points order followed by sets won/lost difference and points won/lost difference.

i. Promotion - the winning team of Div 1, 2 and Div 3 shall be eligible for promotion. The bottom team of Premier, Div 1 and Div 2 shall be eligible for relegation. The final decision regarding promotion/relegation shall be decided at the AGM of the TVVA Executive in consultation with the affected team's club committees.

j. Play off's - In the event of two or more teams being equal on completion of fixtures the Fixtures Secretary will arrange a play off if the affected teams so desire.

k. Between seasons the TVVA Executive may need to adjust the Divisions to achieve a balance in the number of teams. This may involve forced promotions or relegations.

9. Discipline - Any club /team failing to conform to the rules of the association, league competition, or being consistently unreasonable shall forfeit league points, or even be expelled from the association and/or league, at the discretion of the TVVA Executive. In all cases the club or team concerned has the right to appeal in writing to the TVVA Chairman within 7 days of being notified of expulsion.

10. Disputes

a. Disputes - Teams are urged to make every effort to resolve and settle disputes between themselves at the time of the dispute.

b. Both teams must inform the referee immediately after the match, that there is a dispute.

c. If not resolved at the time, then the dispute must be referred to the TVVA Fixtures Secretary within 7 days of the disputed match date.

d. A copy of the dispute will then be sent by the TVVA Fixtures Secretary to the opponents who then have a further 7 days to reply in writing to the TVVA Fixtures Secretary. A copy will also be sent to the TVVA committee for consideration.

e. The TVVA Executive has the right to settle all disputes subject to any appeal and including those not in the rules.

f. Teams wishing to appeal must do so in writing to the TVVA Chairman within 7 days of being notified by the TVVA Fixtures Secretary of the decision.

g. The TVVA Chairman will then convene a TVVA Appeals Meeting to resolve the appeal. This meeting will also include a representative from each club/team concerned.

h. The TVVA Executive's decision is final.