

Bristol & District Volleyball Association

Rules 2024 / 2025



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Match Protocol (All Leagues) 2024-5

PR 1.0 **First Match preparation**

PRO 1.1 Arrive a minimum of 10 minutes before the published start time.

PRO 1.2 If possible, gain access to the store cupboard & without disturbing the previous booking get out the posts, net, aerials, scorer's table, two chairs, scoreboard.

PRO 2.0 **10 Minutes to published start time**

PRO 2.1 Hall is cleared from previous use.

PRO 2.2 Playing teams and Refereeing team **ALL** set up volleyball net, posts and aerials; check height of net (2.43m – Men & Mixed, 2.24m – Women)

PRO 2.3 Ensure scorers' table, chair, scoreboard, scoresheet and rotation slips are present.

PRO 3.0 **5 Minutes to published start time**

PRO 3.1 Scorer begins entering players' and match officials' details onto scoresheet.

PRO 3.2 1st Referee calls captains to scorer's table, conducts the toss and informs the scorer the outcome of the decision.

PRO 3.3 Scorer should record the order of service.
Captains and/or coaches should sign the scoresheet.

PRO 3.4 2nd Referee should give rotation slips to both team captains (or coaches)

PRO 5.0 **Official start time**

PRO 5.1 1st Referee should signal start of official 15-minute warm-up period.
Players have 10 mins until hitting over the net to use the court for warming up.

PRO 5.1.1 In the spirit of cooperation and in the interests of time efficiency under BDVA rules separate warm-ups are not permitted. All teams will share the net during the warm-up period.

PRO 5.1.2 If timings are a long way adrift the referee should consider cancelling the warm-up all together & going straight into the game.

PRO 5.2.0 **10 Minutes (after start time)**

PRO 5.2.1 1st or 2nd Referee whistles for both teams to begin hitting through position four (for 2mins).

PRO 5.3.0 **12 Minutes (after start time)**
1st or 2nd Referee whistles for both teams to begin hitting through position two (for 2mins).

PRO 5.3.1 **14 Minutes (after start time)**
1st or 2nd Referee whistles for both teams to begin serving practice (for 1 min)

PRO 5.4.0 **15 Minutes (after start time)**

PRO 5.4.1 1st or 2nd Referee whistles to signify end of warm-up period.
Both teams should retire to their benches outside of the free zone.

PRO 5.4.2 Referees check that the score sheet has completed team lists, 2nd Referee checks each team's position on court against their rotation slip.
1st Referee blows whistle for 1st service.

PRO 6.0 **2nd Match**

PRO 6.1 At the conclusion of Game 1, there should be no more than a 15 minutes delay until the commencement of Game 2 first service.
This allows for 2 mins to get on court, 8 mins to warm-up on each team's own side of the net, 2 mins hitting through 4, 2 mins hitting through 2, 1 min serving practice.

PRO 6.2.1 The end of the first game is considered the official start time of the next game.
Specifically, you should follow Clause PRO 5.0 to Clause PRO 5.6.1 inclusive.

PRO 6.2.2 The timings allow the team that has just officiated some time for a gentle warm-up before going over the net. More than a 15 minutes delay between games will increase the likelihood of the hall hire being exceeded.

PRO 7.0 **3rd Match**

PRO 7.1 At the conclusion of Game 2, there should be no more than a 15 minutes delay until the commencement of Game 3 first service.
This allows for 2 mins to get on court, 8 mins to warm-up on each team's own side of the net, 2 mins hitting through 4, 2 mins hitting through 2, 1 min serving practice.

PRO 7.2.1 The end of the first game is considered the official start time of the next game.
Specifically, you should follow Clause PRO 5.0 to Clause PRO 5.4.2 inclusive.

The same timings shall be followed as between the first and second games.

Bristol and District Volleyball League Rules 2023-24

BD 0.0 Objectives

BD 0.1 The key objective of the men's and women's leagues is to be competitive & a good feeder for the Southwest league & National league.

BD 0.2 The key objective of the mixed league is to be social, friendly & relaxed.

BD 1.0 Game Characteristics

BD 1.1. All Bristol & District League Matches shall be played to Federation of International Volleyball (FIVB) Rules ([FIVB-Volleyball Rules 2021 2024 pe.pdf](#)). However the following exceptions to the rules set out in this document apply.

BD 1.2. All Bristol & District Tournament Matches shall be played to the Federation of International Volleyball (FIVB) Rules & to the direction of the Individual Tournament Director. Specifically, it may be necessary to shorten or have timed matches.

BD 1.3.1. All Bristol & District League Matches, Friendly Matches, Tournaments, Events, Meetings & gatherings whether official or informal shall fully abide with the association's code of conduct.

BD 1.3.2. The associations code of conduct applies to everyone involved with the Bristol & District Volleyball Associations league matches, friendly matches, tournaments, events, meetings & gatherings. This includes but is not limited to players, coaches, bench personal, referees, line judges, scoring personal, spectators, parents & guardians.

BD 2.0 Playing Format

BD 2.1. All matches are best of three sets. The first team to win two sets wins the match. 2-0 and 2-1 are match winning scores.

BD 2.2. The first and second sets are played up to 25 points with a minimum margin of 2 clear points. In the case of a 24-24 tie play shall continue until one of the teams achieves a two point margin. This is capped at 28 points (28-27 is a win).

BD 2.3. If a third set is required, the winning team will be the first to achieve 15 points with a minimum margin of 2 clear points. However, in the case of a 14-14 tie play shall continue until one of the teams achieves a two point margin. This is capped at 18 points. (18-17 is a win).

BD 2.4.1 All games in the men's and mixed leagues shall be played on a men's height net (2.43m).

BD 2.4.2 All games in the women's league shall be played on a women's height net (2.24m).

BD 2.5 In the event of there being more than one division in any league teams will be allocated to a league at the committee's discretion, taking into consideration the team's preference and previous results where possible.

BD 3.0 Regular Interruptions

BD 3.1 Regular game interruptions are time-outs & player substitutions.

BD 3.2 Under Bristol & District Rules each team is allowed ONE time-out and six substitutions per set.

BD 3.3 Time-out requests must be made by showing the corresponding hand signal, when the ball is out of play and before the whistle for service. All requested time-outs last for 30 seconds.

BD 4.0 Eligibility

BD 4.1 In all Bristol & District matches each team may play a player of any standard including southwest league, national league or international standard.

BD 4.1.1 A Player may not play for more than one team in any one league (men/women/mixed). This includes across divisions. (ie you could play in women's D1 and mixed D2 but not women's D1 and women's D2.)

BD 4.1.2 Where a club has teams in different divisions in the same league it is permitted for a player to be promoted within their club (ie they could move from the division 2 team to the division 1 team). This is subject to the club sending formal notification (by email) to the relevant league secretaries. That player will not be allowed to play for the original, lower league, team for the remainder of the season.

BD 4.2 Women are not eligible to play in the men's league.

BD 4.3 Men or junior boys are not eligible to play in the woman's league.

BD 4.4 A team on court in the mixed league must include a minimum of two ladies players plus another wildcard player.

BD 4.4.1 In the mixed league a wildcard is defined as a player meeting one of the following criteria:

a woman,

a man over the age of 55 on August 31st prior to the start of the season,

or a junior boy who is under the age of 17 on August 31st prior to the start of the season.

BD 4.4.2 If a team elects to play with a libero and the player fits the criteria set out in 4.4.1, he or she cannot be counted as one of the wildcards because their involvement in play is intermittent.

BD 4.4.3 In the mixed leagues, players meeting the criteria of a wildcard should have an asterisk placed next to their name on the team list.

BD 4.5.1 If a team has only five players they may proceed as an emergency, if they do start with five players, they will be penalised, and the opposing team will start with a five-point advantage in the first two sets & three-point advantage in the third.

BD 4.5.2 Teams are strongly discouraged from playing with five players. A team may also choose to borrow a player from one of the other teams present playing in the triangle of games, but this should be announced in advance and noted on the score sheet.

BD 4.5.3.1 If a team does choose to 'borrow' a player the opposing team will start with a five-point advantage for the first two sets & a three points for the third set. If a team borrows a player from another team & does not declare that player before the match begins & this is subsequently discovered the result will be declared void & the opposing team declared winners by forfeit 25-0, 25-0.

BD 4.5.3.2 A team may not borrow a player from another team playing in the Bristol & District men's competition that are not playing on the day the match is scheduled to played.

BD 4.6.1 Prior to the season starting each team must complete a player registration sheet naming a minimum number of players needed to fulfil all league fixtures.

BD 4.6.2 During the season you can add to the registration sheet at any time provided the player concerned has not been registered with another team. Player registration closes on the start of the final game of the season.

BD 4.6.3 After the initial player registration with the league entry forms, teams will be required to complete a registration form for any additional players and this must be authorised by the league secretary.

BD 4.6.4 BDVA Player registration details accompanied by a BDVA Team Sheet are to be presented to the Scorer at least 10 minutes prior to the start of the match. Any irregularities are to be noted on the scoresheet.

BD 4.6.5 After a player has been registered, they may not transfer to another team & must remain with their original team for the whole season (subject to rule 4.1.2).

BD 5.0 Equipment

BD 5.1. Teams are expected to play games in matching kit with clearly visible numbers. Failure to do so may be sanctioned by the committee.

BD 5.2. Teams are expected to bring to a match:

BD 5.2.1. Two whistles

BD 5.2.2. B&D Score sheets (x3)

BD 5.2.3. A working pen

BD 6.0 Results

BD 6.1 It is the responsibility of the winning team to make sure that results are entered onto the website.

BD 6.2 It is the responsibility of the refereeing team to ensure that scoresheets are correctly filled out. This should be checked by the playing team captains before signing.

BD 6.2.1 A completed score sheet is a sheet that has a match number, date, the venue, the winning team, the winning score & player lists for both teams who played.

BD 6.3 Completed & signed off score sheets should be photographed with a smartphone or similar and uploaded by 6pm the Monday after the game being played. Teams failing to complete this on time may be sanctioned by the committee.

BD 6.3.1 It is the responsibility of every team to keep a copy or an image of the score sheet for every match that they play in until the end of the season.

BD 7.0 Affiliation

BD 7.1 Any team that plays in a Bristol & District Volleyball Association League fixture must be affiliated to our National Governing Body which is Volleyball England.

BD 8.0 Sanctions

BD 8.1 If a team fails to present at the conclusion of the warm-up (or 15 mins from the conclusion of the previous game) the following sanctions will apply:

BD 8.1.1 If the delay is due to the opposition, the other team is awarded 2 points for every minute delayed.

BD 8.2 Teams that fail to play the scheduled game with matching and numbered kit may be sanctioned by the committee.

BD 8.3.1 Teams that fail to submit the score sheet as set out in BD 6.3 may be sanctioned by the committee.

BD 8.3.2 Teams that fail to submit the result as set out in BD 6.3 may be sanctioned by the committee.

BD 8.4.1 All fines will be taken from a club's deposit. A club must have a £50 deposit for every team playing in BDVA competitions. The deposit will carry over to the following year if still complete or be returned (if requested) if a team withdraws from the league. If a team receives enough fines during the league season that there is no deposit left, they will be asked to replenish this before playing any further matches.

BD 8.4.2 Any club that leaves the league has three seasons to re-claim their deposit(s) or part thereof remaining. This is from the last season that they played. If not claimed the deposit will be absorbed

into the running costs of the BDVA. It is the leaving club's responsibility to submit a written request to re-claim the deposit not the leagues responsibility to notify the leaving club that a deposit is available.

BD 8.5 Each team will be given the right to appeal. They must do so within 14 days of the fine or sanction being issued. They must justify in writing why they believe they are not in breach of the rules. This appeal will be reviewed by a sub-committee consisting of the three-league secretary's (men's ladies and mixed) and the league secretary.

BD 9.0. Match Protocol

BD 9.1.0 All matches should be conducted in accordance with the Match Protocol as outlined in clauses PRO 0.0 to PRO 7.2.2.

BD 9.1.1 Teams may not change the match order without previous explicit agreement from the league's secretary.

BD 10.0.0 AGM Attendance

BD 10.1.0 It is a mandatory requirement that all clubs send representation to the BDVA AGM. Any club that fails to send representation who played in any competition run by the BDVA will be fined £50.