

Annual General Meeting

INFO PACK | 2026–27 Season

Date: Tuesday 29 September 2026

Time: 7:00 pm

Venue: Village Hotel, Fallows Way, Whiston, L35 1RZ

Agenda

1. *Welcome and apologies*
 - a. *Confirmation of attending clubs (QR code) and voting representatives*
2. *Chair's Report*
 - a. *Review of the previous season and priorities for 2026–27*
3. *Secretary's Report*
 - a. *Approval of minutes from the previous Annual General Meeting*
4. *Treasurer's Report*
 - a. *Accounts, fees, payments, and budget for the coming season*
5. *Results Secretary / Website report*
 - a. *Results submission, player registration and website updates*
6. *Tournaments Report*
7. *Election of Officers*
8. *NWVA Update*
9. *Proposals for 2026-27 Season*
 - a. *Changing from MVL to MVA & associated Constitution changes*
 - b. *Rule Changes*
 - i. *Qualified referee for Div 1 matches*
 - ii. *Shirt numbers for Div 1 matches*
 - iii. *Promotion and Relegation*
 - iv. *Updates to starred player rules*
 - v. *Request to change to League Points System (Jonathan Heath)*
 - vi. *Request to change to Match Confirmation time (Jamey Howard)*
 - c. *Mixed League*
 - d. *Technical training sessions*
 - e. *Referee & coaching seminars*
10. *League composition for the 2026–27 season*
11. *Awards and presentations*
12. *Fixture agreement and discussions*
13. *Any other business*

Notes for Clubs

- All teams wishing to enter the league need to be present at the meeting and should ensure their team registration details are submitted beforehand.
- Any proposed rule changes should be submitted in at least 2 weeks in advance so they can be collated before the AGM.
- Nominations for committee roles should be submitted before the meeting where possible.

2026-27 Proposals

MVL to MVA

It is proposed to change the name of the Merseyside Volleyball League to the **Merseyside Volleyball Association**. The reasons behind this relate to an association having more impact with potential sponsors as opposed to being a league. It also allows us to apply for grants where applications would be more favourably considered as an association. Further to this, an association covers all aspects of our sport, from Junior development to fund raising. As a league this implies that this is all we are involved in; running a league to play volleyball. Our intention is to be more than that, running more competitions, courses and opportunities for players to develop. As an association we are considered as being better served by this title. Attached is a revised constitution with associated changes highlighted in yellow. Please review let us know if you have any issues or feedback.

Rule Changes

Qualified Referees for Division 1 Matches

From September 2026 onwards it is compulsory that all 1st Division teams will provide a qualified referee for all their home matches. The qualified referee can come from the ranks of the club or they can ask a referee from another club. Where a referee is requested from another club, the referee should be reimbursed for travel expenses up to the value of £10. A qualified referee is one that has the minimum qualification of level 4, as recognised by Volleyball England. Further to this a qualified referee can be a person recognised as competent through previous experience and service to the league. Clubs can put forward these individuals with a justification for consideration and will be decided upon by the MVL committee. A list of qualified referees will be compiled and published on the MVL website.

Shirt Numbers for Division 1 Matches

From September 2026 onwards it is compulsory that all 1st Division teams will provide players with numbered shirts. Ideally the kit will be uniform. The proposed sanction is that if the team has 6 players or more available with numbered shirts; any players who do not have numbered shirts will not be allowed to play. Where there are only 6 players then £10 fines per non-conforming shirt will be applied.

Promotion And Relegation

Currently 2 teams are promoted and 2 are relegated. The proposal is to keep it the same for women divisions. For three men's divisions the options are to stay with 2 up 2 down or to change to 1 up and 1 down, or 1 up 1 down with a play off.

Starred Player Rules

Some additions to add clarity to starred player rules: starred players should be the better players and expected to play in the majority of matches in the season; non starred players can only play down one division; no NVL players (including women) allowed in Division 3.

Request to change League Points System – Jonathan Heath

Request to change the points given for matches from the current 3 points for a win, 1 point for a loss to: 3 points for a 3-0 or 3-1 win, 0 points for a 3-0 or 3-1 loss, 2 points for a 3-2 win, 1 point for a 3-2 loss. Jonathan to present argument at the AGM.

Request to change Match Confirmation time – Jamey Howard

Request to change the current confirmation time for matches from the current 3 days to 1 or 2 weeks. Jamey to present argument at the AGM.

Please submit any other suggestions for rule changes at least 2 weeks prior to the AGM.

Mixed League Proposal

A mixed casual league is proposed for the 2026-2027 season. Instead of clubs having to find additional hall hire at home to play matches, time will be booked by the MVL at a separate venue. Depending on how many teams enter, match days will be played as triangulars, best of 3 sets to existing MVL rules. Teams will pay their contribution to the hall hire to the MVL. A minimum of 3 women must be on court at any time.

Technical Training Sessions

A programme of sessions will be compiled to provide technical training to players from the MVL. Each session will identify the area of the sport to be focused on and will provide a number of coaches to facilitate the learning. Players will apply through the MVL website for the session advertised where a limited number of places will be available. The cost per player will cover the cost of the venue and will also raise funds for the MVL. A list of coaches has been compiled and is being added to. Once a list of dates has been agreed the coaches can be assigned and the session can be advertised on the MVL website.

Potential trainers TBC - Phil Leach, Mike Melbourne, Vanessa Barry

Referee Seminar

An online seminar is being compiled by Lenny Barry as an aid to the league for all players and referees. It will focus on clarification of the most contentious rules, new rules that have been introduced and other rules that will help with a better understanding of the sport. Once the video has been completed and agreed by the MVL it will be uploaded to the MVL website and all clubs will be notified on how to access it.

Coaching Seminar

A limited programme of coaching seminars will be compiled to help inexperienced and intermediate coaches. It will take the form of a 1-2 hour classroom based session and led by an experienced coach. It is ideal for those looking to gain better insight into how to coach more effectively, looking at planning sessions, rotations, strategy and team tactics.

Proposed Divisions

From the pre-registration process it looks as though there could potentially be 24 Men's teams and 15 Women's teams this season. It's great to see the league growing with several new teams hoping to enter this season! Note that some teams are still waiting to finally confirm their entry. Please can you do so as soon as you are able.

We are therefore working on the basis that there will be 3 Men's divisions and 2 Women's divisions.

The committee's initial considered assessment of how the divisions would look is below. With 24 Men's teams we have tried to keep an even split of 8 teams per division.

#	M1	M2	M3	W1	W2
1	Anglesey Sea Sharks	Anglesey Dragons	Axers	Chester Amazons	Everton Seahorses
2	Fairfield OG	Frodsham Flames (M)	Chester Trojans	Everton Seadragons	Frodsham Fire
3	Isle of Man Falcons	Liverpool B	Hoylake Hurricanes (M)	Frodsham Flames (W)	Hoylake Hurricanes (W)
4	Knutsford Vikings	Phiet Panthers B	Knutsford Raiders	Knutsford Valkyries	Liverpool Academy
5	Liverpool A	Royals B	Liverpool C	Liverpool	Lynx
6	Phiet Panthers A	Warrington Wolves (M)	Warrington Blue Bolts	Royals	Warrington Blue Waves
7	Royals A	Wirral Phoenix UTS	Wirral Phoenix	Wigan Seahawks	Warrington Wolves (W)
8	Warrington	Wirral Rebels A	Wirral Rebels B		Wirral
Total	8	8	8	7	8

BLUE = NEW TEAM

If you have any issues with this proposal, then please provide your feedback to the committee ASAP, so any changes can be duly considered, and we can hopefully get close to finalising the divisions prior to the AGM.

Team Registration

Please can ALL teams REGISTER their full team details on the website as soon as possible, and certainly before the deadline of Wed 23 Sept.

Please enter the team name you would like to be displayed on the website, as well as details of fixture secretary, venue, match times, website, social media info etc.

Team Registration

Des Jeffers Tournament

The dates for the Des Jeffers tournament are below:

- **Men:** Sat 3 Oct
- **Women:** Sun 4 Oct

We will send further details of the tournament and how to register shortly.

Fixture Planning

Automation will be trialled for the first time this year to generate all fixture dates. It is therefore essential that all teams submit their available dates and any other restrictions they might have prior to the meeting.

We therefore request that all clubs populate a spreadsheet with the information we require as soon as possible.

We will send each club their own spreadsheet to populate shortly. If you have more than one team sharing a home venue, please use the same spreadsheet for all teams.

The spreadsheet has 3 tabs:

- Overview
 - Enter your name, Club Name, Team Name(s) & Venue Name
 - Match Buffer
 - Enter the number of days before and after each match date that will be marked as unavailable for the 2 teams to allow time for recovery
 - Home Game Buffer
 - Enter the number of days either side of a home match that are unavailable for any other home matches. This is to prevent back to back matches without any training slots.
 - Clubs that can have multiple matches simultaneously
 - If you have more than one court and can host matches simultaneously, please include a row for each instance on the 'Home Match Slots' tab.
 - Triangular
 - Indicate if you are interested in playing triangulars (i.e. on a weekend 3 teams play each other while the non-playing team officiates)
- Home Game Slots
 - Populate this tab with all the slots you have available for HOME matches.
 - Date must be in 'yyy-mm-dd' format and time in 'hh:mm – hh:mm' format.
 - If you have more than one team eligible to play in that slot, please list all team names separated with a ;
 - If you have more than one court and can host matches simultaneously, please include this court as a separate row.
- Unavailable Dates
 - Please list any dates that your team(s) are UNABLE to play away matches
 - Please give a reason (or just specify Not Available)
 - Please complete the flexibility of this unavailable date
 - None – cannot play at all
 - Medium – Could maybe work around it, but it would be difficult
 - Soft – Can play but prefer to use other dates

Below is a link to an example spreadsheet, populated with fictional data for CWAC. Please refer to this example when populating your own information.

EXAMPLE FIXTURE SUBMISSION

If you have any questions or difficulties in completing this, then please contact Izzy or Paul as soon as possible.

***** DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION: WED 23 SEPT *****