

NATIONAL LEAGUE – DIVISION 3 OR REGIONAL LEAGUE?

Deciding which competition will be best for your club can be a difficult decision to reach. Below are the differences, which may be useful to know.

COMPETITION ENTRY FEES & CLUB INSURANCE

Division 3	Clubs entering teams in Division 3 must be Full Members of Volleyball Ireland and owing to the volume of activity taking place at the club, must pay an insurance premium (through VI) based on the number of active members. Team entry fees are higher too. Currently, to enter a team in Division 3, the club affiliation fee is €75 per year, and each team entered in Division 3 or higher costs €100 per team. Insurance fees start at €200 per year and increase incrementally based on the number of active members of the club. In addition, all Full Members must lodge a €300 bond, to guard against unpaid fines or invoices, which is refundable if the club leaves VI competitions.
Regional League	Clubs entering teams in the RL (and none higher) need only be Associated Clubs. Currently, to enter a team in the RL, the club affiliation fee is €25 per year, and each team entered into the RL or below costs €60 per team. Insurance fees for associate clubs are €75 per year.

ARRANGING FIXTURES

Division 3	Clubs in Division 3 commit to playing matches on 14 set weekends within the calendar – matches are confirmed at a day and time over that weekend by the home team, and the away team is expected to honour that arrangement. A set process has to be followed to move a fixture, and player availability is not generally considered a sufficient reason to move a fixture. Financial penalties and/or deductions of league points can be issued to clubs failing to fulfil a fixture.
Regional League	Clubs have significant freedom to arrange matches with their opposing clubs for dates/times that are mutually convenient, subject to all being played by a cut-off date. Changes of fixtures are generally permitted, with sufficient notice.

SCORING & REPORTING OF RESULTS

Division 3	E-Scoring is mandatory in Division 3 and above. All clubs must have a laptop available to e-score a match and have a scorekeeper who is comfortable with the system to score each match. Fines are levied for non-compliance
Regional League	Matches are scored with paper and pen, on official scoresheets. Winning team reports the result by taking a photo of the completed scoresheet and sending that photo either by email or WhatsApp to the office for uploading.

Volleyball Association of Ireland,

Unit 1, Sport Ireland HQ2, Sport Ireland Campus, Snugborough Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

T +353 1 6707165; **E** info@volleyballireland.com

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PLAYER LICENCES

Division 3	Players playing in Division 3 and above need to obtain a National League player licence, the cost of which is: Adult - €45 Student - €35 U18 - €25
Regional League	Players playing in the RL and below only need to obtain a Non-League player licence, the cost of which is: Adult / Student - €25 U18 - €15

REFEREE APPOINTMENTS

Division 3	For matches in Division 3, the referee must be qualified at Level 2 as a minimum, and the second referee as Level 1. In order for a Level 1 referee to progress to Level 2, they must be assessed by a qualified assessor at a match.
Regional League	For matches in Division 3, both referees need only be qualified to Level 1.

Please note that in both Divisions 3 and the RL, the home team is responsible for appointing the two referees for each match.

PROMOTION & RELEGATION BETWEEN DIVISIONS 2 AND 3

There is currently no formal promotion and relegation mechanism between Division 3 and the RL. However, there is nothing to stop a team who played in the RL the previous season from applying to join Division 3 for the next one, assuming the necessary documentation has been completed and entry fees have been paid.

For new teams wishing to play in the League structure, the recommendation would always be to start at the lowest level and, ultimately, teams will find their level. Clubs just starting out may find it beneficial to start in the RL, allow the growing pains to be addressed, and then consider joining Division 3 at a later date.

Correct as of 27th July 2026

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