



Approved BoA LVF
17.07.2020.

2020/2021 BALTIC WOMEN VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

1. Introduction

- 1.1. According to the signed Agreement between Volleyball federations of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, Baltic women volleyball League will be organized on a regular basis with purpose to increase level of clubs and to promote the popularity of volleyball in Baltic countries.
- 1.2. National federations of the concerned countries aim to make the competitions for women teams more attractive for spectators, media and sponsors in order to guarantee the competition a higher status that will also result in a benefit to the main performers.
- 1.3. Baltic women volleyball League (BWVL) is governed by Jury, consisting of Secretary General of each federation, i.e. Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian Volleyball Federations and one club representative of each country. BWVL Jury accepts decisions on the principles of the consensus.
- 1.4. Head Office of the BWVL is defined according to the decision of Jury. For the season 2020/2021 Head Office of BWVL is located in Latvia. For the coordination of BWVL each federation has to nominate one Responsible contact person.

2. Main goals

- 2.1. Main goal of the BWVL is further develop women volleyball in the participating countries, by involving strong competitive teams and to define Champion of BWVL, Champions of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, candidates for the National teams of all participating countries as well.

3. Participants

Participants of BWVL are five women teams from Latvia, two women teams from Lithuania, three women teams from Estonia:

Latvian teams:

- 1) Jelgava/LLU
- 2) VK miLATss
- 3) Riga Volleyball School
- 4) RSU/MVS

Lithuanian teams:

- 1) TK Kaunas VDU
- 2) Alytaus Prekyba Parama

Estonian teams:

- 1) TalTech/Tradehouse
- 2) TU/Bigbank
- 3) EST Youth NT

4. Organization format

Competitions will consist of the three rounds.

1st Stage – Main Tournament

2nd Stage – Play-off

3rd Stage – Final Four

4th Stage - National Championships

4.1. Main Tournament,

4.1.1. Main Tournament will be played with double round robin system – home-away matches in each country possible with participating of 2 home and 2 visiting teams (with regionally close teams). Matches between Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian teams will be played by principle home-away or as separate tournaments in each country.

4.1.2. Schedule of the tournaments with participating of foreign teams are:

Saturday – one game per team per day.

Sunday - one game per team per day.

After the Main Tournament play-off matches will be played.

4.2. Play-off competitions

4.2.1. According to results and ranking of 1st Stage, quarterfinals are played by the following system:

First ¼ Final – according the results of the Main tournament 1st team play against 8th team (1-8);

Second ¼ Final – according the results of the Main tournament 2nd team play against 7th team (2-7);

Third ¼ Final - according the results of the Main tournament 3rd team play against 6th team (3-6);

Fourth ¼ Final - according the results of the Main tournament 4th team play against 5th team (4-5);

4.2.2. In each quarterfinal teams are playing two or three matches. The team who wins 2 matches is qualified to next stage.

4.2.3. First match in each quarterfinal will be played on the court of team with lower ranking and second match, and in case of necessity also the third match on the court of the team with higher ranking.

4.2.4. Competition days of Quarterfinals are Saturday, Sunday, i.e. first weekend in the lower ranking team's home court and next weekend second and third (if needed) match in the higher ranking team's home court.

Winners of Quarterfinals are qualified to Final Four tournament for the 1st -4 th place, losers of quarterfinals are eliminated.

4.3. 3rd Stage -Final Four (FF) 1-4 place

4.3.1. In the FF take part winners of the ¼ finals and competitions will be held as two days tournament.

4.3.2. ½ Final & Final: ½ Final, Final and match for the 3rd place will be played according the system of FF. In the first ½ final will meet team with the highest ranking after Stage 1 with that winner of ¼ final, which has the lower ranking after Stage 1.

The second ½ final will be played accordingly.

Losers of the ½ finals are playing for the 3rd place, winners of the ½ finals will play for the 1st place.

4.3.3. FF matches take place on Saturday & Sunday.

Saturday – are played both ½ finals.

Sunday – games for 3rd and 1st place.

Match for the bronze medal will take place before the match for the gold medal of the BWVL.

Teams can apply for organizing of the Final 4 Tournament until 15.02.21. In case no candidate applies to organize Final Four Tournament, Organizer will be decided by separate decision of BWVL Jury. Priority for organization of Final 4 Tournament goes to winner of Main Tournament. Final decision about place of Final Tournament will be defined according to the decision of BWVL Jury no later than 19.02.21.

4.4. 4th Stage – National Championships

National Championships of each country (in case have been organized) will be played and regulated by separate Rules of concerned National Federations.

4.5. Starting time of the matches

Starting time of the matches between Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian teams are fixed between the following time table:

4.5.1. Saturday- Game start not earlier than 12:00, not later than 19:30. It is recommended matches between foreign clubs start not later than 18:00.

4.5.2. Sunday- Game start not earlier than 12:00, not later than 18:00. It is recommended matches between foreign clubs start not later than 16:00.

4.5.3. Main tournament matches between two teams from the same country are allowed to be played during the weekday, if both teams mutually agree and inform concerned National Federation writing an official letter announcing game time and place. Game start at the weekday- not earlier than 18:00 and no later than 20:00.

4.5.4. For the Final Four Tournaments - starting time of matches will be announced additionally.

5. Right of participation of teams

5.1. Eligibility

Only teams registered by their National Federation shall be eligible to participate in the competition.

5.2. Registration and application procedure

5.2.1. The registration of teams must be done by means of the:

- 1) Form BWL-01 (Club registration)
- 2) Form BWL-02 (Sport hall registration)
- 3) Form BWL-03 (Players registration)

5.2.2. All forms have to be sent by registered letter or email as scanned document to the concerned National Federation's Office. With registering all teams also commit them to participate in all phases of the competition. Club is considered as registered, when all the documents, mentioned in p. 5.2 are received, all payments are settled in the deadline no later as 07.09.2020.

5.2.3. Deadlines of the official BWVL forms:

BWVL – 01 Club Registration	03.07.2020. <i>(To each National federation)</i>
BWVL – 02 Sport hall Registration (in case new sport hall)	20.08.2020. <i>(To each National federation)</i>
BWVL – 03 Players Registration-collective license	07.09.2020. <i>(To each National federation)</i>

5.2.4. All forms have to be filled electronically; forms filled in handwriting are not accepted.

5.3. Team composition

5.3.1. For the all season each team can register maximum 28 persons, i.e. 22 players and 6 officials. For each match, a club team can be composed of a maximum of 20 persons, i.e. 14 players and the following 6 officials:

- a team manager
- a head coach
- assistant coaches (1-2)
- a medical doctor
- a physiotherapist/trainer

5.3.2. The presence of the Team Manager during the competition is recommended. He/she can not to sit on the bench. Any other persons are defined as extra persons.

5.4. Libero players

5.4.1. Within the 14 players up to 2 liberos can be listed. Therefore, the head coach has the right to register:

14 players- 12+2 LIBEROS

13 players- 11+2 LIBEROS

12 players- 10 +2 LIBERO; 11+1 LIBERO

11 players- 9+2 LIBERO; 10+1 LIBERO

10 players- 8+2 LIBERO; 9 + 1 LIBERO
9 players- 7 + 2 LIBERO; 8 + 1 LIBERO
8 players- 7 + 1 LIBERO
7,6 players- 0 LIBERO

5.4.2. Free substitution of the Libero players is allowed during the match according to the FIVB Rules of the Game. The regular replacement player may replace and be replaced by either Libero. The Acting Libero can only be replaced by the regular replacement player for that position or by the second Libero. An illegal Libero replacement can involve (amongst others):

- no completed rally between Libero replacements,
- The Libero being replaced by a player other than the second Libero or the regular replacement player.

5.4.3. An illegal Libero replacement should be considered in the same way as an illegal substitution: should the illegal Libero replacement be noticed before the start of the next rally, then this is corrected by the referees, and the team is sanctioned for delay; should the illegal Libero replacement be noticed after the service hit, the consequences are the same as for an illegal substitution. If the coach wants to replace the acting Libero with the reserve Libero, the procedure is like the procedure of replacement.

5.5. Right of participation of players

Eligibility

5.5.1. Only players nominally registered on the team's collective license, approved by National Federation, can take part in competitions. Each of those players must fulfill to the following conditions:

5.5.2. Player must possess only one National license valid exclusively for the club, which applies for the competition.

5.5.3. If the team has registered a foreign player, concerned Federation and player must fulfill all conditions regarding the right to play in a club of another country according to all provisions of the FIVB and CEV.

The number of foreign players per team which, according to the FIVB and CEV Regulations, are bound to possess a valid International Transfer Certificate when applying for a competition, is unlimited.

Only Players not suspended by CEV and/or FIVB for the competition concerned are allowed to participate in competition.

5.5.4. Internal transfer procedure of players from club to club in each country is regulated by the Official Rules, confirmed by concerned National federation of each participating country.

5.5.5. In case National Federation Regulations require, clubs have to sign contracts with players and to present to concerned National federation the list with contractual players, where have seen period of the signed contracts, which is also confirmed by signature of each player. In case such a list is not presented to concerned National federation till the beginning of the season, it is considered that this player has amateur status.

5.5.6. In case in the composition of teams are registered player, which are younger as 18 years, club with the registration of them guarantees their eligibility to take part in the competitions according to the Law of concerning country and National Federation.

5.6. Licenses

5.6.1. The number of players allowed to be listed in the collective license for all season is limited to 22 players.

5.6.2. Each player can only be granted one single individual license for the current season.

5.6.3. Collective license has to be confirmed by concerned club and National federation with the signatures and seals.

5.6.4. Process of ITC for foreign players has to be initiated and applications for transferred and/or additional players have to be registered at the Office of concerned National Federation till **15 January 2021** at latest, i.e. deadline of registering of all the players is **15 January 2021**. Player could be included in collective licence in a mentioned period, but **has no rights** to play in case ITC is not closed by all the involved parties. The very latest data for closing of ITC by all the parties is 25 January 2021, in case on mentioned period ITC process is not finished, it is not allowed for concerned player to take part in competition **and has to be excluded from collective licence.**

5.6.5. The approved collective license and the official identity document, i.e. passport, ID card, or individual license, approved by concerned National federation of each player must be presented to the First Referee before the starting of each match.

5.6.6. Concerned National federation has to inform BWVL Head office about additional or substituted players inside their clubs till the **15 January 2021** at latest. BWVL Head office informs about the additionally registered or replaced players all the participating federations accordingly.

6. Competition clauses

6.1. General Rules governing the Competition.

6.1.1. The matches shall only take place in competition halls, approved by the concerned National federations.

6.1.2. Competition shall be organized and played under the Official FIVB Volleyball Rules and taking into consideration other existing official documents, confirmed by National federations of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

6.2. Team uniforms

6.2.1. During the international matches, teams must have at least two different uniforms (opposite colors).

6.2.2. It is not allowed to play in the same color uniform for both teams. In this case that is the responsibility of visiting club to choose the opposite color of uniform.

6.2.3. The libero uniform(s) must be different color or style from the teams uniform and might display different publicity than all other team players.

6.2.4. Compression pads are approved, but require being the same color and design for all the players. Compression underwear is allowed on the same conditions.

6.3. Allocation of points and classification

The following rules to determine the winning team will be applied:

6.3.1. The ranking of teams is determined by the points awarded for matches won and lost.

Winning match with result 3:0, for winner 3 points, for loser 0 points;

Winning match with result 3:1, for winner 3 points, for loser 0 points;

Winning match with result 3:2, for winner 2 points, for loser 1 point.

6.3.2. For any team refusing to play a match or not appearing at a match first time, a match will be accounted for as lost by 0-3 (0-25; 0-25; 0-25) by the team concerned, in case team refusing second time, it shall be excluded from the rest of BWVL competitions. The results obtained up to the moment of its exclusion shall be cancelled. Other sanctions (financial and sportive) are decided by concerned National Federation according to its regulations.

6.3.3. In case of equality in the number of points gained by two or several teams, they will be classified in descending order by the winning and losing matches, set quotient resulting from the division of the number of all sets won by the number of all sets lost in Main Tournament. If the tie persists, as per the set quotient, they will be classified in descending order by the set points quotient resulting from the division of all set points scored by the total of set points lost during all sets. If the tie continues, as per the sets points' quotient, the teams are decided between by the result of the match (-es), which the teams have disputed between them.

6.4. Balls

The only ball to be used for all matches is the MIKASA MVA200. Each hosting team has to provide at least 5 MIKASA MVA200 balls for the game and min 12 warming-up balls.

6.5. Withdrawal

In case of the withdrawal of team after the official registration form receiving in concerned National Federation and BWVL Office, in a deadline, mentioned in these Regulations and before the starting of competition, during the competition, team will be penalized. Amount of fine will be determined according to the Regulations of concerned National Federation.

7. Competition site

7.1. Competition hall, Area, Conditions, Approvals

All matches shall be staged in halls, meeting the requirements laid down to these Regulations (Attachment #1). Therefore concerned Federation has to approve sport halls, where competitions will be held.

8. Participating clubs

8.1. Organizational items

8.1.1. The participating clubs are responsible for the preparation of all matches and the organization and smooth running of all home matches. Each participating club shall nominate for the whole period of the competition a responsible person who shall be in contact with the National federation for the entire organization of the competition.

8.1.2. The hosting club according to these Regulations must assist to each visiting team as from their arrival at the competitions place till departure. As per request of visiting club, hosting clubs have to arrange the hotel, meals and have to ensure with sport hall for competitions according the Official FIVB Rules.

8.1.3. Request concerning the necessity of booking of hotel has to be sent by visiting club to hosting club not later than 1 month before concerned tournament.

8.2. Technical items

The hosting club must nominate:

- 1) Printer,
- 2) Wi-Fi,
- 3) Computer for e-scoresheet,
- 4) 1 scoreboard operator,
- 5) 1 announcer,
- 6) 4-6 ball retrievers,
- 7) 2 quick moppers,
- 8) Statistician,
- 9) All other staff for the organizing of the home matches.
- 10) For the matches' mineral water without gas must be available for the visiting team, provided by organizing club (min 6 liters).

8.3. Official venue of arrival & departure

The hosting club before the starting of the season will communicate to the concerned National federation's representative and clubs about the official arrival/departure venue and official address of the sport hall, where home match of the organizing club takes place.

8.4. Accreditations

It is mandatory that teams before the starting of the match present to the first referee of the match following documents:

- Collective license of the team, issued and duly completed by concerned federation and club;
- Individual licenses, issued by concerned National federation or ID cards, or passports of players.

8.5. Game statistics

8.5.1. Each club has the obligation to provide statistics during home matches. Game statistics during the match must be provided by using official statistics program – Data Volley, which has live score and live results output. It is mandatory to refresh statistics on Data Volley after each set.

8.5.2. In case of misinformation in live results, home club, who is responsible for making the game statistics, must immediately after the match inform the respective National Federation and Head Office of the BWVL about the correct results.

8.5.3. User manual for Data Volley will be delivered to teams.

9. Financial issues

9.1. Expenses of teams

9.1.1. Organization

Hosting team of the concerned tournament is responsible for covering of all organizing expenses, including sports hall, all staff etc.

9.1.2. Travel

9.1.2.1. All travel (to and back to the competitions place as well as during the competitions) expenses will be covered by participating teams themselves.

9.1.2.2. Local transportation within the hosting country, i.e. transportation between the official venue of arrival and departure, the competition hall, training hall and hotel(s), shall be arranged and paid by the visiting club.

9.1.3. Accommodation

9.1.3.1. For all matches, each organizing team per request of visiting team shall assist to organize their lodging & food at the competition venue in a good standard hotel in double rooms with WC, shower, etc.

9.1.3.2. The costs of hotel, including the meals (including breakfast, lunch, and dinner) cannot exceed 45 EUR per person per day. Visiting team has to send request for accommodation to organizing club at least 2 weeks before the concerned game at latest. Visiting clubs are responsible to cover all own expenses for accommodation and meals.

9.1.3.3. Hosting team of each tournament/matches in case of request of visiting teams assists to arrange the possible cheapest accommodation for official delegation.

9.2. Expenses for referees

9.2.1. Local organizers (teams) of all the tournaments matches are responsible for covering the expenses (including travel expenses) of referees. The exact way of covering the all costs of referees (per diem, transportation) is decided and coordinated by respective National federation. Each federation informs concerned clubs about the order of mentioned payments.

9.2.2. The costs of Referees in Final 4 Tournament are Organizers responsibility on same conditions.

9.2.3. For Neutral Referees of each participating country, who are nominated to the Play off Stage matches or Final 4 Tournament by their Federations, all expenses of theses referees (per diem, accommodation, meals, travel) are covered by clubs, to which country belongs nominated referee on the basis and regulations, confirmed by each National federation.

10. Referees

10.1. Principles of appointment of referees

10.1.1. Only referees appearing on the annual referees list, which is approved by concerned National federation, may be appointed to officiate the matches.

10.1.2. Referees (1, 2 Referee, scorer) are nominated by Refereeing commission of the respective National federation of the hosting club, other staff (ball retrievers, quick floor moppers, announcer) is nominated by hosting club.

10.1.3. During Stage 2 -Play-offs – visiting team has the rights to bring to the match own referee. This referee has to be nominated by the Referee Commission of National Federation of visiting team from the annual list. In case the visiting team brings the referee, they have to inform about that organizing club and National Federation of the hosting team 3 days before the match at latest.

10.1.4. Stage 3 Final Four Matches 1-4 places - four referees (spots per country will be decided by Jury together with nomination of Final Four organizer; general principle is: 2 referees from organizing country and one referee per other countries) and 2-4 linesmen will be nominated by the Referee Commission of concerned National Federations. For the Final match as the 1st referee will be nominated referee from country, where the Final Four tournament takes place. BWVL Jury with separate decision can make changes in order of nominations for the Final Four tournament.

10.1.5. All referees have to receive their appointments from concerned National federation. Withdrawals are only accepted in the exceptional cases and have to be announced through the Office of concerned federation immediately.

10.1.6. Each Referee must wear the latest official refereeing uniform of their country.

10.2. Duties of referees

10.2.1. Each Referee must examine:

- Electronical scoresheet has been used on the basis of Data Volley program,
- If the hosting club has the necessary scoresheet and "Line-up sheets" that must be filled in the language of country where the match takes place.

10.2.2. The First Referee has the following tasks:

- Carry out a final inspection regarding refereeing matters of the sports infrastructure and material in the competition areas,
- Brief the scorers, ball retrievers, quick floor moppers, line-judges (if nominated) about their duties,
- Explain all refereeing matters,
- Check collective license of the teams and passports, ID cards or individual licenses, issued by concerned federation,
- Make remarks about any of faults in the scoresheet after the match, fixed in sport hall,
- ½ of hour after the match informs Responsible of own federation about the sanctions of players of the concerned match, in case such sanctions have been applied.

10.2.3. Scorer has to fill the scoresheet with following additional tasks:

- Fix amount of spectators in the scoresheet.

10.2.4. Referees of the game have to know Basic English, with purpose to explain all situations to foreign players and team members.

10.3. Officiating referees

Working Material

The referees have to follow the Official Volleyball Rules and all official documents listed below:

- Match Protocol
- Volleyball Rules
- Refereeing Guidelines & Instructions
- Case Book
- Guidelines for Line-Judges
- Court personnel Guidelines
- Floor mopping Guidelines

10.4. Arrival & Departure

Appointed referees of the match must arrive at the competition hall at least 1 hour before the match.

The departure is fixed after the match.

11. Registration and financial items

11.1. Registration of the teams is going through the respective National Federation.

11.2. Participation fee **270, 00 EUR** must be paid till **20 August 2020** to the Account of concerned federation. Expenses of Final Four will be covered by all the teams accordingly.

11.3. License fee for players has to be paid directly to concerned federations. License fee is determined by Regulations of each National federation.

11.4. All costs for referees, nominated by concerned Federation to matches in relevant home country is determined and paid according to the Rules of each National federation.

12. Awarding Ceremony

12.1. The Awarding Ceremony will be organized after the Final match.

12.2. Presence of all awarded teams is mandatory in the Awarding Ceremony.

12.3. Organizer has the rights to make changes in the script of Awarding Ceremony, teams has to be informed about that accordingly.

12.4. PRIZES

According to the results, three winning teams (each team max 18 persons) receive following awards:

- 14 players and a maximum of 6 accompanying persons of the 1st team receive a gold medal, Cup, team Diploma,
- 14 players and a maximum of 6 accompanying persons of the 2nd ranked team receive a silver medal, Cup, team Diploma,
- 14 players and a maximum of 6 accompanying persons of the 3rd ranked team receive a bronze medal, Cup, team Diplomas.
- After the Final game, will be awarded Final Four dream team and MVP of the final game with memory prizes.

13. Marketing issues

All promotional materials are made by participating teams. In case sponsorship BWVL Jury has the right to decide to prepare common promotional materials, which participating clubs are bound to distribute during the competitions.

14. Others

14.1 Administration of this competition will be in close co-operation with Volleyball federations of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

14.2. The highest authority of competition is Jury of BWVL.

14.3. All matters which are not defined in these Regulations could be the subject of discussions; final decision is made by Jury of BWVL.