

Sitting Volleyball is a fast, exciting form of the sport played by athletes with and without disabilities at domestic level. It is growing fast in England and presents great opportunities to referees. This guide explains the pathway through the sitting volleyball referee grades, and gives important information about referee development and opportunities for refereeing.

## **ENTRY LEVEL: GRADE C**

There are two routes into Grade C, the first grade of sitting volleyball refereeing.

### **GRADE C ONE-DAY COURSE**

This short course is for candidates who have a current (indoor) volleyball referee qualification (at least Grade 4, passed within the last three years). Grade C is awarded to referees who attend a one-day course and successfully complete a theory examination on the rules of sitting volleyball. The course includes two to three hours of theory and (where possible) practical refereeing, although there is no practical assessment. The pass mark for the theory examination is 80%, and the cost of attending a course is currently £10, which includes tuition, exam entry and a study pack (emailed to candidates in advance).

### **GRADE 4 + GRADE C COURSES**

Candidates who do not have a current (indoor) volleyball referee qualification take the one-day Grade C course as well as the Grade 4 volleyball referee course. The Grade 4 course normally takes two days: details are available in the Volleyball Referee Technical Guide. A candidate's Grade C qualification will be ratified when they have also passed the Grade 4 course.

## **REFEREE REGISTRATION**

All qualified sitting volleyball referees are required to register with Volleyball England annually. Registration enables an accurate record of activity to be maintained, and matches can be allocated efficiently. In return, referees are kept up to date with rule changes and other developments. Registered officials also receive a licence card, information on training opportunities, third party liability insurance cover, and opportunities to officiate in Volleyball England sitting volleyball competitions. Referees are expected to register before 1 August each year.

## **REFEREE DEVELOPMENT**

Sitting volleyball referees may be observed in Volleyball England competitions at any time, without prior notification. They may also at any time be required to sit a theory examination, which will require knowledge of the WOVD Rules and Guidelines. At least two months' notification will be given of a theory examination.

All Referees holding Grade B or A may be required to attend special training clinics. Grade B and A referees are expected to attend the National Referees' Conference; failure to do so for two years may result in downgrading or other disciplinary action, unless Referee Commission has been previously notified of extenuating circumstances. All referees are expected to abide strictly by the Code of Conduct for referees, available on the Volleyball England website.

## **GRADE B**

This is the basic grade of practical refereeing, a recommended *minimum* standard for officiating in Volleyball England sitting volleyball competitions. So, when you have been refereeing comparatively regularly, and think you are fulfilling the basic criteria required, you should be applying for assessment for Grade B. To achieve Grade B a candidate must be observed (by an approved member of the sitting volleyball staff team) officiating as both first and second referee, and must be in the current referee uniform. Candidates may make a direct approach to any staff on the current list, in order to arrange an assessment. Whereas Grade C is awarded for theoretical knowledge of the rules, the Grade B award is made solely on the basis of practical refereeing. Prior to assessment a candidate must have qualified as a Grade C referee and have registered. The award will not be ratified until registration is received by the National Office. There is no charge for single Grade B assessments.

## **GRADE A**

Grade A awards are made by Referee Commission on receipt of a body of observation/assessment reports, which show the candidate has consistently fulfilled the criteria for the grade over an extended period of time, and when the candidates have fulfilled the criteria set out below.

Applicants for Grade A must be registered Grade B referees (normally with at least two years of refereeing experience) and must be able to demonstrate a consistently high standard of officiating in Volleyball England recognised sitting volleyball competitions and/or approved international events. To be considered for upgrading, a candidate should apply to the Sitting Volleyball Referee Commissioner prior to the start of the season in which observations are to be made.

Within six months of candidates embarking on the Grade A pathway they will be expected to pass the Grade A theory examination. Candidates for Grade A will work to meet the criteria set out in the Key Performance Objectives for Grade A whilst at the same time maintaining the standards of behaviour, administrative efficiency and professionalism required of all referees by the Referee Code of Conduct. Practical training will consist of detailed debriefs following match observations.

Referee Commission will normally consider for upgrading to Grade A only candidates who have: (i) 'above baseline' observations at suitable Volleyball England sitting volleyball competitions from at least two different members of the sitting volleyball staff team or Referee Commission appointed observers; (ii) during the previous three years participated in a clinic held at a national event/tournament staffed by Senior Staff and/or Staff; (iii) demonstrated the ability to score and line judge accurately. Where there are sufficient candidates, training may include a Referee Theory Clinic. Currently, the charge for a referee Clinic is £10 per day. It is the individual referee's responsibility to keep a log of his/her activity and the dates at which criteria have been met.

## **INTERNATIONAL REFEREE**

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Applicants for the WOVD Candidate International Referee Course are selected by Referee Commission. To qualify they must hold a British passport and be resident in England, Wales or the Channel Islands. It is not possible for referees to apply for this grade. Any individual(s) selected by Referee Commission must be over 25 and under 45 years of age at the time of attending the International Referee Course, and must normally have been Grade A referees for at least three years. Once a referee has passed the course, they must gain appropriate marks from WOVD and ECVD observers at official international competitions in order to be recognised as a full WOVD international referee. On 31 December in the year when they reach the age of retirement (55 years) a referee is not permitted to use the title 'WOVD International Referee'.

## **AGE LIMITS**

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The minimum age for refereeing adult sitting volleyball matches is normally eighteen. After the age of sixty a referee must re-apply annually to Referee Commission to continue to be appointed to Volleyball England sitting volleyball competitions. Those who wish to continue registering after retirement from active refereeing may do so, at the lowest rate currently available.

## **ACCELERATED PROMOTION SCHEME**

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By special application, a player or coach with significant experience of sitting volleyball and/or volleyball may be considered for accelerated training; in such cases it may be possible to attend only the Grade C referee course and a certified scoring course. It may also be possible to shorten the normal period of qualification for Grade B or A, although it should be noted that the same standards of competence, the same pass marks, and the same criteria must be met. For further details applicants should contact the Sitting Volleyball Referee Commissioner. Accelerated promotion, through Grades B and A will also be considered by Referee Commission for referees displaying *exceptional* ability and progress.

## **SITTING VOLLEYBALL REFEREE STAFF**

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