



Volley 123: Frequently Asked Questions

The Project

What is Volley 123?

Volley 123 is Volleyball England's national club accreditation programme. Volley 123 is designed to recognise and reward junior volleyball clubs that stand apart from the rest in terms of good practice.

Once a club is awarded Volley 1, they will also receive Sport England Clubmark status. Introduced by Sport England in 2002, Clubmark is the only national cross sports quality accreditation scheme for clubs with junior sections. It is built around a set of core criteria which ensure that accredited clubs operate to a set of consistent, accepted and adopted **minimum operating standards**. It is also an excellent club development tool to help clubs put into place these standards.

Who can apply for Volley 123?

Any club that is affiliated to Volleyball England is eligible to apply for Volley 123. In addition, your club must have, or intend to develop a junior section as Clubmark is an award for junior clubs.

What if our club doesn't have a junior section?

Your club doesn't have to have a junior section to register for Volley 123, however as Volley 1/ Clubmark are quality accreditation schemes for junior clubs you must develop a junior section before accreditation will be awarded.

Clubs with adult-only membership may also apply for Side Out accreditation. This will give your club a recognised quality mark from Volleyball England, but will not award you Sport England status as this is reserved for junior clubs only.

Does it cost anything to register for the Volley 123 scheme?

The Volley 123 scheme is free of charge for all clubs affiliated to Volleyball England. To affiliate to Volleyball England please visit the Membership pages of our website.

Can we see the full Volley 123 criteria before applying?

All of the Side Out and Volley 1 assessment packs with full criteria are available to download from the Volley 123 Clubmark webpage.

A hard copy of the full criteria, guidance and templates will be sent out in the Volley 1 support and assessment pack when your club registers on the scheme. To discuss the criteria for Side Out, Volley 1, 2 or 3 and your club's potential application further, please contact the National Club Development Officer at clubs@volleyballengland.org.

We're a National League team; how do the new NVL Minimum Standards affect our club with regards to accreditation?

The Minimum Operating Standards are aimed at driving up the standards of the National Volleyball League with the aim to improve the presentation of matches, increase participant satisfaction and create an aspirational pathway through the leagues.

The Side Out and Volley 123 accreditation schemes are a key part of this project. Not only do they recognise safe, well-run and friendly volleyball clubs but they support clubs to develop structures and policies where needed. Under the Minimum Operating Standards;

- ALL current NVL teams must have completed at least Side Out accreditation by the end of the 2011/12 season. Where the club has a junior section, Volley 1 is preferred.
- All new entrants must register to complete accreditation by the end of their first season and if a club loses its accreditation status, it must be recompleted within one year.

Working Towards Accreditation

What support will the club receive when working towards accreditation?

Once registered on the Side Out or Volley 123 scheme, your club will receive a support and assessment pack through the post. This pack contains the criteria for each section, guidance notes, electronic templates and real examples from accredited clubs. The National Club Development Officer will also be on hand to guide you through the process and answer any questions that you may have and give advice where necessary.

You can also contact members of our Head Office staff who will be able to assist you with queries related to their area of work.

How long does the club have to complete the assessment file?

Your club has 12 months to complete the assessment file, after which period the support of the National Club Development Officer can no longer be guaranteed. If you feel that you may not be able to meet this 12 month deadline, please contact the National Development Officer at clubs@volleyballengland.org.

Can we access the support resources online?

All clubs registered on the Volley 123 scheme will have received a memory stick with useful resources for your application. These can also be accessed online in the Clubs section of www.volleyballengland.org.

Accredited Clubs

What is the Set Up & Play Club Equipment scheme?

Worth £750, the Set Up & Play Club equipment comprises of an outdoor net system, two volleyballs, promotional sail banners and parabolas and other assorted small kit items. It is awarded to all clubs who successfully complete Volley 1 accreditation. The expectation is for the club to run regular outdoor sessions throughout the spring and summer months.

The Set Up & Play Club Equipment Franchise is a key part of Volleyball England's Strategic Plan 2009 -2013. The aim is for clubs to run regular weekly outdoor opportunities for members and non-members. The aim is to have 2000 participants weekly (across the country) by 2013.

Once your club is awarded with Volley 1, the National Club Development Officer will contact you regarding the Club Equipment Franchise. You will need to sign and return the Service Level Agreement attached to the equipment and provide a suitable address for delivery. The set will then be sent out directly to the club from the suppliers.

How long does the Volley 123 award last?

After a club achieves Volley 1, their Volley 1 and Clubmark status are valid for four years from the date of awarding. Volley 2 and Volley 3 are also seen as a resubmission for Clubmark status, so should your club achieve a higher level of accreditation.

Will anyone know that our club has completed Volley 123?

Yes, the National Club Development Officer will inform your local borough council and your county sports partnership. Both of these are likely to promote Clubmark clubs in their sports directories. Volleyball England will also highlight your club as an accredited club in our Volleyball Search and you will receive coverage on our website and in 3Touch magazine.

Gaining Volley 1 and Clubmark status is also a good opportunity for your club to engage with the local press to publicise your success.

What is the annual health check?

As a Volley 123 accredited club you are required to complete an annual health check so that Volleyball England can ensure that your club continues to meet the requirements of Volley 123. You will be asked to fill in a short form and submit an up-to-date version of your development plan.

How can we apply for the next level of Volley 123?

To apply for the next level of Volley 123, please contact the National Club Development Officer, at clubs@volleyballengland.org or 01509 227722. Once your club is registered on the scheme you will be sent the appropriate support and assessment pack in the post.

Our club's accreditation status is about to run out; how do we go about reaccrediting?

Clubmark and Volley 123 status are valid for four years from the date that you have accredited. Six months before this date, the National Club Development Officer will contact you to arrange reaccreditation. Your club can either choose to reaccredit at your current level which will involve submitting an up-to-date version of the assessment folder, or you can move to the next level of Volley 123 which is seen as a resubmission for Clubmark.