



BALTIC WOMEN VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

OFFICIAL REGULATIONS 2023/2024



CHAPTER 1. COMPETITION REGULATIONS

1. COMPETITION FORMAT

1.1. JURIDICAL STRUCTURE

1.1.1. According to the Agreement between all Federations, Baltic Women Volleyball League (further BWVL) will be organized on regular basis with purpose to promote the popularity of volleyball in Baltic countries.

All the participating Federations are entrusted to organize these competitions.

1.1.2. BWVL is governed by Jury, consisting of:

- Secretary General of Estonian Volleyball Federation, Secretary General of Latvian Volleyball Federation and , Secretary General of Lithuanian Volleyball Federation (3 persons);
- One representative from Estonian, Lithuania and Latvian clubs (3 persons);
- One CEV Supervisor (from CEV List) from Estonian, Lithuanian and Latvian federations (3 persons);
- One marketing responsible, from Estonian, Lithuanian and Latvian federations (3 persons).

BWVL Jury accepts decisions on the principles of the consensus. Head Office of the BWVL is defined according the decision of Jury. For the season 2023/2024. Head Office of BWVL is located in Latvia.

1.1.3. Basic documents of BWVL are:

- Agreement between Estonian, Lithuanian and Latvian Volleyball Federations;
- BWVL Competition Reglament 2023/2024;
- Budget of BWVL for the season 2023/2024;
- Contract List between clubs & players (in case such have been signed).

1.2. MAIN GOALS

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, Lithuania and Latvia, candidates for the National teams of all participating countries as well.

1.3. PARTICIPATING TEAMS

1.3.1. Estonia

Audentese SG/NK
TalTech
TÜ/Bigbank
Rae Spordikool/VIASTON

1.3.2. Latvia

Riga Volleyball School/LU
Riga Stradina University/MSG
VK Jelgava
SUFA klubs / DU

1.3.3. Lithuania

Kaunas-VDU
Jonavos "Aušrinė"

1.4. ORGANIZATION FORMAT

The BMVL shall consist of the four stages:

1st Stage	Main Tournament (2 Rounds)
2nd Stage	Play-off matches (1-8,2-7,3-6,4-5)
3rd Stage	Final Four Tournament
4th Stage	National Play-offs

2. RIGHT OF PARTICIPATION OF TEAMS

2.1. ELIGIBILITY

2.1.1. Only club teams registered by their National Federation shall be eligible to participate in the BWVL.

2.1.2. Every club has to settle all its payments and debts through the concerned National Federation.

2.2. REGISTRATION AND CONFIRMATION

2.2.1. To be admitted to participate, all Federations shall register its respective clubs by forwarding the complete final classification of its Championships, in which this club take part.

The registration of club teams must be done by means of the:

Form SL-01 (Club registration)

Form SL-02 (Players registration)

Form SL-03 (Sport hall registration)

by registered letter or e-mail (as scanned document or with electronical signature) sent to the concerned National Federation's Office.

With registration all club teams also commit themselves to participate in all phases of the BWVL and confirm respecting all the common Regulations and other binding documents, approved inside the each National Federation concerning participating in championships.

2.2.1. Club is registered, when all the documents, meant in p. 2.2.1 have been received in a set deadlines, all payments have been settled in the deadline till 30. september 2023. Teams, which have debts from previous seasons, cannot register for participating in BWVL for season 2023/2024.

2.2.2. Deadlines of the official SL forms:

2.2.3.1. SL – 01 – Club Registration **10.09.2023**

2.2.3.2. SL – 02 – Players Registration **10.09.2023**

2.2.3.3. SL – 03 – Sport hall Registration **21.09.2023 for new clubs, in case such clubs are registered**

During competitions period new competitions hall can be registered no less then 30 days before concerned match.

For those clubs, who are playing in sport halls, not corresponding to demands of National TV, with concerned each National federation has the written agreement concerning transmitting the matches, deadline of the registering of additional hall is mentioned no later as 30 days before concerned match. Registration of hall, corresponding to concerned TV demands in above mentioned deadline, is mandatory for each participating club.

2.2.4. All forms have to be filled electronically, forms filled in handwriting are not accepted.

2.3 TEAM COMPOSITION

For the season each club 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:

- the head coach
- the two assistant coaches
- the medical doctor
- the physiotherapist/trainer
- statistician

The presence of the Team Manager during the competition is recommended. He/she cannot sit on the bench. Any other persons are regarded as extra persons.

Within the 12 players up to 2 liberos can be listed. Therefore, the head coach has the right to register:

- 14 players - 12 + 2 LIBERO
- 13 players - 11 + 2 LIBERO
- 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, 6 + 2 LIBERO
- 7 players – 6 + 1 LIBERO
- 6 players - 0 LIBERO

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.

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.

3. RIGHT OF PARTICIPATION OF PLAYERS

3.1 ELIGIBILITY

3.1.1. Only players nominally registered on the team's collective licence, validated by National Federation, can take part in BWVL. Each of these players must fulfil the following conditions:

- She must possess only one national license valid exclusively for the club, which applies for the BWVL.
- If she is a foreign player, she must fulfil all conditions regarding the right to play in a club of another country according to all provisions of the FIVB and CEV Regulations, dealing with international transfers and determining the player's Federation of Origin.

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

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

3.1.4. Internal transfer procedure of players from club to club in each country has regulated by the Official Rules, confirmed by concerned National Federation of each participating country.

3.1.5. 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 no contracts have been signed between clubs and players, with signature on the collective licence player and club confirms, that player on concerned season belongs to concerned club.

3.1.6. In case in the BWVL as participant is registered National youth/junior team, according the decision of BOA of concerned federation and confirmation by BWVL Jury, defined youth/junior team players can to represent 2 teams, i.e. club, where is he registered and national youth/junior team. Concerned federation has to inform all involved parts about names of mentioned players in defined period of registration of team names.

3.2 LICENSES

3.2.1. The number of players allowed to be listed on the BWVL licence is limited to 22 players.

3.2.2. Collective licence has to be confirmed by concerned club and National Federation with the signatures and seals.

3.2.3. 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 **01 February 2024** at latest, i.e. deadline of registering of all the players is **01 February 2024**. 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 15 February 2024, 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**.

3.2.4. The certified collective license and the official identity paper of each player must be presented to the First Referee before the starting of each match.

3.2.5. Concerned National Federation has to inform all involved parties about additional or substituted players till 01 February 2024, including applied new foreign players mentioned in p. 3.2.3.

4. COMPETITION CLAUSES

4.1. GENERAL RULES GOVERNING THE COMPETITION

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

BWVL shall be organized and played under Official FIVB Volleyball Rules and taking into consideration existing other concerned Regulations, official documents, approved both by Estonian and Latvian Volleyball Federations.

Fixed Match protocol 17 minutes must be applied before the beginning of each match of regular season, if National athems have been played 18 minutes protocol can be used..

Technical time-outs have been used.

4.2. COMPETITION METHODS IN THE DIFFERENT ROUNDS/PHASES

4.2.1. 1st Stage – Main tournament

All participating 10 clubs are playing according to the 2 round robin system. It is recommended in Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia that both away matches take place in the same weekend. During the 1st and 2nd rounds, matches take place on Saturdays and Sundays, in case of necessity, on working days. After the finishing the Main tournament the ranking of the championship (further Ranking) is established.

4.2.2. 2nd Stage – Play-off Competitions

4.2.2.1. Quarterfinals*

According to results and ranking of 1st Stage quarterfinals are playing 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);

*In each quarterfinal teams are playing "Home and Away" matches

First match in each quarterfinal will be played on the court of team with lower ranking and second (and third, if necessary) match on the court of the team with higher ranking.

Competition days of Quarterfinals are Wednesday or Thursdays and Saturdays or/and Sundays.

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

4.2.3. 3rd Stage - Final Four (FF) 1-4 place

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

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.

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 BWVL.

4.2.4. 4th Stage - National Championships

BWVL National Championships are regulated by concerned Federations with the separate Rules, adopted by concerned National Federation.

4.3. MATCH PROGRAMME

Starting time of the matches is from 12:00 till 20:00, i.e.:

Thursdays – not earlier than 18:00, not later than 20:30;

Saturdays – not earlier than 14:00, not later than 19:30, it is recommended matches between foreign clubs start not later than 18:00;

Sundays – not earlier than 12:00, not later than 18:00.

Starting time can be modified due to the TV and marketing reasons in a deadline, but no later as 10 days before the concerned match.

4.4. COMPETITION PERIOD

4.4.1. The definite competition calendar for each period will be determined by the BWVL Jury and published on the websites of concerned clubs and National Federations. By written request of club and with official authorization of concerned Federation in competitions calendar, it is possible to make changes in a fixed deadlines. Final decision about the changes in a competitions calendar will be defined by BWVL Jury.

4.4.2. BWVL competitions (1st to 3rd Stage) will take place from 1st October 2023 till 4th March 2024.

In composing of the BWVL competitions calendar have to be taking into consideration following competitions:

- European Cup competitions;
- EEVZA Championships competitions;
- "Baltic Cup" competitions for the junior teams;
- National Youth championship (U-19 age group only)

4.4.3.	1 st Stage - Main Tournament	01.10.2023 – 04.02.2024
	2 nd Stage Play-off, i.e. ¼ Final	10.02.2024 - 25.02.2024
	3 rd Stage Final Four	02.-03.03.2024
	4 th Stage National Championships	from 04.02.2024

4.5. ORGANIZERS OF EVENTS

4.5.1. Each participating club is the organizer of all its home matches on the basis of these Regulations and under the supervision and guarantee of the respective National Federation .

4.5.2. FINAL FOUR

According to the results of the **Main tournament 1st team has First right to organize Final Four tournament of BWVL.**

In case if the Main tournament 1st team refuses to organize BWVL FF tournament, then:

Club interested in organizing of Final Four shall apply by written letter to concerned National Federation at latest **next day** after the Play-off 1/4finals are finished, i.e. till 25 February 2024.

Final decision about place of FF competitions will be defined according to the decision of BWVL

Jury after finishing of 2nd Stage, i.e. no later 26th February 2024.

In case no candidate applies to organize FF competition, Organizer of FF will be decided by separate decision of BWVL Jury.

4.6. ALLOCATION OF POINTS AND CLASSIFICATION

4.6.1. The following rule to determine the winning team will be applied:

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

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, the club receives 0 points, the club that won the technical victory 3:0 (0:0; 0:0; 0:0), receives 3 points, but the small points remain 0:0;

In case team refusing second time, it shall be excluded from the rest of the BWVL competitions. The results obtained up to the moment of its exclusion shall be cancelled. This will be sanctioned as a withdrawal by forfeit from a financial and sports point.

4.6.2. In case of equality in the number of points gained by two or several teams after Main Tournament (Stage 1), 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.

4.6.3. In case of equal points after Stage 2, teams will be classified in a same way as fixed on p. 4.6.2.

5 .TEAM UNIFORMS

5.1. PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

5.1.1. Team Equipment (jerseys, shorts, shoes and warming-up suits) must comply with the BWVL Club Teams Equipment Standards. Each team must have 2 [TWO] sets of uniforms, each one of a different colour numbered 1-99. It is allowed to use special Sponsors' numbers, given to players.

5.1.2. The number of publicities on the jerseys, shorts and warming-up suits is unlimited as far as they don't interfere with the place and visibility of the numbering and the player's name. The publicity on players jerseys can be different. The libero uniform(s) must be different colour or style from the teams uniform and might display different publicity than all other team players.

5.1.3. The BWVL Club Team Equipment Standards are:

JERSEYS:

The uniform jersey shall have an athletic look. All players of the same team must wear the same colour and style. The Libero Player(s) must wear an uniform whose jersey must be of a clearly different contrast colour from the other members of the team. The Libero uniform may have a different design and could be numbered different the rest of the team. Players must wear the same number of their jerseys in each match.

Numbers must contrast with the colour and brightness of the jerseys. The size of the numbers on jersey (front and back side) is not fixed, but it has to be clearly visible. The team captain must have on his jersey a stripe underlining the number on the chest.

- Sleeves: Athletic type non-sleeves or short sleeves are allowed. Long sleeves (exceeding elbow height) are not allowed.
- Body fit: Jerseys must not be loose or baggy and should follow the bodyline.
- No numbers are allowed on the sleeves.
- The player's family name or nick-name on the back, must be centred, right below the collar. Players' name on the jerseys is recommended.
- Publicities can be placed free on the front and back part of the shirts.

SHORTS:

The uniform shorts shall have an athletic look. All players of the same team must wear the same colour and style.

IN CASE OF CLASH WITH THE CHOICE OF THE UNIFORM COLOURS, THE HOME TEAM WILL ALWAYS DECIDE ABOUT THE COLOUR TO WEAR DURING THE GAME. IN CASE BOTH TEAMS HAVE SAME COLOUR OF UNIFORMS, HOME TEAM DECIDE IN WHICH COLOUR IT WILL PLAY AND VISITING TEAM HAS TO USE OPPOSITE COLOUR OF UNIFORM.

SHOES:

Shoes and trademarks may differ in design.

WARMING-UP SUITS:

When warming up suits are worn in the warm up courts or in the competition control area, they must be of the same colour and style for the entire team and when worn by team officials.

COMPRESSION PADS:

Compression pads are approved, but require to be same colour and design for all the players. Compression underwear is allowed on the same conditions.

5.2. OFFICIALS' UNIFORMS

During the matches for the head coach, the assistant coach's, doctor and physiotherapist, statistician are recommended to be dressed similarly.

For the team members is recommended to conform to one of the following dress code:

5.2.1. All to wear the team training suit and polo shirt of the same colour and style or

5.2.2. All to wear dress jacket, collared dress shirt, tie (for men) and formal slacks of the same colour and style except the trainer, who may wear the team training suit and polo shirt.

6. CASES NOT FORESEEN

All cases not provided for by the current regulations shall be settled by the Jury of BWVL.

CHAPTER 2. TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION & LOGISTICS

1. RESPONSIBLE BODIES

1.1. COMPETITION RESPONSIBLE JURY

As the BWVL responsible organ, the BWVL Jury:

- Proposes organizational guidelines and instructions governing the running of the competitions in accordance with the regulations;
- Directs and supervises the technical groundwork;
- Coordinates the timetable of the matches;
- Supervises the running of the competition during the whole period.

1.2. NATIONAL FEDERATION RESPONSIBLE

1.2.1. The National Federation supports, supervises and guarantees the entire preparation and organization of single matches by its club team(s) as well as their participation in the entire competition. For this reason each National Federation with teams participating in the BWVL nominates a National Federation's BWVL Responsible within its Federation:

National Federation Responsible's duties are, to:

- be familiar with all regulations;
- permanently help the team(s) to coordinate its (their) actions with strict respect to the BWVL regulations;
- have a permanently used e-mail address;
- supervise the smooth running of the events in his/her country;
- help in solving problems which may occur in the organization, forward information about unclear raised situations to Jury for the taking of final decision;
- guarantee that the teams will pursue the BWVL Regulations;
- start his/her activities in due time before the official registration of the teams;
- take part in any possible inspection visit of the competition venue(s);
- advice the participating club(s) in all organizational, technical, marketing items.

1.3. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS

For each single match, the National Federation of the hosting club must appoint:

- The first and the second referees, 1 experienced scorer for the international e-score, 2-4 linesmen starting from playoff round.

1.4. PARTICIPATING CLUBS

The participating clubs are responsible for the preparation of all matches and the organization and smooth running of all home matches according to the current BWVL Regulations. 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 duration of the competition.

The hosting club according to these Regulations must assist each visiting team as from their arrival at the competitions place till departure; as per request of visiting club, has to arrange the hotel, meals and has to ensure with sport hall for training sessions, and competitions according the Official FIVB Rules. Request concerning the necessity of booking of hotel has to be sent by visiting club to organizing club not later than 1 month before concerned match.

The hosting club must nominate:

- 1 scoreboard operator;
- 1 announcer;
- Statistician;
- 4-6 ball retrievers;
- 2 quick moppers;
- all other staff for the organizing of the home match.

2. COMPETITION SITE

2.1. COMPETITION HALL / AREA /CONDITIONS / APPROVALS

2.1.1. All matches shall be staged in halls, meeting the requirements laid down to these regulations. Therefore concerned National Federation mandatory has to approve sport halls, where BWVL matches will be held. In case of new sport hall, which is not previously used, each club has to return the duly completed official form SL-03 "Request for Approval of a Competition Hall" to concerned National Federation for approval. List of sport halls, where take place BWVL competitions mandatory have to be approved by concerned National Federation. In case of TV transmission of any of matches in all rounds of BWVL, sport hall, where takes place concerned match must to apply to demands of National TV, with whom concerned National Federation has signed written agreement, otherwise, hosting club has to change a sport hall. In case club doesn't fulfil their duties concerning demands of TV, with whom a signed contract by concerned National Federation exists for concerned games and doesn't change the hall, it has to be sanctioned accordingly, i.e. by decision of BWVL Jury, team can be excluded from further competitions. Sanctions are mentioned in a Table of Sanctions.

2.1.2. Organizing club has ensure online statistics (with online score) of each home match using DataVolley and Dataproject systems. Online statistics and score must be uploaded after each set. Game statistics has to be done in the electronical format, approved by BWVL.

2.2. TRAINING FACILITIES

Any club team organizing a match shall commit itself to ensure that per the request of visiting team, the visiting team be granted the following training facilities:

- on the day prior to the competition day – 90 minutes;
- on the competition day - 60 minutes.

At least the one training must take place in the competition hall under the same conditions as during the match. On the competition day, training must be completed 5 (FIVE) hours before the official starting time of the match. In case no request for trainings received from visiting club at least 10 days before the concerned match, it will regard, that visiting team doesn't use the hall for the trainings .If the problems in arranging of competitions hall for the trainings exist, it has to be settled in the negotiations between the clubs.

During the trainings sessions and matches, mineral water without gas must be available for the visiting team, provided by organizing club (**at least 27 liters filled in 1,5 liters per bottle**).

3. ACCOMMODATION

For all matches, each organizing club per request of visiting team, shall organize its lodging & food at the competition venue in a good standart hotel in double rooms with WC, shower, etc. It is recommended, that all the costs of hotel, including meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) can't to exceed 55 EUR per person per day and must be covered by visiting team itself. In case visiting team chooses by themselves the hotel of highest level, they have to pay mentioned price difference. Official delegation (for whom organizing club has to arrange lodging and food for above mentioned price) can't exceed 20 persons. Visiting team has to send request for accomodation to organizing club 2 weeks before the concerned game at latest. Clubs has the rights to cover expenses of accomodation on the basis of mutual barter too.

4. RESULTS AND STATISTICS

GAME STATISTICS

Each club has the obligation to provide game statistics during the match using official statistics program – *DataVolley*, which has livescore and live results output. In case of misinformation in live results, home club, who is responsible for recording the game statistics, must immediately after the match inform the respective National Federation and Head Office of BWVL about the correct results.

Home team must provide the visiting team and press statistics after every set and match.

User manual for Datavolley will be delivered to teams by Head Office of BWVL and seminars will be organized before the season of BWVL.

5. TRANSPORT & VISA

5.1. Travel of teams

For all matches visiting team must organize own travel schedule to the official venue of competition, indicated by the organizer of the match. The travel schedule of the visiting team has to be organized in such a way, that they arrive in a competitions place in time. Visiting team is responsible for own international and local transportation expenses.

5.2. Travel of referees & technical delegates

The referees have to arrive in the competitions place 1 hour before the starting of the match. Technical delegates (in case of such a nomination) have to arrive in the competitions place 1,5 hours before the starting of the match at latest.

5.3. 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 the home match of the organizing club will take place.

5.4. Local transportation

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

6. ACCREDITATIONS

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

- collective licence of the team, issued and duly completed by concerned National Federation and club;
- Table of sanctions, issued by NF;
- individual licences, issued by concerned National Federation or ID cards, or passports of players.

Sport hall has to be accredited by concerned National federation.

MINIMUM TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS OF SPORT HALL FOR BWVL COMPETITIONS

EQUIPMENT	
Post & pads	According to the FIVB rules
Net	According to the FIVB rules
Net antenna	According to the FIVB rules
Net measuring rod	2.50 m long
Referee's chair	
Scorer's table	1 (max 5 persons)
Manual scoreboards	3 (minimum 1 is mandatory)
Balls	12 – 20
Support for 5 balls	1
Pressure gauge	
Printer	1
Line judges flags	2 – 4 (minimum 2 is mandatory)
Benches (3 m long)	2 (or 2 x 13 chairs)
Rubber wheel trolley	2 (supermarket style)
Rubber wheel carts	2 (for 12 balls each)
Flag of participating teams (country flag)	Mandatory (to be produced by the organizer)
FACILITIES	
Flooring	Wood (GERFLOR or MONDOFLEX recommended)
Lighting	Measured 1 m above the floor: - Min. 700- 1000 LUX, - Not dazzling - No shadows on playing area
Sound system	Mandatory
Air conditioning	If appropriate
Electric scoreboard indicating:	Mandatory

Name of the teams	Mandatory
Team to serve	Preferable
Time-outs used per team	Preferable
Substitutions used per team	Preferable
Score of the current set	Mandatory
Score of the previous set(s)	Preferable
COMPETITIONS AREA	
LENGTH	34 m
Court size including complete Controll Area	≥34 x 19 m
Court	18.0 m
Free zone	2 x 6.50 m
Free passage way	Min 2 x 2 m
WIDTH	19 m
Court	9.0 m
Free zone	2 x 5 m
Free passage way	Min 2 x 2 m
HEIGHT	9.0 m*
MINIMUM SEATING CAPACITY	
For spectators	500 spectators
For press	Depending on the number of present journalists
INTERNET CONNECTIONS	
Specifications	Internet wireless connection has mandatory to be available in sport hall. LAN connection for statistician is recommended.

Court area: The court area must be of exactly 34 x 19m. It is allowed that other lines than those foreseen for Volleyball are on the floor. In case the court area is less than 34 x 19 m, for this hall has to be additional approval of concerned National Federation.

**In case of less of all mentioned parametrs, it will be confirmed by concerned National Federation allowance to play in each particular sport hall.*

Coaches lines is not mandatory in Sport hall.

Substitution plates for players are not mandatory.

Places for reserve players – in case dimensions of sport hall allow, it's allowed for reserve players to be allocated behind the players benches, in case no – it remains as according the previous court layout, i.e. in the corners.

Team benches –in case chairs used, has to be 13 chairs for each team.

Balls: All matches of BWVL will be played with the MIKASA V200W balls. Hosting club provides with the balls for trainings and the game.

CHAPTER 3. REFEREEING REGULATIONS

1. DUTIES OF REFEREES

All referees have to take over their appointments from concerned National Federation. Withdrawals are only accepted in exceptional cases and have to be announced to the Office of concerned National Federation immediately.

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

1.2. Each Referee must examine:

- The nomination of the scorer;
- The court equipment and size is in accordance with CEV and FIVB requirements;
- The hosting club has the necessary e-score and “Line-up sheets” that must be filled in the language of country, where the match takes place, in case it's possible, English language is preferred. Checks if the scorers know how to perform their work before and during the match;
- Before the match first referee must receive collective licence and table of sanctions forms of both teams. Using these forms the referees must check the composition of the teams, the preparations of the scoresheet as well as the officials allowed to sit on the bench during the game.

1.3. Prior to the start of the match the First referee organizes a meeting with all officials (scorers, line-judges, ball retrievers) and court personnel in order to coordinate their uniform application and interpretation of the FIVB Rules and current regulations.

1.4. 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 and line-judges about their duties;
- explain all refereeing matters;
- To check collective licence of the teams and passports, ID cards or individual licences, issued by concerned National Federation;
- After the match in the scoresheet has to make remarks about any of faults fixed in sport hall;
- 30 minutes after the match to inform Responsibles of all National Federations about the sanctions of players of the concerned match, in case such sanctions have been applied;
- After the match has to fill sanctions list, in case sanctions to any of team member have applied.

Scorer has to fill the scoresheet with following additional tasks:

- has to write down the amount of spectators in the scoresheet.

2. APPOINTMENT OF REFEREES & TECHNICAL DELEGATES

2.1. PRINCIPLES

2.1.1. Only referees appearing on the annual referees list, which is approved by a concerned National Federation may be appointed to officiate the matches. BWVL Jury accepts the common referees list, presented by concerned Federation.

2.1.2. Technical delegates can be nominated, but it is not mandatory, started from the Main Tournament competitions BWVL Jury confirms common list of technical delegates, presented by concerned National Federations. Technical delegates can be chosen from the list of official CEV and FIVB technical delegates list, Board members of concerned National Federations, Responsible persons of Federations, International, National Referees, who are no more refereeing. Representatives of concerned clubs cannot be nominated as technical delegate.

2.1.3. In case of nomination of technical delegates, order of nomination in each country is coordinated by concerned National Federation.

2.2. APPOINTMENTS IN VARIOUS ROUNDS

2.2.1. During the Stage 1 and 4 – Main Tournament and National Championships, all referees' appointments, including the 1st, 2nd referee, linesmen, scorer are done by the Referee Commission of concerned National Federation. All other officials (announcer, ballretrievers floor moppers, etc.) are appointed by the hosting club.

2.2.2. 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.

2.2.3. The number of referees appointed is as follows:

- Stage 1 - Main Tournament - 1st, 2nd referee, 1 scorer of a country where concerned match takes place;
- Stage 2 - Play-off - 1st, 2nd referee of home or 1st referee visiting country and home, 2-4 linesmen, 1 scorer of a country where concerned match takes place. If there's 3rd game needed, 2nd game referees must make a toss, who will be 1st and 2nd referee;
- 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 1 referee per participating country) 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.
- Stage 4 – National championships - 1st, 2nd referee, 2-4 linesmen, 1 scorer.

3. OFFICIATING REFEREES

3.1. 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

3.2. ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

For single matches and Final Four tournament, the appointed referees have to arrive on the competition hall 1 hour before the match. The departure is fixed after the match.

Same conditions apply for the Technical delegates in case of their nomination.

4. CASES NOT FORESEEN

All cases not provided by the current regulations shall be settled by the BMVL Jury.

CHAPTER 4. MARKETING REGULATIONS

1. CORPORATE IDENTITY OF THE COMPETITION

1.1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1.1. Participating clubs and their National Federation shall make sure that the competition is always recognizable as an event of all involved National Federations.

1.1.2. Therefore, in the competition hall the following must be displayed:

- the flags of all participating countries;
- the competition title banner (3,00 x 1m, in Estonia possible 2,00 x 1m)
- In case LED system is used respective National Federation confirms the rotation time and ratios for the club's sponsors and the BWVL sponsors. Club has to send LED system info at least 5 days before first match LED system is used or in case of changes in rotation times and ratios.

1.1.3. All the printed materials produced shall display:

- the competitions logo, which shall be one size bigger than any other logo;
- the competition title.

1.2. COMPETITION TITLE BANNERS

The competition title banner shall be produced and fixed on the panel in good visibility of the Main TV camera (in case of TV transmission), in case no TV, it has to be fixed on the most visible place.

2. MARKETING RIGHTS ON COMPETITION VENUES

In the additional documents may be included provisions for the distribution of marketing rights between BWVL and the hosting clubs.

In principle, Optibet BWVL owns at least 2 [TWO] advertising banners around the court.

The competition title banner – Optibet Baltic Women volleyball league, must be produced by the Optibet (delivered to the clubs) and it has to be located in the most visible place around the court, both in the central position, preferably right across from the main TV/video camera.

TV games – Optibet commercial time 60 seconds in TV/Web Broadcasting game.

The league logo and name of Optibet must be used in all printed and visual materials, and in press releases and match descriptions.

Every visiting team can bring one advertising banner (size 3 x 1m) and it has to be located on the good visible place, located around the court. In case visiting team uses this possibility, home team has to be informed about that at least 10 days before the starting of competition.

The remaining banner positions are to be used by the organizers, namely.

Organizing clubs are responsible for the ensuring of all marketing issues on the competitions site according to the BWVL requirements.

In case during the BWVL season concerned National Federations or BWVL sign additional contracts with sponsors (same in both countries or separately in each country), all concerned clubs will be informed additionally about that and in case of such an agreement, clubs has to provide with additional banners, which mandatory have to be installed in sport halls accordingly.

2.1. NET POST COVERS

The net post covers belong to the organizing National Federation and organizing club accordingly (50% to both). In case of request of Main Sponsor of BWVL (if any) or National Federation Sponsor, it is delivered to clubs and concerned advertising mandadory has to be installed by all concerned clubs.

2.2. NET ADVERTISING

Net advertising belongs to organizing National Federation and organizing club accordingly (50% to both). According to the request of Main sponsor of BWVL (if any), changes in Marketing Rights can be done and in that case are mandatory for all participating clubs.

2.3. SECOND RING ADVERTISING

It is allowed to install a second row of advertising behind the first row around the court. Any permanent and non-permanent advertisement in the competition hall shall be allowed in sport hall.

2.4. VIP AND HOSPITALITY

For all the matches up to the semi-finals, up to 10 tickets are to be reserved for the visiting teams and their sponsors as per their request.

However, the organizers shall supply for each of the matches of the semi-finals and finals, free of charge, the following quantity of tickets for:

- National Federations and its official partners:
 - 10 [TEN] VIP and 10 [TEN] normal tickets per match for each National Federation;
 - 20 [TWENTY] VIP and 20 [TWENTY] normal tickets for the each National Federations sponsor(s)
- Each in FF participating club:
 - 10 (TEN) VIP and 10 (TEN) normal ticket for each in FF participating club.

2.5. TICKETS FOR OPPONENT TEAM

The organizer is obliged to reserve minimum 10% of the seating capacity of the hall to the fans of the opponent team, for the matches of the semi-finals and finals.

3. CEREMONIES AND PROTOCOL

3.1. OPENING CEREMONY

Short Opening ceremony has to be organized before the first game of the season. No opening ceremony mandatory during the BWVL Final Four competition.

3.2. AWARDING CEREMONY

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

Presence of all awarded teams is mandatory in the Awarding Ceremony. Organizer has the rights to make changes in the script of Awarding Ceremony, teams has to be informed about that accordingly.

3.3. PRIZES

3.3.1. PRIZES OF HONOUR

According the results of the 3rd Round of BWVL (FF) three winning teams (each team max 22 persons) receives following awards, provided by BWVL.

- Players and a maximum of 6 accompanying persons of the 1st team receive gold medals, Cup, team Diploma, memory prizes;
- Players and a maximum of 6 accompanying persons of the 2nd ranked team receive silver medals, Cup, team Diploma, memory prizes;

- Players and a maximum of 6 accompanying persons of the 3rd ranked team receive bronze medals, Cup, team Diploma, memory prizes.
Participating in Awarding Ceremony is mandatory.

3.3.2. INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Decision about individual awards will be supposed additionally.

4. CASES NOT FORESEEN

All cases not provided for by the current regulations shall be settled by the BWVL Jury.

CHAPTER 5. MEDIA REGULATIONS

1. MEDIA ITEMS

1.1. PRESS CONFERENCES

The opening press conferences have to be organized before the starting of the season in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia where representatives of all clubs have to take part.

1.2. DUTIES OF CLUBS

Every one of participating clubs are responsible for:

- providing all the information about the competition to media of their own countries and informing about all actual news concerning the competition.

1.3. COURT AREA

A convenient number of seats have to be arranged for the journalists in the sport hall in case of attendance.

1.4. ORGANIZATION

In all matches the hosting club may organize a press conference upon completion of the game depending on the interest of the media.

1.5. PHOTOS

1.5.1. Hosting club is responsible for at least 20 high quality game photos of EACH home match. Photos must be published in their own websites and sent to NF for publicity.

1.5.2. All teams must upload player and team photos on Dataproject platform no later than 21.10.2023.

1.6. WEBSITE

Each participating club has to run its own website (can be on Facebook and/or Instagram platforms), where the information about BWVL is reflected.

1.7. GAME STREAMING/VIDEO

1.7.1. During the main tournament and play-off stage, home team is responsible for live streaming the match at least with one camera via Facebook or YouTube platform. Home team must provide NF with the link and location of the game live stream not later than two days before the streamed match and add their NF or organizer as the co-host of the event or co-owner of stream.

1.7.2. Live stream of the Final Four matches are FF organizers responsibility.

1.7.3. Each home team is responsible for creating an Event on Facebook for each home game and preferably other social media platforms. The co-host of every event must be added the NF or organizer.

1.7.4. For raising team's publicity it's recommended to post stories/posts on social media before/during/after the matches. Short fun interviews with players, coaches, sponsors, game highlights etc.

1.7.5. After each game videos of 1-2 best/funniest moments of each game should be sent to the federation for weekly/monthly TOP 5/10.

2. CASES NOT FORESEEN

All cases not foreseen in these regulations shall be settled by the BWVL Jury.

CHAPTER 6. MEDICAL REGULATIONS

1. HEALTH CERTIFICATES AND MEDICAL CARE

1.1. HEALTH CERTIFICATE

Every club registering the players to the BWVL confirms that all health condition of all players corresponds for the participating in mentioned competitions.

1.2. FIRST AID

In case of injury, the hosting club has to provide assistance with the transportation to the Hospital. In case of an injury or serious illness, the player or his club will be responsible for covering of all concerned expenses.

1.3. MEDICAL CARE

For each team, including all athletes and officials registered on the BWVL Collective licence form it is advised to have the medical insurance.

In case of accident or sickness abroad within the scope of the BWVL competition (including the journey from the home to competition venue and back of all persons) the assistance and medical expenses costs, as well as the repatriation if needed, are covered by the concerned insurance company or by each participant himself.

The Organizers of BWVL are not responsible for any medical expenses incurred while competing in the BWVL.

2. DOPING CONTROL

2.1. BY NON BWVL BODIES

Each club has to accept the doping control, which is based on the World Anti-doping Code or the National Law of the organizing country. Such doping control has to be accepted without limit in any round of the competition.

2.2. ANTIDOPING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

It's recommended, that each member of the team fills Antidoping Educational programme (can be downloaded here: <https://playclean.fivb.com/>).

2.3. SANCTIONS AFTER THE END OF THE COMPETITION

If **one** player is controlled positive:

- this anti-doping rule violation leads to the disqualification of the athlete's individual results obtained with all consequences for the athlete, including forfeiture of his medal and prize;
- the period of ineligibility for the violation of the anti-doping rules (suspension) shall be according to FIVB/CEV Medical Regulations;
- The team itself will not be affected by this individual sanction and its ranking will remain unchanged.

If **two or more** players are controlled positive:

- these anti-doping rule violations lead to the disqualification of the athlete's individual results obtained with all consequences for the athlete, including forfeiture of his medal and prize;
- the period of ineligibility for the violation of the anti-doping rules (suspension) shall be according to FIVB /CEV Medical Regulations;
- all the players of the team will lose their medals and prizes;
- the team will be disqualified and its results will therefore not be taken into consideration for the general ranking of the competition, thus affecting the ranking of other teams according to the following system:
 - o If the team incriminated was 1st, the runner-up (2nd) will automatically be declared winner of the competition,
 - o If the team incriminated was 2nd, the 3rd ranked team will be the 2nd.
 - o If the team incriminated was 3rd, the 4th ranked will be the 3rd.
 - o Etc.

The National Federations are asked to fully respect the decision and the sanctions applied, and any player suspension will also be valid at the national level meaning that the player will not be eligible for participation in any national competition or club competition for the sanctioned period.

2.4. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Following documents should be used additionally:

- FIVB Medical Regulations;
- World Anti-Doping Code;
- Prohibited Substances list – Standard List (Yearly updated);
- WADA Regulations and Guidelines.

3. CASES NOT FORESEEN

All cases not provided for by the current regulations shall be settled by the BWVL Jury.

CHAPTER 7. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

1. COMPETITION FEES TEAM REGISTRATION

For each team registering to participate in the BWVL, the entry fees and the licences fees, what are determined separately in each country, have to be paid through the concerned National Federation at the set deadline.

ORGANIZATION FEE - No other organization fee has to be paid for the whole competition.

2. PROTESTS

2.1. FINANCIAL DEPOSIT

Any protest or claim shall be accompanied by a deposit of **100 EUR** and it has to be paid into the account of National Federation of club, which hands in the protest. In case of the satisfaction of protest, deposit will be returned back to mentioned club.

3. ORGANIZATIONAL COSTS

3.1. TRANSPORT

3.1.1. TRAVEL EXPENSES OF TEAMS

3.1.1.1. In all matches, each team shall bear its own return travel expenses to the official venue of arrival/departure indicated by the hosting club.

3.1.1.2. The travel expenses from the official venue to the competition site and back, as well as the local transport, shall be borne by the visiting club too.

3.1.2. TRAVEL EXPENSES OF OFFICIALS & REFEREES

In all matches, the hosting club shall bear all travel expenses for the Technical Delegate (if nominated) and the Referees appointed by the Referee Commission of concerned National Federation, in the Final Four competitions – have to be covered by participating clubs. The visa costs (if any) are to be paid by the National Federations. Amount of payment for travel expenses of officials and referees per season according to the Internal Regulations of concerned National Federation.

3.3. FOOD & LODGING EXPENSES OF TEAMS

For all matches each visiting team shall bear its own food & lodging expenses at the competition venue according to the amount no more than 50 EUR per person per day. In case club organizes hotel reservation with the highest quality, they are responsible for own expenses.

3.4. FOOD & LODGING EXPENSES OF REFEREES & OFFICIALS

In case of such nomination, for all matches the hosting club, where the match takes place on the second day, shall bear the food and lodging expenses for officials and the referees appointed by the Referee Commission of concerned National Federation. For the Final Four matches the food and lodging expenses for the nominated referees, have been beared by concerned National Federation.

3.5. PER DIEM

3.5.1. The Per Diem is regulated in accordance with the Rules of each participating National Federation and according to the Rules, accepted by each participating National Federation at home games has to be paid by the hosting club to nominated Referees (the first and the second referees, Technical delegate, if nominated,

linesmen, scorer, announcer, ball retrievers, floor moppers), not depending in which country competition takes place. For the Final Four competitions – for all nominated referees have to be defined same amount PER DIEM, not depending which country they are representing.

3.5.2. The Per Diem will be paid in local currency. The Per Diem shall be paid to its recipient after the finishing of concerned competitions accordingly.

3.6. ORGANIZING COSTS

Hosting club is responsible concerning all organizing costs of home games, i.e. renting of sport hall, etc.

4. FINANCIAL DAMAGES

The participating clubs are responsible for their financial damages. In case of not solving all financial obligations, the concerned club is considered to fail its participation in the BWVL.

5. FINES & SANCTION

In case of non respecting the present regulations, the fines will be applied. Any modification of this list shall be approved by the BWVL Jury.

The financial sanctions listed in the table of financial sanctions (attachment No 1) do not exclude any other sanctions.

6. CASES NOT FORESEEN

All cases not provided for by the current regulations shall be settled by the BWVL Jury.

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Baltic Women's Volleyball League (BWVL)

Table of sanctions 2023/2024

I Preparation Round

No	Item	Deadline	Sanction
1.*	Non-Sending SL Form SL-01 – for new clubs Non-Sending SL Form SL-01 – for all regular participating clubs	10.09.2023	No right to participate
2.	Non-Sending SL Form SL-02	10.09.2023	No right to participate
3.	Request for approval of a Competition Hall (SL Form SL-03) for new clubs Request for approval of a Competition Hall to all participating clubs	15.09.2023 During all season 30 days before the match to which is requested	200 EUR
4.	Delay with payment of Registration Fee	01.10.2023	500 EUR
5.	Delay with payment of Players Licenses	01.10.2023	200 EUR
6.	Non-sending of Team picture	01.10.2023	200 EUR
7.	Giving wrong information concerning players	All period	200 EUR
8.	Withdrawal/forfeit of team after the written acknowledgement of its application until of the start of Main Tournament		1000 EUR

II Main Tournament, Play off's + Final Four Round

1.	Delay in providing all required information	All period	50 EUR for each item
2.	Non presence of a linesman or ball retrievers or quick moppers	All period	50 EUR per match
3.	Non presentation original of collective license (SL-02) to 1 st Referee before the match	All period	50 EUR per match
4.	Non presentation original of players' sanction list (SL-09) with collective license to 1 st Referee before the match	All period	50 EUR per match
5.	Training sessions in the competition hall not under the same conditions as the match	All period	100 EUR per match
6.	Non-conformity of team uniforms (incl. required colour) – for visiting team	All period	100 EUR per match
7.	No players numbers on uniforms (design or required colour)	All period	50 EUR per match
8.	Updating of collective licence	All period	50 EUR
9.	Incorrect behaviour of player (or official team member) during the match or after the match: every 2nd penalty 1 expulsion 1 disqualification All sanctions are cancelled after each stage (except if decided otherwise by the Jury)	All period	100 EUR 200 EUR Turn out next match + Jury decision
10.	Non-respect of the deadline - no match statistics on server - non sending	½ hour after match	50 EUR per match

	scoresheet by mail to concerned NF Secretariat	in a 7 working days after each match	50 EUR per match
11.	Non-providing statistics and live score during the match	All period	100 EUR per match
12.	Changing of starting time of the match: - till 10 days before the match - 4 – 9 days before the match - 3 and less days before the match	All period	25 EUR per match 50 EUR per match 100 EUR per match
13.	Changing of competition hall: - till 10 days before the match - 4 – 9 day before the match - 3 or less days of the match	All period	25 EUR 50 EUR 100 EUR
14.	Changing date of the match: - till 10 day before the match - 4 – 9 days before the match - 3 or less days of the match	All period	40 EUR 100 EUR 200 EUR
15.	Non respect of marketing and technical requirements of the match (according the technical and marketing rules) Non respecting technical equipment and other technical requirements of sport hall	All period	Up to 100 EUR per match
16.	Organizing of match on the non required level (on the basis of opposite team written protests)	All period	Up to 150 EUR per match
17.	Presenting of non-registered player in a team Presenting of foreign player without ITC in a team	All period	300 EUR + match lost Losing of the match
18.	Refusal from official match: - first time - second time	All period	300 EUR Suspension of the team
19.	Fully non-comply with official court layout (incl. flags and League advertising banners and team names)	All period	100 EUR per match
20.	Late of all payments for BWVL	All period	Decision by concerned National federation
21.	Withdrawal/forfeit of the team before 2 nd and 3 rd STAGE (Play off's, Final Four)	before 19.02.2024	5000 EUR
22.	Withdrawal/forfeit of the team before 4 th STAGE (National Championships)	before 04.03.2024	1000 EUR
23.	Withdrawal of organizing of League Final Four after confirmation receiving in concerned National Federation	Respective period	1000 EUR
24.	Non presenting of team at Awarding Ceremony		500 EUR
25.	Sport hall doesn't comply to TV demands, to which concerned National Federation has the written agreement to TV transmissions (in all stages of BWVL (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd), or team refuse to fulfil demands concerning sport hall by approved TV request	All period	Disqualification of team from further competition + additional decision of BWVL Jury with financial sanctions

Additional information

- ✓ Captain line – in case official team captain is not present at the match, player, who fulfills duties of the captain, needs captain's line on the shirt.
- ✓ Injured player – in case injured player, who can't play, would like to sit on the bench, he has to be included in scoresheet and he has to be dressed on official team uniform (training suite).
- ✓ President and/or manager of a club hasn't rights to sit on the bench.
- ✓ In case of sanctions the 1st referee of the match has to inform home Federation about it directly after the match.
- ✓ All sanctions, applied to clubs, will remain at disposal of concerned National federation.