



# 2016/2017 BALTIC WOMEN VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

## 1. Introduction

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.

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.

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.

Head Office of the BWVL is defined according to the decision of Jury. For the season 2016/2017 Head Office of BWVL is located in Latvia. For the coordination of BWVL each federation has to nominate on Responsible contact person.

## 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, 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, five women teams from Estonia:

### Latvian teams:

- 1) Jelgava/LU
- 2) SK Babite
- 3) RSU-MVS
- 4) VK miLATss

### Lithuanian teams:

- 1) Achema KKSC
- 2) TK Kaunas ASU
- 3) Alytus Prekyba-Parama

### Estonian teams:

- 1) Kohila VC/E-Service
- 2) TTU/Tradehouse
- 3) Famila/Võru VC
- 4) TLU
- 5) TU/Eden

## 4. Organization format

Competitions will consist of the three rounds.

1<sup>st</sup> Stage – Main Tournament

2<sup>nd</sup> Stage – Final Eight

3<sup>rd</sup> Stage – National Championships

#### **4.1. Main Tournament and Final 8**

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.

Schedule of the tournaments with participating of foreign teams are:

Saturday – one game per team per day;

Sunday - one game per team per day.

As per amount of registered teams, it is possible to play one or two weekends with three matches (Friday to Sunday)

No play-off matches will be played.

Final Tournament will be played as per system **FINAL EIGHT**.

For the Final 8 teams are located according to their final ranking in Main Round. At least one team from every country will take part in Final Tournament. In case after Main Tournament one country has no spot among teams ranked 1-8, the 8-th ranking team will be replaced by the highest ranking of the country that had no spot among top 8 teams.

Final Eight Tournament will be played by following system:

##### **I DAY**

**F1 1 vs 8**

**F2 2 vs 7**

**F3 3 vs 6**

**F4 4 vs 5**

##### **II DAY**

**F5 Loser F1 vs Loser F4**

**F6 Loser F2 vs Loser F3**

**F7 Winner F1 vs Winner of F4**

**F8 Winner F2 vs Winner F3**

##### **III Day**

**F9 Loser F5 vs Loser F6 (for 7-8 places)**

**F10 Winner F5 vs Winner F6 (for 5-6 places)**

**F11 Loser F7 vs Loser F8 (for 3-4 places)**

**F12 Winner F7 vs Winner F8 (for 1-2 places)**

Teams can apply for organizing of the Final 8 Tournament until 10.01.2017. In case no candidate applies to organize Final Tournament, Organizer will be decided by separate decision of BWVL Jury. Priority for organization of Final 8 Tournament goes to leader of Main Tournament. Final decision about place of Final Tournament will be defined according to the decision of BWVL Jury no later than 31.01.2017.

#### **4.2. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

#### **4.3. Starting time of the matches**

Starting time of the matches between Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian teams are fixed between 12:00 till 20:00, on Sundays 12:00 -18:00. For the Final Eight Tournament - 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**

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

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

All forms have to be sent by registered letter or fax 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 06.10. 2016.

Deadlines of the official BWVL forms:

BWVL – 01 – Club Registration 30.06.2016 (*to each National federation, BWVL Head Office*)

BWVL – 02 – Sport hall Registration 30.06.2016 (*to each National federation*)

BWVL – 03 – Players Registration-collective license 16.09.2016 (*to each National federation*)

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

### **5.3. Team composition**

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 18 persons, i.e. 12 players and the following 6 officials:

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

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**

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

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

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.

### **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

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

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

Collective license has to be confirmed by concerned club and National federation with the signatures and seals. 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 **16 January 2017** at latest, i.e. deadline of registering of all the players is **16 January 2017**. 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 30 January 2017, 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**.

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.

Concerned National federation has to inform BWVL Head office about additional or substituted players inside their clubs till the **16 January 2017** 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

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

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, Estonia.

### 6.2. Team uniforms

During the international matches teams have at least two different uniforms (opposite colors). **It is not allowed to play in the same color of uniform for both teams**; in this case that is the responsibility of visiting club to choose the opposite color of uniform.

### 6.3. Allocation of points and classification

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

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

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.

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 MVA-200. Each hosting team has to provide at least 5 MIKASA MVA-200 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. Therefore concerned Federation has to approve sport halls, where competitions will be held. Coach's line is mandatory in the sport hall.

### **8. Participating clubs**

#### **8.1. Organizational items**

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.

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. 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 scoreboard operator, 1 announcer;
- 1 announcer
- 4-6 ball retrievers;
- 2 quick moppers
- All other staff for the organizing of the home matches.

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**

Each club has the obligation to provide during home matches game statistics during the match using official statistics program – Volleysoft, which has live score and live results output. 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.

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

## **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**

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

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.

#### **9.1.2. Accommodation**

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. 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.

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**

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.

The costs of Referees in Final 8 Tournament are Organizers responsibility on same conditions.

For Neutral Referees of each participating country, who are nominated to the Final 8 Tournament by their Federations, all expenses of these 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**

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

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.

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.

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

### **10.2. Duties of referees**

Each Referee must examine:

- if the hosting club has the necessary scoresheet and "Line-up sheets", that must be filled in the language of country, where take place match;

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;
- to check collective licence of the teams and passports, ID cards or individual licences, issued by concerned federation;
- make remarks about any of faults in the score sheet after the match, fixed in sport hall;
- ½ of hour after the match inform Responsible of own federation about the sanctions of players of the concerned match, in case such sanctions have been applied;

Scorer has to fill the score sheet with following additional tasks:

- has to fix amount of spectators in the scoresheet.

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**

For matches the appointed referees have to arrive to the competition hall at least 1 hour before the match. The departure is fixed after the match.

### **11. Registration and financial items**

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

Participation fee 236,00 EUR (for LAT) must be paid till **10<sup>th</sup> October 2016** to the Account of concerned federation. For EST and LTU according to the common budget depending of the participating teams of each country

Expenses of Final Eight will be covered by all the teams accordingly.

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

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**

The 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.

#### **12.1. PRIZES**

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

- 12 players and a maximum of 6 accompanying persons of the 1st team receive a gold medal, Cup, team Diploma,
- 12 players and a maximum of 6 accompanying persons of the 2nd ranked team receive a silver medal, Cup, team Diploma,
- 12 players and a maximum of 6 accompanying persons of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team receive a bronze medal, Cup, team Diplomas.

The best player of each team, taking part in Final will be awarded with individual award.

### **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**

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

The highest authority of competition is Jury of BWVL.

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