

BALTIC WOMEN VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE
2011/2012
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 Baltic 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.

2. Participants

Participants of Baltic Women volleyball League four women teams from Latvia, four women teams from Lithuania and four teams from Estonia :

Latvian teams are:

- 1) **LU/Jelgava**
- 2) **VC Ropazi/Murjani sporta Gimnazija**
- 3) **VC Ezerzeme**
- 4) **Latvia National Youth team**

Lithuanian teams are:

- 1) **Heksa Kaunas**
- 2) **TSK Ausrine**
- 3) **SM Tauras VTC**
- 4) **Lithuania National Youth team**

Estonian teams are:

- 1) **Tartu University/Eeden**
- 2) **Voru VK/SK**
- 3) **Tallinn University**
- 4) **Parnu VK**

3. Organization format

Competition shall consist of the two rounds.

1st Round – Main Round

2nd Round – National Championships

3.1. 1st Round - Main Draw

Main Draw will be played with double robin system – one tournament in each country with 4 home and 4 visiting teams. Games between Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian teams will be played separately or as additional tournaments in each country.

Schedule of the international tournaments:

Friday - one game per team per day;

Saturday – two games per team per day;

Sunday - one game per team per day.

No play-off matches will be played.

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

According the ranking of Main Round Final Eight 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** **Looser F2 vs Looser F3**
F7 **Winner F1 vs Winner of F4**
F8 **Winner F2 vs Winner F3**

III Day

- F9** **Looser F5 vs Looser F6** **(for 7-8 place)**
F10 **Winner F5 vs Winner F6** **(for 5-6 place)**
F11 **Looser F7 vs Looser F8** **(for 3-4 place)**
F12 **Winner F7 vs Winner F8** **(for 1-2 place)**

3.2. Tournaments Schedule

1 st Tournament	11 th -13 th November 2011	Lithuania	(LTU, EST)
2 nd Tournament	16 th -18 th December 2011	Estonia	(EST, LAT)
3 rd Tournament	20 th -22 nd January 2012	Estonia	(EST, LTU)
4 th Tournament	10 th - 12 th February 2012	Lithuania	(LTU, LAT)
5 th Tournament	24 th -26 th February 2012	Latvia	(LAT, LTU)
6 th Tournament	09 th -11 th March 2012	Latvia	(LAT, EST)
FINAL	30 th – 31 th March and 01 st April 2012	Latvia	FINAL EIGHT

Exact dates of tournaments in Latvia (between Latvian teams), in Lithuania (between Lithuanian teams), in Estonia have to be announced till **07th October 2011**.

3.2. 2nd Round – National Championships

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

3.3. Starting time of the matches

Starting time of the matches between Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian teams are between 11:00 till 20:00, on Sundays -10:00 -18:00. On Fridays starting time of the matches not earlier than 16:00.

4. Right of participation of teams

4.1. Eligibility

Only teams registered by their National Federation shall be eligible to participate in the competition. Every club has to settle its participating fee through the respective National Federation to Bank account of Volleyball Federation of Latvia.

4.2. Registration and application procedure

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

Form BWL-01 (Club registration)

Form BWL-02 (Players registration)

Form BWL-03 (Sport hall 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 to be registered, when all the documents, mentioned in p. 4.2 are received, all payments are settled in the deadline till **20 October 2011**.

Deadlines of the official BWL forms:

BWL – 01 – Club Registration

07.10.2011

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

4.3. Team composition

For the season each team can register maximum 23 persons, i.e. 18 players and 5 officials. For each match, a club team can be composed of a maximum of 17 persons, i.e. 12 players and the following 5 officials:

- a team manager
- a head coach
- an assistant coach
- 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 regarded as extra persons.

4.2. Libero players

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

- 12 regular players + 0 liberos
- 11 regular players + 1 libero
- 10 regular players + 2 liberos

In case a team is composed of less than 12 players, the head coach has the right to register ONLY up to 1 libero.

Free substitution of the libero players is allowed during the match.

4.3. Right of participation of players

Eligibility

Only players nominally registered on the team's collective licence, validated by National Federation, can take part in competition. 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 competition.
- 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.

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 a competition, is unlimited.

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

3.1.4. 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.

3.1.5. 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.

4.4. Licenses

The number of players allowed to be listed in the collective license is limited to 18 players.

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

Collective licence has to be confirmed by concerned club and National federation with the signatures and seals. Applications for transferred and/or additional players reaching the Office of concerned National Federation after **31 January 2012** are not accepted.

The certified collective license and the official identity paper (or individual licence) of each player must be presented to the First Referee before the starting of each match.

Concerned National federation has to inform all involved parties about additional or substituted players till the **01st February 2012**.

5. Competition clauses

5.1. 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 Official FIVB Volleyball Rules and taking into consideration other existing official documents of Latvia, Lithuania.

Before each match the fixed Match protocol must be applied.

5.2. Team uniforms

During each tournament all participating teams have to present to the representative of hosting club two samples of uniforms. It is not allowed to play in the same colour of uniform for both teams; in this case that is the responsibility of hosting club.

5.3. 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 Baltic Women Volleyball League 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.

In case of equality in the number of points gained by two or several teams, they will be classified in descending order by the 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.

5.4. 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, for the warming-up of the match teams will use own balls.

5.5. Withdrawal

In case of the withdrawal of team after the Registration and before the starting of competition and during the competition will be penalized. Amount of fine will be determined according the additional decision of Jury.

6. Competition site

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.

7. Participating clubs

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 each visiting team as from their arrival at the competitions place till departure. As per request of visiting club, 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 organizing club not later than 1 month before concerned tournament.

The hosting club must nominate:

- 1 scoreboard operator, 1 announcer;
- Up to 5-6 ball retrievers;
- Up to 6 floor moppers;
- 2-4 quick moppers
- All other staff for the organizing of the home matches.

7.1. 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.

7.2. 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 federation and club;
- Individual licences, issued by concerned National federation or ID cards, or passports of players.

8. Financial issues

8.1. Expenses of teams

8.1.1. Travel

All travel (to and back to the competitions place as well as during the competitions) and lodging costs will be born by participating teams themselves. Hosting team of each tournament in case of request of visiting teams assists to arrange the possible cheapest accommodation for official delegation (max 17 persons).

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

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.

8.1.2. Accommodation

For all matches, each organizing team per request of visiting team shall organize its 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) can not exceed 40 EUR per person per day. Visiting team has to send request for accommodation to organizing club 1 month before the concerned game at latest. Visiting clubs are responsible to cover own expenses for accommodation and meals.

8.2. Expenses for referees

Organizers of all tournaments are responsible for covering the expenses (including travel expenses) of referees. The exact way of sharing the costs is coordinated by respective National federation and local organizers has informed separately by concerned federation.

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

In general the costs of referees are covered equally by home teams.

9. Referees

9.1. Principles of appointment of referees

Only referees appearing on the annual referees list, which is approved by concerned 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, floor moppers, announcer) is nominated by hosting club.

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 federation immediately.

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

9.2. 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;
- if the scorers know how to perform their work before and during the match;

The First Referee has the following tasks:

- to check collective licence of the teams and passports, ID cards or individual licences, issued by concerned federation;
- 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;

- make remarks about any of faults in the scoresheet 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 schoresheet.

9.3. 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

9.4. Arrival & Departure

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

10. Registration and financial items

Registration of the teams is going trough the respective National Federation – Participation fee is **230 EUR per team**

Participation fee must be paid till 15th October 2011

VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION OF LATVIA

Reg. code 40008023463
 Address: Grostonas street 6b-417, Riga, Latvia LV 1013
 Account no: LV21HABA001940J031933
 S.W.I.F.T. code: HABALV22
 License fee has to be paid to concerned federation.

11. 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.

11.1. PRIZES

According to the results, three winning teams (each team max 17 persons) receive following awards:

- 12 players and a maximum of 5 accompanying persons of the 1st team receive a gold medal, Cup, team Diploma,
- 12 players and a maximum of 5 accompanying persons of the 2nd ranked team receive a silver medal, Cup, team Diploma,
- 12 players and a maximum of 5 accompanying persons of the 3rd ranked team receive a bronze medal, Cup, team Diplomas.

12. Marketing issues

Booklets of the competitions will be prepared by Volleyball Federation of Latvia and delivered to all participating teams. All of involved parties are responsible for the arranging of any additional publicity of the tournaments in each country.

12. Others

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

The highest authority of competition is Jury.

Jury members are National Federations Secretary Generals of participating countries. Jury's headquarter is in Latvia.

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