



**MIDDLE EUROPEAN LEAGUE
(MEL)
REGULATIONS**

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1 PRINCIPLES

1.1 JURIDICAL STRUCTURE

According to the Statutes of the "Middle European Volleyball Zonal Association" (in succession: MEVZA), a competition named "Middle European League" (in succession: MEL) is organized every year under the control of the MEVZA.

1.2 TYPES OF COMPETITION

The MEL is made up of following competitions:

- Middle European League – Men
- Middle European League – Women

1.3 RIGHT OF QUALIFICATION OF TEAMS

Only the teams entered by their National Federation (in succession: NF) can take part in the MEL.

1.3.1

The MEVZA membership of the NF and the final classification in its national competitions, ending until 15 May preceding the start of the MEL season, forms the basis to the right of qualification.

1.3.2

Any NF wishing to enter one or more teams is bound to send the complete final classification of its official competitions (Championships/Cups) in which this/these team(s) has (have) qualified for participation in a MEVZA Competition to the MEVZA Office.

1.3.3

The NF registering teams in the MEL guarantees that its teams fulfil all conditions and shall abide by these regulations (Art. 4.2).

1.3.4

Each NF willing to participate in the MEL is allowed to register two (2) teams in each competition.

The MEVZA Executive Committee might accept further teams of a NF.

The regular participants of MEL are obliged to play in the European Cup Competitions in case they are qualified. In case a NF is already represented with 2 teams playing both EC and MEL, further teams from the same NF have the right to participate in MEL, if there are open spots.

1.3.4.1

The MEL is open for max. 12 MEN teams and max. 12 WOMEN teams.

1.3.4.2

The teams which are allowed to represent their NF in the MEL are:

- The National Champion and/or the National Cup winner, other teams participating in a CEV Clubs competition (European Cup)
- teams with an exceptional approval of CEV and MEVZA
- only teams with no debts to MEVZA are allowed to participate in the MEL

1.4 COMPOSITION OF A TEAM

1.4.4 General Composition of a Team

In any phase of the MEL, a team can be composed of a maximum of 20 persons, i.e. 14 players and the 6 officials, where are mandatory:

- the team manager
- the head coach

If the team comprises less than 14 players, the maximum number of officials remains limited to the 6 persons.

1.4.4 Liberos

Among the selected Players, a number of specialist defensive Players - Liberos - are designated according to the following:

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- a. For a Team composed of 13 Players or more: two Liberos,
- b. For a Team composed of max. 12 Players, up to two Liberos,

1.5 QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

Only players registered on the team's collective MEL license (MEL-01), validated by MEVZA, can take part in the MEL. Each of these players must fulfil the following conditions:

- He/she must possess only one national license valid exclusively for the club which applies for the European Cup license.
- If he/she is a foreign player, he/she must fulfil all conditions regarding the right to play in a club of another country according to all provisions outlined in the FIVB and CEV Regulations, dealing with international transfers and determining the player's Federation of Origin. The transfer procedure in the VIS system has to be confirmed by all parties before the player has the right to participate in the MEL.
- Only players not suspended by CEV and/or FIVB for the competition concerned are allowed to participate in the competition.

1.6 LICENSES

Each club has to enter the club responsible and all members of its team using the login area of www.mevza.org. This collective team license has to be confirmed by the respective NF. The procedure will be laid down in the MEL Official Communications.

Before each match of the MEL the team manager must indicate on the collective team license the shirt number of each player as well as the name of the libero(s) and the captain of the team.

The certified collective license and the official identity paper of each player must be presented to the referee and the Supervisor before the beginning of each match.

2 COMPETITION CLAUSES

2.1 RULES OF THE GAME

The matches in the MEL are played according to the Rules of the game in force laid down by the FIVB.

2.2 COMPETITION PHASES

The MEL competition is divided into 2 different phases:

- the MAIN PHASE,
- the FINAL PHASE

2.2.1 Main phase

Round matches (round robin).

2.2.2 Final phase

Final Four tournaments. The first three teams of the league round plus the organizer are qualified for the Final Four. If the organizer is ranked among the first three teams also the fourth ranked team of the league round is qualified.

2.3 OFFICIAL RATIFICATION OF MATCHES FOR THE LEAGUE SYSTEM

In the Main Phase, the ranking of the teams is determined first according the number of matches won. In case of a tie the teams will be classified in descending order by the number of points awarded for matches won and lost as follows:

- match won 3:0 or 3:1 - 3 points
- match won 3:2 - 2 points
- match lost 2:3 - 1 point
- match lost 1:3 or 0:3 - 0 points

If still a tie persists the teams 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.

If still a tie persists, 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 ranked according to the result(s) of the match(es) they have been disputing between them.

3 COMPETITION CALENDAR

3.1 MAIN PHASE

The standard competition calendar for the Main Phases & Final Phases will be published in the MEL Official Communications.

The definite competition calendar for each season will be determined by the MEVZA Executive Committee and published under www.mevza.org.

3.2 FINAL PHASE

The final round (Final Four) is played during the month(s) February or March. The exact dates for each season will be determined by the MEVZA Executive Committee.

3.3 STARTING TIME OF THE MATCHES

In all matches of MEL the matches shall start between 15.00h and 20.30 h.

Match starting time earlier than noon is possible only upon written agreement of both teams and the official approval by of the competition director.

3.4 DEFINITE COMPETITION DATE AND STARTING TIME

The decision on which of the competition days and at which starting time a match will be played will be made by the receiving team one month before starting date of MEL at the latest.

Any change in the competition date respectively starting time of the match will only be allowed after the written agreement and the approval of the competition director.

In case of no agreement between opponents about the competition date and time it will be laid down by the competition director.

4 REGISTRATION & ADMINISTRATIVE DEADLINES

4.1 FINAL CLASSIFICATION IN NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Any NF wishing to register one or more teams for the MEL shall, in using the MEVZA form like announced in the Official Communications, send the final classifications of its official competitions (Championships and Cups) completed by 1st June preceding the start of the European Cup season by registered mail to the MEVZA Office.

4.2 REGISTRATION

The registration of teams must be done like announced in the Official Communications to the MEVZA Office.

The MEVZA forms represent the only official document by which the NF formally and definitely applies for the participation of its team(s).

The inscription of a team means that the NF and the club concerned studied the Official Regulations and Official Communications and strictly commit to fulfil all related conditions.

4.3 RESULTS, STATISTICS, SCORE SHEETS & SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The organising team must communicate the result of the match WITHOUT DELAY immediately after the end of the game like laid down in the MEL Official Communications.

The organising team has to provide MEVZA with live scoring and the match statistics like laid down in the MEL Official Communications and has to upload the files right after the end of each match to the MEVZA server.

The original score sheet(s) and the Supervisor's Report must be sent to the MEVZA Office by registered letter on the first working day following the match or tournament.

Every delay in communicating the results or mailing the score sheet(s) and the Supervisor's Report will be sanctioned.

5 RESPONSIBLE ORGANS

5.1 MEVZA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The organization of the MEL competitions is entrusted to the Executive Committee:

- ratifies the regulations and possible modifications or amendments
- decides the allocation of the final rounds
- supervises the course of the competition
- decides whether inspection visits must be undertaken for matches to be played in the MEL
- appoints the Supervisors for the final rounds
- makes the final decision on all appeals and protests as a last resort
- decides on any sanctions to be taken against teams or persons who have violated the current regulations

The Executive Committee consists of:

- the MEVZA president,
- the MEVZA vice-presidents.

5.2 COMPETITION DIRECTOR

The competition director is responsible for the running of the competition, all duties laid down in 5.1 which are delegated to her/him by the Executive Committee and all other duties not written under 5.1.

5.3 REFEREEING DIRECTOR

- The refereeing director is responsible for matters concerning referees like nomination for matches in main phase like laid down in article 6.1.1
- nomination for matches in final phase
- collecting all data concerning to financial topics of referee nomination and transfer them to the MEL secretariat
- assist the competition director to judge the requests for match schedule modification and all other duties not laid down in article 5.1.

5.4 SUPERVISOR

5.4.1

The regularity and the smooth running of both the competition and the organization of the Final Fours shall be monitored by a MEVZA Supervisor to be appointed by the MEVZA Executive Commission. In particular, the Supervisor will be entrusted with the following attributions:

- final inspection of the sports infrastructure in the competition hall;
- inspection of the visiting team's (teams') accommodation and food, as well as the training facilities made available to the visiting team;
- cross-checking of the players' qualification by means of the collective license issued by the MEVZA Office and the official identity documents produced by the players;
- ensuring that the matches are played in accordance with the FIVB and CEV rules and statutes;
- handle all COMPLAINTS or PROTESTS as laid down in Art. 5.3 of the present regulations;
- supervise the performance of the officials; in case it's necessary the Supervisor may ask the organizer to change the local officials appointed by the respective National Federation or the assisting staff
- vouch for the regular progress of the match(es) by appending his signature and indicating his function on the score sheet(s) and decide in case of a protest in first instance;
- take care that the hosting team will forward the result of the match(es) to the MEVZA Office immediately after the end of the match(es) as foreseen in the article 4.3.

5.4.2

In case the MEVZA Supervisor is not nominated, his duties are fulfilled by the First Referee.

6 REFEREES

6.1 REFEREES FOR THE MAIN PHASE

The matches of the MEL competitions shall be conducted by:

- International referees appearing on the CEV list
- International candidate referees appearing on the CEV list
- 2 line judges

6.1.1 REFEREE NOMINATIONS

Matches have to be conducted by solely neutral referees.

They are nominated by MEVZA Refereeing commission (Refereeing director). The appointed referees must arrive two hours before the match to its location.

Line judges are nominated by the Refereeing commission of the NF of organising team. It is obligatory to use two line judges who must arrive to the venue at least 1 hour before the start of match to its location.

Reserve referee shall not be nominated.

6.2 REFEREES FOR THE FINAL PHASE

The matches of the Final phase of MEL shall only be conducted by:

- International referees appearing on the CEV list
- International candidate referees appearing on the CEV list
- 4 line judges

Referees are nominated by MEVZA Refereeing commission (director), line judges are nominated by the Refereeing commission of the NF of organising team.

7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

All payments – excluded the refereeing allowances and the referee's travel costs - have to be done through the National Federation of the respective club like laid down in the MEL Official Communications.

7.1 REGISTRATION FEES

The General registration fee ("Step-in" fee) for MEL Men and Women is fixed to the amount of € 2.500,00. Any update can be updated in the MEL Official Communications.

7.2 LODGING AND FOOD COSTS

For all matches in the MEL (except for the Final Four) each visiting team shall bear and organize its lodging & food at the competition venue by itself.

If wanted by the visiting teams, the organising club must indicate a hotel of good category located near the competition hall.

The organising club needs to provide lodging and full board for the nominated referees, if they need to stay on the venue for more than 1 day. This request had to be sent in time – at least 10 days before the match.

In order to reduce the travelling cost the Refereeing Director may nominate different referees for every day.

The Referee Director shall inform the organising club about the system of the referee nomination for the respective tournament.

7.3 ORGANISATION COSTS

All organizing costs for the match except the food and lodging costs of the visiting teams and the refereeing travel costs in the MEL main phase shall be borne by the respective organising clubs.

7.4 FEES, TRAVEL COSTS FOR REFEREES AND OFFICIALS

7.4.1

The refereeing allowance have to be paid in cash by the home team to each referee before the respective match. The refereeing allowance identical as in CEV Regulation is stipulated - and published before the MEL season in Official Communication.

The first referee will also take on the responsibilities of the Supervisor as defined in the article 5.4.1.

His / her compensation will be raised with €15.00 / per match.

Line judges' allowance is defined by regulation of NF.

7.4.2

For the duration of the stay, which is determined in the same way as for the teams, the organizer bears all costs of lodging and food of the referees in a good level hotel.

7.4.3

Each Supervisor nominated for Final Fours will receive a unique total of € 200.00 and travel expenses paid by the organizer.

7.4.4

The travel cost will be paid by the MEVZA Office directly to the bank account of the referees within 3 working days following the respective match regardless the countries of the playing teams. The base of the calculation of the travel cost is 0.36 EUR/km. The MEVZA Office should be informed from the Referee Director about the travel costs of the referees at least 10 days before the match.

7.5 ENTRANCE FEES

All the gate money for the matches in the MAIN PHASE is acquired by the organizer. For the FINAL PHASE, the financial conditions are laid down by the Executive Committee.

7.6 FINES

7.6.1 Withdrawal / Forfeit of a team

Teams withdrawing (forfeiting) from the competition will be inflicted fines as provided for in the attached "Table of Financial Sanctions".

7.6.2 Non-respect of the MEL-Regulations

For not respecting the official regulations, fines listed in the attached "Table of Financial Sanctions" will be imposed. Any modification of this list must be approved by the MEVZA Executive Committee.

7.6.3

The financial sanctions provided for in the attached "Table of Financial Sanctions" do not exclude any other sanctions.

7.6.4

As a matter of principle financial matters and obligations, not included in these regulations, in similar cases are the same as those in the own NF.

8 MARKETING

8.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Each team shall make sure that the competition is always recognizable as a MEVZA event. Therefore:

- The MEL competition title banner (3m x 1m) has to be produced by the club and displayed on the given position of the court lay-out as laid down in the Official Communications.
- All print material produced by the club shall display the MEVZA logo. The size shall be at minimum the same as the biggest one of all other logos on the respective print material.
- Each team has the duty to publish the MEVZA logo on its website.

All lay-outs will be available in the download area on www.mevza.org.

8.2 COURT LAYOUT

- The “Official Court Layouts” show the exact positions of advertising panels and floor stickers for the Main Round and Final Four Tournaments. Clubs have to make sure that the distribution of advertising panels and stickers is strictly respected and in accordance with the “Official Court Layouts”.
- The surface of banners & stickers must be perfectly stretched and not contain any wrinkles. The size of the banners must be 300cm x 100cm. The support for the advertising panels must be 1 m high.
- The size of floor stickers is always 340cm x 100cm.
- The MEVZA reserves the following 3 [THREE] banner positions around the court: n° 7, 9, 12. These advertising positions may be ceded to the hosting clubs upon written confirmation of MEVZA in the Official Communications.
- The MEVZA reserves the following 2 [TWO] floor sticker positions on the court: n° F2, F6. These advertising positions may be ceded to the hosting clubs upon written confirmation of MEVZA in the Official Communications.
- The competition title banner on position n°11 must be produced by the organizers according to the layout made available on the MEVZA website.
- All clubs shall have the possibility to benefit from the reciprocity rule in advertising during the away matches in the Main Phase. Therefore, each visiting team has the right to post one advertising banner (300 x 100 cm) on position n°2 if the home team was informed until one month before the start of tournament and there is no clash with the sponsors of the home team.

9 DUTIES OF PARTICIPATING TEAMS

9.1 ORGANIZATIONAL DUTIES

Each team has the duty to respect the set deadlines and agreements made through correspondence between the teams. If a team does not respect an agreement, it loses the match by forfeit, excepting extenuating circumstances.

9.1.1 Duties of the home team / organizer

- Sending information to the visiting team and referees about every match using the respective MEVZA forms or like laid down in the Official Communications not later than ONE week before match.
- To guarantee the visiting team a 60-90 minutes training session on the competition day, whereby the training sessions shall take place in the competition hall under the same conditions as during the match (i.e. lighting, installation of technical facilities within and around the playing area, etc). The respective request has to be forwarded to the organizer minimum 14 days in advance.
- Invite all foreign officials (referees, Judge Referee, Supervisor) through the NF of the organizer and the NF of the officials concerned, at least two weeks before the match or the tournament.
- The use of panels (positions n° 1 to n° 22) around the court according the CEV OFFICIAL COMPETITION COURT LAYOUT (available also on www.mevza.org). The use of the panels n° 23/24 and n° 25/26 is optional.
- Attaching banners on all positions n° 1 to n° 22 according the Official Court Layouts laid down in the Official Communications. In case a banner is not used the respective position has to be covered in dark green.

9.1.2 Duties of the visiting team

- Inform the MEVZA Office and the organizer about the arrival of the delegation, as well as the composition of the team (data of players and coaches of interest for the popularization of the event in the media) no later than 10 [TEN] days before the match using MEVZA forms or like laid down in the MEL Official Communications.
- Arrange the travel schedule in such a way that an appropriate arrival at the competition venue before the match

9.2 TEAM UNIFORMS

Jerseys and shorts must comply with FIVB Official Volleyball Rules as well as with the CEV Uniform Standards for European Cups.

10 PROTESTS

Any protests regarding the running of a match or against the participation of a player or team, must be entered on the score sheet and signed by the team captain.

The protest must be confirmed within 48 hours by registered letter to the MEVZA office. The letter must be written in English and sent through the NF of the protesting club. At the same time an amount of 300.00 € must be paid to MEVZA's account, otherwise the protest will not be considered. The Competition Director makes the decision on the protests in the first instance.

11 DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

11.1 WITHDRAWAL / FORFEIT OF A TEAM

A team withdrawing either officially or by forfeit from the MEL after the formal acknowledgement of its registration by the MEVZA, shall be penalized. In addition, the team will automatically and irrevocably lose the right to participate in the rest of the competition and in the first Middle European club competition for which it qualifies to compete in the following 3 [THREE] years.

11.2 ANTISPORTING BEHAVIOUR

Any player or member of a delegation who commits disqualifying or antisporting faults is expelled from the playing-area for the duration of the match. If the fault is serious, the MEVZA Executive Committee or its representative has the right to disqualify him/her for one to three matches of the competition. These sanctions do not take into consideration any sanctions which his/her own NF may also impose.

11.3 MISSING A MATCH

A team missing a match of the MEL shall be penalized according the financial sanctions laid down in these regulations.

12 BALLS

The MEVZA Executive Committee will decide which balls to be used in the MEVZA competitions. Such a decision is valid until further notice, but can only come into force before the start of a competition. The non-respect of this decision will be sanctioned.

The ball to be used in MEL will be laid down in the MEL Official Communications.

13 COMPETITION VENUES

The competition hall must fulfil the minimum requirements for CEV category 6:

- Height min. 7 m
- Minimum Competition Area 33 x 21 m
- Minimum Lightning Level 800 lux
- Minimum number of seats 700
- The playing court colors
- Court limitation with advertising boards
- Free Internet connection has to be provided to the opponent and for media, fixed or WiFi LAN with restricted access, minimum 1Mbit/s (up- and download) per requested connection guaranteed.

In case some minimum requirements are not fulfilled, exceptional approval might be issued to the clubs by the MEVZA Executive Committee, valid for one season.

This approval must be presented before the match by the request of the 1st referee.

14. PRESS INSTRUCTIONS

Teams are obliged to provide the MEVZA Office and Sportlive with the following press items:

Pre-match preview:

- Each home team must send a match preview with a quote of the Head Coach 2 days before each match at the latest

Match description:

- Each home team must send the match description (3 – 4 sentences) with quotes of the both Head Coaches as well as both Captains accompanied by 3 or 4 pictures from the match. Pictures must be possible to use free of charge and unlimited time. Deadline for match description is 2 hours after each match

Articles will be published on the MEVZA website and distributed to the press agencies in close cooperation with Sportlive.

All press materials (articles, pictures) must be send to the e-mail address: press@mevza.org.

15. E-SCORESHEET, TABLETS E-SCORESHEET, DATA VOLLEY STATISTIC

Use of the E-Scoresheet, Tablets E-Scoresheet and Data Volley Statistic is compulsory. Application user guidelines are attached to this Official Communication (Attachment 2).

Download software page: <http://download.dataproject.com/mevza>

16 ORGANIZATION OF FINAL ROUND

16.1 TERMS & CONDITIONS

In case of the organization of a Middle European League Final Four it will be subject to a written agreement between the MEVZA and the NF applying for such organization, either on its own behalf or on behalf of one of its affiliated clubs and/or organs under its direct authority. The MEVZA Executive Committee will assign the organizers of the Final Four after evaluation in order of the financial offers and/or best offers concerning TV coverage.

If no offer to organize the Final Four tournament will arrive to MEVZA within the given deadline the MEVZA Executive Committee will establish a second round of bid invitation with modified conditions. In case there's no Final Four Tournament the MEVZA Executive Committee can decide to play home and away matches (semi-finals 1-4, 2-3, finals of winners and matches 3/4 of losers, same system like laid down in the CEV European Cups regulations. In case of a tie in the number of points gained by the two teams, they have to play one decisive match reduced to one set, called "GOLDEN SET").

Minimum conditions for the organizers of the Final Fours are:

- covering of all organizing costs for the matches (semi-finals, match 3/4 & final). The match 3/4 has to be organized.
- covering food & lodging for teams from day before first match to day of last match
- covering transport, food & lodging for the Supervisor from day before first match to the day after last match
- covering transport, food & lodging for referees from day before first match to the day after last match
- the playing court must be colored differently than the free zones or TARAFLEX / MONDOFLEX is to be used. No other lines than those laid down in the Official Court Layout are allowed
- attaching all banners announced by the MEVZA until 2 months before the final four

16.2 CUPS & MEDALS

The winning team of the MEL will receive a Cup donated by the MEVZA and made available to the organizer.

The teams which qualify for the final round of the Middle European League competition receive medals donated by the MEVZA:

14 players and a maximum of 7 accompanying persons of the delegation receive a gold medal (winner of Middle European League);

14 players and a maximum of 7 accompanying persons of the delegation receive a silver medal (runner-up of Middle European League);

14 players and a maximum of 7 accompanying persons of the delegation receive a bronze medal (third place in Middle European League).

17 VALIDITY OF REGULATIONS

The MEL Regulations have been drafted and revised by the MEVZA Executive Committee.

18 CASES NOT FORESEEN

All cases not foreseen in these Official Regulations shall be settled by the Executive Committee after consultation with the Competition director.

19 TABLE OF FINANCIAL SANCTIONS

As a matter of principle, financial sanctions for a club/or team which are not foreseen in these regulations or laid down in the MEL Official Communications are the same as those in its own NF in a similar case.

REFERENCE TO ART. N°	SANCTIONS	
4.3	Not communicating and sending the result right after the end of the match on the competition day, per match	500,00 €
4.3	Not providing MEVZA with live scoring and/or uploading the match statistics right after the end of the match on the competition day, per match	500,00 €
4.3	Not sending the score sheet on 1 st working day after the match, per match	50,00 €
4.3	Not sending the Supervisor's Report on 1 st working day after the match, per match	50,00 €
8.1	Not branding the MEL competition with the MEVZA logo, per match	500,00 €
8.2	Not respecting the Official Court Layout of the MEL, per match	1.000,00 €
11.1	Withdrawal after the registration	1500,00 €
11.1	Withdrawal after the drawing of lots/presentation of match calendar	3000,00 €
11.1	Withdrawal after the beginning of the competition	6000,00 €
11.3	Missing one match	2000,00 €
	Charge for not paying an invoice within the given deadline	100,00 €