



COVID-19 Competition Regulations - Indoor Volleyball:

Possible Rule Modifications for Covid-19 Risk Mitigation

Taking into account that every province and/or territory has a different plan regarding return to sport, it is not feasible to alter the contents of the *Rulebook* without potentially violating one jurisdiction over another. As such, it is the responsibility of every participant to understand the modifications of the rules within their province and/or territory. This would include adherence to any modifications if cross-border competition were to take place.

Examples of rules that may be impacted by return to sport requirements could include, but are not limited to Rule 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 15, 17, 18, 22, 27 and 29 of the *Volleyball Canada Rulebook*.

Rule 1.4.5

The warm-up areas, sized approximately 3 x 3 m, are located in both of the bench side corners, outside of the free zone

Possible adjustment

If social distancing requirements are mandated amongst all participants, including those within a team cohort, the dimensions of the warm-up area may have to be altered to accommodate the necessary space.

In altering dimensions of the warm-up area, the participants should not be allowed to be closer to the court/service zone than they would normally be situated.

Rule 1.4.6

A penalty area sized approximately 1 x 1 m, and equipped with two chairs, is located in the control area, outside the prolongation of each end line. They may be limited by a 5 cm wide red line.

Possible adjustment

If physical distancing requirements are mandated amongst all participants, including those with a team cohort, the inclusion of a penalty area may not be feasible or may be limited to one chair.

If the penalty area is not established as part of the competition control area and is required to be established as a result of an expulsion, the location may need to be altered in consideration of physical distancing requirements.



Rule 3.3

Where possible, three balls shall be used. In this case, six ball retrievers are stationed one at each corner of the free zone and one behind each referee.

Possible adjustment

In order to minimize the number of participants within the playing area, ball retrievers may not be utilized. This responsibility to retrieve the ball, clean the ball and introduce a new ball (after each rally), would be shifted to the substitute players stationed within the team's warm-up area.

Rule 4.1.1

For the match, a team may consist of up to 12 players, plus:

- Coaching staff: one coach, a maximum of two assistant coaches
- Medical staff: one team therapist and one medical doctor

Volleyball Canada variance: a team may include up to 15 players. All 15 players may be in uniform, may participate in the warm-up and may sit on the bench.

Possible adjustment

In order to minimize the number of participants in the competition control area, any composition of the players, coaching staff and/or medical staff may be regulated to a lower value than what is permitted in the rules of the game.

Rule 4.2.1

The players not in play should either sit on their team bench or be in their warm-up area. The coach and other team members sit on the bench but may temporarily leave it. The benches for teams are located beside the scorer's table, outside the free zone.

Possible adjustment

In order to account for social distancing requirements, the physical composition of the team bench may be altered by spacing of chairs, eliminating chairs/benches entirely and/or requiring participants to maintain physical distancing standards at all times.

Rule 4.2.2

Only the team composition members are permitted to sit on the bench during the match and to participate in the official warm-up session.



Possible adjustment

See VC warm-up policy for ongoing changes.

Rule 4.5.1B

The referee shall permit the following:

1. Shoulder, upper arm, thigh, or lower leg protective equipment if the material is padded so as not to create a danger for other players
2. Knee braces if made by a reputable manufacturer and not dangerous to other players
3. Protector for a broken nose even if made from a hard material
4. Thermoplastic finger splints are permitted so long as they are free of sharp edges, do not protrude beyond the fingertips, and are secured to the digit or hand with tape or other wrapping
5. Prosthetics so long as the prosthetic is covered/padded and does not pose and danger to himself/herself or other players.

Possible adjustment

The inclusion of face masks may be a mandated requirement for all participants that are not in play. The inclusion of face masks may be either a mandated requirement or a personal choice for participants that are in play.

Rule 5.1.1

Prior to the match, the team captain signs the score sheet and represents his/her team in the toss.

Possible adjustment

Some jurisdictions may alter the requirements of roster verification prior to the match by choosing not to have the team captain approach the scorer's table and sign the documentation.

Rule 5.1.3

At the end of the match, the team captain:

1. Thanks the referees and signs the score sheet to ratify the result
2. May, when it has been notified in due time to the first referee, confirm and record on the score sheet an official protest regarding the referee's application or interpretation of the Rules.

Possible adjustment



Some jurisdictions may alter the requirements of results verification at the conclusion of the match by choosing not to have the team captain approach the scorer's table and sign the documentation.

In the event of an official protest where a written submission is required by the team captain, the team captain may be required to complete said submission on a separate piece of paper that will be turned over to the referee upon completion and attached to the scoresheet for review and decision by the respective organizing committee.

Rule 5.2.2

Prior to the match, the coach records or checks the names and numbers of his/her players on the scoresheet team roster, and then signs it.

Possible adjustment

Some jurisdictions may alter the requirements of roster verification prior to the match by choosing not to have the coach approach the scorer's table and sign the documentation.

Rule 7.1

Before the match the first referee carries out a toss to decide upon the first service and the sides of the court in the first set. If a deciding set is to be played, a new toss will be carried out.

Possible adjustment

Social distancing standards and eliminating all points of contact between the participants will be a requirement. The wearing of facial masks may be a mandated requirement. Some jurisdictions may predetermine home and away teams and assign service for first and deciding sets based on this predetermination and assigning home and away sides of the court (i.e. home has serve in first set and the away team has serve in deciding set).

Rule 7.5.1

The team commits a positional fault, if any player is not in his/her correct position at the moment the ball is hit by the server.

Possible adjustment

Between rallies, as a means of ensuring physical distancing between players across the net from one another, some jurisdictions may mandate that the starting position of the team receiving service is at a specified distance from the net (E.g. no nearer to the net than the attack line).

Any such requirements do not eliminate the requirement of the players to accurately maintain their relative positions (Rule 7.4.1 and 7.4.2) at the moment of the service hit.



Rule 15.4.4

During all time-outs (including technical time-outs), the players in play must go to the free zone near their bench.

Possible adjustment

If physical distancing is required at all times when not in play, in order to accommodate the necessary space requirements, the participants may have to stand within the playing court. If water is introduced to the players on the playing court, the team is responsible for the quick and timely cleaning of the court to prevent any delay in the normal resumption of play at the conclusion of the time out.

Rule 17.4

Referees must allow time for the wiping of the floor should it become too wet or slippery to play on. Towels should be placed on either side of the court. Once a proper request has been made and acknowledged by the referees, the players may take and use freely, either towel, to wipe the floor.

Players may also carry their own 'small' towel for this purpose.

In such cases where wiping of the floor is considered unnecessary after a request has been made or should the action of wiping be deliberately delayed, a delay of game sanction may be imposed.

Should quick moppers be available, they will perform the above tasks under the supervision of the referees.

Possible adjustment

To eliminate communal contact surfaces, each team will be responsible for the provision of a towel that can be used to wipe their own court. Prior to the towel being introduced, the team is still required to make a proper request and receive acknowledgement from the referees.

In order to minimize the number of participants in the playing area, quick moppers may not be utilized.

Rule 18.2

After each set, the teams change courts, with the exception of the deciding set

In the deciding set, once the leading team reaches 8 points, the teams change courts without delay and the player position remain the same. If the change is not made once the leading team reaches 8 points, it will take place as soon as the error is noticed. The score at the time that the change is made remains the same.

Possible adjustment

As a means of eliminating shared surfaces and communal points of contact, the organizing body may decide that a change of court may not occur at any time during the match.



Rule 22.1

The refereeing corps for a match is composed of the following:

- The first referee
- The second referee
- The scorer
- Four (two) line judges
- For competitions using the Libero rule, an assistant scorer is necessary to monitor that the Libero replacement is legal.

Possible adjustment

As a means of limiting the number of participants in the competition control area, some members of the referee corps may not be included in the match.

Rule 27.2.1

The line judges perform their function by using flags to signal.

Possible adjustment

If the use of line judges within the match remain (considering potential adjustments to Rule 22.1), it is possible that the use of the flag will not be included to eliminate unnecessary contact surfaces. In this case, the line judge would make the corresponding signal by using the hand(s)/arm(s).

Rule 29.2

All team uniforms soiled with blood must be either replaced or cleaned prior to the blood-injury athlete resuming the competition. Uniforms are to be cleaned until the stain is completely removed.

Rule 29.2.1

If a replacement uniform is not available, a player with a jersey soiled with blood would be allowed to wear a different numbered jersey or to change jerseys with a player on the bench. The referee would change the number(s) of the player(s) involved on the scoresheet.

Possible adjustment

As a means of eliminating any unnecessary contact surfaces or shared points of contact, the changing of a uniform with another player should not be considered under any circumstance. The use of an extra uniform with a unique number that is not associated with any player on the verified roster would remain as the appropriate option.