



Return to Volleyball – Indoor Event Hosting

1. OVERVIEW

Volleyball Canada has prepared *the following guidelines to assist any organization in their planning for hosting volleyball competitions during the COVID-19 Pandemic. For additional information, we encourage event hosts to review the following supporting documents:*

- A Safe Return to Volleyball – General guidelines for participants and coaches to consider when returning to volleyball
- COVID-19 Competition Regulations – Suggested alterations to the current rules of the game to help mitigate COVID-19 transmission.
- The Provincial or Territorial Association’s regulations for return to volleyball in your area

2. CONSIDERATIONS FOR WHEN IT IS SAFE TO HOLD AN EVENT

- Ensure there is sufficient time leading up to the event for teams to adequately train and prepare
- Local/Provincial government permission to host events of the required size
- Local/Provincial government permission for indoor events and team sport activities
- Local/Provincial government permission for interprovincial transportation (if required/expected)
- Identify the number of athletes, coaches & team staff, referees, chaperones, medical staff, facility staff, tournament administrators needed to successfully host the event
 - There may be a need to limit the number of participants per team (athlete and team staff) to help meet maximum permitted number requirements
- Facility has implemented a safety plan and standards that adhere to the minimum safety guidelines released by the local/provincial government regulations
- If the event is forming a sport cohort or bubble for the purpose of the event, there should be an appropriate wash-out period since the previous cohort or bubble. The time period required may vary by region but is often set at 14-days
- Ensure all participants can travel to and from the facility safely
- Ensure all participants can safely access accommodation and meals as required

3. CONSIDERATIONS FOR EVENT/COMPETITION SET UP

- Create and display COVID-19 information throughout the venues
- Ensure the facility has a comprehensive ingress and egress plan
- Provide hand-washing/sanitizing stations throughout the venue and especially at entrance and exits
- Provide sanitizing materials for scoring table(s), official’s stand(s), etc.
- Only permit the use of contactless water stations and require participants to bring their own water
- Limit and space player benches or chairs
- Limit and space spectator seating
- Eliminate unnecessary equipment (chairs, tables, etc.) throughout venue
- Limit the number of vendors/service groups permitted on site and require them to submit

their safety protocol plan prior to the event for review and approval

- For larger multi-team events, consider the creation of separate cohorts within the event to limit potential transmission between event participants.
 - These cohorts could be comprised of select teams with designated officials and potentially specifically designated spaces or courts for the duration of the event.

4. GENERAL EVENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Establish a clear policy regarding the use of face masks, hand sanitation and physical distancing for participants, coaches, spectators and staff
- Establish clear protocols for the cleaning & sanitation of all contacted surfaces and equipment, such as: balls, scorecards, floors, nets, pads, antennae, tables, chairs, lines flags, floors, door handles etc.
- Establish documentation procedures for all cleaning and sanitation processes
- Encourage strict court time management by officials and appropriate match length scheduling to reduce the instance of courts getting behind schedule and contributing to crowds waiting by a court

5. CONSIDERATIONS FOR MATCH PROTOCOL

Please review the COVID-19 Competition Regulations document for specific rule adjustments that should be considered. A brief summary of those recommendation can be found below:

- Increased warm-up area on team benches
- Increased size or removal of penalty area
- Have substitute players involved in ball retrieval and sanitation
- Allow for smaller roster sizes
- Eliminate chairs/benches entirely and/or spacing them 2 meters apart to permit physical distancing standards
- Allow the use of facemasks during gameplay by anyone involved
- Removal of scoresheet signing requirements
- Eliminating the need for a coin toss
- Easing positional requirements for receiving team at time of serve
- Increased allowable spacing during time-outs
- Change in protocol for wiping of the floor should it become wet or slippery
- Elimination of court switches between sets
- Reducing the number of refereeing corps involved in the match
- Eliminating line judge flags
- Change in protocol for sharing of uniform between players

6. CONSIDERATIONS FOR PARTICIPANT SAFETY

- Establish daily medical/self assessment check for all participants prior to them arriving at the venue and a validation process for confirming the results at arrival
- Assign specific equipment to a limited number of users (balls, lines flags, etc.)
- Encouraged frequent hand sanitation (between sets, during time outs, following substitution, at the conclusion of the match, etc.)
- Encourage all participants to enter the competition control area ready to compete. Athletes & Officials can be in uniform, eliminating the need to change inside the venue and minimizing required equipment courtside
- Non-essential equipment should be discouraged and stored in clearly identifiable bags or containers
- Participants should not share drinking bottles, clothing, towels, or other personal use items

- Create contactless procedures for trophy, medal & award distribution
- Provide the ability to review results & schedules online
- Establish an online team check-in system or alter set up to allow for physical distancing
- Limit the number of physical items for team handouts by sharing resources digitally
- Limit the number of parents/spectators permitted in the facility
- Provide pre event training/communications to ensure that all event participants are aware of the safety protocols in order to attend and/or participate as well as on site procedures.

7. GUIDELINES FOR MEDICAL AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- Establish an Emergency Response Plan to cover any COVID-19 related issues
 - Including the specific protocol for suspected and confirmed cases during the course of the event
- Designate an emergency response team. This group has the authority to modify, restrict, postpone or cancel the event based on public health risk or other factors
- Create a medical plan for the event
 - Identify local healthcare resources (e.g., local testing centres, urgent care centres, emergency rooms, ambulance services) and notify them of the event logistics
 - Create an information sheet with the names, addresses and contact numbers for local healthcare resources that can be given to all attendees
- Designate separate isolation spaces for potentially sick patients to be evaluated and/or isolate
- Create a mechanism to be able to contact all participants/spectators at the event should an emergency notification (contact tracing) be necessary