



Volleyball Canada Beach Nationals

Air Quality Guidelines

During Volleyball Canada (VC) Beach Nationals events, the Air Quality Advisory Guidelines may be activated based on the current environmental conditions.

These guidelines specifically pertain to air quality concerns during Beach National events that could potentially affect participants.

The Air Quality Advisory Guidelines may be activated in conjunction with other relevant Volleyball Canada policies, such as the [Extreme Heat Policy](#).

Activation of the Air Quality Advisory Guidelines is solely at the discretion of Volleyball Canada.

Guidelines

[Environment Canada's Air Quality Health Index](#) (AQHI) will be used as the official reporting mechanism for current environmental air quality conditions.

The AQHI considers a rating between 7 to 10 to be “High Risk” and a rating between 4 to 6 “Moderate Risk”.

The Guidelines may be activated if the Provincial Government or a Regional Health Authority advises of Air Quality Health Advisory of a 7 or higher. Volleyball Canada may also choose to activate the guidelines should other relevant governmental agencies advise of health risks for outdoor activities. VC has the sole authority to determine if the advisory is applicable.

Pre-Tournament

- If the AQHI reaches a 7 or higher at the time of the players' meeting, the tournament will be cancelled or the start time delayed until the air quality index is lowered.
- Teams are expected to arrive with the intention of playing until otherwise notified by Volleyball Canada.*

**Extremely high AQHI conditions may result in earlier tournament cancellations.*



During Tournament Play

- If the AQHI reaches a 7 or higher, game play will be cancelled or suspended until the air quality index is lowered.
- If the AQHI falls within a 4 to 6 rating on the AQHI, the following *may* be permitted at the discretion of the Tournament Committee:
 - Players will be permitted to drink water while walking between side switches (without delaying the matches)
 - One extra timeout per set per team
 - Should a team play back-to-back matches, 5 minutes of extra time will be added between those matches.
 - Team referee assignments will be removed. Competing teams will be required to self officiate as we all track score (spectators may help with score keeping).

Communication

VC will notify all competing players via the following channels should the Air Quality Guidelines be activated:

- Announcement on event speakers
- Email to all registered participants
- Notification via VC Nationals social media channels (@VCNationals)
- Text notification to each team (this will go to team contact as listed during registration)
- Notification on the VC Beach Nationals website

Please note that the Air Quality Guidelines can only be activated by VC. If teams have not been notified via the above-mentioned channels, they will not be permitted to initiate the Air Quality Guidelines.

Cancellation Procedures

Cancellations will be communicated through the previously mentioned platforms.

If unforeseen circumstances interrupt the match, the tournament committee has the right to cancel matches due to unsafe circumstances and/or scheduling obligations.

- **Scheduling:** Cancelled matches may be re-scheduled later in the day or the following day. Updated schedules will be posted on the tournament website.
- **Rankings:** If the event is cancelled midway through playoffs (Day 3), all teams remaining in each tournament age category (that have not yet been eliminated) will tie for ranking.
- **Prizing:** If a tournament is cancelled, the following procedures shall be used when dispersing monies after the first match has been completed (*senior events only*):
 - Divide money equally between remaining teams.
 - If cancelled prior to completion of pool play, all teams with the ability to advance will receive an equal share of the money.



- **Refund:**
 - Cancellation prior to start of competition:
 - If no matches have been completed, a refund to participants will be issued.
 - Cancellation during competition:
 - There will be no refunds offered

Additional Information

Participants and spectators are encouraged to follow best practices related to managing poor or moderate air quality:

- Drink plenty of water and fluids
- Reduce strenuous physical activities, if you start to experience symptoms such as coughing and sore throat
- Take breaks and remove yourself from the environment (if possible)

If you have health conditions that may be aggravated by poor quality such as asthma, allergies, underlying medical conditions please avoid or reduce outdoor physical activity, if possible.