



OVA Outdoor Competition Regulations Rule Modifications for COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, certain rules of the games must be modified to assist with risk mitigation and to limit the spread of COVID-19.

It is the responsibility of every participant to understand the modifications of the rules for Ontario Volleyball.

Examples of rules that may be impacted by return to sport requirements could include, but are not limited to Rule 4, 5, 7, 15, 18, 23, 25, and 26 of the [FIVB Official Beach Volleyball Rules 2017-2020](#) and [Volleyball Canada Beach Rule Modifications](#).

For the 2020-21 season, the OVA will be following the below rule modifications.

Volleyball Canada Rule Variation 4.1.3

For VC competitions coaching is allowed only for age groups 16U and younger. Coaching may take place only during time outs and intervals between sets.

Adjustment

In order to limit the number of people athletes are exposed to during an event and keep gathering sizes small, coaching will not be allowed for any age groups during the 2021 beach season.

Rule 4.3

A player's equipment consists of shorts or a bathing suit. A jersey or "tank-top" is optional except when specified in Tournament Regulations. Players may wear a hat/head covering.

Adjustment

The inclusion of face masks is a mandated requirement for all participants, parents/guardians, staff, and referees, at all times, except by athletes when playing their match. Athletes who are not playing in a match nor training must be wearing a mask at all times.

Rule 5.1.1

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

Adjustment

If scoresheets are being used, team captains do not need to sign the scoresheet. They will verify the scoresheet verbally prior to the match and must maintain physical distancing of at least 2m from the scorekeeper/referee and other captain during this process.

Once the scoresheet has been verbally verified by both captains, the referee will sign the scoresheet.

There will be no handshake after the coin toss.

Rule 5.1.3

At the end of the match, the team captain:

5.1.3.1 Both players thank the referees and the opponents. The captains signs the scoresheet to ratify the result.

5.1.3.2 If the captain previously requested a Protest Protocol via the 1st referee and this has not been successfully resolved at the time of the occurrence, he/she has the right to confirm it as a formal written protest, recorded on the scoresheet at the end of the match.

Adjustment

If a scoresheet was used, team captains will verbally verify the scoresheet at the score table, one at a time to maintain physical distancing. The referee will sign the scoresheet after verifying with both captains.

In the event of an official protest after the completion of the match where a written submission is required by the team captain, the team captain is required to complete said submission on a separate piece of paper that will be turned over to the referee/scorekeeper upon completion along with the protest fee of \$100, which will be refunded if the protest is upheld. The protest will be attached to the scoresheet for review and a decision will be made by the respective organizing committee members.

Rule 15.4.2

For FIVB, World and Official Competitions, in sets 1 and 2, one additional 30-second “Technical Time-Out” is applied automatically when the sum of the points score by the teams equals 21 points.

Adjustment

For the 2021 season, there will be no technical timeouts; however, each team is allowed one timeout of 30 seconds, per set (including the third set to 15).

Rule 15.4.4

During all regular interruptions (including Technical Timeouts) and set intervals, players must go to the designated players’ area.

Adjustment

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.

Rule 16.1

An improper action of a team that defers the resumption of a game is a delay.

Adjustment

To prevent the shared use of a cloth or towel, athletes will be responsible for bringing their own individual cloth or towel to wipe their sunglasses. An action of this kind

should be prompt to avoid any prolonged delay in the game and any delays beyond the necessary time to complete this action will be sanctioned accordingly.

Rule 17.1.2

An injured/ill player is given a maximum of 5 minutes recovery time, one time in a match. The referee must authorize the properly accredited medical staff to enter the playing court to attend the player. Only the 1st referee may authorize a player to leave the playing area without penalty.

Adjustment

An injured/ill player is given a maximum of 3 minutes recovery time, one time in a match. The referee must authorize the properly accredited medical staff to enter the playing court to attend the player. During the medical timeout, the injured/ill player's partner may continue to stand on the court, however, must maintain physical distancing of at least 2m from their partner and the medical staff.

Rule 18.2.1

The teams switch after every 7 points (Set 1 and 2) and 5 points (Set 3) played.

Adjustment

Side switches are made while remaining physically distanced from the other team as well as your own partner. Instead of teams switching sides by going under the net, teams should exit the court on their respective right sidelines and around the outside of the poles before making their way to the other side of the net. Teams cannot high-five their opponents during the switch.

Rule 23.3.3

At the end of the match, the first referee checks the scoresheet and signs it.

Adjustment

If a scoresheet is being used, at the end of the match, the referee must get verbal verification from the team captains, while maintaining at least 2m of physical distance and then sign the scoresheet.

Rule 25.1

The scorer performs his/her functions seated beside the scorer at the scorer's table.

Adjustment

If a scorer and assistant are being used, they will be seated at least 2m apart to perform their duties at the score table.

Rule 26.2.1

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

Adjustment

The use of the flags will not be included to eliminate unnecessary contact surfaces. In this case, the line judges would make the corresponding signal by using the hand(s)/arm(s).

GAME PROCEDURES

TEAM WARM-UP PROTOCOL

Adjustment

During the warm-up, athletes should remain on their side of the court split length-wise and while maintaining physical distance from the other team and their own partner. When changing sides, teams should go around the outside of the poles instead of under the net in order to maintain physical distancing of 2m. If going on to the same side of the net as the other team, wait for the team to exit the court before entering.

BEFORE THE START OF THE MATCH

The first referee requests the teams to line up on the baseline. The first referee uses a whistle and a hand signal to direct the team members to enter the court. This applies to set one only. For all other sets, the teams will go directly onto the playing court.

Adjustment

The first referee requests the teams to line up on the baseline, with each player spaced 2 meters apart. The first referee uses a whistle and a hand signal to direct the team members to enter the court. This applies to set one only. For all other sets, the teams will go directly onto the playing court.

AT THE END OF THE MATCH

1. At the end of the match the first referee signals the players of each team to go to their respective end line.
2. At the first referee's signal, the two teams greet one another near the net, leave the playing court, and walk to their respective player's bench.
3. Both referees (and line people) are to position themselves on the sideline corresponding to the first referee and, after the greetings, report to the score table for administrative purposes.

Adjustment

1. At the end of a match, there is no handshake between players
2. Once everyone one is lined up while maintaining 2m physical distancing, players will wave at each other as a sign of respect.
3. Players will go back to their area while maintaining 2m physical distancing, gather their belongings and exit the court

PLEASE NOTE: Although there are no official rules regarding celebrating during volleyball matches, participants must always refrain from deliberate contact as per government legislation. This includes no high fives, no touching teammate backs after good plays, no close contact huddles in mid-court cheering, etc.

We must all do what we can to mitigate the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus.

Interactions Between the Referee & the Athletes

In the case where a captain would like to ask a question regarding the application and/or interpretation of a rule:

- i. The captain should request to approach the referee stand by raising their hand
- ii. The referee must honour such request
- iii. While at the referee stand, the captain must be very conscientious about not touching the equipment and maintaining physical distancing of 2 metres from both the referee and opposing team members
- iv. The process should take no more time than is required for the captain to raise their concern and for the referee to answer the concern

In the case where the referee must call a participant to the referee stand for sanctioning:

- v. The referee should request the participant in question to approach the referee stand but maintain physical distancing of 2 meters
- vi. The referee should administer the corresponding sanction
- vii. The participant must acknowledge the applied sanction
- viii. The process should take no more time than is required for the referee to complete the sanctioning process