



FIVB COVID-19 PROTOCOL

INTRODUCTION

This document is meant to provide guidance to all stakeholders involved in the organization of the official FIVB volleyball and beach volleyball events.

It is important to continuously review the latest updates about the COVID-19, as the information about the pandemic is ever changing.

These guidelines are not intended to replace guidance and restrictions of governments and public health authorities but should be referred to in combination with such guidance from the host country public health authorities.

The health, wellbeing, and safety of each individual in the global Volleyball Family is FIVB's top priority. As such, FIVB is continually monitoring the evolving situation regarding the global coronavirus pandemic in complete coordination with the relevant international and national health and sports authorities, including the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Key information on COVID-19, preventative measures, symptoms and helpful links can be found on the FIVB web page created to inform, advise and educate its stakeholders about COVID-19 pandemic: <https://www.fivb.com/en/thefivb/covid19>. As more information becomes available to the FIVB, it will endeavour to share this information on the web page mentioned.

VOLLEYBALL and BEACH VOLLEYBALL COMPETITIONS

Current information on international volleyball and beach volleyball competition schedules can be found on the FIVB website: <https://www.fivb.com/>.

Organisers of volleyball competitions are required to implement comprehensive safety and protection measures to ensure the health and wellbeing of athletes, fans, staff and all stakeholders involved in organising events.

The approach taken should always be based on the guidance and permissions given by local public authorities and in consultation with medical experts. Fan attendance is either likely to be prohibited or subject to strict local regulations at the time of the publication of this document so an event organiser should familiarise itself with the local restrictions or requirements in place and train its staff accordingly. Additionally, it is likely that the restrictions related to sporting competitions will vary regionally and nationally so there may be multiple sets of regulations with which a national league or event organiser must familiarise itself.

The guidance provided below is not exhaustive but rather assists an event organiser in its preparation for organising volleyball competitions in the current pandemic. As stated above, this guidance should

also be supplemented by guidance from the local, regional, state and national authorities, who will be more familiar with the current conditions in your local communities and countries. In all times, the regulations from local authorities shall be respected in order to ensure the compliance with the Covid-19 and hygiene requirements implemented locally.

GUIDANCE FOR THE ORGANISATION OF COMPETITIONS

1. Planning Phase

- Form a COVID-19 Safety Committee including the leadership of the national federation, the event organiser, medical advisors specialized in infectious diseases and sports medicine, government liaison;
- Complete a risk assessment (pros & cons) on organising a competition;
- Verify the organisational plan with the local government and public health authorities;
- Establish spectator attendance strategy: play behind closed doors or the number of spectators allowed in the venue in accordance with the local regulations and respecting the practice of social distancing;
- Map all competition stakeholders and divide operational staff and technical officials in groups;
- Prepare informative documents for distribution to the participants regarding local health regulations;
- Develop a medical plan including the continued medical support during the competition, emergency scenarios and the response plan, health clearance and surveillance of players and officials, cleaning and disinfecting protocols;
- Develop a plan for cancellation in case government requires it.

2. Competition Venue/ Training Venue / Fitness Gym

- Review venue plans and stakeholder flows to allow social distancing and avoid crowded areas;
- Define social distancing plan including signage at the entrance, guideline for seating, limited facility access (i.e. toilettes, changing rooms, showers, technical officials' area);
- Develop venue cleaning plan and medical waste management, including disinfection of team benches and team changing rooms after every use;
- Establish equipment sanitizing protocol / sanitize ball after each rally;
- Assess venue ventilation system and facilitate fresh air flow through the venue;
- Coordinate Fitness Gym is available to Teams to be attended in small groups;
- Ensure venue attendance is monitored to comply with local government restrictions;
- Reinforce personal hygiene and apply signage reinforcing safety messages;
- Develop a management protocol for at-risk individuals (warning signs / no entry policy in case acute viral illness symptoms);
- Review mixed zone operation or explore alternative option of virtual mixed zone to separate teams from the media and allow social distancing, and find alternatives to team photo taken on the court;
- Allocate trained security and spectator management staff;

- Review Air Ventilation /circulation at least 10 times an hour ($ACH \geq 10$);
- Increase the frequency of cleaning air-conditioner or filters at least 1 time/day.

3. Travel and accommodation

- Plan the accommodation and travel routes/ times carefully;
- Avoid crowded situations, and schedule arrivals/ departures of teams and officials in smaller groups and one group at a time;
- Prepare seating arrangements and disinfect transportation vehicles (buses for teams and officials) ;
- In case of double occupancy of hotel rooms, reserve isolation/ quarantine rooms at the hotel for eventual identified positive cases.
- Ensure sanitizing procedure and equipment is available at transportation vehicles and at the hotels;
- Ensure catering hygiene practice and avoid buffet style catering;
- Avoid large group seating arrangements during meals, and separate stakeholder groups – each team, officials, volunteers, etc.;
- Ensure sufficient space for meetings to adhere to the social distancing regulations or explore alternative options of virtual meetings when possible.

4. Medical Control

- Assignment of the COVID Task Force composed by the Local Organiser Covid Liaison Officer, the FIVB Medical Delegate (if assigned) and the Volleyball World Event Operations;
- Define the illness treatment facility closest to the venue;
- Conduct daily temperature check for players, officials and staff;
- Provide first aid and medical services;
- Perform testing based on the advice of the COVID-19 Safety Committee, specifically the medical advisors in the committee, and local health authorities;
- An individualized testing plan, including the type and frequency of required tests (PCR or antigen) as well as the definition of the groups of stakeholders to be tested, will be defined by the FIVB together with the Organiser at least 3 (three) months before the Event and in accordance with the epidemic situation at that point in time. Within those 3 (three) months before the Event, such individualized testing plan shall be constantly updated according to the evolving conditions of the pandemic, locally and worldwide;
- As a minimum testing standard, all Participants shall submit a negative PCR-Test result 72h prior to the departure to the Event and shall undertake an upon arrival PCR-Test.
- Upon arrival testing schedule to be organized according to Teams and Officials' arrival schedules upon their check-in at the respective hotels;
- The testing schedule during the competition to be defined according to Teams and Officials' schedules and preferably conducted at the venue;

- All Teams, Officials, TV Crew and Local Staff (including volunteers) to be regularly tested according to the testing schedule approved by the FIVB together with the Organiser;
- Provide an isolation room for suspected COVID-19 cases and follow isolation protocol;
- Persons who feel unwell and/or show COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and not attend the competition;
- Nominate a Hygiene Officer in charge of monitoring hygiene protocol applied at the venue and the hotel;
- Ensure availability of hand sanitizers at the competition venue/ hotel / training facilities / gym for all stakeholders (spectators, teams, officials);
- Coordinate with the closest hospital or medical facility in case of severe symptoms and build established protocols in terms of testing procedure, quarantine requirement, criteria of release from quarantine and isolation, etc.;
- Ensure all medical staff are wearing proper PPEs.

5. Information and education

- Medical personnel and Hygiene Officers require special education training on the relevant provisions of the COVID-19 Protocol for the respective competition (to be organized by the FIVB);
- Notify teams and technical officials of their roles and safety protocols;
- Supply information on COVID-19 prevention for all stakeholders (spectators, participants, technical officials);
- Signage reinforcing safety guidelines at the venue and the hotel (if applicable).

GUIDANCE FOR TEAMS

1. Medical condition

- Be aware of the COVID-19 symptoms;
- Notify your doctor if you feel unwell;
- Do not attend any team activity (training or competition) if you are unwell;
- Return to team activity only after cleared by your doctor.

2. General safety measures for the team

- Educate all team members regarding COVID-19 and preventive measures;
- Have a trained medical official with the team;
- Provide medical monitoring for illness and fever;
- Establish a regular testing plan for COVID-19 protocol / test all members of the team prior to attending an event;
- Ensure the all team members have a medical insurance covering evacuation and treatment expenses;
- Do not gather in hotel rooms but use designated rooms for meetings;
- Follow hygiene practices and use hand sanitizer regularly, especially during substitutions and breaks.

3. Safety protocol for team training /fitness training or at competition venues

- Notify all team members of the medical safety protocols applied at training venues, competition venues, during travel and stay at a hotel;
- Nominate a Hygiene Officer in charge of monitoring hygiene protocol applied;
- Train in small groups and allow only necessary team personnel with the team;
- Follow equipment sanitizing protocol / sanitize balls during team trainings;
- Do not hug and group on the court after each rally and do not shake hands before and after the match;
- Define flow of the court switch after each set to avoid crossing the opponent team; All team members should follow the same flow, or consider eliminating court switching;
- Keep your distance when seated on the bench or travelling on the bus while always wearing mask in closed space;
- Avoid using changing rooms and showers at training or competition venues, arrive at the competition/warm-up/training venue dressed.
- Avoid close contact where possible: maintain social distancing (1.5m) when not playing;
- It is strongly advised to avoid the use of shared equipment, i.e. towels, water bottles, etc.

GUIDANCE FOR TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

1. Medical condition

- Be aware of the COVID-19 symptoms;
- Notify your doctor if you feel unwell;
- Do not attend a competition if you are unwell;
- Return to officiating only after cleared by your doctor.

2. General safety measures for the technical officials

- Be aware of COVID-19 information and preventative measures;
- Follow the medical safety protocols applied at competition venues, during travel and stay at a hotel;
- Avoid close contact where possible: maintain social distancing (1.5m);
- Follow hygiene practices and use hand sanitizer regularly.

3. Safety protocol for technical officials at the competitions

- Eliminate handshake before and after the match;
- 2nd Referee to walk to the middle of the court during side switch to avoid contact with the teams during the set breaks;
- Ensure the teams' flow of the court switch after each set to avoid crossing the opponent team. All team members should follow the same flow;
- Follow equipment sanitizing protocol;
- Do not use changing rooms and showers at competition venues, arrive at the venue dressed for the competition;



- It is strongly advised to avoid the use of shared equipment, i.e. officiating equipment, towels, water bottles, etc.;
- Do not gather in hotel rooms but use designated rooms for meetings;
- Keep your distance when seated on the bus, during meetings, or meal, and always wear mask in closed space, except while eating.

The FIVB reserves the right to revise, update or supplement these Guidelines at any time in the future based on new information that it receives related to COVID-19.

ANNEX A

COVID-19 PROTOCOL CHECKLIST

The frequency and the type of tests (PCR or antigen) to be performed during the event will be determined by the FIVB together with the Organiser, 3 (three) months prior to the event, taking into account the respective host country COVID-19 incidence rate, as per the [Travel Health Notice Thresholds of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).

In addition to that, as a testing minimum standard, a 72h pre-departure PCR-Test and a PCR upon arrival test are required from all Participants. The abovementioned individualized testing plan, to be defined 3 (three) months before the Event, shall be updated regularly within this timeframe in accordance with the COVID-19 pandemic developments.

The preventive measures listed below are mandatory to all participants to the respective Volleyball and Beach Volleyball event subject to sanctioning.

For your stay in the Event	Within 72 hours of your departure	Travel day	During the Event	Leaving the Event
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Make sure that you have a medical treatment and repatriation insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Procure sufficient amount of face masks for your stay during the Event – Organiser will not provide face masks <input type="checkbox"/> If you experience any symptoms of COVID-19 in the 14 days before departure, do not travel to the Event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fill in the Entry/Registration Form required by the Host Country government – if applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Take a COVID-19 nasopharyngeal or throat PCR test <p>Do not travel if you test positive</p>	<p>Ensure you have in your carry-on luggage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Passport <input type="checkbox"/> Negative COVID-19 nasopharyngeal or throat PCR test result certification from test taken within 72 hours of departure <input type="checkbox"/> COVID-19 relevant medical information (for example: vaccination status) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wear a face mask at all times (exception: team members & referees during the match/training) <input type="checkbox"/> Keep at least 1,5 metres from others <input type="checkbox"/> Practice good hygiene, including washing your hands regularly <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid enclosed spaces and crowds wherever possible <input type="checkbox"/> Use dedicated Event vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor your health daily and report in case of any COVID-19 symptoms <input type="checkbox"/> Get tested for COVID-19 as required <input type="checkbox"/> If you have a confirmed positive COVID-19 test, isolate immediately <input type="checkbox"/> Any breach of this Protocol may be subject of the following sanctions, to be determined by the FIVB, in accordance with Section 13.2.a of the Sport Specific Regulation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reminder - Written warning - Fine up to CHF 10'000 - Removal from the Event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Departure test within 48/72 hours before leaving the Event if needed for international travel or entry to destination country <p>Note: The exit test will be antigen test, unless a PCR test is required for the international travel or entry to destination country.</p>

ANNEX B

COVID-19 Escalation Processes

This is a complementary document to the FIVB Covid-19 Protocol and it outlines the steps to be taken by event stakeholders in the event of a Covid-19 related incident on site. It provides the step-by-step actions required by different parties based on different scenarios of incidents.

Here is a list of potential incidents;

- Participant cannot present negative test result upon arrival
- Participant tests positive at the hotel
- Participant tests positive at the venue
- Participant shows symptoms at the hotel
- Participant shows symptoms at the venue during training
- Participant shows symptoms at the venue during match
- Participant tests positive on the last day of the event
- Flights to participant's home country suspended due to Covid

Hereafter the three main "on-site" stakeholders that will be required to respond to the incident and inform their management & other relevant stakeholders based on the steps laid out;

- Local Organiser Covid Liaison (hereafter **CL**)
- FIVB Medical Delegate and FIVB Technical Delegate (hereafter **MD** and **TD**)
- VW Event OPS (hereafter **OPS**)

These three stakeholders on-site form the **COVID Task Force** of the Event.

In the event that any of the incidents occur, the Medical Delegate and FIVB Staff should inform the FIVB Legal and Medical Department at medical@fivb.com.

Steps		Participant cannot present negative test result upon arrival	Participant tests positive at the hotel	Participant tests positive at the venue	Participant shows symptoms at the hotel	Participant shows symptoms at the venue during training	Participant shows symptoms at the venue during match	Participant tests positive on the last day of the event	Flights to participant's home country suspended due to Covid
1	CL reports status to COVID Task Force	✓							
2	CL to organise Covid test, if a participant cannot present negative test result certificate – at the cost of the respective participant	✓							
3	CL informs participant about test result	✓	✓	✓				✓	
4	CL ensures participant immediately isolates at hotel/venue		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	CL organises antigen test for the participant				✓	✓	✓		
6	CL to report on the result of the test to COVID Task Force	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	CL and MD to collect preliminary info about potential close contacts	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	✓	
8	COVID Task Force to consult with Game Officials to suspend the game						○		
9	CL organises transport to the hotel			✓		✓	○		
10	Two teams antigen tested after the game						○		
11	FS and OPS to inform management, medical & legal department and corporate communications	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	✓	
12	CL organises confirmatory PCR test and ensures participant is served food at hotel room – if needed & no one to enter the room	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	✓	
13	CL informs participant and COVID Task Force about confirmatory test result	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	✓	
14	COVID Task Force to evaluate the measures for close contacts and inform about next steps	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	✓	
15	CL and MD to decide concerning quarantine and length of quarantine	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	✓	
16	FS and OPS to inform management, medical & legal department and corporate communications about the result of the confirmatory PCR test	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	✓	✓
17	FIVB/VW ensures LOC is in contact with and assists the participant during quarantine/extended stay	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	✓	✓
18	CL to organise “end of quarantine” Covid test for the participant	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	✓	

✓ Step that applies regardless

○ Step that would apply in case of positive Covid test

REFERENCES

WHO COVID-19 Pandemic information <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Australian Institute of Sport COVID-19 information: https://ais.gov.au/health-wellbeing/covid-19#covid-19_and_sport_faq

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [How CDC Determines the Level for COVID-19 Travel Health Notices | CDC](#)

FIVB website: <https://www.fivb.com/en/thefivb/covid19>

ANNEX C

COVID-19 Cost Attribution

The costs related to the COVID-19 measures will be covered by the stakeholders of the event as per the matrix below:

	Participating Teams	FIVB/VW Officials and Service Providers	Team Liaison	Local Organiser Staff & Volunteers
PPE (face masks, etc.)	Team Cost	Individual Cost	OC Cost	OC Cost
Medical treatment and repatriation insurance	Team Cost	FIVB/VW Cost	OC Cost	OC Cost
Pre-travel PCR tests	Team Cost	Individual Cost to be paid out of Travel Allowance	OC Cost	OC Cost
On-site Antigen&PCR tests	OC Cost	OC Cost	OC Cost	OC Cost
Isolation/Quarantine expenses extending the Event duration	Team Cost	FIVB/VW Cost	OC Cost	OC Cost