



Covid Addendum

This Addendum has been produced by the Competitions Working Group for all Volleyball England organised competitions in response to the Covid-19 global pandemic. The measures have been put in place to mitigate potential risks to players, match officials, coaches, event organisers, volunteers, and spectators.

These regulations have been put in place alongside the competition regulations and **will supersede them**.

It is the home team's responsibility to ensure that any club or venue specific requirements that contradict the Covid Addendum are communicated immediately to competitions@volleyballengland.org.

This document will be reviewed monthly and will be updated as regularly as is required. The document will be sent to teams each time it is updated and hosted on the competition [Rules and Information](#) page on the Volleyball England website.

- a) **Electronic Whistles** are the **preferred** option for referees
- b) Teams **do not Change Ends**, unless the referee determines there is a need for it
- c) **Team Benches** are **permitted** to be used
- d) **Substitution Paddles** are **required** to be used
- e) For **post-match hospitality** all individuals are **requested** to bring their own food and drink
- f) **Line judges** are **required** as per the regulations
- g) A **Covid Officer** is **not required** to be present
- h) A **risk assessment** including Covid is **advised** to be produced
- i) Volleyball England **do not require Covid Passports**
- j) **Line up sheets** are **required** as per the regulations
- k) **Scoresheets** **must be** completed using your own pen
- l) **Spectator** attendance is **determined by** the host venue, we recommend that organisers limit those in attendance
- m) **At 15 points** and at the end of every set **match balls** **must be sanitised**. Players must also sanitise their **hands**
- n) There will be **no technical timeouts**
- o) There will be **no pre-match or post-match handshakes**
- p) **Ventilate your facility** by opening doors and air vents **wherever possible**
- q) We **recommend** that all in attendance continue to **take lateral flow tests** as close as possible before competitions.

Explanations for Teams

- a) None mouth blown whistles are the preferred option to minimise risk. Electronic whistles however are not a requirement for referees therefore mouth-blown whistles are still permitted.
- b) The 1st referee has the responsibility to determine whether one end provides a significant advantage to a team. If so, they have the authority to instruct teams to change ends as per regulations.
- c) If teams are instructed to change ends, the team benches need to be sanitised by the departing team from the bench between sets.
- d) The fomite risk of transmission is lower than originally thought. Therefore, substitution paddles are required as per regulations. Teams are required to take their paddles with them if they are instructed to change ends.
- e) Post-match hospitality is an integral part of the volleyball match experience. We support the ethos of this building the spirit of the game. Furthermore, many teams travel long distances to play away matches and refreshments are necessary. However, because of COVID we need to minimise risk. Therefore, all individuals are requested to bring their own food and drinks for the post-match gathering. We recognise that some teams may choose not to stay which is understandable and will be left to the judgement of teams.
- f) Line judges remain an important part how a match is officiated. It has been deemed a low risk of maintaining the regulations around line judges therefore they will continue in line with the minimum operating standards.
- g) As the COVID rules are not in their most heightened state a Covid Officer is not required to be present at every session or match. The Covid Officer role is still recommended by Volleyball England to advise on risk mitigation measures specific to each club.
- h) The club Covid Officer is advised to assist with the production of a risk assessment for matches. They should ensure that specific venue measures are included alongside the Volleyball England Covid Addendum.
- i) Volleyball England do not require individuals to produce Covid Passports, however facilities may require them. The home team are responsible for:
 - Identifying whether this venue requirement is in place
 - If yes, informing competitions@volleyballengland.org immediatelyThe Competitions Working Group will make a decision on whether to sanction the use of the venue.
- j) Line up sheets are an important part of managing the game of volleyball. The risk of using them is low therefore they are required as listed in the rules.
- k) All individuals are required to use their own pen when writing on the match scoresheet. This is to prevent the unnecessary sharing of objects and heighten the risk of covid transmission.
- l) Venue requirements supersede Volleyball England requirements regarding Covid regulations. Therefore each team will be required to identify their maximum attendance for matches contacting their host venue. Covid is still widely circulating and the fewer people present the lower risk.
- m) It is the responsibility of both teams to provide sanitiser for themselves. The home team is responsible for sanitising match balls when the first team reaches 15 points of each set and at the end of every set. We recommend that balls are rotated to allow recently sanitised balls to dry before re-use.
- n) Due to the pause in play created during the ball and hand sanitisation period there will be no additional technical timeouts within matches.
- o) At 13 minutes before match start (replacing [NVL Regulations, Appendix C, F](#)) both teams are required to line up on 3 metre line on their side of the court and wave at the opposition. This procedure will be repeated also post-match.
- p) A well-ventilated facility reduces the risk of COVID transmission. Please ensure that wherever possible that doors and / or air vents are open to ensure a continual airflow through the facility.
- q) This is in support with government guidance that states a rapid test should be taken on days when you mix with people in crowded indoor places. Lateral flow tests are the best indicators of if you are likely to be able to spread COVID.