





Return to ParaVolley Sport Event Hosting Guidelines



1. OVERVIEW

World ParaVolley has prepared this document¹ to provide the following guidelines to assist any organisation in its planning for hosting ParaVolley competitions during the COVID-19 Pandemic. For additional information, we encourage event hosts to review the following supporting documents:

-  Bouncing Back: A Safe Return to ParaVolley Sport – General guidelines for participants and coaches to consider when returning to volleyball
-  World ParaVolley Competition Risk Assessment Tool (***this is mandatory to be completed for World ParaVolley sanctioned competitions***)
-  World ParaVolley Sport/Event Regulations – Be aware of any Alterations to the current sport/event regulations which consider safety during the COVID-19 pandemic
-  IPC Classification Hygiene & Infection Control Guidelines

PURPOSE - This document has been developed to support the safe return to ParaVolley sport activities, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Guidelines contained within this document are intended to support event organizers and stakeholders with the delivery of ParaVolley events. This document is not meant to provide an exhaustive list of mitigation measures, and organizations must take responsibility for considering all issues, including those not specifically listed, but that may be required due to the local or national situation.

The situation with the spread of the COVID-19 virus is changing daily, and as more information becomes available to World ParaVolley, we will endeavour to update and share all COVID-19 related documents accordingly.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS – The health, wellbeing, and safety of each individual in the global ParaVolley Family is World ParaVolley’s top priority. These guidelines are specific to the current COVID-19 pandemic; however, they are not intended to replace local laws, regulations or guidance. These guidelines are supplementary to the regional, state and national authorities, who will be more familiar with the conditions in your local communities and countries. Each organization must do its own risk assessment when it comes to planning an event or travelling to an event. Teams are encouraged to seek the guidance of their National Authorities regarding risk assessment and guidance regarding travel to Events.











Prior to events, advice should be sought from local public health authorities and all local health and safety legislation and regulations

¹ World Paravolley thanks Volleyball Canada for allowing World ParaVolley to review and modify this document for the use of World ParaVolley








should be complied with. Local government and public health authorities' laws and regulations should be followed and should take precedence over these guidelines.

These guidelines are a minimum recommended standard, however if there are any discrepancies between these guidelines and local public health authorities and health and safety regulations, the safest approach is generally to apply the more stringent guidelines in order to protect those who are present at the competition. As well, officials and participants may use more stringent measures at their own discretion.



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







-  Sufficient time leading up to the event for team practice/training
-  Local/Regional/National government permission to host events of the required size
-  Local/Regional /National government permission for beach or indoor events and team sport activities
-  Local/Regional/National government permission for regional/international transportation (if required/expected)
-  The number of athletes, coaches & team staff, referees, volunteers, officials, medical staff, facility staff, tournament administrators needed to successfully host the event have been identified
-  Facility has implemented a safety plan and standards that meet the minimum safety guidelines released by the local/regional/National government regulations
-  World ParaVolley Risk Assessment Tool accurately completed and risk level is deemed (or has been mitigated sufficiently) not to be high
-  All participants can travel to and from the facility, airports, and other locations safely (separate team transportation and planned transportation for officials set up to ensure physical distancing)
-  All participants can distance accordingly should accommodations be needed and health guidelines for accommodations are met (i.e. single rooms, proper sanitation of rooms, air conditioning not to circulate between rooms / other ventilation requirements considered)
-  Health Guidelines for meal planning are met (safe catering hygiene practice, avoidance of buffet/self-serve style meals, scheduling of team meals to avoid unnecessary contact between participants and to allow cleaning between groups)

3. CONSIDERATIONS FOR MEDICAL AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE *(detailed in Competition Risk assessment tool)*






-  LOC to designate a Medical Lead person and 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.
-  Designate a dedicated COVID Health Protocol Officer to coordinate communications and oversee hygiene implementation at competition site and at the accommodation site(s).
-  Establish an Emergency Response Plan to cover any COVID related issues
-  Plan should include a protocol for monitoring and reporting (screening) Participant health daily prior to entering the competition facility, and dealing with signs of ill-health (consider use of event time app which can be completed daily); It is strongly recommended that symptom and temperature checks are implemented at the entrance to the venue and hotel
-  Create a medical plan for the event in conjunction with, reviewed and approved by Medical Lead in cooperation with the local health authority
 - Identify local healthcare resources (e.g., urgent cares, 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
 - Create a clear process for participants to identify whom to contact if they feel ill at the competition, and a protocol for the Medical Lead to report suspected cases and request testing, etc.
 - Provide first aid and medical services
 - Perform or require testing based on the advice of the COVID-19 Emergency Response team and local health authorities
-  Designate separate isolation spaces for potentially sick patients to be evaluated and/or isolated
-  Create a mechanism to be able to contact all participants/spectators in the venue should an emergency notification (contact tracing) be necessary












4. PRE-EVENT PLANNING:

-  Prepare informative COVID-19 documents to be sent to participants prior to event regarding local health regulations and event-specific regulations/procedures
-  Participants and volunteers must have read and signed a waiver:
 - declaring that they agree to abide by the safety rules and protocols of the Event and any consequences of breaking the rules, and






- acknowledging that participation in the Event is at their own risk
-  Insurance considerations:
 - Hosts/promoters of the event should consider cancellation insurance for large events
 - Players, coaches and fans should purchase travel insurance to cover medical costs and trip cancellation
 - Travel arrangements for ITOs should be made in a manner that allows ticket cancellation insurance to be part of the ticket purchase; ITOs must also purchase medical insurance
-  Develop a Plan for data management and data privacy
-  Develop a Communications and clear public health messaging strategy in the event of a positive case
 - A system is in place to share timely and accurate information to stakeholders (e.g. WhatsApp groups)
 - The strategy has identified and addressed potential language and cultural barriers associated with communicating COVID-19 information to participants and stakeholders
 - A pre-determined communication plan should an outbreak occur
-  Develop a facility and equipment cleaning/disinfecting protocol with a focus of shared contact points.
-  Infection Control Training plan; special training for all medical personnel and hygiene protocol officers
-  Develop a plan for cancellation in the event that government requires it. Attending teams will be informed prior to attending the Event of the authority and basis for postponing or cancelling the event.

5. CONSIDERATIONS FOR EVENT/COMPETITION SET UP





-  Create and display COVID-19 information throughout the venues. Signage should be in both local language and English
-  Ensure the facility has a comprehensive entry and exit flow plan (one-way) to avoid congestion considering ALL participants (if two-way, then separate channels)
-  Review the mixed zone operation to separate teams from the media and allow physical distancing; find alternatives to team photo taken on the court
-  Define a physical distancing plan including guideline for seating, limited facility access (toilets, change rooms, showers, technical officials' area)
-  Officials and court personnel to enter/exit the field of play at designated locations to minimize contact

-  Limit the number of vendors/service groups permitted on site and require them to submit their safety protocol plans prior to the event for review and approval
-  Provide hand-washing/sanitizing stations throughout the playing venue and especially at entrance and exits
-  Provide sanitizing materials for scoring tables, officials' stands, etc.
-  Set up scoring tables (and jury tables for Sitting Volleyball) to facilitate physical distancing (ensure appropriate distancing between scorer's table and teams' benches, players areas (for Beach ParaVolley), and between scorers' table (and the control table); ensure scorers' table (and control table) are large enough to ensure appropriate distancing between individuals)
-  Remove/turn off water stations and require participants to bring their own water
-  Remove player benches and create player/coach boxes with tape; hand sanitizer available in the player area on each side of the court
-  Consideration of a transparent barrier over Sitting Volleyball net to help limit droplet and fomite transmission across the net (needs testing and consideration as it may change the dynamic of play)
-  Limit and space spectator seating accordingly
-  Eliminate unnecessary equipment (chairs, tables, etc.)
-  Limit the number of team staff able to participate; limit the non-essential volunteers, staff, ITOs on the field of play during and in-between matches
-  Assess venue ventilation system and facilitate fresh air flow through the indoor venues

6. CONSIDERATIONS FOR PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

-  Team staff (or players in the case of Beach ParaVolley) to arrive at allocated times (not too early) to avoid congestion
-  Number of people present should be minimized to only those necessary to complete the PI
-  Consider extending times for PI, ensuring that attendees do not remain in the room following completion of their sign-in (or having separate PI for men and women)
-  Sufficient space around the desk (i.e. at least 1 metre maintained around the desk) to maintain distancing consideration of a temporary plastic transparent physical barrier (depending on the location and setup)
-  Depending on the location and set up, appropriate PPE should be worn;



masks are recommended if physically distancing cannot be maintained

-  Hand sanitizer should be available in the PI room
-  Participants in the PI should bring their own pen for administrative procedures or there should be enough pens to allow for cleaning between handling
-  A protocol should be developed for handling of passports and paperwork etc.
-  Check-in Appointments should be scheduled to allow all team participants to exit the room and allow opportunity for disinfection of tables and aeration of the room between each PI session. For Beach ParaVolley, consider temperature measurement as a requirement at the PI, as there are no substitutions allowed. *However, temperature checks will not tell you whether a person has COVID-19. It will only identify a symptom. It is possible that a person may be asymptomatic or be on medication that reduces their temperature. It is also possible that the person may have a temperature for another reason unrelated to COVID-19* (safeworkaustralia.gov.au@9/6/20)

7. CONSIDERATIONS FOR CLASSIFICATION

-  see “IPC Classification Hygiene & Infection Control Guidelines”

8. GENERAL EVENT CONSIDERATIONS

-  If the TD and RD determine that the playing area does not have any distinguishable differences (E.g. lighting, size of free zone, etc.), they should decide prior to the competition if a change of court is necessary;
 - If the protocol of switching sides is suspended, the assignment of court sides can be on a schedule if required
 - In the event there is a clear and distinct disadvantage then teams can switch sides, observing all social distancing protocols. Any side changes should be managed with teams having the least amount of contact - example, teams changing sides between the sets can be directed to avoid cross contamination.
 - In making the decision, the event host and TD/RD should strive for a consistent standard of application on every competition court
 - For Beach ParaVolley, players (and coach, if permitted) will retain the same players’ area throughout the match.
-  To avoid non-essential points of contact, prior to the competition, the TD and RD will develop a match protocol that identifies which team will occupy which bench space (players’ area) on the court (modified coin toss)
 - In developing this strategy, efforts to achieve a consistent standard of

application on every competition court should be made regardless of the inclusion/exclusion of court changes

- The strategy may involve fixed bench assignments for the match so that teams keep the same player areas (as per Beach ParaVolley)



To minimize non-essential points of contact, the participants should enter the competition control area ready to compete:

- Athletes should be in full uniform, not changing between warm-up and the match start
- Non-essential equipment should be at a minimum, and storable in a clearly identifiable bag
- All Referees, volunteers and court personnel should arrive in full uniform



It is recommended to reduce the number of rooms, such as officials' lounge, workforce area, etc. In the event that rooms are provided, physical distancing measures should be put in place:

- Maximum number of people at a time to be allowed depending on size of the room
- Maximum amount of time spent in the room to allow equal access to the room.
- Consideration of partitioning installation at height of 2 metres to form cubicle type of small area for more protection
- set up to minimize non-essential points of contact



Local rules & regulations regarding spectators must be followed – and determined before the event start (trained security and spectator management staff allocated). For any planned entertainment, it is advisable that such entertainment takes place in an area other than the field of play.

9. CONSIDERATIONS FOR MATCH PROTOCOL



Establish an equipment sanitizing protocol
















Wipe volleyballs after each rally/set according to manufacturer's guidelines². Fully sanitize balls between matches. New towels or moisture-wicking materials must be changed between matches to avoid cross-contamination. Have a system of collecting used balls in one cart between groups. For Beach ParaVolley, the balls must be dried following



² Molten Announcement

Molten USA has received many inquiries regarding how best to clean and/or sanitize volleyballs, as the 2020 club volleyball travel season continues in the midst of the current virus unease. In brief analysis, the use of sanitizing wipes inclusive of bleach or similar disinfectant have proven to be effective against emerging viral pathogens. However due to the porous surface of the leather and composite volleyballs, tests have not confirmed the ability to kill the novel coronavirus. When using the wipes, it is suggested to place the wipe in one hand while thoroughly rotating the ball to ensure cleaning of the entire surface. Once the entire surface has been cleansed, the ball will need to dry prior to being placed back in use. Please note due to the chemical properties in the wipes, some of the ink on the ball may be removed. Alcohol wipes have resulted in damage to the product and are not recommended at this time.







sanitization.

-  Utilization of a 5-ball system will allow more time for balls to be cleaned and dried.
 - Example of Sitting Volleyball Ball Sanitizing Protocol: balls cleaned during technical timeouts and timeouts, between sets and after matches. Ball retrievers behind referees sanitize ball after each rally.
 - Example of Beach ParaVolley Ball Sanitizing Protocol: balls sanitized after warm-up and between sets; 5 balls used for warm-up, then balls collected and 5 new balls go out for the first set while the warm-up balls are sanitized and dried; balls are then replaced with sanitized balls after each set (would require at least one additional ball retriever to be assigned to each court).
-  Sanitize score flip chart and tables after each match or encourage hand sanitization between uses
-  Sanitize courts, nets, volleyballs, rakes, line flags (if used), and all equipment after each match. If teams are not changing sides during the match, regular floor cleaning during timeouts and between sets can occur. If teams are changing sides, then floors should be disinfected between court changes, as well as between matches and during timeouts and technical timeouts.
-  Players' area (chairs/seats, substitution paddles, Timeout button) cleaned after each match if teams are not changing sides for the match; and cleaned between sets if teams are changing sides.
-  Ball retrievers and floor wipers must use appropriate PPE (gloves/masks); volunteers can sweep floor in the breaks but must also wear PPE; consideration should be given to having team members spot wipe sweat on the floor on their own side of the court
-  Require officials to use electronic hand whistles in lieu of traditional ones
-  Encourage strict court time management by officials to reduce the instance of courts getting behind schedule and contributing to crowds waiting by the court
-  Stagger match start times to space out participants' entry
-  Establish volleyball specific social distancing match protocols including the elimination of handshakes, high fives, and huddles.
-  Modified coin toss, warm-up and substitution procedures should be used.
-  Consider removal of line flags – use hands instead
-  Require that scorers & referees use their own pen/pencil
-  Provide on-line education tools for scorekeeping where possible to minimize on-site support which would affect distancing requirements

(indoor venues)




-  Teams will be encouraged to sanitize hands between sets, during time outs, and following substitutions and whenever they feel necessary
-  All participants should wash their hands immediately following the match

10. CONSIDERATIONS FOR PARTICIPANT SAFETY










-  **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD ANY INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE SICK OR SYMPTOMATIC ENTER THE FACILITY OR COMPETE!**
-  Personal behaviour is key to mitigation measures being successful
-  Participants must not share drinking bottles, clothing, towels, or other personal use items
-  On the beach court, players should use only their own sunglass wipes/towels and not that of the referees or line judges
-  Encourage all attendees to wear face masks except for athletes playing on the court
-  Establish a protocol for all event and facility staff (masks, handwashing, etc)
-  Create no touch procedures for trophy, medal & award distribution
-  Provide opportunity to review results & schedules online
-  Limit the number of team handouts
-  Limit the number of parents/spectators permitted in the facility; this will likely be determined by the local authorities/regulations via the LOC/event promoter
-  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

MORE RESOURCES

Websites

-  World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int>
-  IPC: <https://www.paralympic.org/news/information-para-athletes-and-ipc-members-covid-19>
-  IOC: <https://www.olympic.org/athlete365/coronavirus/>
-  FIVB: <https://www.fivb.com/en/thefivb/covid19>

Credits

-  Australian Institute of Sport
-  Volleyball Queensland Return to Play COVID-19 Safe Guide
-  Volleyball Canada
-  USA Volleyball
-  Safe Return to Para Powerlifting Guidelines Version 1.0
-  IWRF Return to Train and Play Advisory Guideline And Checklist Version 1
-  FIVB COVID-19 Volleyball Safety Guidelines
-  Dr. Andrew Marshall – Medical Advisor to World ParaVolley
-  World ParaVolley Commissions (Athlete Health & Medical, Technical, Referees, Beach ParaVolley, Rules of the Game)