

General Principles

- Follow Government Guidance
- Follow Venue Guidance
- Follow VE Guidance
- Club Guidance
- Referee Guidance

Play (k)



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Before the game – Referees and Scorers

Symptoms - If you are showing symptoms of COVID-19 do not travel to the game and get a test.

Ready to officiate - Arrive changed and ready to officiate.

Sanitizer - Please ensure that you bring your own hand sanitizer

Refreshments – Please bring any food and drink that you may require as the home club will not provide any.

Arrival - you should avoid spending unnecessary time in the venue.

Track and trace - requirements will be met by the scoresheet – all individuals on the field of play must be recorded on the scoresheet – legibly! The venue may also need you to provide your name and contact details for NHS Track & Trace.

Numbers - A maximum of 13 (including bench personnel) allowed per team. 30 are allowed in the field of play.

Host club - responsible for all facility guidelines as well as the provision of hand sanitation gel for the players and equipment

Equipment - The host club / venue management are responsible for setting up the posts, net and court equipment

Sanitise - All officials are encouraged to wash their hands/hand sanitise before play starts.

Referees are responsible for:

- **Checking the court** meets the adapted playing conditions and that the balls meet the NVL guidelines.
- **Having their required equipment** with them. Borrowing a whistle is not permitted. There should be no blown whistle – so the referees will need to ensure they have a squeeze / electronic whistle.
- **Following the risk assessment** provided from the home team and should follow any mitigations that are stated.
- **Wearing face coverings** – in accordance with government advice in enclosed areas

The game itself – NTOs

1. There will be **no line judges**
2. The scorer should provide **their own pen**
3. The **host club should provide a scoresheet** (that has not been handled for 72 hours)
4. The **scorer's table should be placed as far back from the court as possible** and there must be at least a **2-metre gap** between that table and any bench / coach chairs
5. Scorers should remain socially distant from others at all times and specifically:
 - a) There should be only **1 scorer at the table** – if there is another scorer present to operate the scoreboard it must be on a separate table maintaining social distancing (unless from the same household).
 - b) When **interacting** with any **players**
 - c) When **interacting** with other **officials**
 - d) During **any set intervals** or during Time outs
6. The scoresheet **must not be shared or passed** from one person to another. **The referees for example should not pick it up to check the roster before the game.**
7. The **coach should bring their own line-up sheets** (if used). As long as the coach has sanitized their hands prior to completion and the line-up sheets have not been touched by others they can be given to the scorer or 2nd referee.
8. **Scorers will not hold any item** of players clothing or any valuables.
9. Scorers should either **regularly wash their hands or use hand sanitiser**.
10. The **scoresheet should be signed by the scorer**, but there is no requirement for other signatures to be added.

The game itself – Referees

1. Referees should maintain social distancing from others at all times and specifically:
 - a) From each other
 - b) Checking the scoresheet roster before the game
 - c) At the toss
 - d) When interacting with any players
 - e) When interacting with other team officials
 - f) During the warm-up, at any set interval or Time out break in play
 - g) From the scorer at any interaction
 - h) After the match when checking the scoresheet

2. Referees should ensure that all players maintain social distancing except in game play.
 - a) In particular, replacement players not in court – the bench / warm-up area will extend from the coach to the end of the playing area (outside the free zone). Referees must allow this.
 - b) At Time outs and during set intervals when discussing tactics – e.g. if this means that players have to use the court as well then this must be allowed.
 - c) During substitutions
 - d) During Libero replacements
 - e) The time between serves should be kept as short as necessary for both teams to be ready and the server to have the ball

3. **Referees will not touch the ball after it has been checked for pressure** – it will remain the responsibility of the players (it will be sanitised after being checked).
4. **Referees will not use a blown whistle** at any times; whistles must be hand-held squeezey or electronic. Referees should provide their own whistles of this type.
5. **There is no pre-match or post-match protocol.**
6. The ball should be returned **direct to the server** and no spectators or bench personnel should touch it (use of feet is permitted).
7. **Players will be required to sanitise** their hands at a specific break in play at the first team to 15 points. **Referees must make sure this happens.** This break in play should last **no longer than 60 seconds.** They should also do so at each Set Interval.
8. At each Time-out and Set Interval it will be the responsibility of the **host team to sanitise** the ball before play recommences.
9. The **referees should sanitise** their own hands at each set interval, using their own sanitizer.
10. Captains should maintain social distancing when requesting any information from the referees.
11. At a substitution – **no paddles will be used.** The 2nd referee should remain near the post and the players should maintain distancing in the substitution zone – this may mean the zone is extended for the player leaving the court, with the substitute still requesting the change by entering the substitution zone.
12. During game play the players and referees may come into contact / touch the **game equipment.** It will have been sanitized prior to play. It **must be wiped down after the game** has ended.
13. Referees must **allow time for injuries** to be dealt with.

After the match ends

1. The scorer will complete the scoresheet and sign it
2. The captains will verbally agree that the scoresheet shows the correct score without touching it
3. The referees will check the scoresheet without touching it and direct any changes to be made by the scorer.
4. The captains and referees will not be required to sign the scoresheet – the 1st referee may take a photo of the scoresheet
5. The scorer should place a copy of the scoresheet in possession of both teams e.g. in a bag / envelope – the team should not handle it for 72 hours.
6. The referees should not accept cash payment for the match (where possible any payment should be made by transfer).

Additional Advice for Referees

Volleyball England, through the Competitions Group and Officials Group on the necessity to alter any rules or Playing Conditions to enable competitive volleyball to take place during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Competitions Group has issued amendments to the playing conditions that must be adhered to. There are some changes depending on the variant of the game that is taking being played.

To effectively manage volleyball through this phase, referees will be empowered to ensure measures are adhered to through appropriate interventions. In essence, this means that instances of breaching of the measures will be dealt with as part of rule 21 Player Misconduct.



Webinar: Return to officiating volleyball

Prior to Play – Referees will have read the VE guidance and conduct normal pre-match protocols and check the playing area.

At the Toss – Captains will be advised of their responsibilities for directing their team and agree the following:

1. Players to maintain social distance except during game play
2. Specific zones and areas should be agreed – captains to understand where replacement players may stand, substitution process and Libero replacement
3. Ball to be returned directly to the server
4. Players must not huddle to celebrate points or shout encouragement towards another player
5. Players to ensure that any drinks or other kit is kept in their own bags in the designated area
6. Hygiene breaks will take place at first team to 15 points

Captains should be made aware that any breach of the above could result in a first and final warning and any subsequent transgression will result in the disciplinary sanction scale being applied.

During Play - Any breach of 1-6 above, after warning may result in the sanctioning scale being applied. Additionally, in the referee's judgement

1. A player intentionally moving within 1 metre of anyone else for non-volleyball playing purposes will be treated as 'Rude Conduct'
2. A player spitting, coughing, or shouting at, and within 2 metres of, another person will be treated as Disqualification.

Variations for Beach / Outdoor Volleyball

Beach Volleyball

In the main there are no major differences to be applied for Beach Volleyball. The general principles of social distancing, sanitizing of hands and equipment, and conduct apply with the same sanctions to be applied by the referee.

1. The Scorer should not use a paddle to signal who is to serve
2. The referee should continue to use the Ball Mark protocol but be mindful of players being close whilst doing so.
3. If the scorer is only using a 'peg-board' type scoreboard then this will need to be wiped down after the match.

Outdoor 6v6 Volleyball

No further considerations in addition to all those noted above.



Referee Registration Benefits



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Referee e-newsletter

A bespoke e-newsletter will be sent to you with features including: rules and regulations, technical advice, and up to date news from the refereeing community



VE Officials Academy

You will have access to the online learning platform designed for the continuous development of referees and to enhance knowledge of the rules and regulations.



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More information

volleyballengland.org/membership



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