

Carolina Region/USAV

Coronavirus Participation Protocols and Match Format/Procedures

for the Carolina Region 2021 Season

Updated: December 29, 2020



NOTE: These protocols and procedures are being implemented for the 2021 season **ONLY**. This document outlines NEW processes, formats, and changes from what has been done in the past in the Carolina Region as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The format changes apply to our one-day Carolina Region-sanctioned events only. Multi-day events will need to adhere to the safety requirements, but may implement their own formats to allow for the larger facility sizes at those events. Participants in Carolina Region sanctioned activities should not expect that these procedures will continue into future seasons. The Region Board will make decisions about any future season changes at a later time.

The safety of our members, spectators, staff and athletes are of upmost concern with the implementation of these guidelines.

All USAV-sanctioned activities will be required to adhere to the most stringent federal, state or local regulations for their respective areas. USAV insurance coverage will only be provided for activities that are permitted under such government directives.

COVID-19 is an infectious disease that is extremely contagious and believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact, including by individuals without symptoms. This disease has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization, and various activities have been curtailed or restricted across the country. As a result, federal, state and local governments and health agencies recommend the following guidelines:

- Wash hands with soap and water often and especially after using the restroom, prior to and after handling food and/or drink.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers in the absence of wash facilities.
- Refrain from touching face – eyes, nose and mouth – with hands.
- Cough into your elbow or a tissue – then throw the tissue away.
- If you are not feeling well or are sick, stay home.
- Keep at least 6 feet away from others to maintain social distance.
- Those in the vulnerable age groups or with underlying medical conditions should protect themselves and not attend an event until the COVID 19 threat has passed.
- When a viable COVID-19 vaccine is widely available, individuals should consult their physician about the best time to receive it.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS:

In addition to those general guidelines above, the Carolina Region of USA Volleyball has established the following required Safety Protocols in connection with voluntary participation in Carolina Region-sanctioned programs and activities:

- Each individual is to bring their own towels, water and water bottles and keep their bags and items separate from any other participants' items.
- Each spectator and player should respect the distancing requirements set up by the event and not violate other's space. Facilities should arrange for spectators to be socially distanced while watching a match.
- All Spectators will wear masks / facial coverings and distance themselves from other spectators.
- All players and coaches will wear a mask while participating in a match.
- Teams are permitted to have spectators equal to the number of rostered players in attendance at the event (i.e. 10 rostered players in attendance then they are allowed 10 spectators for a match). Teams will determine individually which spectators will be included in their total from among their families.
- Local facilities are permitted to have more stringent safety protocols in place as required by local directives. All participants must abide by all facility requirements in order to remain in the facility.

If you cannot abide by the policies of the event/facility, please do not attend the event. Remember that the main goal of an event Host is to provide opportunities for athletes to compete. The club and Region are here to provide training and competition for your athlete. If they only have room for limited spectators that is up to the host and current State and Local rules. Thank you for your cooperation.

MATCH PROTOCOL CHANGES:

- We will hold 6-team tournaments only for the 2021 season. If a team does not get into a particular tournament, they will receive priority into the next tournament date they enter by the entry deadline. Regional Championship weekends will be assigned strictly on the rankings. The tournament entry fees will remain unchanged, so that we may pay an additional amount to Tournament Hosts to account for sanitizing requirements and reduced spectators.
- The Region has also approved a 4-team and 5-team on two courts format that will be used only in the event: (a) a team(s) does not show the day of the event and the tournament needs to change to a new format; (b) after sites are assigned if there are 4- or 5-teams remaining, they will be assigned to a wave if there are enough courts.
- To account for an expected decrease in the number of facilities able to host, we will offer ability for facilities to run two waves of tournaments each day. There will be an 8 am wave and a 3 pm wave.
- In order to better predict the length of the tournament so we can have two waves and allow time for facility traffic flow and cleaning, we have made the following changes to the formats (2021 season only): Tournaments will consist of two 3-team pools (exception: 4- and 5-team tournaments will be one pool playing on two courts). Teams will play two set matches only during pool play (there will be not be a third tie-breaking set). The sets will be played to 21 (the score will start at 4-4). There will be a 20-minute break between pool play and playoffs. All teams will advance to the playoffs (exception: 5-team tournament will take top 2 to finals only). The quarter-finals, semi-finals, and finals will all consist of 1 set to 25 (exception: 5-team tournament will play a 2-out-of-3 match for finals). This format should allow for Wave 1 to end by 2 pm. All Wave 1 teams and spectators should depart by 2:30 pm. Wave 3 teams will not be allowed into the facility no earlier than 2:30 (Wave 1 will need to depart and allow for the host to sanitize and clean the facility).
- We will utilize the above format for the first 4 weekends and analyze the times. If the tournament time remains consistent, we may adjust and allow for a match to be played for the finals.
- At the start or conclusion of a match there will be no high-fives or hand shaking with opposing teams.
- The Region will use Professional Referees only to work the matches. There will be no work team assignments this season. When a team is not scheduled to play, the team and spectators should leave the facility until their next scheduled match.
- Team Captains will stand at their respective ten-foot line for the coin toss.
- The R1 will go to the stand and beckon the starting players to the end line.
- Only the six starting players will go to the end line.
- The R1 should use an electronic whistle.
- The R1 beckons for the players to go to their starting positions not the net.
- A formal scoresheet will not be kept during the matches. An off-referee will flip the visible scoreboard only and monitor the subs and benches only.

- Substitutions - there is no need for players to touch to complete this action.
- No handshakes, high fives, hand slaps during the match.
- Teams will not switch sides between sets.
- When the game ends, R1 releases players directly to their respective benches.
- Please remember that while all efforts are made to sanitize the volleyballs (which are made of a porous leather surface and do not react well to spray and gels), it's another reason for players to keep their hands away from their face. We can only control what we can control.
- For additional information, please reference the [USAV Return to Play Guidelines](#).