

Sport-Specific Protocol: Volleyball

Status: Return to Competition
Last Updated: March 24, 2021

Special Olympics



This document is specific to the sport of volleyball and is supplemental to the general *Return to Activities Protocol*. It is imperative that volleyball programs adhere to any protocol outlined below or in the general *Return to Activities Protocol*. If your facility or local government has rules in place that are stricter than those provided by Special Olympics, those local rules are to be used.

BEFORE PARTICIPANT ARRIVAL

- Ensure venue is disinfected, especially restrooms and high traffic areas, such as doors and entry ways.
- It is highly recommended that all equipment (including volleyball) is provided by the team and not each player.
- Sanitize volleyballs, cones, bibs, or other equipment to be used.
- Designate a space for each player to set their gear that is at least 6 feet from another player's space.
- If utilizing team bibs, assign 1 bib to each player and place bibs at players' gear drop off location.
- Distribute scoresheets and pencils to each court. The person distributing scoresheets and pencils should utilize proper PPE and sanitation measures.
- Collect *COVID-19 Code of Conduct* from all attendees (players, screeners, county management, family, etc.).

PARTICIPANT CHECK-IN

- Designate one location to enter the facility for check-in and screening.
- Check-in area must be setup so that social distancing can be maintained.
- If possible, check-in area should be setup outside to reduce bottlenecks and close-quarter interactions.
- Make regular announcements to reinforce the importance of PPE, hand hygiene, and social distancing.
- *Athlete Medical Forms* must be checked as usual.
- Check that each participant has a *COVID-19 Code of Conduct* on-site.
- Must follow the "Onsite Screening Protocol for COVID-19" as outlined in the *Return to Activities Protocol*.
- Collect *COVID-19 Code of Conduct* from all attendees (players, screeners, county management, family, etc.).

DURING ACTIVITY

- Masks are required at all times, except when players are participating in on-court activities. Coaches must wear a mask at all times.
- Each coach/referee must provide his/her own whistle. Electronic whistles are strongly recommended in lieu of a traditional blown whistle.
- Players must sanitize their hands AT THE COURT prior to the practice or match beginning.
- It is highly recommended that players sanitize their hands regularly throughout the practice or match, especially before and after activities in which volleyballs are shared.
- Volleyballs, nets, and standards should be sanitized regularly throughout the practice or match, especially after activities where they may be touched by multiple players.
- Only coaches should setup equipment, and hands should be sanitized prior to equipment setup.
- Social distancing must be maintained at all times.
- No high fives, handshakes, or other direct contact.
- Team bibs should not be shared between players.
- Make regular announcements to reinforce the importance of PPE, hand hygiene, and social distancing.

AFTER ACTIVITY

- Players should be encouraged to leave the practice area at the conclusion of the activity. Use of restrooms as needed is acceptable.
- If multiple teams use the same facility, allow at least 30 minutes between practices or matches to sanitize the facility and conduct screening on the arriving team.
- Social distancing must be maintained while waiting for rides. Players waiting for rides should do so outside, weather permitting.
- Sanitize all equipment at the conclusion of the activity, including washing team bibs.

MEALS & WATER

- Meals
 - Meals are strongly discouraged.
 - If a meal will be served, boxed or bagged meals are preferred.
 - Food preparation, packaging, and serving must be done by the caterer or food service staff.
 - Napkins and utensils must be provided and individually distributed to each participant by the caterer or food service staff. Pre-packaged utensils are highly preferred.
 - No buffets or banquet style meals are permitted. Concession stands run by the facility are allowed to serve.
- You may distribute water provided:
 - The person distributing the water is utilizing PPE and proper sanitation procedures.
 - The water is in a sealed container.
 - One person is handling the water and players are not permitted to reach into the water reservoir.
 - Community water coolers should not be utilized.

PENALTIES

- Programs that do not adhere to these protocols will be suspended from hosting volleyball events for 1 year.
- Volleyball players who do not adhere to these protocols may face punishment up to and including suspension from Special Olympics activities.
- Additional punishment may be given to County Management as warranted, on a case by case basis, according to the *Return to Activities Protocol*.