



***USA***Volleyball

**RETURN TO PLAY  
GUIDELINES**

**BEACH EVENTS**

**OVERVIEW** – USA Volleyball (USAV) has prepared *Return to Play Guidelines* for region leaders, club directors, event promoters, venue operators, members, and families to provide guidance as volleyball activities begin to recommence across the United States.

The following recommendations are not intended or implied to be mandates. Many of these recommendations are based upon current guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other Federal government agencies. The knowledge surrounding COVID-19 is constantly changing and circumstances are different based on geographic region. Therefore, USAV strongly encourages region leaders, club directors, event promoters and venue operators to adhere to their state and local guidelines when determining their own re-opening policies and procedures.

**All USAV sanctioned activities will be required to adhere to the most stringent national, state, and local guideline for their respective areas.**

Until COVID-19 is either eradicated, a vaccine is developed, or a cure is found, there is no way to completely eliminate the risk of infection and as such USAV strongly encourages all participants to follow these recommendations as safety precautions. The information in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.

**PURPOSE** – The purpose of these guidelines is to create a comprehensive return to play plan for USA Volleyball sanctioned beach activities in the United States that are compliant with national, state, and local regulations. USAV sanctioned activities include but are not limited to tryouts, practices, scrimmages, camps, clinics, combines, showcases, or tournaments.

1. **RISK CATEGORIES** – Current volleyball activities are segmented into three types of risk categories:
  - a. **Low Risk** – Individual skill development (passing drills, blocking, hitting, setting, serving, general fitness, strength training) at home (backyard, driveway, in-home), alone or with household members and with owned and sanitized equipment.
  - b. **Medium Risk** – The above activities in public spaces alone or with household members; individual skill development with non-household members following the recommended physical distancing and sanitizing of volleyballs.
  - c. **High Risk** – Individual skill development with non-household members following the recommended physical distancing & sanitizing of volleyballs. Participating in team or group play maintaining physical distancing whenever possible.

2. **RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES FOR INDIVIDUALS** – Follow all CDC, national, state, and local guidelines when participating in any activities.
  - a. **Before Activities**
    - Be symptom free for at least 14 days prior to any activity.
    - Stay home if you are sick or do not feel well.
    - Be aware of and disclose any potential contacts with infected individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19.
    - Wash and sanitize your hands often.
    - Do not touch your face, eyes or mouth with unclean hands.
    - Practice social distancing regularly.
    - Wear a face mask to reduce exposure to airborne particles.
    - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow if you cough or sneeze.
    - Keep a list of people you have been in contact with each day.
  - b. **During Activities**
    - Refrain from attending any activity if displaying any COVID-19 symptoms.
    - Comply with all permissible regulations approved for the venue.
    - Wash and sanitize your hands often.
    - Do not touch your face, eyes or mouth with unclean hands.
    - Refrain from contacting other participants and attendees (high fives, handshakes, and team meetings).
    - Practice social distancing as often as possible.
    - Wear a multi-layer face mask (face shields are not acceptable) while at the venue. Mouth and nose must always be covered.
    - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow if you cough or sneeze.
    - Bring hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes.
    - Properly dispose of your personal drinking cups, bottles, or utensils used. Do not share these items.
    - Keep a list of people you were in contact with during the activity.
  - c. **After Activities**
    - Wash and sanitize your hands often.
    - Do not touch your face, eyes or mouth with unclean hands.
    - Monitor your health and report any symptoms after every activity.
    - Practice social distancing as often as possible.
    - Wear a face mask when possible to reduce exposure to airborne particles.
    - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow if you cough or sneeze.

- Wash/sanitize all gear, uniforms and apparel that were used during the activity.
3. **RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES FOR CLUBS AND CLUB FACILITIES-** Follow all CDC, national, state and local guidelines when participating in any activities.
- a. **Before Activities**
    - Disinfect the venue and all equipment, including volleyballs, where the club activities will take place.
    - Verify that venue staff, club staff and participants are symptom free before participating in any activities.
    - Provide hand washing/sanitizing stations throughout the venue.
    - Turn off water fountains at the venue.
    - Establish social distancing protocols.
    - Create and display signage clearly outlining the venue’s COVID-19 policies.
  - b. **During Activities**
    - Continue to clean and disinfect the venue and equipment, including balls, where the club activities will take place.
    - Enforce social distancing requirements.
    - Regularly sanitize commonly touched surfaces during the club activity.
    - Remove anyone from a club activity if they exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms.
    - Ensure the number of people at the venues is in compliant with local guidelines.
    - Modify drills or activities to limit/reduce potential violations of social distancing requirements including but not limited to: high fives, handshakes, and team meetings.
    - Require officials to utilize electronic hand whistles whenever possible. When e-whistles are not available, traditional whistles may be used if completely contained within a multi-layer fabric mask.
  - c. **After Activities**
    - Sanitize all surfaces and balls that were used during club activities.
4. **RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES FOR COMPETITION VENUES, BEACHES and EVENTS -** Follow all CDC, national, state and local guidelines when participating in any activities.
- a. **Before Activities**
    - Designate an event management team, including a licensed Medical Director. This group has the authority to modify, restrict, postpone or cancel the event based on public health risk or other factors.

- The Medical Director shall make the final decision if a player can return to play, should be sent to self-quarantine or should be sent for further examination (when COVID-19 related).
  - Create a Medical Plan for the event.
    - Identify local healthcare resources (e.g., urgent cares, emergency rooms, ambulance services) and notify them of the event logistics.
    - Create a flyer with the names, addresses and contact numbers for local healthcare resources that can be given to all attendees.
    - Post resources on event website for easy access.
  - Create and display COVID-19 information signage throughout the venues.
  - Designate a separate area such as a first aid office/tent or EMT office/tent to take potentially sick patients to be evaluated.
  - Limit overall number of exhibitors/vendors and require them to submit their safety protocol plan prior to the event for review and approval.
  - Create a mechanism to be able to text all participants/spectators in the venue/beach should an emergency notification (contact tracing) be necessary.
  - Establish sanitary stations throughout the playing venue.
  - Provide sanitizing materials for scoring tables, official's stands, etc.
  - Eliminate on-site team check-in if possible.
  - Remove water stations and require participants to bring their own water.
  - Eliminate unnecessary equipment (chairs, tables, etc.)
  - **Spectators**
    - Organizers and venue personnel must have comprehensive enforcement standards based on State and County variances. The venue should be responsible for enforcing any law/regulations/guidelines as agreed upon.
    - Spectators responsible for knowing facility occupancy requirements.
    - Ensure the facility has a comprehensive ingress and egress plan.
    - Tents should be spaced a minimum of six to ten feet apart or more if possible.
      - Tents should be spaced a minimum of 10 feet from any court boundary.
- b. **During Activities**
- Disinfect volleyballs between all matches.
  - Require officials to post all scores electronically to eliminate unnecessary face to face contact.
  - Require officials to utilize electronic hand whistles whenever possible. When e-whistles are not available, traditional whistles may be used if completely contained within a multi-layer fabric mask.

- Emphasize court time management by officials and host to reduce the instance of courts getting behind schedule and contributing to crowds waiting by the court.
- When possible stagger match start times to space out participants and/or create additional waves to reduce attendees and participants on site (i.e. am/pm waves or spread out event over multiple days)
- Require all attendees to wear face covering.
- HOST must abide by federal, state, and local laws regarding athletes wearing face coverings during play.
  - If athletes are not required to wear face covering during play, they may remove their face covering once they step on the court for warm-up.
  - If athletes are required to wear face coverings during play, they may experience more difficulty breathing. HOSTS should set court schedules to allow for a slightly slower than traditional pace of play. Court officials should be encouraged to keep the courts on schedule, but with an eye to safeguarding the athletes. A few extra seconds may be allowed between energetic rallies.
    - Officials should be vigilant for signs of heat stress, oxygen debt, or other indicators, and respond appropriately.
- Establish volleyball specific social distancing match protocols including the elimination of high fives, handshakes, and team meetings.
  - One direction (to the right) court switches – one-way travel lanes.
  - Limit number of spectators when possible

**c. After Activities**

- Sanitize, balls, rakes, scoreboards and all equipment after each match in accordance with the event plan and CDC guidelines.
  - Create no touch procedures for trophy, medal & award distribution.
5. **NOTIFICATIONS** – Club directors and venue owners/operators are required to abide by all federal, state, and local regulations regarding the posting of notifications, guidelines, or information to participants.
6. **GLOSSARY** – The following definitions are provided to help readers understand how these terms are to be applied under the USAV Return to Play Guidelines:
- a. **Activity** – This reference addresses any USAV sanctioned activity (i.e. tryout, practice, scrimmage, camp, clinic, combine, showcase, or event).
  - b. **Area** – This geographical reference addresses the State, County, or City where the venue is located. The lowest level of government in your area that has issued

a formal reopening plan will govern which USAV sanctioned activities are permissible.

- c. **Household Member** – This is defined as someone living with you.
- d. **Participant** – This references any USAV registered member (athlete, coach, chaperone or official).
- e. **Physical Distancing** – This is currently defined by the CDC as 6 feet away (or more) from a non-household member.
- f. **Sanction** – This references the authority granted by USAV or a Region for insurance coverage.
- g. **Shared Equipment** – This is defined as equipment owned or shared with non-household members (including volleyballs).
- h. **Venue** – This references any facility or site where a USAV sanctioned activity may take place.

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Latest Information from the White House on COVID-19: <https://www.coronavirus.gov/>
- Link to the President’s Opening Up American Again Guidelines - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>
- CDC Guidance for Large Community Events and Mass Gatherings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/index.html>
- CDC Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Community Facilities: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>
- CDC Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>
- CDC Guidance for Visiting Parks and Recreational Facilities: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/visitors.html>
- CDC Guidance on Coronavirus and Travel in the US: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.html>

**DISCLAIMER** – These guidelines are provided for general informational purposes only and are not intended as, or should be relied upon as, specific medical or legal advice. All participants are strongly encouraged to consult with qualified medical personnel or public health officials for medical advice. Also consult with national, state, and local orders or laws for legal considerations. If you use any considerations provided herein, you do so at your own risk and specifically release from any and all liability, USA Volleyball, the forty (40) Regional Volleyball Associations, and their directors, officers, employees, volunteers and agents in connection with your use of the enclosed guidelines.