

# OVA Referee Town Hall

December 14, 2020

7:30PM

## RULES R 2020

**Q: How will access to Rules R work if no one is registered until play starts which seems like maybe end of February at this point?**

Everyone that was registered last year (based on email address that OVA had on file) will be automatically "pre-approved" for entry. You will have to go in to register using that email address to create a new account.

**Q: Everyone has to "sign in" correct? Will they need an invitation for the Rules R 2020?**

Yes, everyone will need to create a new account for the new Rules R 2020 since it's a different system. Emails have already been pre-approved and more information on registration will be sent out shortly.

**Q: Is the Rules R 2020 going to be available through the Referee Engagement Centre?**

For now, The Rules R will remain separate from the Referee Engagement Centre.

**Q: Will this program, replace the quiz on the Referee Engagement Centre?**

No, not for the time being as that is a different module. We are exploring our options on how the Rules R 2020 can be linked to the REC in the future.

**Q: If someone who was not eligible to register as an OVA Ref (i.e. a ref from out of province or out of country) wanted to 'play' The Rules R would it be possible to develop the program to allow them for a fee to be collected online? Perhaps a monthly fee or an annual one-time payment?**

We are looking at testing a new module for athletes and coaches in the new year, stay tuned!

**Q: Is the timeframe pre-set or does it change with the question?**

The timeframe per question is pre-set and points will be awarded based on speed of answer.

## OVA INDOOR MODIFIED SEASON

**Q: For league play, will officials be limited to one cohort like the teams?**

We will try to keep referees as local as possible. In addition, as only members in the Green to Orange communities of Ontario Re-Opening framework can participate in OVA events, referees from Red and Grey lockdown zones will not be allowed to work any OVA matches.

**Q: When the "introduction" email goes out to the teams, will the potential locations also be identified?**

It will be up to the clubs to discuss amongst themselves the potential locations for their matches. Referees should confirm the location with the assignor before accepting the assignment to ensure

that they are comfortable with where the matches are going to be played. If the referee is not comfortable with the location, they are welcome to pass on the assignment and will not be penalized for not working.

We understand that only about 55% of referees are comfortable working right now and for those that don't register this year, they will be granted an automatic leave of absence for this year to carry over for next season.

**Q: Will all participants be required to wear a mask?**

Yes, the OVA implemented a policy requiring all participants to always wear a mask, including athletes while playing on the court.

**Q: Could an individual serve as a coach and referee in the same cohort or wave?**

Yes, a coach could referee matches in the same cohort and there are no rules against that. It might benefit the league as well if they are having trouble scheduling the teams or finding a referee. The modified indoor season is all about development and providing fun competitive opportunities.

**Q: Would there not be a conflict of interest if the coach referees the same cohort that their team is in?**

It is important to remember that as much as this league is a modified competitive environment, it's also about getting everyone back on the court in a fun environment to help further develop the athletes through game play. The modified indoor season does not bring the same level of competition as seasons past, and we are not as worried for conflict of interests in these cases as opposed to the regular OVA season or Ontario Championships. There should not be any conflicts in place with coaches refereeing matches, however, this scenario should be discussed between the teams prior to booking matches to ensure everyone is comfortable with that situation.

**Q: Can you review the approach with respect to teams in red/orange/etc. playing (or not) and also with respect to distance between teams?**

Modified indoor season matches will not be allowed in Red nor Grey Lockdown zones. Only teams and individuals in green-yellow-orange zones can participate. For travelling, the OVA will do its best to put teams of the same calibre and that are close together in the same grouping. Geography will be the number one factor when putting teams in their cohorts.

**Q: Who's responsibility is it to check that individuals are not from restricted regions?**

The OVA will do its best to verify that teams are from non-restricted regions. However, it will also be up to the clubs and coaches to do their due diligence and to ensure that ineligible athletes do not attend any OVA events. The team hosting the event will need to follow all OVA Return to Play protocols.

**Q: What is the reality that the VC National Championship will happen?**

With restrictions currently tightening, numbers of COVID-19 rising as well as a 50-person maximum gathering sizes for indoors events for the Green to Orange zones, it is not possible to deliver a traditional National Championship model. Please stay tuned for information from Volleyball Canada in the new year on what their plans are for 2021 as they continue to work on potential modifications for National Championships.

**Q: What were the lessons learned from the Indoor Friendlies?**

From the Indoor Friendlies, we learned that people are really wanting and willing to get back to volleyball. We had many teams register and it is unfortunate that we were only able to run two events before having to shut down as we are at the mercy of rising case counts and how quickly communities can move from the Green to Red zones, essentially cutting out volleyball matches.

**Q: There is no doubt the someone is going to ask us our justification for playing given the dire warnings from the Premier. How do you want us to answer their question?**

Undoubtedly, the pandemic is a huge problem that we're all facing right now, and COVID-19 is an inherent risk not just in sport but in our everyday lives. Exercise and physical activity are crucial to the physical and mental health of our members, including referees, coaches and athletes. Additionally, exercise is labelled as an "essential service" as per the government of Ontario's regulations. The OVA will continue to offer programming where we can in a safe environment, ensuring that we are following all rules and government regulations as approved by the board of directors, public health units, our insurance company and with the advice of our lawyers.

Everyone has a different comfort level, and the modified indoor season is not mandatory for anyone to participate. Individuals will need to weigh the pros and cons and determine what their comfort level is on if they want to return to the gym or not this season.

**BEACH**

**Q: Any idea on what the beach season might look like?**

The staff is currently exploring all options for beach volleyball this summer. We don't anticipate that we'll have the OVA Beach Tour as we're all used to but instead, we'll have a modified season with smaller events and different competition structures that are safe and work within the government regulations and guidelines. The OVA staff is also looking into providing different outdoor opportunities for its athletes including offering snow and grass volleyball.

**Q: Will Beach National Upgrade Program (NUP) candidates also not be eligible in 2021?**

The Beach NUP will roll forward to the next Senior National Championship and will ultimately depend on what Volleyball Canada decides to do from an event perspective for August 2021.