



Referee Kickoff Meeting FAQ

October 5, 2021

COVID-19 RULES AND REGULATIONS

Q: Who will be checking vaccination status on site?

A: As per the Ontario government regulations, it is a requirement that the facility check proof of vaccination for anyone over the age of 18 at the point of entry into the facility that are participating in sport and recreation. Although the regulations state referees, coaches and volunteers are exempt, many Public Health Units across Ontario, as well as facilities themselves have removed this exemption. Please be ready to show your proof of vaccination, identification, or valid medical exemption at point of entry to any sport and recreational facility in Ontario.

Q: Are referees required to be vaccinated for indoor sport?

According to the government regulations, referees are exempt. However, facilities and public health regions have gone beyond the government regulations to mandate full vaccinations for participants, and many have chosen to do so. For a full listing of regions in Ontario that mandate vaccinations for referees, coaches, volunteers, please visit:

https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/news_article/show/1187364

Q: Are we submitting the copies of vaccine proof during registration?

A: Yes, vaccination documents can be submitted here:

https://ontariovolleyballassociation.formstack.com/forms/referee_proof_of_vaccination_submissions

As the service provider for the OUA and OCAA, we are mandated to follow their mandatory vaccination policies for anyone entering their campus facilities. Thus, the OVA is collecting proof of vaccination from the referees to ensure we are assigning those referees that meet the requirements of the OUA and OCAA.

Q: Does the OUA and OCAA have a mandatory vaccine policy?

A: Yes. The OUA and OCAA have mandatory vaccination policies. They can be found online at:

<https://www.ocaa.com/members/covid19>

<https://oua.ca/news/2021/8/25/general-oua-participants-required-to-be-fully-vaccinated-for-conference-sanctioned-programming.aspx>

Q: Does the OVA have a mandatory vaccination policy?

A: No, the OVA does not have a mandatory vaccination policy. However, as a member, you are expected to follow the Public Health regulations, facility regulations, etc., that may go beyond the Ontario government regulations to access sport and recreational facilities across Ontario.

Q: Is OVA/OUA/OCAA, etc. allowing us to wear the whistle mask or whistle gaiter vs. using the e-whistle?

A: Yes, you can wear a whistle mask.

Q: What is special about the Fox40 mask whistle?

A: The mask completely covers the whistle in your mouth with a triple layer, so it is safe to use for match play.

REGISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP

Q: When do I need to register as an OVA referee?

A: For referees planning to work OUA and OCAA events, registration should be completed by October 10. For referees working OVA events, registration should be completed by October 25.

Q: If an official chooses not to referee this season due to Covid-19 (vaccination requirement or uncomfortable, etc.), will that individual remain at the same badge level for the next season 2022-2023?

A: Yes, in that case, please email your RRC (Regional Referee Chair) to confirm a leave of absence and you will not lose your badge level/certification for the 2021/22 season.

Q: Is the new uniform the same as we bought before the pandemic?

A: Yes, but with the new logo. It's been in circulation for a few years but is only now being mandated so you might already have it.

Q: Will there be a sale on uniforms?

A: There's a starter pack on the VC (VOLLEYBALL CANADA) website for new pants and uniforms that is cheaper for both the pants and the polo for both men and women than buying separately.

Q: What is the size on the new uniform?

A: For women, they are smaller for both pants and shirt so you would need to buy 1 or 2 sizes up. For men, they are true to size.

Q: What about the PUP's who did not finish their upgrades because OCs was cancelled in 2020?

A: The RRC's will work with the PUP candidates who did not finish last year at the regional levels this season.

Q: Where can we purchase the whistle mask?

A: The whistle mask can be found here: <https://fox40shop.com/products/tri-layer-whistle-mask>

Q: Is there a timeline for the e-whistles to be sent?

A: Kelvin Cheng is shipping out e-whistles every couple of days as he updates the registered referee list for the Assignors. If it has been a week since you registered and have not received it, email kcheng@ontariovolleyball.org to let him know.

Q: Will we be receiving a rulebook with registration, or do we have to purchase one?

A: Rulebooks will not be provided this year due to no major rule changes. You can purchase directly through the VC online store if you would like a hardcopy. You can find the 2021-22 softcopy of the rulebook online at:

https://volleyball.ca/uploads/Development/Referee/Rules/Rulebook_Files/Current_Year/2021-22_VC_Rulebook_-_En_Final.pdf

OVA LEAGUE MATCHES

Q: Will league matches run during the week in the evening?

A: Yes, league matches could be during the week at evening permit rentals for the clubs or they could choose to do them on the weekends if they have space as well. It will be determined based on when clubs can get gym time.

Q: Will there be multiple league matches at a time or is it just one match?

A: This, again, will be up to the clubs. Based on what they can schedule, how much gym time they have and when each team is available. It could just be one match or a few back-to-back and there is no official requirement on the schedule. It is up to the teams in each pod to determine when they can get all their matches in.

Q: Will there be referee mentoring at events?

A: Mentoring will vary based on the event and the age group and will be different throughout the regions. We are hoping to have mentoring again at some point in 2021-22, however, we are also faced with the gathering size limitations of indoor facilities that are still at 50% capacity due to being in Step 3 of Ontario's Re-Opening plan.

Q: Will the facilities or host be providing sanitizing equipment, like spray, wipes, gloves, etc.?

A: It is recommended that referees bring their own PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to matches for personal use. The OVA will have sanitizer at the score tables for OVA events but club will not necessarily provide it at league play events.

Q: Should the captain taking the toss wear a mask?

A: Yes, captains, coaches and referees need to wear a mask as well as stay physically distanced when completing the coin toss and/or approaching the scorer's table.

Q: During timeouts, should athletes be wearing their masks?

A: Athletes that are on the bench should keep their masks on. Players coming off the court can keep them off as they will be drinking and snacking.

Q: How will scorers maintain physical distance?

A: Both scorers will have to keep their distance and keep their masks on. Extra tables, where available, will also be provided to accommodate more physical distance.

Q: Are face shields acceptable for those who can't wear a mask?

A: This will vary from facility to facility, so it is best to check directly with your assignor and the league on their safety protocols.

Q: How much of the mask wearing are referees being asked to enforce? And for spectators who are not obeying the masking rules, is it the responsibility of the convenor to deal with it or are we to use our purple cards?

A: It is up to the clubs to regulate their members regarding masks. However, if there is a coach that refuses to comply, please inform the host club and the OVA info@ontariovolleyball.org so that they are aware of the situation. Additionally, spectators may be minimal at events in the early season due to capacity limit of 50% for indoor sport and recreation facilities.

Q: Can a captain choose what side they want at the coin toss?

A: No, the winner of the coin toss will only pick serve or receive. The teams cannot switch sides and will stay on the side that they entered the gym on for the whole match.

Q: Since there are no side switches, effectively, the team who get first on the court pick the side?

A: Yes, sides will be determined based on who enters the gym first and which side the team sets up on.

Q: What is the OVA warm-up policy?

A: The following guidelines are also in place for team warm-ups during OVA events:

- If possible, teams warm up on separate courts for running, dynamic stretches and peppering.
- Both teams can do the hitting warm up on the game court, one team after the other in one of the following ways:
 - Split the team so half of the group hits while the other is retrieving balls. Switch halfway through the warmup, etc.
 - If the team that is not hitting is not retrieving the balls, they must be physically distanced off the court
- Masks must always be worn by team staff (all coaches, therapists, managers etc.)

CEILING RULE

Q: What is the rationale of the ceiling rule?

A: The rationale of this new rule is to keep the ball flying! Because we are not always in top-tier facilities where there is ample ceiling space, this will allow more rallies to continue and will give athletes more opportunities to play the ball.

Q: It is still in play if the ball hit the basket and changes direction on the same team's side?

A: Yes, it would remain in play.

Q: What if it lands on the backboard and slowly rolls back down the backboard on the same team's side?

A: The ball would remain in play.

Q: Can there be multiple contacts on the ceiling?

A: Yes, the ball can contact multiple times before falling.

Q: What if the ball hits the ceiling and gets stuck?

A: That would be a re-serve.

Q: What if the ball hits the ceiling and crosses the plain of the net back to the opposing team's court?

A: That ball is called as out.

OTHER TOPICS

Q: Which assignments is the 50KM bubble removed for?

A: The 50KM bubble is only removed for OUA and OCAA assignments starting this season.

Q: Will events be livestreamed for parents and spectators that can't attend in facilities?

A: Matches can be livestreamed if you would like to do that on your own device using social media. Unfortunately, the OVA does not have enough resources in place to cover hundreds of courts that will be in play over the league and tournaments being offered.

Q: With regards to certain rules only being implemented in certain leagues, why aren't they the same across the board?

A: Different rules are implemented based on different philosophies for athlete development. The OVA recommends changes to different groups I.e. school boards, colleges, universities, etc. But it is up to them to decide if the changes are accepted for their leagues.

Q: When is VC's Canada Cup?

A: The Canada Cup is scheduled for July 20-24, 2022.

Q: Will the slides be available after the kickoff meeting?

A: Yes, we will post the recording of this call to the OVA YouTube page, will create a FAQ of the questions as well as post this slide deck on the website at: <https://www.ontariovolleyball.org/town-hall> as well as the Referee Engagement Centre.