



What's new in 2021 – 2022?

Significant changes to the 2021 – 2022 Referee Guidelines are underlined in this document.

The following are changes to the Rules in the Volleyball Canada Rulebook:

Warm-up Protocol

7.2.4 Volleyball Canada – In an effort to reduce the incidence of injuries and concussions during warm-up, Volleyball Canada has developed the following warm-up protocol. This protocol is to be followed by all teams during the designated on court warm-up time:

- a. Athletes must remain on their side of the net immediately following an attack and only move to the opposite side of the net from outside of the court. Athletes are not permitted into the receiving court.
- b. Any ball from the receiving side of the court, entered to the attacking side, must be entered from outside of the court.
- c. Retrieved balls must be returned along the sidelines of the court and not through the receiving court.
- d. If the team is using both sides of the court, i.e. full court game type activity – only one ball can be in play at any given time.
- e. Opposing teams are not permitted to use volleyballs in the free zone during the other team's allocated court time. It is recommended for the opposing team to support the retrieval of volleyballs for the team on the court.

For teams that do not follow the warm-up protocol, the referees will note on the score sheet the non-compliance of the warm-up protocol. The league, PTA, or Volleyball Canada will determine the appropriate sanction.

Volleyball Canada Concussion Policy for Competition

30.1 Concussion

In the situation where an athlete is struck in the head and the coach requests a preliminary symptom check for concussion, a one-minute technical time out would be applied by the referee in order to rectify the situation before a legal substitution, exceptional substitution or recovery time would become necessary.

The players are to remain on the court while the situation is being rectified. The technical time-out is not charged to either team. The technical time-out may occur only once for the same player in the match and is recorded on the scoresheet under remarks.

If it is determined that the athlete should be removed for a complete concussion assessment, the athlete may not return to competition until the results of the assessment are known.

30.1.1 Legal Substitution

If possible, a legal substitution would be used. The athlete undergoing concussion assessment may return to the set if deemed clear to continue, providing the return is legal. (Rule 15.6)

30.1.2 Exceptional Substitution

If a legal substitution is not possible then the referee would authorize an exceptional substitution. The athlete undergoing concussion assessment cannot return to play for the remainder of that set. The athlete undergoing concussion assessment may play in subsequent sets providing the results of test deem them clear to continue. (Rule 15.7)

30.1.3 Recovery Time

if an athlete requiring concussion assessment cannot be substituted legally or exceptionally, this player is given a three-minute recovery time. This may occur only once for the same player in the match. If the player is not able to return at the end of the recovery time, the team is declared incomplete. (Rule 17.1)