



AUSTRALIAN  
BEACH  
VOLLEYBALL  
SCHOOLS CUP

COVID SAFE EVENT PLAN

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## ABVSC 2021 – COVID Safe Event Plan

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## Introduction

The purpose of this Australian Beach Volleyball Schools Cup ABVSC COVID Safe Event Plan is to provide an overarching plan for the implementation and management of procedures by Volleyball Australia (VA), schools, volunteers and stakeholders to support the ABVSC. Participant safety is paramount in our delivery of the event and this plan will help to minimise the risk of contamination from the virus.

This plan has been developed by Volleyball Australia with the assistance of the VA COVID Committee to support in delivering a Safe Action Plan for the hosting of ABVSC. The plan is aligned with the Queensland Industry Covid Safe Plan for Indoor Sporting Groups and the Industry Framework for COVID Safe Events in Queensland. Until a treatment or a vaccine is found, there is a further risk than in previous years of hosting this event. This risk can be minimised by the implementation of infection control measures. Firstly, at the event it is every participants responsibility to actively demonstrate good personal hygiene actions – wash hands regularly, if coughing or sneezing use a tissue, stay at home or accommodation if sick or unwell – and then get tested, be aware of physical distancing and employing 1.5m separation and download the Covid Safe App. Secondly, this Safe Event Plan will provide the protocols and procedures in delivering a safe competition designed to minimise community transmission of the virus, through cleaning and disinfecting procedures to changes to match conditions.

The arrangements set out in this Plan are intended to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 among members, participants, coaches, officials, staff, volunteers, visitors, families, and the broader community. The Plan provides the framework to govern the general operation of the ABVSC, in particular those conducted at any venues/facilities utilised, managed or controlled by VA, the training and competition behaviour of all members and participants and the monitoring and reporting of the health of attendees involved in sporting activities or utilising facilities at an event.

Volleyball Australia expects all members, participants, coaches, officials, administrators, and volunteers to:

- Comply with the directions laid out in this Plan and by VA staff throughout the ABVSC event;
- Understand and act in accordance with this Plan as amended from time to time;
- Comply with any testing and precautionary measures implemented by VA;
- Act with honesty and integrity regarding the state of their own personal health and any potential symptoms; and
- Monitor their health and take a cautious approach to self-isolation and reporting of potential symptoms.

This Plan includes, but is not limited to, the conduct of:

- a. competition activities (sport operations); and
- b. facility/venue management and supporting operations (venue operations).

At all times the Plan is subject to all regulations, guidelines and directions of government and public health authorities. This plan will be updated in accordance with any changes to public health directions.



## Resources

There are many documents produced at the Federal and State levels in prescribing the pathway of return of sport for training and competition. These documents are forever changing and in the Resources Section of this COVID Safe Action Plan the following linked documents have been referenced and utilised to create this plan:

- [AIS Framework for rebooting sport](#)
- [VA Return of community Volleyball](#)
- [Club Surface and Equipment Cleaning Guidelines](#)
- [QLD Government Indoor Sports Group Industry COVID Safe Plan](#)
- [QLD Government Roadmap to Easing Restrictions](#)
- [QTIC Industry Framework for COVID Safe Events in Queensland](#)
- [Australian Government Department of Health – Appropriate use of disinfectants](#)
- [Australian Government Department of Health - Hygiene and cleaning for the health workforce during COVID-19](#)

## Key Principals

This Plan is based on, and accepts, the AIS [Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 Environment](#) (**AIS Framework**) and the [National Principles for the Resumption of Sport and Recreation Activities](#) (**National Principles**).

The Plan also accepts as key principles that:

- The health and safety of members, participants, coaches, officials, administrators/volunteers, visitors, families and the broader community is the number one priority;
- Members, participants, coaches, officials, administrators/volunteers, families and the broader community need to be engaged and briefed on Volleyball Australia's return to sport plans;
- Facilities are assessed and appropriate plans are developed to accommodate upgraded hygiene protocols, physical distancing and other measures to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19;
- Training cannot resume until the arrangements for sport operations and facility operations are finalised and approved, if necessary; and
- At every stage of the return to sport process VA must consider and apply all applicable State and Territory Government and local restrictions and regulations. VA needs to be prepared for any localised outbreak at our facilities, within our competitions or in the local community.

## Responsibilities under this Plan

VA retains the overall responsibility for the effective management and implementation of the return to sport activities and operations outlined in this Plan.

Volleyball Australia is responsible for:

- Approving the Plan and overseeing the implementation of the arrangements in the Plan; and
- Revising the Plan as required, ensuring it reflects up to date information from government and public health officials.

Volleyball Australia has appointed the following person as the COVID-19 Safety Coordinator for the ABVSC to execute the delivery of the Plan and to act as a point of contact for information relating to this Plan:

<b>Name</b>	Phil Muller
<b>Contact Email</b>	phil.muller@volleyball.org.au
<b>Contact Number</b>	0448 326 131



VA expects all members, participants, coaches, officials, administrative staff, and volunteers to:

- Comply with the health directions of government and public health authorities as issued from time to time;
- Understand and act in accordance with this Plan as amended from time to time;
- Comply with any testing and precautionary measures implemented by VA;
- Act with honesty and integrity regarding the state of their personal health and any potential symptoms; and
- Monitor their health and take a cautious approach to self-isolation and reporting of potential symptoms.

## Return to Sport Arrangements

The Plan outlines specific sport requirements that VA will implement for Level B and Level C of the AIS Framework as it relates to the ABVSC.

VA will transition to the training activity and facility use as outlined in Level B of the AIS Framework and the training/competition activities and facility use outlined in Level C of the AIS Framework when permitted under local restrictions and regulations.

## Roadmap to a COVIDSafe Australia

VA will also comply with the Australian government's Roadmap to a COVIDSafe Australia, which places limits on the type of activity that can be conducted and the number of people who can gather at facilities, notwithstanding the activities permitted by the AIS Framework (see below where the ABVSC is currently in Level C).

<b>AIS Activities</b>	<b>Level A:</b> Training in no more than pairs. Physical distancing required.	<b>Level B:</b> Indoor/outdoor activity. Training in small groups up to 10. Physical distancing required.		<b>Level C:</b> Full sporting activity (training and competition) allowed. No restriction on numbers. Contact allowed.	
<b>Roadmap Activities</b>	N/A	<b>Step 1:</b> No indoor activity. Outdoor sport (up to 10 people) consistent with AIS Framework.	<b>Step 2:</b> Indoor/outdoor sport up to 20 people. Physical distancing (density 4m <sup>2</sup> ).	<b>Step 3:</b> Venues allowed to operate with up to 100 people with physical distancing. Community sport expansion to be considered consistent with AIS Framework.	<b>Further steps TBC</b>

## Recovery

When public health officials determine that the outbreak has ended in the local community, VA will consult with relevant authorities to identify criteria for scaling back its COVID-19 prevention actions. VA will also consider which protocols can remain to optimise good public and participant health.

At this time, the VA will consult with key stakeholders to review the delivery of its return to sport arrangements and use feedback to improve organisational plans and systems.

## Participants

The VA COVID-19 Committee was developed to support schools and team management with ensuring the health and welfare of all team members. Prior to the tournament, schools will be provided with a comprehensive list of medical services on the Gold Coast. It is the responsibility of each school to identify the closest and most appropriate medical facilities to them from this list and to have a plan in place in the event of a localised outbreak within their school group.

Schools will be required to temperature check all athletes, coaches, officials, and team support staff prior to departing their accommodation each day. Any participants presenting with a high temperature (>37.5°C) MUST remain at their accommodation, the ABVSC Tournament Control Committee (TCC) notified and if further symptoms develop, they must take a COVID-19 test.

The recommendation when taking temperatures is for the athlete to be seated with a resting heart rate at the time of the temperature being taken. If the temperature presents above 37.5°C have the athlete sit in a calm state for 10 minutes before attempting the test again.

All participants must have their temperatures recorded daily whilst attending the ABVSC. These records are to be held by the team/school and presented to the TCC upon request.

When teams are rostered for "Duty" commitments, the Adult in Charge of the team MUST ensure compliance of COVID match protocols including the cleaning or disinfecting of the court equipment during and at the end of the match. In addition to this, the Adult in Charge of the team is also responsible for ensuring their team has designed and is implementing plans for cleaning and disinfecting of their own team equipment such as warm up balls, trollies, drink bottle holders etc. Failure to comply with these protocols may result in teams being fined.

Schools are responsible for the management of family and friend interaction with participants throughout the competition.

## Spectators

At the 2021 ABVSC event, spectators will not be allowed into the playing area to view matches. However spectators will be allowed to watch matches outside of the court free zones provided social distancing is applied and all spectators have checked in to the event either physically or on their phone, to assist with contact tracing records.

Specific spectator viewing areas and ingress/egress paths will be produced by Volleyball Australia and published on the event website closer to the event.

Any spectators entering the venue into the designated spectator viewing area may be randomly asked to take a temperature test on entry into the facility. Anyone testing above 37.5° will be asked to move to an isolated location and rest in the shade for 10 minutes to allow time for their temperature to drop in the case of a false positive. If they again test over 37.5° they will be refused entry and asked to leave the precinct.

Volunteers will be stationed around the event site and will assist the event management to ensure compliance with this plan.

## Workforce

### Event staff and volunteers

All event staff and volunteers will be required to complete online training modules in preparation to attend the event. One of these modules will be Infection Control Measures to reduce the risks of community transmission.

Staff and volunteer role descriptions will include additional responsibilities relating to cleaning and hygiene practices, people management as it relates to controlling social distancing measures and data collection for contact tracing and temperature checking protocols.

VA will provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to volunteers and staff as required. The level of PPE given to staff and volunteers will be dependent upon their role and interaction with the participants.

## Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures

### Cleaning Procedure

Following the initial set up of all court equipment and at the conclusion of each day after nets have been reset for the next day of matches, all court equipment including but not limited to: referee stand (if present), post pads, net tape (top and bottom), score bench, score flippers, team/duty chairs and match balls will be cleaned with soap and water. This process ensures the removal of any dirt that may impact on the effectiveness of the disinfectant.

### Disinfectant Procedure

After each match the “Duty” team will be required to disinfect all court equipment including but not limited to umpire stand (if present), post pads, net tape, score bench, score flippers and duty chairs. The match ball is to be wiped with supplied disinfectant wipes after each set and at the end of the match. Playing teams are required to wipe the coach’s chairs with supplied disinfectant wipes at the end of the match before exiting the venue.

### Venue Cleaning

The beach will have a cleaning crew on site who will be cleaning and disinfecting all touch point surfaces as required. These surfaces include but are not limited to handrails, toilets & taps (managed by the event, not public restroom facilities), and door handles on office areas.

### Cleaning, Disinfectant and PPE Products

Volleyball Australia will provide the following products to facilitate the above cleaning procedures:

- Daily cleaning all surfaces with soap and water
- Disinfecting with wipes containing active ingredient of Benzalkonium Chloride
- Gloves will be provided for use of all participants who will be in contact with cleaning and disinfectant products.

A court cleaning & disinfecting kit will be provided for each court. This kit will include disinfectant (as outlined above), hand sanitiser, gloves, paper towel and bins to dispose of used cleaning equipment.

## Conduct of Matches

To reduce and minimise the risk of community transmission, the following changes to the way a volleyball match is normally conducted will be enforced for ABVSC 2021.

Area	Detail
Court Set-up	Chairs will not be provided for team benches, except in the case of a show court. Any substitute players (4-a-side competition) or team coaches/team staff will be required to stand in the designated "bench" area provided they are maintaining the 1 person per 4m <sup>2</sup> social distancing requirements.
End Changes	Teams will not change ends at the end of each set unless there is a known advantage or disadvantage to one side (e.g. wind or sun). A decision on whether to change ends or not must be agreed upon by the coaches/captains of BOTH teams prior to the coin toss at the commencement of the match. Teams will be responsible for disinfecting their team "bench" chairs at the end of the match (and/or before changing ends if this is required) in the event a bench is provided.
Warm-up	Teams will not be permitted to warm up on their court before their allocated warm up time. All non-official match warmups such as running, stretching and all non-ball warm up activities, must take place outside the competition area prior to the allocated warm up time. Teams must supply their own balls for match warm up. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure these balls have been cleaned and disinfected prior to use at each match.
Duty	The number of duty personnel permitted at the court for an allocated duty will be capped at two (2) people. Provisions will not be made for additional duty team members.  No other people are permitted to be in the competition area for duty commitments unless due to uncontrollable circumstances a duty team member is no longer able to fulfil their duty requirements (e.g. scorer faints and must seek medical services). In this event, a back-up duty person can be called in.
Post-Match	At the end of each match, teams will not be permitted to shake hands at the end of the match. Instead, at the end of the match, players may verbally congratulate/thank their opposition provided physical distancing is maintained  At the conclusion of the match, match related activities (e.g. thanking the opposition, signing the scoresheet) and team disinfecting processes, teams will be required to immediately vacate the competition area through the designated exit point. The only exception to this rule is for any duty personnel who are required to stay back for duty commitments.
Between Matches	An additional 5 minutes will be scheduled between matches and warmups to take place to allow adequate time for cleaning of court equipment to take place as well as sufficient time for teams to enter and exit the venue.

## Venues

The competition venue/beach will be set out to allow for appropriate social distancing measures and monitored ingress and egress of participants and spectators. The following will be implemented as it relates to the beach facilities at the 2021 ABVSC:

- Player/Team change rooms will not be provided. Public toilets will be available, but participants will agree use these at their own risk
- Team meetings/gatherings will not be permitted inside the competition area of the beach. Please take any gatherings to the grass area or another section of the beach to minimise numbers within the competition area and increase our capacity for physical distancing

- Drink bottle refilling stations will be provided on the grass area. This facility will be washed and sanitised every hour and will be set up to align with social distancing regulation. This facility is to be used strictly for refilling drink bottles and not to be used to drink from the tap.
- All participants, spectators, volunteers, administrators etc. entering the beach will be required to align with mandatory record keeping.

## Lost Property

Highly regulated lost property restrictions will be put in place at the event. Teams and participants will need to take extra care of their belongings as items left behind will be disposed of.

- There will be no drink bottles accepted or held in lost property.
- Event lost property will be restricted to small valuable personal items such as phones and wallets. These items will not be handled by event volunteers. If they are surrendered, they will be placed in a zip lock bag and stored for up to 48 hours. Items not collected within this timeframe will be disposed of.
- Any items not deemed personal valuables by the event staff will be disposed of.

## Ceremonies and Presentations

### Opening Ceremony

Until further notice the Opening Ceremony will be cancelled as a public event. VA is endeavouring to stage a Live Streamed/Digital Opening Ceremony that will be available via the VA Facebook Live platform.

### Closing Ceremony

Unlike the Opening Ceremony, a smaller ceremony will be staged with the presentation of the winners of the Champion Overall School. It is envisaged that a single school representative is present at this presentation with the broader school communities viewing the ceremony on Live Streaming.

### Medal Presentations

All competition medal presentations will take place at the conclusion of the match with event officials presenting medals to one representative of each team. Schools and teams can acknowledge these achievements at their own discretion away from the competition site.