

# NWAC VOLLEYBALL PROTOCOLS FOR MARCH 2021-JUNE 2021

The following protocols are for NWAC Volleyball competitions during March 2021-June 2021. Please ensure that as member colleges you follow the protocols and are responsible to provide as safe as an environment for all of those involved. *It is understood that each member college may have to make minor adjustments.* More detailed information is found on pages 32-33 in the NWAC Health and Safety Manual.

Host colleges must inform visiting team at least 48 hours in advance the protocols that will be in place prior, during, and after the match. At a minimum this information should include:

* Time of arrival and what entrance and exit to use.
* Location for screening when arriving on campus.
* Screening requirements needed prior to entry.
* Prior to the visiting team leaving to play the match, ***the visiting AD must*** send to the host AD names of SA’s who have been cleared to play.
* Protocols for use of the athletic training facility.
* Schedule of events for the day of the match.

**BALLS**

* Each team shall have its own balls for use while in the venue. The volleyballs should be cleaned by a designated member of the host institution’s game operations staff.
* It is recommended 3-5 volleyballs are set aside in a ball cart for game use only.
* Game balls should be cleaned after each rally, during timeouts, and after the completion of each set.
* Prior to the start of each point, servers use a clean ball.

**ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL**

The following game management essential personnel for volleyball is:

* Four officials (R1, R2, 2 linesperson).
* One official scorer.
* One score clock operator.
* Two ball shaggers/ball cleaners.
* Two stat personnel (located away from the score table).
* One video operator (located away from the players and officials).
* No more than two game management administrators.
* No more than the minimum number of coaches and student-athletes need to compete for the match.

**FACE COVERINGS**

* Currently student-athletes, coaches, and supportive staff must wear masks at all times.
* Currently officials must wear masks at all times.



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**OFFICIALS**

* See pages 3-4 for details.

**SCORE TABLE**

* Only the official scorer and the scoreboard operator are seated at the score table. The seating configuration must maintain proper social distance protocols.
* Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes stationed at the score table.

**TEAM BENCH**

* For the duration of the match, teams will sit on the same bench. Therefore the teams will play on the same side of the court for the entire match. Each seat should have a name identifying the player’s seat and the seats should ensure proper social distancing at all times.
* If the facility allows member colleges should adjust the courtside set up to allow for physical distancing from playing court and benches. If spacing allows, recommend using multiple rows of seats with an appropriate distance between each seat. Each seat should have a name of the player on it and only the player is allowed to sit in that seat for the duration of the game.
* On the team bench sideline, Row 1 shall be set back from the playing court sideline a minimum of 6 feet to allow distancing from the court. Row 2 should be a minimum of 6 feet behind Row 1.
* If the facility allows, a minimum 12-foot physical distance barrier must separate the scorers’ table and bench areas from the general seating area.
* Similar spacing is recommended for “broadcast tables” on the other side of the court.
* Each player should have his/her own bucket/bag with their name on it and items included should be a personalized water bottle, masks, towel and hand sanitizer.

**TOWELS**

* Towels should be used by only one individual for the competition.
* Multiple towel bins should be available to discard used towels.
* An alternative to towels is the use of disposable towels and appropriate disposal container.
* No towels to be place on net posts.
* Game Management will take care of wiping the court as needed.



NWAC Volleyball Officials Protocols

Member colleges must provide information to the officials associations on campus health screening locations, screening requirements, points of entry, path of travel, access needs, availability of restrooms, locker rooms, and other designated facilities at least 48 hours before the scheduled event. Each member college may have to make minor adjustments to this plan. At a minimum this document should include:

* Time of arrival and what entrance and exit to use
* Screening requirements needed prior to entry
* Availability of locker room and/or meeting space if it is available
* Protocol for use of athletic training facility
* Schedule of events for the day of the game

Officials traveling to officiate a NWAC volleyball match should be prepared to have their own:

* Personal towels
* Personal water bottles
* Mask and additional supply of masks
* Personal hand sanitizer
* Come dressed to the match in uniform

Officials should not work any NWAC volleyball match if they have shown signs of symptoms for COVID-19 at least 6-12 hours prior to the scheduled match.

Once on site and at a minimum officials will be given a temperature check. If their temperature check registers at 100.4 or lower the official may officiate the match. If their temperature registers higher than 100.4, the official will be asked to step aside and isolate for 15 minutes. After 15 minutes has elapsed another temperature check will be administered to the official. If the results confirms the original registered temperature, the official will not be allowed to work the match and will have to be isolated. If the second temperature check registers at 100.4 or lower, the official will be then allowed to officiate.

**PROTOCOLS**

* **The pregame meeting between game officials and coaches must be conducted virtually or in a place that** allows for 6 feet of physical distance among participants. Officials should always wear masks/face coverings and maintain physical distancing during all activities.
* Officials are to follow personal health guidelines (e.g., wash hands frequently; do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth; use hand sanitizer; maintain physical distance and wears masks at all times).
* No physical interactions, such as high‐fives, fist bumps and hugs, should occur with coaches, officials, members of other teams. Host school game management will enforce.
* Eliminate the pregame and postgame handshake line involving the two participating teams and officials.
* Libero substitution is on the honor system and officials will not mediate any discussion between coaches. If coaches are not able to be honorable, then officials should award a yellow or red card.



**EXPECTATIONS**

* Arrival time depends on school requirements for COVID testing/attestation.
* R1 will check net height.
* R2 will check game ball(s) pressure.
* Once the game balls have been checked, officials will not handle the game balls again.
* Officials will not touch game towels.
* Minimal interaction with coaches.
* Line Judges may use their personal flags.
* Line Judges flags may or may not match.
* Will remind any participant to wear his/her facemask in the manner in which it was intended when approaching an official.
* Will remind server to get a fresh ball from the ball cart prior to serving. Ball cleaners place clean balls in cart.
* During warm-ups, the R2 will ask the clock operator to stop the clock at 19:00, 15:00, 11:00, 6:00 to allow one team to completely vacate the court before the next team enters the court.
* R2 will ask the clock operator to re-start the warm-up clock once the team has entered the court.
* Referees will use either an electronic whistle or a whistle under a mask.
* Referee whistles may or may not be the same.

**Meeting with Coaches**

* Maintain social distance.
* No handshakes.
* Coaches and officials must wear masks.
* Remind coaches to wear a mask when approaching to ask questions during the match.
* Remind coaches to remain proper physical distancing from officials at all times.
* Explain match protocol for the facility.
* Ball management.
* Towel management.

**Meeting with Team Captains**

* Maintain social distance; no handshakes.
* Only one captain allowed from each team and only R1 meets with captains.
* Captains stand at extended attack lines.
* R1 stands near scorer’s table.
* Review match protocols for game balls and towel management.
* Visitor can show thumbs up for “Heads”, thumbs down for “Tails” before tossing the coin.

**Players:**

* Request a “recovery pause” after a long rally to catch their breath.
* Request a recovery pause raising a hand to get the attention of one of the referees.
* This pause will be brief and will not be used to delay the match; similar to the time used to tie a shoe.
* The captain, wearing her mask, may briefly approach a referee for clarifying questions only.
* Show good sportsmanship by waving to the opposite team after introductions and at the conclusion of the match.
* There will be no team huddle after every point.