

COVID-19 Related protocols for  
Stratford Volleyball Club Coaches and Executive  
2020-2021 Season Information

Welcome to the 2020-2021 pandemic era volleyball season. Thanks so much for stepping up and coaching this year. The SVC executive and the community really appreciate you. As you are aware this season will be much different from previous seasons. There will be no OVA competitive tournaments until at least January 2021. From a coaching perspective there will be new responsibilities related to COVID-19 which will be detailed below. Please also see the "COVID-19 related protocols for SVC athletes". We are expecting that there will be multiple changes to protocols throughout the year. What we have in place may change and it is also possible that our season may end abruptly if the pandemic worsens. Please be flexible and have patience this year.

### **Coach Police Checks**

All coaches, volunteers and executive members are required to have a vulnerable sector police check done within the last 3 years. Our records indicate that **all of our returning coaches are up to date** regarding this. New coaches should contact their local police department to get this done ASAP. In Stratford, this can be initiated on line and then you will be asked to pick up the report from the police station. SVC will reimburse coaches for the cost of this.

### **Coach Certification**

The OVA recently announced that it has relaxed the coach certification rules this year. Having said that all coaches, prior to October, are still required to complete the following, if not done already (Check your status at [thelocker.coach.ca](http://thelocker.coach.ca)).

All Coaches must complete the following on line courses:

- 1) Making Headway (free) <https://thelocker.coach.ca/account/login?ReturnUrl=/>
- 2) Coaches Association of Canada Safe Sports Training (Free)  
<https://thelocker.coach.ca/account/login?ReturnUrl=/>

Head Coaches must have completed:

- 1) Foundations of Volleyball (\$89) <https://coach.volleyball.ca/>
- 2) Making Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation (\$85 or free if course was completed)  
<https://thelocker.coach.ca/account/login?ReturnUrl=/>

Any costs will be reimbursed by the club.

## **MRS Coach registration**

After Sept 14, 2020, all coaches will be required to register through the new MRS system which will replace the old NRS system. **Please register as a volunteer** which will be free. Our registrar will then go into the system later and update your membership to coach and pay the required OVA and CVA fees.

## **COVID-19 Protocols**

Please be advised that the following protocols are taken directly from the provincial return to play protocols for phase three. If a club or a coach decides that they are not going to make an effort to follow these protocols, then they will not be covered by insurance in the event of legal action resulting from breaching these protocols.

- 1) No more than 50 participants (coaches and athletes) will be in the Agriplex at any given time. This 50 person cohort should have no contact with anyone in another 50 person cohort. Coaches are only able to assist with teams within their own cohort. Athletes can not play up or mix with other athletes outside their own cohort during SVC activities.
- 2) Parents will not be permitted to enter the Agriplex except under special circumstances. Example, if a coach is coaching alone and requires an observer to maintain the "rule of two". If there is refusal to comply, a SVC executive member should be notified.
- 3) Communication with parents is important every year, however, this year it will be essential as parents may be anxious and they may have lots of questions if they are not able to observe practices. This year it will be essential to OVER COMMUNICATE with parents. This has been the main message from clubs who have run summer programs with the COVID-19 related restrictions.
- 4) Coaches will need to wear a mask and physical distance at all times.
- 5) We would like to minimize athlete involvement with equipment set up or take down this year unless. The club looking at assigning individuals to do set up and take down every Sunday and Tuesday. More to come on this
- 6) Coaches will require all the same items that athletes require. (mask, zip lock bag, water bottle if needed, hand sanitizer). The club will provide towels for cleaning, and disinfectant for cleaning balls and equipment and hand sanitizer. We ask that all the balls, post pads and the upper tape of the net, as well as any other equipment used after every practice.
- 7) Practice times will be 4:30-6:15, 6:30-8:15, and 8:30-10:15 Sundays and Tuesdays. At this point Mondays are not available. It is possible that we may be able to secure additional gym time (? some Saturdays). All coaches and athletes should arrive no earlier than 5 minutes prior to their scheduled practice start time and leave no later than 5 minutes after their scheduled practice end time. This will ensure that participants from different cohorts are not in contact with each other.
- 8) For each practice session, a person assigned by the SVC executive member arrive 10-15 minutes early and sit at the entrance to a) prevent athletes from entering prior

to 5 minutes before their session and prior to all the participants from the previous session have left b) collect records of completed health screening questionnaires and ensure that all answers are “No” (Collecting these will also be our record of participation. If an athlete arrives without having completed the questionnaire then they will need to complete one before entering), c) remind parents that they are not permitted to enter, d) ensure athletes have a **water bottle, hand sanitizer, zip lock bag**, and are wearing a **mask**. This person will also be assigned to clean door handles before and after each group arrives and leaves.

### **Practice protocols**

- Athletes are not permitted to deliberately physically contact each other on the court
- Athletes may breach physical distancing barriers while on-court in training or in game play situations, however, must maintain physical distancing when off of the court.
- Off the court, athletes must respect physical distancing guidelines within all parts of the site/facility by staying at least 2m apart at all times.
- All off-court warm-ups and training should comply with current physical distancing requirements.
- Utilize visual cues (i.e. placing pylons, skipping ropes) to remind participants of 2m spacing.
- Limit each 9m x 18m court to 12 active athletes (14 with liberos)
- Ensure ample space between each court to respect physical distancing and to keep volleyballs from co-mingling with other training groups (e.g. set up nets on every other court).
- Establish volleyball specific physical distancing protocols including the elimination of handshakes, high fives, huddles and participants switching sides.

An SVC executive member will circulate throughout the gym to ensure that protocols are being adhered to until expectations and protocols are clearly understood by all.