

## PROTOCOLS

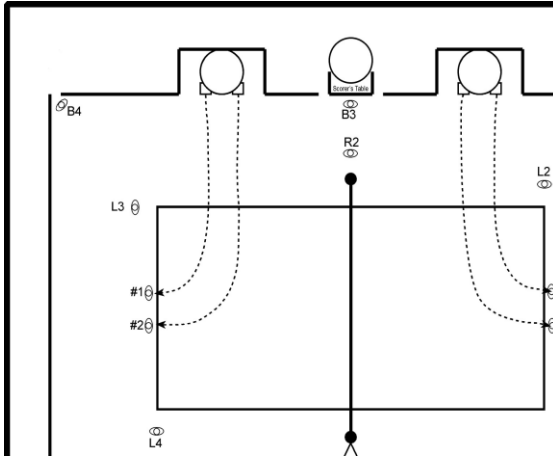
The designation “relevant FIVB Delegate(s)” has been used in all protocols to apply to Technical Delegate and Refereeing Coach. Their specific roles are defined at the FIVB Beach Volleyball Handbook.

## OFFICIAL MATCH PROTOCOL

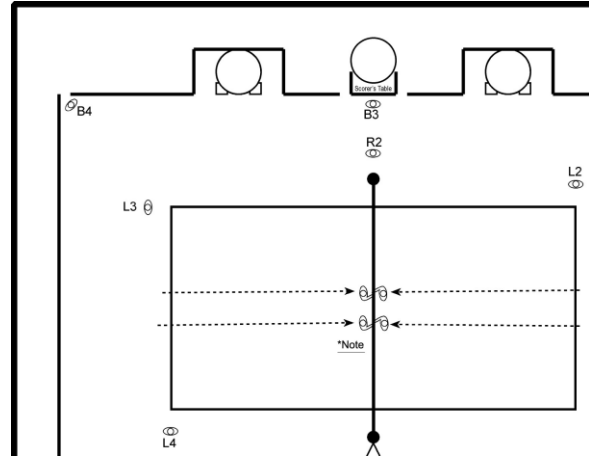
<b>-10 min.</b>	Previous match finishes, referees to complete post-match formalities and exit court area.
<b>-8 min.</b>	Announcement of match as soon as court is prepared by the sand levellers, players and officials enter the court area. Players from this time must be in official match uniforms. Watering and raking should be complete by this time. Players warm up on court area and other preparations, officials check match equipment, score sheet, conditions, players area, etc.
<b>-5 min.</b>	Coin toss taken in front of scorer's table. <i>(Note: If local conditions dictate, the coin toss time can be moved forward to allow extra warm up time).</i>
<b>-4 min.</b>	Beginning of official warm up period (3 min.)
<b>-1 min</b>	End of official warm up period, players to leave the court area to their respective player's area. First referee to the referee's chair, second referee to position standing in front of the scorer's table, all other officials take their positions. Individual player's announcement and entry onto the rear of the playing court (Fig 1). After last player's entry to rear of court, the first referee whistles and players shake hands under the net (Fig 2).
<b>0 min</b>	Commencement of the match.
<b>End of match</b>	Players shake hands with their opponents and referees near the first referee's chair and proceed across the court to the scorer's table (Fig 3). The score sheet is signed by the captains. All participants gather their belongings, and the referees lead the teams to exit the court so that it can be prepared for the next match.

**Notes:**

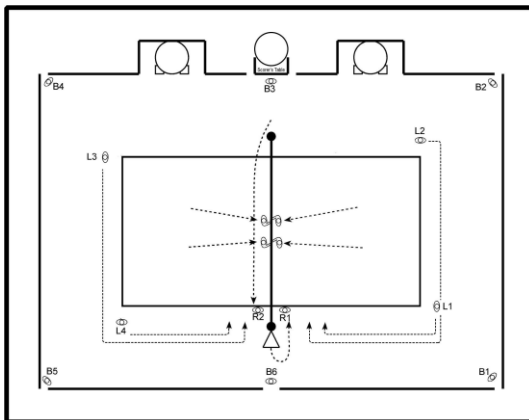
- This protocol may be altered from **3 min** to **5 min official warm up time** by altering the toss to (-7 min).
- It is not necessary to excessively delay the exit from the court by waiting for the referees to sign the score sheet. This can be done outside the court area.
- Coin toss can be taken off the court if required to speed up protocol.
- In cases where the length of the warm-up is extended, by FIVB Officials, all officials should enter the court 10 min before the match and proceed with the protocol above from 8 min onwards.
- Coaches are allowed in the court during respective team's warm-up until the start of the official match protocol. Where applicable, upon confirmation by the Referee Coach it is possible for the team coaches to stay until immediately before the start of the coin toss.
- If necessary, this protocol may be further adapted for particular requirements, i.e.: Television coverage, Sports Presentation, Covid countermeasures, etc.



Match Protocol Fig 1



Match Protocol Fig 2



Match Protocol Fig 3



Coin Toss and Match Protocol

## FORFEIT AND DEFAULT PROTOCOL

The aim of this section is to provide REFEREES with a standardised method by which to deal with the situation of a forfeit. The forfeit by its nature is a difficult situation as not only can it potentially finish a match but it can easily result in a protest situation if the process is not followed exactly. Therefore, officials should pay attention that the processes outlined below are followed exactly, and that all pertinent information is recorded and communicated appropriately to anyone affected by the protocol.

### 1. RELEVANT RULES

- The rules governing forfeits / defaults are primarily covered in two sections with the Official Beach Volleyball Rules: Rules 6.4 and 7.1

#### **Rule 6.4 Defaults and Incomplete Team:**

Rule 6.4.1 If a team refuses to play after being summoned to do so, it is declared in default and forfeits the match with the result 0-2 for the match and 0-21, 0-21 for each set.

Rule 6.4.2 A team that does not appear on the playing court on time is declared in default. 6.4.1 above

Rule 6.4.3 A team that is declared INCOMPLETE for the set or for the match, loses the set or the match. The opponent team is given the points, or the points and the sets, needed to win the set or the match. The incomplete team keeps its points and sets. (Rules 6.2, 6.3, 7.3.1)

*“For FIVB, World and Official Competitions whenever Pool Play format is implemented, Rule 6.4 above may be subject to modifications as stated in the Specific Competition Regulations issued by the FIVB in due time, establishing the modality to be followed for treating the default and incomplete team cases”*

#### **Rule 7.1 The Toss:**

Before the official warm up, the FIRST REFEREE conducts the toss to decide upon the first service and the sides of the court in the first set.

### 2. POSSIBLE SCENARIOS

#### **Based on the above rules there are three basic scenarios that are possible:**

- Scenario 1: A team formally forfeits the match prior to the commencement of the match
- Scenario 2: A team forfeits the match because it was not present at the correct time in order to commence the match
- Scenario 3: A team forfeits the match after the match has commenced.

### 3. SCENARIO 1: A TEAM FORMALLY FORFEITS THE MATCH PRIOR TO ITS COMMENCEMENT

- This situation is controlled by the relevant FIVB Delegate(s) and has little impact on a REFEREE.
- A REFEREE must complete the score sheet (if requested by the FIVB Delegate) in accordance with the FIVB Scoring Instructions
- REFEREES must ensure that they are aware of any changes to the match schedule as a result of the forfeit.

### 4. SCENARIO 2: A TEAM FORFEITS THE MATCH BECAUSE IT WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE CORRECT TIME IN ORDER TO COMMENCE A MATCH

#### **Essential Steps (proceed to the next step if not resolved)**

1. Verify that the teams are present
2. Attempt to find the teams
3. Inform the relevant FIVB Delegate(s)
4. Continue the Match Protocol
5. Official warm up time after coin toss
6. Final forfeit decision

### Overview

- The REFEREES in this situation must act quickly as time is very important
- The REFEREES through their actions must try not to advantage one team over another
- The REFEREE(S) should at no time make comments to the player(s) on the likely outcome / probability of a forfeit occurring
- REFEREES should not assume that a team will not be present based on a previous forfeit by the team

### Specific Notes for each step

#### Step 1

- As soon as a REFEREE is present before the match they must verify that both teams (both players) are present
- The REFEREE must be present before the commencement of the official warm up time.

#### Step 2

- If one or both are not present they should take all actions appropriate to immediately verify the team's whereabouts. This includes use of Court Managers, Walkie-talkies and the SECOND REFEREE leaving the court area, to make sure that the information is appropriately conveyed to the relevant FIVB Delegate(s) and Tournament staff.
- The FIRST REFEREE should stay at the court

#### Step 3

- If the situation is not immediately resolvable by the team coming to the court the relevant FIVB Delegate must be informed and requested to come to the court
- Once the FIVB Technical Delegate is present at the court the final decision on all areas such as commencing the Match Protocol and forfeits is theirs to make. The REFEREES should continue (or proceed with) the Official Match Protocol for the tournament
- The relevant FIVB Delegate(s) will try to ascertain the reason for the player(s) absence and advise the REFEREES actions accordingly
- Ideally the relevant FIVB Delegate(s) should be present before the commencement of the Official Match Protocol. If not the REFEREE must take control of the situation but must note that only the FIVB Technical Delegate can make a final decision whether to forfeit a team.

#### Step 4

- If the relevant FIVB Delegate(s) is not present they should automatically commence / continue the Official Match Protocol (unless otherwise requested by the FIVB Delegate)
- The REFEREES once the Official Match Protocol has commenced take all steps to continue this protocol without alteration (i.e. the protocol is maintained)

#### Step 5

- The REFEREE should at the correct time under the Official Match Schedule request (to the relevant FIVB Delegate(s)) that they should commence the official warm up period, starting with the coin toss (unless otherwise notified).
- Special Protocol 1: If one team has no players present at the coin toss their opponents automatically win the coin toss and can choose to serve or receive etc. Only one player is required to conduct a coin toss.
- The refereeing procedures involved in this Special Protocol are in order:
  1. Whistle and call the team Captains for the coin toss in front of the SCORER's table
  2. Upon confirmation that only 1 team is present inform the respective Captain that they have automatically won the right to first choice (serve, receive or side of the court)
  3. Obtain from the team Captain present their first choice (e.g.: side of the court)
  4. Inform them that the other team Captain will complete their choices at the completion of the official warm up time
  5. Confirm with the SCORERS the decision of the team Captain and obtain the Pre match respective signature, together with any information available being recorded (e.g.: service order). Note at this stage the SCORER will not be able to complete the score sheet with finality to commence the match as either a) the sides of the court will not be known or b) The team who is serving and receiving will not be known
  6. Whistle and indicate the start of the official warm up time (e.g.: 5 minutes)
  7. Not interrupt the official warm up time of the teams to gather more information (if the other team arrives)
  8. Immediately at the end of the official warm up time, whistle, then signal the teams to go to their designated chairs

9. Only the team present at the coin toss should proceed to their designated chairs
  10. The Captain of the team not present at the coin toss should come to the SCORER's table and convey their decisions (serve, reception , side of the court) that are not already decided (point 4 above)
  11. The team Captain should sign the Pre match Captains section of the Scoresheet and indicate service order.
  12. The SCORER should complete the scoresheet and confirm to the match officials that all information required has been received
  13. The team Captain present at the coin toss should be informed of the decision of the other team
  14. The match officials should commence the match as soon as possible
- Special Protocol 2: If neither team is present (i.e. there are no players) the coin toss is not conducted but the time should be noted in the score sheet's Remarks Section and the REFEREE commences the timing as per the Official Match Protocol (announcing that it has commenced)
  - Many of the refereeing procedures for Special Protocol 1 apply to Special Protocol 2 but are adapted because of no team being present at the coin toss
  - If a team arrives during the Official Match Protocol , the Protocol is continued without alteration and the late team receives no additional warm up time (unless otherwise notified)
  - Both of the above Special Protocols should be done as quickly as possible and should not extend the time of the Official Match Protocol.

#### **Step 6**

- The Official Warm Up time is completed by the FIRST REFEREE blowing their whistle and indicating that the match should be ready to commence.
- If at this time the player(s) are still not present the REFEREE should notify the relevant FIVB Delegate(s) of this fact (i.e.: That based on the REFEREE's timing the Official Match Protocol has finished and that the match is now scheduled to commence).
- The FIRST REFEREE does not need to go to the REFEREE's stand at the end of the Official Match Protocol.
- The relevant FIVB Delegate(s) is/ are responsible for conveying any decision regarding the forfeit to the team Captain(s) (if present), match officials, spectators, media etc.
- Scoring of the match result is done in accordance with Section 7: Scoring

### **5 . SCENARIO 3: A TEAM FORFEITS THE MATCH AFTER THE MATCH HAS COMMENCED**

- This situation will usually occur due to an injury (but not exclusively)
- The relevant FIVB Delegate(s) should be called to the court as soon as possible.
- The FIRST REFEREE must initially verbally verify that the team wishes to default thus forfeiting the match. This may be after the part of a Medical Assistance Protocol.
- The FIRST REFEREE must complete the following:
  1. Obtain the signature on the score sheet of the Captain of the team wishing to forfeit (this confirms their desire to forfeit)
  2. Confirm with the relevant FIVB Delegate(s) the forfeit
  3. Notify the opposing team Captain of the forfeit
  4. Oversee the completion of the score sheet and sign it to verify its contents
- Scoring of the match result is done in accordance with Section 7: Scoring

### **6 . SPECIFIC NOTES**

- Referees should be familiar with the FIVB Official Match Protocol

### **7 . SCORING**

- The relevant FIVB Delegate(s) is in Scenario 1 and 2 responsible for verifying the Official Match Result and may record as appropriate comments in the Remarks Section
- At the completion of the match, the FIRST REFEREE should ensure that the Remarks section of the scoresheet has been completed with all the required information as indicated by this protocol and shown by the example in the Score sheet Instructions.
- If the Referee Coach (RC) is not present at the court at the completion of the match, the FIRST REFEREE must obtain the respective signature prior to the score sheet being delivered to the Competition Office, although avoiding any delays for BVIS purposes.

## BALL MARK PROTOCOL

The aim of this section is to provide REFEREES with a standardised and quick method by which to deal with the situation of a ball mark protocol being initiated. Officials should pay attention that the process is transparent, not protracted and that the result is decisive and well communicated with the match resuming as quickly as possible.

The Ball Mark Protocol as it is applied during a match has only a few components and should be completed by the officials, especially the FIRST REFEREE with a great deal of accuracy and speed to allow a quick resume of the match. The main components of a Ball Mark Protocol are:

1. Teams are entitled to request a “Ball Mark Protocol” to be implemented at the end of the rally, when they would like a review of the referees’ decision concerning **the ball ‘in’ / ‘out’** for side and end lines.
2. Teams will have the right to request another “BMP” if their request is successful, with a limit of a maximum of two unsuccessful BMP requests per set.
3. A BMP may be requested by either player from either team. The players/teams have five seconds after the rally is over to make the request. However, a team cannot request for a BMP after having switched the court.

### SIGNAL FOR LATE BMP REQUEST

(the referee signals by covering the wrist with the joined fingers of the other hand)



4. The player must indicate the request by showing a letter “C” signal with their fingers, followed by showing to the 1st referee the appropriate BMP signal. Players can make the request from any position in the field of play.

### MANDATORY SIGNALS FOR BMP REQUEST

(the letter “C” is formed with the fingers)

(followed by player indicating a court line)





5. BMP requests for situations where the ball mark would not ensure reliable evidence (for instance, the referee from his/her position judges that the ball touched the line before contacting the sand slightly away of the line's position) shall not be accepted.
6. The above cases (point 5) will be considered an "illegal BMP request" and rejected. The 1st referee actions will be to:
  - a. inform the concerned player/team of his/her decision,
  - b. make the official Illegal BMP request signal.

**SIGNAL FOR ILLEGAL BMP REQUEST**

(the referee signals an "X")



7. BMP takes precedence over all other match actions – e.g., time out requests - which may be impacted by the result of the BMP.
8. Upon a valid BMP request, the 1st Referee shall immediately:
  - a. Come down from the stand and indicate to the relevant Line judge(s) that they are required to come to the position of the ball mark.
  - b. If necessary, ask that the players of the team on the side of the ball mark remove themselves from the area of the ball mark. This is extremely important for it grants equal and fair treatment to both teams within the process. However, all players must remain on the court whilst the review process is taking place.
  - c. Initiate the verification of the ball mark (in or out):
    - i. once the area near the ball mark is free from players and any relevant Line judge(s) are present, the 1st Referee should proceed carefully into structured questioning of the Line judge(s) if required.
    - ii. initially it should be established if the ball hit the line. This includes the case where the line was in a raised position and touched by the ball.
    - iii. it is important that the LINE JUDGE (if appropriate) should be given the opportunity to:
      1. show the position of the ball mark (without touching it)
      2. explain verbally what they saw including both the action of the ball contacting the sand and any subsequent actions
    - iv. the 1st Referee should be clear in his/ her understanding of what the LINE JUDGE has conveyed to them. A good strategy is to get the sequence of events explained as this happened.
    - v. when the 1st Referee is satisfied that he/she received all available information and is able to make a decision he/ she should quickly move to the stand signaling the decision on the ball mark (indicate which team now has the serve, plus - depending on the circumstances - the nature of the fault signal (in or out)), and if applicable penalizing any players crossing the net to review the ball mark. NO further delays shall be permitted and the players will be urged to immediately resume play.
    - vi. the 2nd Referee should then move to the side of the team which loses the rally





## MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROTOCOLS

To be utilised at FIVB World Competitions under rule 17.1 of the Official Beach Volleyball Rules

Medical assistance will be granted to athletes through the use of the relevant protocols as herewith listed

- Medical Timeout (MTO) – to be implemented exclusively for significant blood related injury
- Recovery Interruption (RIT) – to be implemented for:
  - any non-blood injury (for traumatic, non-traumatic, and non-contact injuries that are not blood related);
  - illness in relation to severe weather conditions officially declared (for illness in relation to severe weather conditions officially declared);
  - use of toilets (for delay at the use of toilets during the match).

For any of the cases above, if the 1st referee judges the case as minor and potentially quickly resolved, this must be treated with no delay, without any need for medical assistance. Otherwise, for the RIT cases athletes must first use a team time out or other regular interruptions if available at the time, before the 1st referee can authorize the start of the relevant protocol.

Referees should be aware of the circumstances leading up to the injury/illness as they are responsible to establish its nature and extent (if minor or significant).

“Medical Time Out” (MTO) and “Recovery Interruption” (RIT) protocols, when implemented must be dealt with the quickest the possible and the complete process must not last more than 5 minutes total, with the time counting starting from the moment the protocol is initiated by the 1st referee after he/she comes down the stand and close to the scorer’s table ensures that all relevant aspects are met.

The duration of the “medical assistance” protocols shall be electronically timed from the moment the scorer hits the relevant button at the e-scoresheet, with the timer being displayed at the litescore. The timing shall start from the whistle of the 1st referee after he/she initiates the “Medical Time Out” or the “Recovery Interruption” by showing the number 5 with the fingers raised and asking the scorer to start the timing. The litescore buzzer will then signal the end of the maximum authorized 5 minutes, or the whistle of the 1st referee immediately after treatment is declared complete by the official medical personnel, or if no treatment can be provided, or when the player declares that he/she is ready to resume play. In case no e- scoresheet software is applied the medical assistance shall be manually timed and recorded by the official scorer. This includes in this sequence: Time the 1st referee initiated the protocol (in hours, minutes and seconds); the set; the score; team serving; player to undergo medical assistance; the type of medical assistance provided; Time match resumed or Time of forfeit; duration of the medical assistance interruption.

Under all circumstances above, the official medical personnel shall be requested to come to the court as it will be their responsibility to supervise the treatment and report to the 1st referee when this has been completed, unless the player declares her/himself ready to resume play before their arrival at the court area. When treatment is completed or if no treatment can be provided in that short time period, play must resume or the relevant team is declared incomplete for the set or the match, as applicable.

Medical treatment may be provided to players at regular game interruptions (TO, TTO, intervals) with no delay to the game.

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

Medical assistance may be provided by official medical personnel (i.e., physician and/or physical therapist from the event organizer) or team’s medical personnel (i.e., team physician and/or team physical therapist, provided that these have been properly accredited for the event), at the choice of the team.

In any case the official medical personnel shall be requested to come to the court as it will be their responsibility to supervise the treatment and report to the 1st referee when this has been completed, unless the player declares her/himself ready to resume play before their arrival at the court area.

Medical personnel of the team are allowed on court. If the team’s medical personnel succeed in resolving the case before the arrival of the requested official medical personnel and the player declares that he/she is ready to resume play, the Referee is not required to wait for the official medical personnel arrival. The relevant medical assistance protocol will be in any case assigned to that player.

To be able to provide treatment during matches, official medical personnel must (while team medical personnel are recommended to) be seated in the immediate courtside area during the match. No additional time will be granted to wait for team’s medical personnel to make their way to the court.

The decision whether a player is medically fit or not to resume after an injury/illness depends entirely upon the player. Even if the official medical personnel advise the player not to continue, the final decision of

whether to resume or not rests with the player. This condition is covered in the signed "Players Commitment". However, in extreme cases, the doctor of the competition can oppose the return of an injured/ill player.

In the first case above, the referees shall record at the "remarks section" of the score sheet that the player specifically requested to continue the match against medical advice from the official medical personnel. The relevant post-match signature by the captain will verify this statement.

It is possible for the same player to undergo "Medical Time Out" with "Recovery Interruption" in the same match, as follows:

- MTO (blood related injury) – the player must be allowed treatment for blood-related injury at any and all times;
- RIT (any non-blood injury, including traumatic, non-traumatic, and non-contact injuries that are not blood related; illness in relation to severe weather conditions officially declared; or use of toilets) – each athlete is entitled to maximum one RIT (Recovery Interruption) per match per athlete.
- MTO and one RIT stoppage can occur in the same match to the same player, regardless of the sequence of use.

Any time a forfeit due to injury/illness occurs (including before the match starts) official medical personnel and the FIVB Medical Delegate (if one is appointed to the event) must be present.

## 1. MEDICAL TIME OUT - BLOOD INJURY

To be implemented exclusively for significant blood related injuries.

### a) OVERVIEW

- The safety of all parties is of prime importance, and blood injuries must therefore be treated without delay, whether detected by the player or the officials.
- If the bleeding is minor and can be stopped easily so as to cause a minimum delay to the match, this is not regarded as a "medical time out".
- If the bleeding is more significant, it should be treated as requiring medical assistance and treated as outlined below. The 1st referee shall then authorize a "medical time out".
- For either case above, the Referees must inspect all match balls and balls with any blood spill should be replaced and subsequently cleaned and disinfected. Blood on any other equipment should also be cleaned and disinfected.
- The "Medical Time Out" protocol is a series of structured steps designed to enable successful resolution of a blood related injury with minimum delay (under Rule 17.1).

### b) AT THE TIME OF THE BLOOD INJURY

- Upon the concerned player or the referees realize bleeding, as soon as the rally is interrupted or finishes if this is the last action of the rally, the 2nd referee must immediately be active in going to the player and establishing the extent of the bleeding.
- If the bleeding is minor and can be stopped easily, this must be treated without delay with the 2nd referee directing the player to the scorer's table where a medical kit is available for him/her to clean the cut and eventually bandage it.
- If the bleeding is more significant, then the 2nd referee must signal to the 1st referee to come down the stand and inform the player that a "medical time out" will be initiated by the 1st referee, followed by asking the player if he/she wishes to be treated by the official medical personnel of the tournament or the team's accredited medical personnel?
- The 2nd referee will then call the relevant medical assistance to the court, followed by the 1st referee upon being near the scorer's table, whistle and show the relevant signal initiating the protocol.
- **Note:** The 1st referee shall initiate the protocol upon arrival of the official medical personnel in case this has been the choice of the injured player, otherwise if no official medical personnel available or if the player asked for their own accredited medical personnel, then the 1st referee shall initiate the protocol immediately.
- The 1st referee will then notify the scorer to start the timing and the recording of the "medical time out" as appropriate.

- **Note:** under all circumstances, the official medical personnel shall be requested to come to the court and the Technical Delegate and/or Referee Coach informed so that they can oversee the situation.

### C) UPON THE MEDICAL TIMEOUT BEING INITIATED

- The 2nd referee immediately notifies a number of people to come to the court: FIVB Technical Delegate, FIVB Referee Coach and FIVB Medical Delegate if present.
- It is desirable that the 2nd referee is the one to actively search for these above listed people, which ultimately may require leaving the playing area or to make use of a Walkie-Talkie. The 1st referee shall maintain supervision of the injured player.
- It is acceptable that the injured player remains in a fixed position on the court if indicated. The player can also move freely within the playing court or free zone or go to the respective team area.
- If requested by the medical personnel in attendance, with the approval by the 1st referee, the injured player may be allowed to leave the court if the assistance necessary cannot be provided within the playing area. This may occur in some situations (e.g. to clean or suture a wound). A player who must leave the court area shall be accompanied by the 2nd referee (or Referee Coach, or reserve referee if applicable).
- The 1st referee (or alternatively the official who has accompanied the player) actively supervises the process aiming at the injured player to return to position within the required recovery time.
- The 2nd referee monitors that the injured player's team-mate and the opponents remain on the playing court or free zone or go to their respective team's area. Players are entitled to use balls during this time.
- The 2nd referee should during the recovery time also verify that all the details have been recorded correctly by the scorer. Special attention must be given in case no e-scoresheet software applies.
- Players should be informed of the elapsed time during the medical time out. The 1st referee informs the injured player and the medical personnel while the 2nd referee is responsible to inform the injured player's team-mate and the opponents.
- At the completion of the "medical time out" the 1st referee shall move back to the stand, with the 2nd referee asking the injured player to return to their position on the court, followed by indicating to the official scorer to ensure the recording of the required details on the score sheet
- Note that the ending of the recovery time will be signaled by the buzzer after the maximum authorized 5 minutes have been exhausted, or otherwise by the whistle of the 1st referee immediately after treatment is declared complete by the official medical personnel, or if no treatment can be provided, or when the player declares that he/she is ready to resume play.
- However, before a player being allowed to return to the court the bleeding has to be completely stopped or contained (closed) so that no blood spill can occur.

## 2. RECOVERY INTERRUPTION

To be implemented for:

- Any non-blood injury, including traumatic, non-traumatic, and non-contact injuries that are not blood related;
- Illness in relation to severe weather conditions officially declared;
- Use of toilets.

### a) OVERVIEW

- The safety of all parties is of prime importance, so traumatic, non-traumatic, and non-contact injuries that are not blood related, must be treated without delay, whether detected by the player or the officials.
- With the aim being, manipulation prevention harmonized with ensuring the safety of all parties, any genuine cases of injuries must be the object of treatment through the quick implementation of the "medical assistance protocols".
- If the injury is minor and can be resolved easily so as to cause a minimum delay to the match, this is not regarded as requiring medical assistance.

- If the injury is more significant, it should be treated as requiring medical assistance and treated as outlined below.
- If the team has an available time out, or the play that just finished lead to a technical time out or to the set interval, then treatment can be provided with no delay to the game. Otherwise, the 1st referee shall authorize a “Recovery Interruption”.  
Note: for any of these cases, after initiating the relevant game interruption (i.e.: team time out, or technical time out, or to the set interval), the 2nd referee must establish if the player wishes to be treated by the official medical personnel of the tournament or the team’s accredited medical personnel, followed by immediately call the relevant medical assistance to the court. Despite the player requesting for its team’s medical assistance, the official medical personnel must be called to the court in line with the procedures established for all other possible cases of medical assistance.
- A player is not entitled to a second “Recovery Interruption” in the match.
- The “Recovery Interruption” protocol, is a series of structured steps designed to enable successful resolution of an injury/illness with minimum delay (under Rule 17.1).

#### b) AT THE TIME OF THE INJURY / ILLNESS

- Upon the concerned player or the referees realize an injury/illness, as soon as the rally is interrupted or finishes if this is the last action of the rally, the 2nd referee must immediately be active in going to the player and establishing the extent and nature of the injury.
- If the injury is minor and can be resolved easily, this must be treated without delay with the 2nd referee actively supervising the process as to the injured player to return to position the sooner the possible.
- If the injury is more significant and the team has no available time out, and the play that just finished did not lead to a technical time out or to the set interval, then the 2nd referee must signal to the 1st referee to come down the stand and inform the player that a “recovery interruption” will be authorized and initiated by the 1st referee, followed by asking the player if he/she wishes to be treated by the official medical personnel of the tournament or the team’s accredited medical personnel?
- The 2nd referee will then call the relevant medical assistance to the court, followed by the 1st referee upon being near the scorer’s table, whistle and show the relevant signal initiating the protocol.
- **Note:** The 1st referee shall initiate the protocol upon arrival of the official medical personnel in case this has been the choice of the injured player, otherwise if no official medical personnel available or if the player asked for their own accredited medical personnel, then the 1st referee shall initiate the protocol immediately.
- The 1st referee will then notify the scorer to start the timing and the recording of the “recovery interruption” as appropriate.
- **Note:** under all circumstances, the official medical personnel shall be requested to come to the court and the FIVB Delegates informed so that they can oversee the situation.

#### c) UPON THE RECOVERY INTERRUPTION BEING INITIATED

- The 2nd referee immediately notifies a number of people to come to the court: FIVB Technical Delegate, FIVB Referee Coach and FIVB Medical Delegate if present.
- It is desirable that the 2nd referee is the one to actively search for these above listed people, which ultimately may require leaving the playing area or to make use of a Walkie-Talkie. The 1st referee shall maintain supervision of the injured/ill player.
- It is acceptable that the injured/ill player remains in a fixed position on the court if indicated. The player can also move freely within the playing court or free zone or go to the respective team area.
- If requested by the medical personnel in attendance, with the approval by the 1st referee, the injured player may be allowed to leave the court if the assistance necessary cannot be provided within the playing area. This may occur in some situations. A player who must leave the court area shall be accompanied by the 2nd referee (or Referee Coach, or reserve referee if applicable).
- The 1st referee (or alternatively the official who has accompanied the player) actively supervises the process aiming at the injured player to return to position within the required recovery time.

- The 2nd referee monitors that the injured player's team-mate and the opponents remain on the playing court or free zone or go to their respective team's area. Players are entitled to use balls during this time.
- The 2nd referee should during the recovery time also verify that all the details have been recorded correctly by the scorer. Special attention must be given in case no e-scoresheet software applies.
- Players should be informed of the elapsed time during the "recovery interruption". The 1st referee informs the injured player and the medical personnel, while the 2nd referee is responsible to inform the injured player's team-mate and the opponents.
- At the completion of the "recovery interruption" the 1st referee shall move back to the stand, with the 2nd referee asking the injured player to return to their position on the court, followed by indicating to the official scorer the nature of the "recovery interruption" (non-blood injury; illness in relation to severe weather conditions; use of toilets) ensuring that the recording of the required details on the score sheet is accurate.
- Note that the ending of the recovery time will be signaled by the buzzer after the maximum authorized 5 minutes have been exhausted, or otherwise by the whistle of the 1st referee immediately after treatment is declared complete by the official medical personnel, or if no treatment can be provided, or when the player declares that he/she is ready to resume play.

## GENERAL ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Players are entitled to use toilets at any time during the match, as long as they do not delay the game.
- In the case a player delays the normal sequence of the game while using the toilets, a "Recovery Interruption – use of toilets" will be assigned to that player with the match resuming as soon as the player is back to the court.
- Organizers are required to supply 2 dedicated athletes' toilets (one for the women and one for the men) - portable if it is not possible to use an existing facility - within a range of maximum 100 meters from any of the competition courts. Referees are required to report this aspect at their homologation court checking prior to the start of the tournament.
- All Referees must have awareness of the physical location of the athlete dedicated toilets, easier and safer access etc
- All Referees and the FIVB Referee Coach must have awareness of the physical location of the medical assistance in its various forms: First aid, doctors, physiotherapists, ambulance access etc.
- The Referees must be aware as to the official exact nature of a medical personnel member as agreed by the Technical Delegate, as there are various forms of medical personnel, (medical doctor, and physiotherapist). The Referees must ensure that the medical personnel member is appropriate to treat the players' injury.
- Organizers are required to provide medical personnel (first aid, medical doctor and physiotherapist) at all court locations. This includes events with more than 1 venue.
- For any cases of medical related forfeit, the injured/ill player shall be asked by the Referee if this is due to heat exhaustion and/or dehydration. If this is the case, the player is also asked "Have you suffered from vomiting and/or diarrhea during the past five days?" This information is then reported to the Referee Coach for the relevant purposes (BVB-45 Heat Stress Monitoring Results).
- In the case of an athlete being assigned a "Recovery Interruption" or forfeiting a match due to an alleged injury/illness, immediately following the relevant score sheet administration he/she will be given a copy of the BVB/49 form by the match referees. The follow up of the concerned procedure is the responsibility of the injured/ill player. (*refer to FIVB Beach Volleyball Sport Operations Manual*). However, the referees of the match must immediately notify the RC verbally and via the scoresheet that a BVB/49 form has been delivered to that concerned player.
- Scorers must be closely questioned in their training to verify that they fully understand Medicals Assistance circumstances and resultant recording on the score sheet.
- At the completion of the match, the 1st referee should ensure that the Remarks section of the score sheet has been completed with all the required information as indicated by this protocol and shown by the example in the Scoresheet Instructions.
- At FIVB World and Official Competitions, a maximum of two "Recovery Interruption" due to non-traumatic, and non-contact injuries that are not blood related; illness in relation to severe weather conditions officially declared; or use of toilets, are allowed per athlete within a rolling 12-month period. (*refer to FIVB Beach Volleyball Sport Operations Manual*).

## PROTEST PROTOCOL

To be utilised at FIVB, World and Official Competitions under rules 5.1.2.1 and 5.1.3.2 of the Official Beach Volleyball Rules.

### 1. OVERVIEW

- The Protest Protocol is a series of structured steps designed to enable successful resolution of a protest on the application of the rules of the game, from player(s) involved in FIVB Beach Volleyball Competitions.
- A Protest Protocol is commenced by a team Captain formally indicating his / her wish to protest following the explanation he / she has received on the application or interpretation of the rules from the FIRST REFEREE.
- The Protest Protocol may be undertaken by the relevant FIVB Official(s) based on circumstances before, during or after a match.
- The relevant FIVB Official(s) will consider the protest on its merits based on three criteria.
- Two levels of Protest Protocol exist, these being undertaken either at the time of the circumstances(s) (Level 1) and / or after the match has been completed (Level 2).

### 2. AIM OF THE PROTEST PROTOCOL

- The Protest Protocol represents the FIVB's formal procedure to deal with problems occurring before, during and after a match. Therefore the aims of the Protest Protocol are:
  1. To establish or re-establish the match conditions to the match's previous state of play and to recommence play as soon as applicable
  2. To provide a structured process to allow resolution of Protests governed by the appropriate FIVB regulations or rules
  3. To enact a procedure that has a minimal impact on the flow of a match especially if the Protest involves more than one Level of jurisdiction
  4. To implement a Protocol that is logical, transparent and easy to follow
  5. To implement a Protocol that is based on sound legal and ethical grounds
  6. To implement a Protocol that maximises the relevant FIVB Official(s)' chances of making a correct decision on the legitimacy of the Protest by the player(s).

### 3. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING A PROTEST

- The criteria for acceptance of a legitimate Protest shall involve any one or more of the following circumstances:
  1. The REFEREE misinterpreted or did not correctly apply the rules / regulations, or did not assume the consequences of his/ her decisions.
  2. There is a scoring error (rotation or match score)
  3. A technical aspect of the match conditions (weather, light etc)
- The FIRST REFEREE must only consider these three criteria in evaluating whether to accept a Protest as being valid or not and therefore capable of potential consideration.
- It is improper for the FIRST REFEREE to accept a Protest that involves playing actions or misconduct unless there is a challenge on possible misinterpretation of the Rules of the Game.
- The relevant FIVB Delegate(s) must also utilise these three criteria to evaluate the relative merits of the Protest once it has been accepted as valid for consideration. The FIVB Delegate(s) must clearly identify which of the three criteria apply to the protest. It is possible that a protest may satisfy more than 1 criterion.
- The relevant FIVB Delegate(s) may also consider if due process has been observed in the consideration of the Protest.



#### **4. FIRST REFEREE'S ACTIONS PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF PROTEST PROTOCOL**

- A Protest Protocol is commenced by a team Captain formally indicating his / her wish to protest following the explanation he / she has received on the application or interpretation of the rules from the FIRST REFEREE.
- The FIRST REFEREE must therefore, prior to signalling for the relevant FIVB Delegate(s) to enter the court, ensure that all practicable steps have been taken to ensure that the Protest Protocol is not enacted. This includes:
  1. Communicating clearly to the team Captain the nature of the fault / basis of decision
  2. Repetition of hand signals where appropriate
  3. Consultation with all relevant officials applicable to the application / interpretation of the rule(s)
  4. Confirm the criteria for a valid protest
  5. Confirm that, after all the above steps have been undertaken, that the team Captain wishes to formally protest.
- The FIRST REFEREE should not:
  1. Once a team Captain has formally protested and this meets the criteria for a valid protest choose not to request the relevant FIVB Delegate(s) presence on court.
  2. State to the players the likely outcome of the protest.

#### **5. PROTEST PROTOCOL LEVEL 1: RESOLVED AT TIME OF PROTEST (by Ref Coach or Technical Delegate)**

##### **5.1 Overview of Protocol for resolving Protest at the time of player(s) initiation**

- A Protest Protocol (Level 1) is commenced by a team Captain formally indicating his / her wish to protest following the explanation he / she has received on the application or interpretation of the rules from the FIRST REFEREE and the FIRST REFEREE then requesting the presence of the relevant FIVB Delegate(s).
- The Protest Protocol Level 1 (both before or during a match) involves the following stages:
  1. Initial determination of nature of Protest
  2. Decision whether to proceed with Protocol based on its validity
  3. Gaining of further information / evidence applicable to Protest
  4. Conveying results of Protest to relevant Officials and Players
  5. Conveying results of the Protest to Scorers and other parties
  6. Starting or recommencing the match.
- A Protest Protocol (Level 1) is the first of two stages of potential protest.

##### **5.2 Who evaluates the protest?**

- The Referee Coach will usually undertake a Protest Protocol at the time of the protest. Only in exceptional circumstances would a Level 1 Protest not be undertaken at the time of its initiation.
- In exceptional circumstances the Technical Delegate may replace or substitute for the Referee Coach.
- Another FIVB Official may in exceptional circumstances assist the FIVB Delegate who evaluates the validity of a protest.
- The FIVB Delegate evaluating the protest should in all but exceptional circumstances not be from a country involved in the protest nor have a conflict of interest in its potential outcome.
- Persons providing information to the Protest Protocol do not have a decision-making authority on the validity or outcome of the protest.
- All FIVB Delegate(s), especially the Referee Coach, should not place themselves in a position to potentially influence proceedings before the Protest Protocol has commenced.
- Referee Coaches should ensure that their movements during the competition maximises their potential availability for Protest Protocols.

##### **5.3 How is the Protest Protocol commenced? (Referee Coach to conduct)**

- The Protocol commences with the signal of the FIRST REFEREE indicating that the Referee Coach should enter the Field of Play.
- A Protest may only be requested by the team Captain(s).

- The FIRST REFEREE should signal only to the Referee Coach when the team Captain(s) has formally (as defined in rule 5.1.2.1) indicated his / her wish to institute a Protest Protocol and this meets the criteria for a valid protest.
- The Protest Protocol (Level 1) implies the payment of a sanction fee (bond) as ruled by the FIVB Handbook.

#### **5.4 The process of the Protest Protocol (after Protocol commenced)**

- The players should initially go to their respective designated chairs.
- The Referee Coach should initially speak to the FIRST REFEREE to obtain the general nature of the Protest.
- The Referee Coach must then confirm with the relevant team Captain the basis for their Protest.
- The Referee Coach should then if needed clarify any points of uncertainty with the FIRST REFEREE.
- Information / evidence should then be gathered from other parties pertinent to the decision.
- This information / evidence should if possible be gathered individually but if appropriate may be gathered collectively.
- A person to translate this information / evidence may be utilised.
- The Protocol should, where possible, be conducted in the working language of the FIVB: English.
- The process of gathering of information / evidence should be conducted near the SCORER's table and the relevant team area.
- The players should not be physically present at the questioning of the FIRST REFEREE or other parties.
- The overall process must be a clearly structured pattern for gathering information / evidence.
- During the Protest Protocol the players may after an initial organisational time period:
  1. Use the playing court but not leave the free zone
  2. Use the match balls
  3. Use the current side of the court that they are playing on or both sides of the court by agreement of all the players.

#### **5.5 Resolution of a Protest Protocol**

- The decision to resolve a Protest Protocol should be based on the following:
  1. Strict interpretation of the criteria for evaluating a Protest (section 3 above)
  2. An assumption that the decision as made by the match officials is correct, especially the final decision of the FIRST REFEREE
  3. The facts as established by questioning the parties involved with the Protest, especially the observations of the match officials
  4. The establishment of the correctness of the officials' actions in relation to the Rules of the Game.
  5. Where the Rules of the Game do not cover a specific action the Referee Coach may interpret the spirit of the Rules of the Game.
- The FIRST REFEREE should be the first person informed of the outcome of the Protest Protocol followed by appropriate other match officials
- The Captains of both teams should then be informed on court of the result of the Protest Protocol. The Captains should receive a brief summary of the basis for the decision.
- If, upon being informed no team Captain(s) question the decision, the Protest Protocol is considered resolved and officially closed.
- Captain(s) of either team that disagree with the decision, have the right to request at that moment a Protest Protocol at Level 2 which may be then confirmed at the end of the match.

#### **5.6 Recommencement of the match**

- Following the Referee Coach's conveying of the decision to the appropriate match officials and players the following steps may be necessary to recommence play:
  1. Decision conveyed to the Scorer
  2. Decision conveyed to the public (which may include announcement of resulting decision)
  3. Decision conveyed to the media (television, radio etc).
- If the protest by the team Captain is successful all measures necessary to correct the match state (as advised by the Referee Coach) must be undertaken.

#### **5.7 Possible consequences of a Protest Protocol**

- There are 3 possible consequences of a protest at Level 1 (resolved or attempted to be resolved at the time of the Protest):

1. Following the Protocol the protest by the team Captain(s) is rejected. In this circumstance the Technical Delegate will be notified by the Referee Del Referee Coach and a fine corresponding to the Protest Level 1 fee will be applied (see FIVB Beach Volleyball Handbook, Chapter addressing Specific Regulations and Sanctions).
2. Following the Protocol the protest by the team Captain(s) is accepted. No fine applies here
3. The Protest Protocol could not be undertaken (e.g.: no FIVB Official available) and / or the team Captain(s) may appeal the result of the Protest Protocol at Level 1. Both of these situations are resolved under Level 2 (after the match has finished).

#### **5.8 How is a Protest Protocol recorded on the score sheet?**

- At the time the Referee Coach initially enters the court the SCORER should record on the score sheet (as per the FIVB Score sheet Instructions) sufficient match details to be able to recommence the match from this point.
- The SCORER should not record any factual information regarding the basis of the protest.
- If the Protest Protocol is enacted and subsequently is rejected the words REJECTED LEVEL 1 should be recorded in the remarks section.
- If the Protest Protocol is enacted and subsequently is accepted the words ACCEPTED LEVEL 1 should be recorded in the remarks section.
- If after the protest being rejected at Level 1 team Captain(s) state their wish to request a Protest Protocol at Level 2, the words REJECTED / PENDING LEVEL 1 should be recorded in the remarks section.
- If after the protest being accepted at Level 1 team Captain(s) state their wish to request a Protest Protocol at Level 2, the words ACCEPTED / PENDING LEVEL 1 should be recorded in the remarks section.
- If the Protest Protocol is not able to be undertaken (after the relevant FIVB Official was requested to enter the field of play), the words PENDING LEVEL 1 shall be recorded in the remarks section.
- The Referee Coach has the authority to add further information as required in the remarks section of the score sheet.
- The SECOND REFEREE is responsible for checking the score sheet prior to the recommencement of play.
- At the completion of the match, the FIRST REFEREE should ensure that the Remarks section of the score sheet has been completed with all the required information as indicated by this protocol.
- If the Referee Coach (RC) is not present at the court at the completion of the match, the FIRST REFEREE must obtain the respective signature prior to the score sheet being delivered to the Competition Office, although avoiding any delays for BVIS purposes.

## **6 . PROTEST PROTOCOL LEVEL 2 RESOLVED AFTER THE MATCH (by the Organizing Committee)**

### **6.1 Overview of Procedure**

- The request for a Protest Protocol (Level 2) is commenced by a team Captain(s) formally indicating his / her wish to protest at Level 2 based on either:
  1. The Protest Protocol was not initiated at Level 1 (no FIVB Official available).
  2. The Protest was rejected at Level 1 by the relevant FIVB Delegate(s).
  3. The Protest was accepted at Level 1 by the relevant FIVB Delegate(s) but subsequently challenged by the other team Captain.
  4. Events after the completion of the match.
- A Protest Protocol Level 2 must (except in the case of events after a match) relate to protests that were correctly requested and recorded under Level 1 of the Protest Protocol by either Captain in the respective team.
- The process of confirmation of a Protest Protocol Level 2 involves the following stages:
  1. Initial recording on the score sheet of the basis of Protest (Level 2)
  2. Payment of the concerned bond (see FIVB Beach Volleyball Handbook)
  3. Organizing Committee reviewing basis for Protest
  4. Conveying of results of the Protest to all parties including explanation of the basis of the decision
  5. If appropriate corrective action to replay the match.