

PROCEDURE FOR A MEDICAL INJURY PROTOCOL

To be utilised under rule 21.1.

1. AT THE TIME OF INJURY

- Upon a player becoming injured, the 2nd referee must immediately be active in going to the player and establishing the nature and extent of the injury.
- The 2nd referee must ask the player:
 - i. "Are you able to continue play?"
 - ii. "Do you require a medical Time Out?"
 - iii. "Do you require medical assistance?"
 - iv. "What kind of medical assistance?" (among the official staff assigned on site, i.e.: first-aid, or medical doctor, or physiotherapist)
- If possible, the match should be commenced without delay. This occurs if the player requires a very short time to resume their position (up to 15 seconds) and no medical timeout is incurred for this action.

Note: under all circumstances, medical staff should be requested to come to the court and the Technical Supervisor and/or Referee Delegate informed so that they can oversee the situation.

2. BLOOD INJURIES

- If the player has a minor injury associated with blood, (which they might or might not consider an injury and bring it to the attention of the referees), such as a small cut finger, hand, foot or leg this should immediately be treated but so as to cause a minimum delay to the match. Safety of all parties is of prime importance. This is not regarded as a medical injury timeout.
- In this case medical staff need to be close by to deal with the situation without delay.
- If the injury is considered major, (involving blood or not) it should be treated as being of requiring medical assistance and treated as outlined below. Again, safety is of prime importance to all parties. This is regarded as a medical injury timeout.

3. USE OF TOILETS BY PLAYERS

- In case a player will delay the normal sequence of the game while using the toilets, a medical time-out will be assigned to this team/player.
- Upon a request by a player to use the toilets, his/her team must be advised that the 1st Referee will start the counting of a medical time-out to be assigned to the relevant player, upon the time used will overcome the available time before the start of the match, or the duration of the regular stoppage (TO, TTO, interval, 12" between rallies) used for that purpose.
- The second Referee must always accompany the player while the first Referee will supervise the situation close to the scorers table.

4. IF THE PLAYER ANSWERS THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO CONTINUE AND THEN USE NO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

- If the player requires no medical assistance but can not return immediately (as above) the 2nd referee must confirm the time (including minutes and seconds) and ensure that this is recorded on the scoresheet (via the Scorer). This should be checked at the appropriate time to ensure the time has been recorded correctly.

- The 2nd referee must request as a minimum medical staff to come to the court as a precautionary move in case the injury requires medical assistance.
- The Referee Delegate and Technical Supervisor should also be informed.
- The first referee must come down their stand in order to supervise the injury protocol.
- The 2nd referee (and or the 1st referee) then actively supervises the actions of the player to return to position within the required 5 minutes.
- The player should not leave the playing court or free zone area but can move freely within it or go to their respective teams players area.
- The injured players partner and opponents must remain on the playing court or free zone or go to their respective teams players area. Players can use balls during this time.
- The 2nd referee should during this 5 minutes verify that all the timing details have been recorded correctly and at the completion of the injury (signified by the injured players return to position on the court) clearly indicate to the Scorer (and verify) this recording of details on the scoresheet.
- Players should be informed of the elapsed time during their injury timeout.
- It is important that all the details: Players Name, Number, Team Country, Set, Time(s), Score are all recorded on the scoresheet as they may later be important in a Protest Protocol or if a second injury occurs. Note that an individual player can only have one injury timeout in an individual match.
- Note that at the end of 5 minutes the 2nd referee should blow their whistle and then signal the player to go to their position. The team may call any unused timeout but at their completion must recommence the match. If the player is unable to commence at this time the set / match is completed as per the section 21.1 injury of the rulebook.
- No more time can be allowed for that injured player. The injury time is not cumulative in nature.

5. IF THE PLAYER ANSWERS THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO CONTINUE AND THEN SUBSEQUENTLY USE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

- If the player requires medical assistance, the 2nd referee must try to establish the nature of the injury by asking to the injured player to request the relevant medical assistance among the official staff assigned on site, and immediately notify a number of people of this fact. Firstly, to the Scorer to record the time in minutes and seconds that the player was asked if they required Medical Assistance. To the first referee to come down from their stand to supervise the injury protocol and then most importantly to contact the following people: Appropriate medical assistance (for the player), FIVB Technical Supervisor, FIVB Referee Delegate and FIVB Medical Supervisor if present.
- It is desirable that the 2nd referee is the one to actively search for these above listed people, which may require leaving the playing area or the use of a Walkie-Talkie. The 1st referee can maintain supervision of the player.
- It is acceptable that the player remain in a fixed position on the court (back injury etc...) or that they leave the court only if accompanied by the 2nd referee (or Supervisor) if specialist medical assistance is not available on the playing court. This circumstance is to be avoided but is possible in some situations (e.g.: oxygen required).
- The timing of the commencement of the 5 minutes allowed for a medical injury should only start from the arrival at the court area of the appropriate medical staff (among the official staff available on site). This means that 3 sets of times will be indicated on the match scoresheet:
 1. Time of asking question by 2nd referee
 2. Time Medical staff arrived on court
 3. Time player commenced playing.
- The 2nd referee (and or the 1st referee) then actively supervises the actions of the player to return to position within the required 5 minutes.
- The player should not leave the playing court or free zone area but can move freely within it or go to their respective team player area except in circumstances outlined above.
- Note that an injured player may leave the playing area with the approval of the referee.

- The injured players team-mate and opponents must remain on the playing court or free zone or go to their respective teams players area. Players can use balls during this time
- The 2nd referee should during this 5 minutes verify that all the timing details have been recorded correctly and at the completion of the injury (signified by the injured players return to position on the court) clearly indicate to the Scorer (and verify) this recording of details on the scoresheet.
- Players should be informed of the elapsed time during their injury timeout.
- It is important that all the details: Players Name, Number, Team Country, Set, Time(s), Score are all recorded on the scoresheet as they may later be important in a protest or if a second injury occurs. Note that an individual player can only have one injury timeout in an individual match.
- Note that at the end of 5 minutes the 2nd referee should blow their whistle and then signal the player to go to their position. The team may call any unused timeout but at their completion must recommence the match. If the player is unable to commence at this time the set / match is completed as per the section 21.1 injury of the rulebook.
- No more time can be allowed for that injured player. The injury time is not cumulative in nature.

6. ADDITIONAL NOTES

- All referees and the FIVB Referee Delegate must have an awareness of the physical location of the Medical assistance in its various forms: First aid, doctors, physiotherapists, ambulance access etc.
- The Referee Delegate must pass on any relevant medical information about the players to the referees.
- The decision whether a player is medically fit to resume (or not) depends entirely upon the player. Even if the Medical staff advise the player not to continue it is finally the players decision to resume or not. This condition is covered in the signed "Players Commitment" and is binding on all parties.
- The referee should record on the back of the scoresheet that the player specifically requested to continue the match. The relevant post-match captain's signature will sanction this statement.
- The referees are therefore responsible for 2 aspects in injuries:
 1. The timing of the medical injury, and
 2. Subsequent request to resume play for the players.
- The ensuring of the availability of Medical staff and supervision of the appropriate FIVB Supervisors and Delegates.
- The referee must be aware as to the official exact nature of a medical staff member as agreed by the Technical Supervisor, as there are various forms of medical staff, (medical doctor, physiotherapist, first aid etc). The referee must ensure that the medical staff member is appropriate to treat the players' injury.
- For events with more than 1 venue Organizers are required to provide medical staff (doctor and physiotherapist) at all court locations. When a secondary venue exists, players will not be allowed to ask for specific assistance of the FIVB physiotherapist, etc.
- In case of a player requesting medical assistance, personal medical staff of the team is allowed on court. If the team's medical staff succeeds in resolving the case before the arrival of the requested official medical staff assigned on site and the player declares that he/she is ready to resume play, the Referee is not required to wait for the official medical staff arrival.
- Medical assistance may be provided to players at regular game stoppages (TO, TTO, intervals) with no delay to the game.
- Scorers must be closely questioned in their training to verify that they fully understand their circumstances and resultant recording on the scoresheet.
- All times should be recorded in hour, minutes and seconds.
- At the completion of the match, the 1st 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 Scoresheet Instructions.
- If the Referee Delegate (RD) is not present at the court at the completion of the match, the 1st referee must obtain the respective signature prior to the scoresheet being delivered to the Competition Office, although avoiding any delays for BVIS purposes.