Volleyball BC
Air Quality Advisory Guidelines

OVERVIEW

During outdoor Volleyball BC events and activities the Air Quality Advisory Guidelines may be activated based on current environmental conditions.

These Guidelines pertain to the air quality for outdoor events that may be a risk to participants. These guidelines are applicable to all sanctioned outdoor Volleyball BC activities including, but not limited to, all youth and adult beach volleyball events and activities, all youth and adult grass volleyball activities and events.

The Air Quality Advisory Guidelines may be activated in conjunction with other relevant Volleyball BC policies and guidelines such as the *Extreme Heat Policy.*

The Air Quality Advisory Guidelines can only be activated by Volleyball BC.

GUIDELINES

These Guidelines will be activated when *Air Quality Health Index for Environment Canada* reaches a 7 or higher or is forecasted to be 7 or higher 24 hours prior to the beginning of the activity. The Environment Canada Air Quality Health Index considers a 7 to 10 rating to be "High Risk".

Environment Canada's Air Quality Health Index will be used as the official reporting mechanism for current environmental air quality conditions.

The Guidelines *may* be activated if the Provincial Government or a Regional Health Authority advises of Air Quality Health Advisory of a 7 or higher or there are other environmental regulations that are applicable and governmental agencies are advising people of health risks in outdoor activities. Volleyball BC has the sole authority to determine if the advisory is applicable.

Moderate Air Quality Index

The Tournament Director may initiate modifications to play if the air quality index is moderate risk of a 4 to 6 rating on the Air Quality Health Index. Only the Tournament Director is able to determine if modifications to play should be permitted. The Tournament Director is able to consult various individuals in reaching their decision.

If Air Quality Health Index reaches a "Moderate level" of risk teams and participants *may be permitted* to do the following:

- Drink water while walking between side switches
- On extra timeout per set per team

- Should a team play back to back matches, 5 minutes of extra time will be added to between those matches.

Cancellation or Suspension of Participation

If the Air Quality Health Index reaches a 7 or higher matches, events and activities will be cancelled or suspended until the air quality index is lowered or removed.

COMMUNICATION

Events and Competitions

Volleyball BC will notify all competing players via the following channels should the Air Quality Guidelines be activated:

- Email to all registered participants
- Notice on draw board
- Via VBC Onsite staff
- Via Referee Supervisors
- Post on Social Media

General Notification

Volleyball BC will advise participants when the Air Quality Guidelines are activated via the following channels:

- Email to all registered participants
- Postings via Social Media channels
- Update on the Volleyball BC website

Please note that the Air Quality Guidelines can only be activated by Volleyball BC. If teams have not been notified via the above mentioned channels they will not be permitted to initiate the Air Quality Guideline provisions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Participants and spectators are encouraged to follow best practices related to managing poor or moderate air quality:
- Drink plenty of water and fluids
- Reduce strenuous physical activities if you start to experience symptoms such as coughing and sore throat
- Take breaks and remove yourself from the environment (if possible)

If you have health conditions that may be aggravated by poor quality such as asthma, allergies, underlying medical conditions please avoid ore reduce outdoor physical activity if possible.

For more information please visit the relevant resources below:

- **Environment Canada – Air Quality Health Index**
- **Government of BC – Air Quality Advisories**
- **Volleyball BC – Extreme Heat Policy**
- **Volleyball BC – Policies and Guidelines**