



Gulf Coast Region of USA Volleyball Facility Safety Protocols

Facility hosts and tournament directors should always ensure their competition area and overall facility are in good working order and free from risks to all extent possible. Below are suggestions for both indoor and outdoor facilities that event host, promoters, event managers and event supervisors should look for prior to play.

- ***Conduct a walkthrough of the facility prior to players, coaches, or spectators being admitted. Post signage and block off any areas necessary.***
- ***Ensure the facility is suitable for practice or tournament play.***
- ***Check floor surfaces for defects, trip/fall hazards. For outdoor facilities, clear the playing area of any large objects or debris, such as wood, glass, etc. Have a sand sifter or rake available.***
- ***Check for low hanging lights, heating units, plumbing units, basketball backboards, etc. Familiarize yourself with USAV rules pertaining to these obstructions. Lights should be covered.***
- ***Ensure spectator seating areas are in good repair. Block off any areas you do not want spectators to access. For both indoor and outdoor facilities, ensure spectator seating areas still give enough clearance around the court for required dimensional playable areas.***
- ***Make sure restrooms are clean, sanitary, and in good repair with plenty of supplies.***
- ***Limit access to the balance of the school or facility if needed. Use signage. Also limit access to other sporting equipment, such as basketball goals, matting for all sports including wrestling, cheer, etc..***
- ***Standards and referee stands must be padded per USAV rules.***
- ***Posts, walls, or other barriers around courts should be padded to all extent possible including but not limited to permanent padding. Any objects hanging on walls, such as signs, pictures, ladders, or other objects should be removed if there is a possibility they may interfere with pursuit of a ball.***
- ***Know who to contact with facility issues, emergencies, or issues with unruly spectators. Know who has access to any keys or storage areas necessary.***
- ***Exits should be marked and kept clear to the best extent possible – ensure compliance with fire codes including limiting the number of spectators when necessary.***
- ***Parking areas should be well-lit and monitored to the extent possible and should have plenty of trash receptacles are to always have a nice and pleasant curb-appeal.***
- ***Ensure clear ingress and egress pathways, particularly in the case of needing to call for emergency services.***

- ***Post all relevant policies and procedures relating to the event, including the Gulf Coast Region Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct.***
- ***For outdoor facilities, know how to access local weather forecasts, heat index data, wet bulb index and air quality data. Always have a PA or a horn address system to warn the participants and spectators of pending emergency awareness with it be weather or any PA announce that would require immediate attention.***
- ***Have access to basic first aid supplies and an AED, and ensure you are familiar with their usage. All Gulf Coast Region hosted event should have an support staff person trained in Red Cross Basic First Aid / Red Cross AED use. The Gulf Coast Region events will employ a certified Athletic Trainer at each hosted Gulf Coast Region Sanctioned event. The Gulf Coast Region encourages the use of Certified Athletic Trainers at all clubs events when possible.***
- ***Consult with all facilities used wither it be for sanctioned tournaments or practices to develop an Emergency Action Plan (EAP). This plan should be well published and displayed in a visible are of the facility as to pin-point address, AED locations and other critical lifesaving information should a life altering event occur.***
- ***The region requires all Facility Hosts, Tournament Directors and Event Promoters to have a working knowledge of pages 24 though pages 35 of the USA Volleyball 2024-2025 Insurance Handbook with special emphasis on page 34. Page 34 is the Facility Agreement Check-list. Page 33 represents a Facility Rental Activation Agreement by the Host Club. One way signed agreements by facility generally places all the responsibilities and liabilities on the Host/Club renting/utilizing the facility. This Host Club Facility activation agreement places equal responsibility on the facility owner. Never should use of a facility be delivered by a "Handshake" Agreement.***

