PROCEDURE FOR INJURY

To be utilised under rule 21.1.

1. OVERVIEW

- The Medical Injury Protocol is a series of structured steps designed to enable successful resolution of an injury with minimum delay (under Rule 21.1).
- Recovery time refers to the time needed for the accredited medical personnel to provide the relevant medical treatment. When the treatment has been completed or if no treatment can be provided, play must resume or the relevant team is declared incomplete.
- Treatment during match may be provided by official medical personnel (i.e. physician and/or physical therapist from the event organizer) or team 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 will supervise the treatment and report to the 1st referee when this has been completed, unless if the player declares her/himself ready to resume play before their arrival at the court area.
- To be able to provide treatment during matches, team medical personnel must be seated in the immediate courtside area during the match. No additional time will be granted to wait for team medical personnel to make their way to the court.
- During TV matches on center court the official medical personnel must be seated courtside in permanent attendance.
- Any time a forfeit due to injury occurs (including before the match starts) official medical personnel and the FIVB Medical Delegate (if one is appointed to the event) must be present.
- At FIVB World Competitions a maximum of two injury time-outs per 12-month period per player will be allowed. Players are responsible to know how many they have taken. Technical Supervisors and Referee Delegates shall include in their reports information on any injury time-outs used at the relevant tournaments, and the FIVB will keep track of the eventual use of extra injury time-outs in that period and apply the relevant fees to the players concerned (Sanction fees according to the FIVB Handbook).
- Medical injury TOs assigned by the referee due to blood injuries requiring medical assistance will not count towards the total number of MTOs used by a player during the rolling 12 month period. Also a MTO that directly results from a traumatic incident in the course of the game (clash between opponents, player hitting an object such as the pole, banner, etc.) and that can be certified by the official medical doctor shall follow the same principle as for the blood injuries. However, these exceptions will not be carried on for any following game played by that same player in the same or any following tournament. (ie: any further Medical time-outs in the same tournament or future tournaments attributed to the same certified trauma incident, will not be exempt from the “two medical time-outs per player” quota).
- The organizers concerned are required to supply 2 dedicated players toilets (one for the women and one for the men - portable if it will not be possible to exploit an existing facility) close to every competition court within a range of maximum 100 meters from the courts. Referees are required to report this aspect at their homologation court checking prior to the start of the tournament.
- In case a player asks for a medical injury time-out or forfeits a match due to injury, immediately following the respective scoresheet administration he/she will be given by the game 1st referee a copy of the WT- 49 form (the exception to this is the use of medical injury TO due to blood injury or due to medical certified traumatic incident in the course of the game which needs to be confirmed by the 1st referee at the end of the game near the official medical doctor).

2. 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 or do you require medical treatment?”
    ii. in case medical treatment being required “By the official medical personnel or your own?”
    iii. plus “Do you need a physician or a physical therapist or both?

- 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, the official medical personnel MUST be requested to come to the court and the Technical Supervisor and/or Referee Delegate informed so that they can oversee the situation.

3. BLOOD INJURIES

- 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 injury timeout.
- If the bleeding is more significant, it should be treated as requiring medical assistance and treated as outline below. This is regarded as a medical injury timeout.
- The referees should 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.

4. IF THE PLAYER REQUESTS MEDICAL TREATMENT

- If the player requires medical treatment, the 2nd referee calls to the court area the relevant medical assistance among the official medical personnel assigned on site, allows the team's medical personnel into the court in case these have been properly accredited for the event, and must immediately notify a number of people. Firstly, to the scorer to record the time in minutes and seconds that the player was asked if they required medical treatment, to the 1st Referee to come down from their stand to supervise the injury protocol and then contact the following people: FIVB Technical Supervisor, FIVB Referee Delegate 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 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 remains in a fixed position on the court (back injury etc…) if indicated. The player can also move freely within the playing court or free zone or go to their respective team area.
- If requested by the medical personnel in attendance, with the approval by the 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 Delegate).
- The timing of the commencement of the recovery time allowed for an injury shall start from the arrival at the court area of the appropriate medical personnel (among the official medical personnel available on site), or in case the player choose to be treated by their own medical personnel, from the moment they have made the request. This means that:
    1. Two sets of times will be indicated on the match scoresheet in case the player chooses to be treated by his/her own medical personnel:
        - Time of asking question by 2nd referee
        - Time play resumed.
    2. Three sets of times will be indicated on the match scoresheet in case the player chooses to be treated by the official medical personnel available on site:
        - Time of asking question by 2nd referee
        - Time official medical personnel arrived on court
        - Time play resumed.
- The 2nd referee (and/or the 1st referee) then actively supervises the actions of the player to return to position within the required recovery time.

- The injured player's team-mate and opponents must remain on the playing court or free zone or go to their respective team area. Players can use balls during this time.
- The 2nd referee should during the recovery time verify that all the timing details have been recorded correctly and at the completion of the injury protocol (signified by the injured player receiving treatment returning 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.
- When the treatment is completed, or if no treatment can be provided, play must resume or the relevant team is declared incomplete.
- Recovery time will not be extended when the official medical personnel inform the referee that the treatment is completed or that no treatment can be provided.
- The decision whether a player is medically fit or not to resume after an injury depends entirely upon the player. Even if the official medical personnel advises 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".
- In this case, the referee should record on the back of the scoresheet that the player specifically requested to continue the match despite receiving advice to the contrary from the official medical personnel. The relevant post-match signature by the captain will verify this statement.
- 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.
- Note that at the end of the recovery time 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. USE OF TOILETS BY PLAYERS

- Upon a request by a player to use the toilet, 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, if the time used exceeds the time available before the start of the match, or the duration of the relevant game interruption used for that purpose (TO, TTO, interval, 12" between rallies). In case a medical time-out is called, official medical personnel must be called to the court to be on standby.
- The 2nd Referee must always accompany the player while the 1st Referee will supervise the situation close to the scorer's table.

6. HEAT RELATED INCIDENTS

- As outlined in the "FIVB Heat Stress Monitoring Protocol", at FIVB World Competitions all heat-related medical forfeits should be recorded.
- In any case of medical forfeit, the injured 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 diarrhoea during the past five days?" This information is then reported to the Referee Delegate, who is responsible for including it in the Excel file used to record data for the "FIVB Heat Stress Monitoring Protocol".

7. 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 ensuring of the availability of Medical personnel and supervision of the appropriate FIVB Supervisors and Delegates.

- The referee must be aware as to the official exact nature of a medical personnel member as agreed by the Technical Supervisor, as there are various forms of medical personnel, (medical doctor, and physiotherapist). The referee must ensure that the medical personnel member is appropriate to treat the players' injury.
- For events with more than 1 venue Organizers are required to provide medical personnel (first aid, medical 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 treatment, personal 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. A medical timeout will be in any case assigned to that player.
- Medical treatment may be provided to players at regular game interruptions (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 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, nevertheless any delays for BVIS purposes.