Confédération Européenne de Volleyball

CEV OFFICIAL MATCH PROTOCOLS

TO BE APPLIED BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE MATCH

Version: 03/08/2026

CEV Match Protocols

The following Match Protocols exist for CEV matches:

- Matches **with** National Anthems (As specified in CEV Official Pre-Match and Post Match Protocol for National Teams – page 42)
- Matches **without** National Anthems (As specified in CEV Official Pre-Match and Post Match Protocol for CEV Champions League Volley -page 11 – and CEV Official Pre-Match and Post Match Protocol for CEV Volleyball Cup and CEV Volleyball Challenge Cup – page 28)

1. Before the whistle for 1st service of the match

Matches with National Anthems			
Timing	Description	Referees' Action	Team's Action
-60:00	Start of the warm up	The 1st , 2nd , and reserve referees as well as the scorer, assistant scorer and line judges should submit themselves to the alcohol test, carried out by the medical doctor of the organizer and referee delegate too.	
-45:00		The referees check: • The match balls, the e-Scoresheet and the tablets for e-bench; • All other necessary equipment - buzzer, Lite score, liber jackets etc. plus the reserve equipment; • The height and tension of the net; • The position of antennae and side markings;	
-18:00	Time for Official Team Photographs	Supervisor only.	The team(s) in their official playing uniforms are invited to enter the playing area and follow the instructions of the official photographer.
-17:00	Official Coin Toss to decide who is serving and which courts the teams will play in.	The two referees report to the area in front of the scorer's table, facing the scorer. The 1st Referee blows his/her whistle to call the team captains. The coin toss takes place and the 1st referee informs the E-scorer of the result.	Both team captains report to the scorer's table. After the Toss: ❖ The team captains sign the Scoresheet; ❖ The teams go to their respective benches; ❖ Other equipment is brought in and must be placed behind the team benches;

			The coach also signs the Scoresheet and identifies the starting libero if there are two listed on the Scoresheet.
-16:00	Start of the Official Warm Up at the net. Line-up sheet for the 1st set (latest 12 minutes before the first serve)	The 1st referee whistles to announce the start of the official warm up at the net of both teams. (The 2nd referee must ensure that the coach or the assistant coach of each team submits an original and preferably two copies at least of the line-up sheet for the 1st set. Then immediately gives the 1st copy (two – if there are more than two copies) of the line-up sheet to the Supervisor and the original to the scorer. The Supervisor is the only one entitled to transmit the line-up sheets to the host TV-broadcaster and to the VIS runner.	In case of teams' tablets are in use the teams must send the line-up sheets electronically via tablet to the e-scorer (latest 12 minutes before the start of the match)
	Line up sheets	If submitted via E-Scoresheet Bench app then the line ups are accepted and automatically transmitted to the relevant participants.	The coach or assistant coach of each team submits the line ups: ❖ On paper with an original and 2 copies for the first set; ❖ Or via the E-Scoresheet bench App and tablet provided to the teams;
-06:00	End of the Official Warm Up	The 1st referee blows his/her whistle to announce the end of the official warm up. The referees go to the table and request permission from the supervisor to start the match.	At the whistle of the 1st referee the teams must stop warming up and immediately return to their own team benches. If players need to change their playing shirts, they must leave the playing area, change and return without delay. All team member must be in the match uniforms and be sat on their respective benches.

-05:30	Line up of players	The 1st Referee whistles the 12 (14) players of each Team to walk to the 9m line; Flag holders have to walk in front the teams, behind the attack line; 1st referee walk in front of his chair and 2nd referee stay close to his post. The Team Captain stands with one foot on the 9m line, closest to the bench, with the 1st libero standing next to him/her, and the 2nd libero standing at the end of the row.	
-04:30	National Anthems The speaker announces the National Anthem of each team. During the respective national anthem, flag holders raise the flag in a 45-degree angle. National anthems are played entirely as per the official versions provided by CEV. Immediately at the end of the anthems, flag holders march out, carrying the flags.	During the playing of each team's national anthem, the referees should turn their bodies at 45-degree angle to face the flag of the team whose national anthem is being played. After both anthems, and after 1st referee whistle, players applaud to opponent team and gather at their benches and get ready for the starting teams announcement.	
-02:30			Athletes move along the net for a fairplay handshake and gather at the players bench. Teams officials to shake hands with opponent's Team officials.
-02:00	Presentation of the referees	Both referees walk to the middle of the court, close to the net, facing the Jury table. After introduction by the speaker, both referees shake hand, then the first referee goes to the referee's stand and the second referee goes to the scorer's table.	

-01:30	Presentation of Starting 6, Libero and Head Coach.		The speaker announces the starting 6 in ascending jersey number order, followed by the Libero and Head Coach. The starting 6 run one by one to the centre of the court.
-00:30		The 2nd referee: ❖ Distributes four match balls to the Ball Retrievers No. 1, 2, 4 & 5. ❖ Checks the players' standing position, comparing them with those on their respective line-up sheet. ❖ Permits the starting Libero to enter the court ❖ Asks the Scorer if he has also finished checking and is ready to start. Gives the ball to the server.	Both teams are on court and ready to start the match
-00:00	First Service	The First Referee blows the whistle authorizing the first service, at the scheduled time.	

Matches without National Anthems			
Timing	Description	**Referees' Action**	**Team's Action**
-60:00	Start of the warm-up	The 1st , 2nd , and reserve referees as well as the scorer, assistant scorer and line judges should submit themselves to the alcohol test, carried out by the medical doctor of the organizer and referee delegate too.	
-45:00		The referees check: • The match balls, the e-Scoresheet and the tablets for e-bench; • All other necessary equipment - buzzer, Lite score, liber jackets etc. plus the reserve equipment; • The height and tension of the net; • The position of antennae and side markings;	
-16:00	Official Team Photographs		The team(s) in their official playing uniforms are invited to enter the playing area, gather in front of the net and follow the instructions of the official photographer.
-15:00	Official Coin Toss to decide who is serving and which courts the teams will play in.	The two referees report to the area in front of the scorer's table, facing the scorer. The 1st Referee blows his/her whistle to call the team captains. The coin toss takes place and the 1st referee informs the E-scorer of the result.	Both team captains report to the scorer's table. After the Toss: ❖ The team captains sign the Scoresheet; ❖ The teams go to their respective benches; ❖ Other equipment is brought in and must be placed behind the team benches; The coach also signs the Scoresheet and identifies the starting libero if there are two listed on the Scoresheet.
-14:00	Start of the Official Warm Up at the net.	The 1st referee whistles to announce the start of the official warm up at the net of both teams.	In case of teams' tablets are in use the teams must send the line-up sheets electronically via tablet to the e-scorer (latest 12 minutes before the start of the match)

	Line-up sheet for the 1st set (latest 12 minutes before the first serve)	The 2nd referee must ensure that the coach or the assistant coach of each team submits an original and preferably two copies at least of the line-up sheet for the 1st set. Then immediately gives the 1st copy (two – if there are more than two copies) of the line-up sheet to the Supervisor and the original to the scorer. The Supervisor is the only one entitled to transmit the line-up sheets to the host TV-broadcaster and to the VIS runner.	
	Line up sheets	If submitted via E-Scoresheet Bench app then the line ups are accepted and automatically transmitted to the relevant participants.	The coach or assistant coach of each team submits the line ups: ❖ On paper with an original and 2 copies for the first set; Or via the E-Scoresheet bench App and tablet provided to the teams;
-04:00	End of the Official Warm Up	The 1st referee blows his/her whistle to announce the end of the official warm up. The referees go to the table and request permission from the supervisor to start the match.	At the whistle of the 1st referee the teams must stop warming up and immediately return to their own team benches. ❖ If players need to change their playing shirts, they must leave the playing area, change and return without delay. All team member must be in the match uniforms and be sat on their respective benches.
-03:30	Players' line up	Position of the referees: Both referees must be located on the side line on either side of the post, on the side of the court nearest the scorer's table, 1st referee – on the side of team A, 2nd referee on the side of team B.	Teams enter the court and Line up on the 9m lines. The Team Captain stands with one foot on the 9m line, closest to the bench, with the 1st libero standing next to him/her, and the 2nd libero standing at the end of the row.

-02:30	CEV Champions League Anthem is played (only for Champions League matches)		
-02:30 -02:00			Athletes move along the net for a fairplay handshake and gather at the players bench. Teams officials to shake hands with opponent's Team officials.
-02:00 -01:30	Presentation of the referees	Both referees walk to the middle of the court, close to the net, facing the Jury table. After introduction by the speaker, both referees shake hand, then the first referee goes to the referee's stand and the second referee goes to the scorer's table.	
-01:30 -01:00	Presentation of Starting 6, Libero and Head Coach.		The speaker announces the starting 6 in ascending jersey number order, followed by the Libero and Head Coach. The starting 6 run one by one to the centre of the court.
-00:30		The 2nd referee: ❖ Distributes four match balls to the Ball Retrievers No. 1, 2, 4 & 5. ❖ Checks the players' standing position, comparing them with those on their respective line-up sheet. ❖ Permits the starting Libero to enter the court ❖ Asks the Scorer if he has also finished checking and is ready to start. Gives the ball to the server.	Both teams are on court and ready to start the match
-00:00	First Service	The First Referee blows the whistle authorizing the first service, at the scheduled time.	

2. DURING THE MATCH

REPLAY:

- The host broadcaster can ask for a "replay delay", from the first referee after the end of a rally if the necessary installations are made and agreed by the Organizer and the Supervisor
- The necessary installation is an electrical lamp fixed in front of the first referee, linked to the host broadcaster representative who gives a signal by switching on the lamp for a slight delay for an instant replay of a previous action.
- This process can be used maximum 6 times per set and cannot delay the match between rallies by more than 7 seconds each time.

INTERVALS (Rule 18):

- Teams:
  - At the end of each set, the six players of each team line up on the end line of their respective courts.
  - At the direction of the first referee, the teams change courts (Rule 18.2.1); as the players pass the net poles they go directly to their team bench.
  - The interval between the second and the third sets can be extended up to ten minutes by the competent body at the request of the organizer (Rule 18.1). In this case the teams must go to their dressing rooms after the second set and return to the playing area 7 minutes later, where there can be a warmup of 2 minutes 30 seconds near the net.
- Scorer:
  - As soon as the Referee blows his whistle to end the last rally of the set, the Scorer must start the timer for the timing of set interval.
  - 2:30, the Second Referee blows his / her whistle, or the Scorer pushes the buzzer.
- Teams, 2:30:
  - At the direction of the Second Referee, the Six Players registered on the line-up sheet go directly onto the playing court.
- Referees, 2:30:
  - The Second Referee checks the standing position of the players comparing them with those registered on their respective line-up sheet.
  - The Ball Retriever will then give the server the ball. For the start of the deciding set, the ball will be given to the server by the Second Referee.
- Referees 3:00:
  - The First Referee whistles, authorizing the service.

INTERVAL OF DECIDING SET (TIE BREAK)

- Teams:
  - At the end of the set before the deciding set, the six players of each team line up on the end line of their respective courts. At the direction of the First Referee, the teams go directly to their team bench.
  - Teams Captains' report to the scorer's table for the TOSS.
- Referees:
  - At the end of the set before the deciding set, the Referees report to the scorer's table to conduct the TOSS.

3. AT THE END OF THE MATCH

- Teams:
  - At the end of the match, all the players of each team go to their respective 9m line, with referees standing on both sides of the 1st referee's chair.
  - CL: backdrop for MVP Is positioned on the side of the MVP's team + MVP Introduction + MVP awarding
  - At the first referee's signal, the players go to the net and shake the hands of the opponents.
  - The players leave the playing court and walk to their respective team bench.
  - The team captains are required to sign the scoresheet.
- Referees:
  - Both referees position themselves on the side-line at the net by first referee's stand.
  - They must report to the scorer's table to complete their post-match administration.
  - Remark:
    - The referees' work is still not complete! They must monitor the behavior of the teams after the final whistle for the end of the match to ensure all participants behave in a sportsmanlike way until all participants have left the playing area and control areas in the competition hall.
    - All unsportsmanlike behavior after the final whistle must be reported to the CEV technical delegate/supervisor and noted on the score sheet under "REMARKS". If necessary, a special report must be made by both referees and posted/emailed to the CEV office and the President of ERC within 24 hours of the incident.
- Courtside Assistants:
  - At the end of the match, the courtside assistants go to the end line of the court where they have been performing.
  - They line up facing the net and await the players who will applause to them.

CEV Official Pre-Match Protocol & Post-Match Protocol

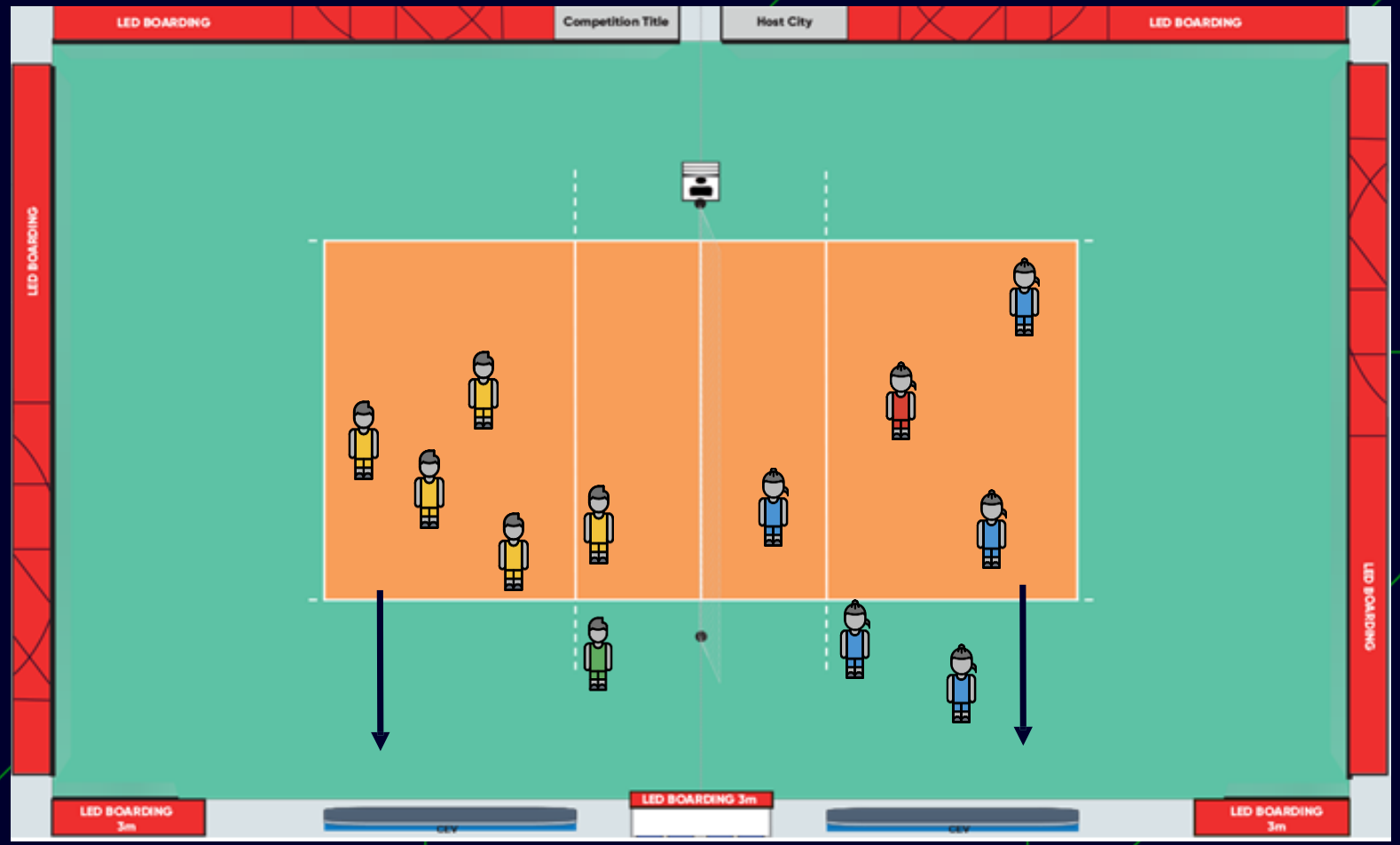
CEV Champions League Volley

CEV Official
Pre-Match Protocol
CEV Champions League Volley

Rundown

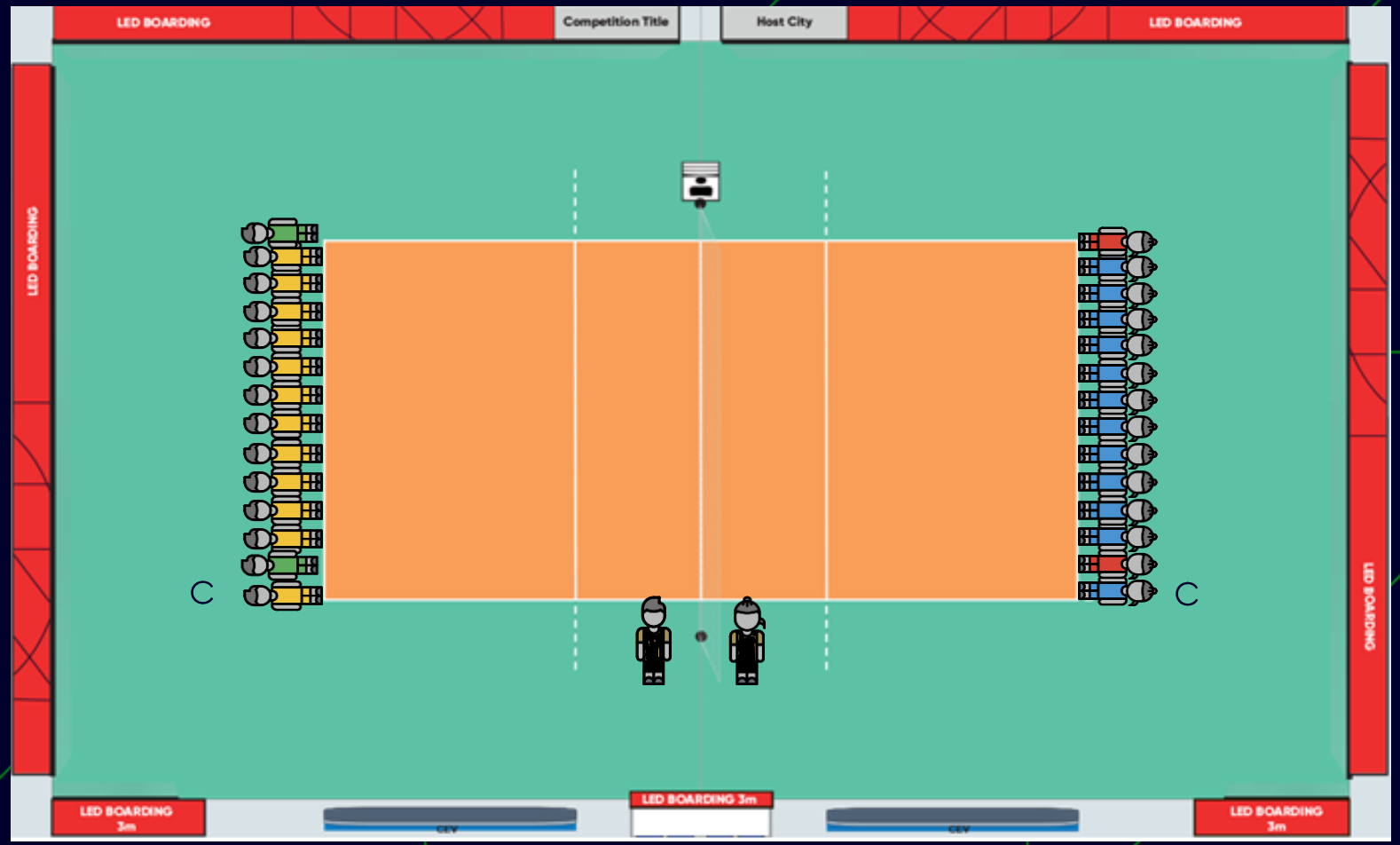
TIME	DURATION	TEAM'S ACTION
-00:60:00		Start of the warm-up
-00:16:00	00:01:00	Teams in official match uniform in front of the net for the official team photo
-00:15:00	00:01:00	Official **Coin Toss**. Both Team Captains report to the scorer's table.
-00:14:00	00:10:00	Teams warm-up at the net
-00:04:00	00:00:30	Referee whistle for end of warm-up
-00:03:30	00:01:00	Player's presentation. - Players line up on 9m line. - Team Officials line up in front of the player's bench. - Clubs names to be announced by speaker. ▪ Guest team is introduced first ▪ Home team is introduced second
-00:02:30	00:00:30	Champions League Anthem is played
-00:02:00	00:00:30	Players pass the net to shake hands with opponents Team Officials to shake hands with opponent's Team Officials
-00:01:30	00:00:30	Presentation of referees. - Referees walk to the centre of the court, facing the Jury table. - Referees are being announced by speaker. - Referees walk to their dedicated position.
-00:01:00	00:00:30	Starting 6, Libero and Head Coach are being announced. ▪ Guest team is introduced first ▪ Home team is introduced second
-00:00:30	00:00:30	Referees check the line-ups
00:00:00		Referees whistle for start of the match

End of warm-up (-00h:04m:00s)



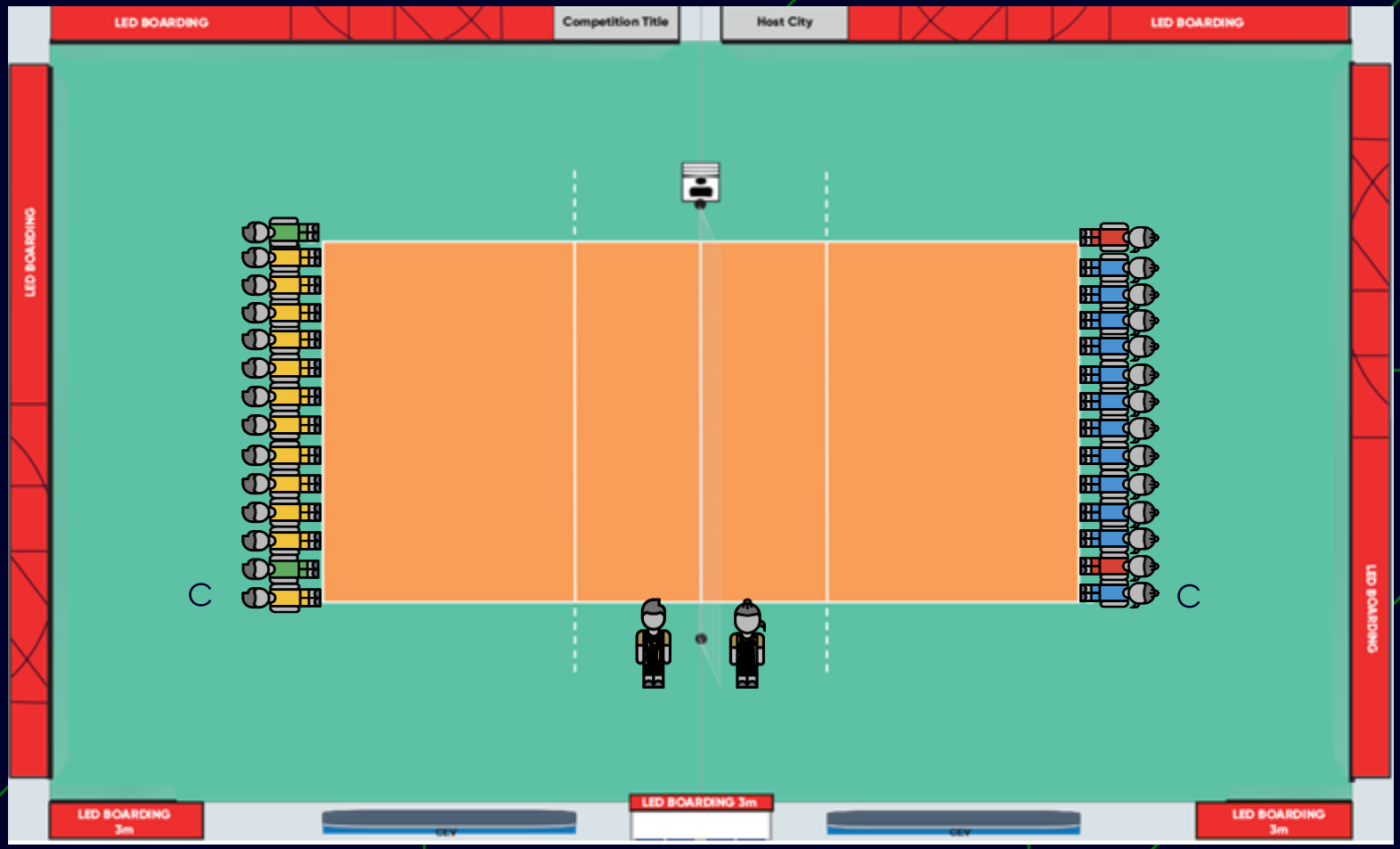
- Referee whistles end of warm-up
- Athletes gather at the players bench for final match preparations

Player's line-up (-00h:03m:30s)



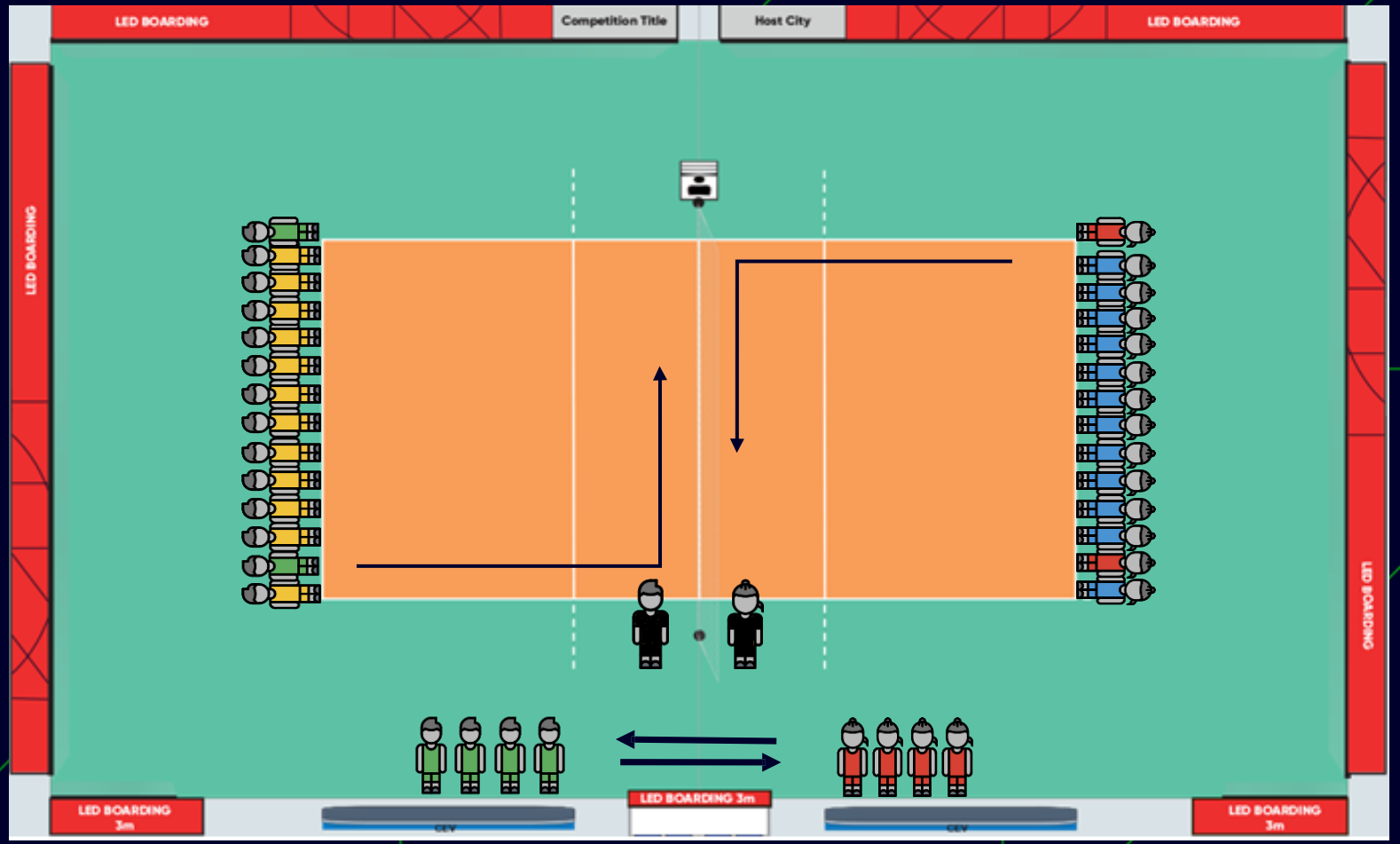
- Players line up at the 9m line. The Captain of each team is positioned closest to the players bench
- Referees line up on either side of the net post, on the side of the court nearest to the scorer table, 1st referee on the left side and 2nd referee on the right side.

CEV CL Anthem (-00h:02m:30s)



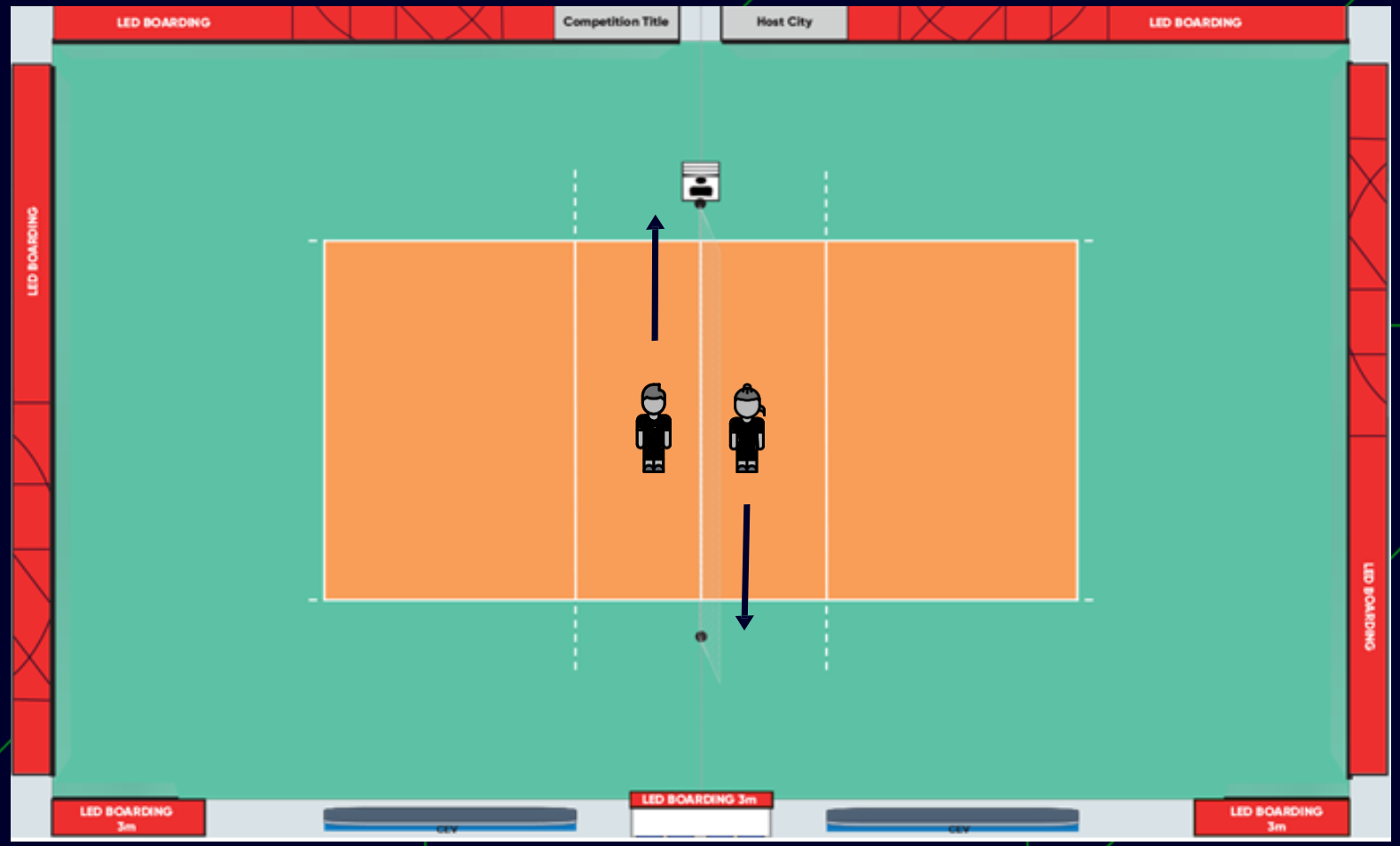
- PA Read to ask the fans to rise
- DJ plays CEV Champions League Anthem

Fairplay Handshake (-00h:02m:00s)



- Athletes move along the net for a fairplay handshake and gather at the players bench

Referee Introduction (-00h:01m:30s)



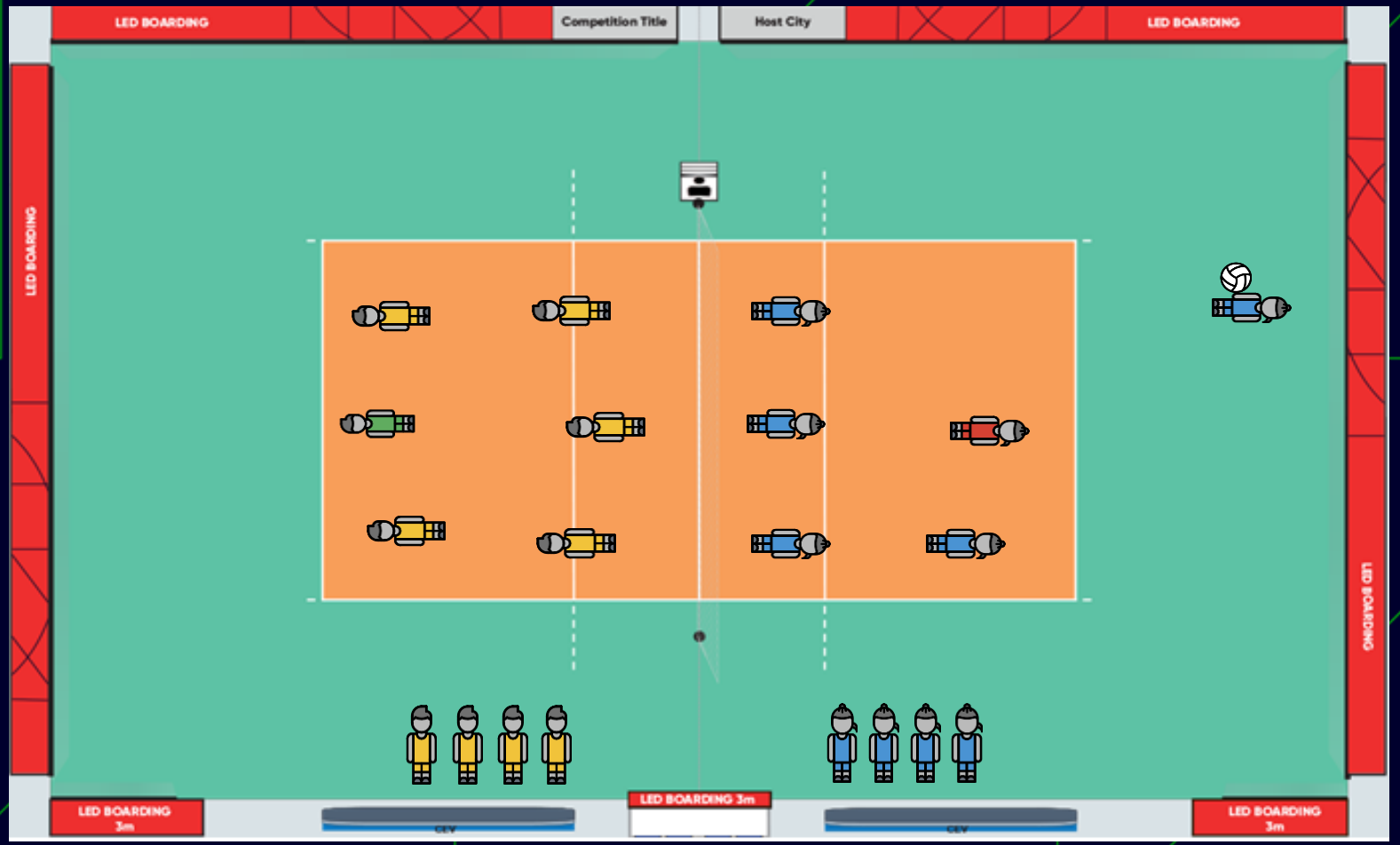
- Referees walk to the centre of the court
- Referees move to their dedicated position

Starting Six Introduction (-00h:01m:00s)



- PA Read to announce the starting 6 in ascending jersey number order, followed by the Libero and Head Coach.
- The starting 6 run one by one to the centre of the FoP

First Serve (-00h:00m:00s)



- Referee whistles start of the match
- First serve

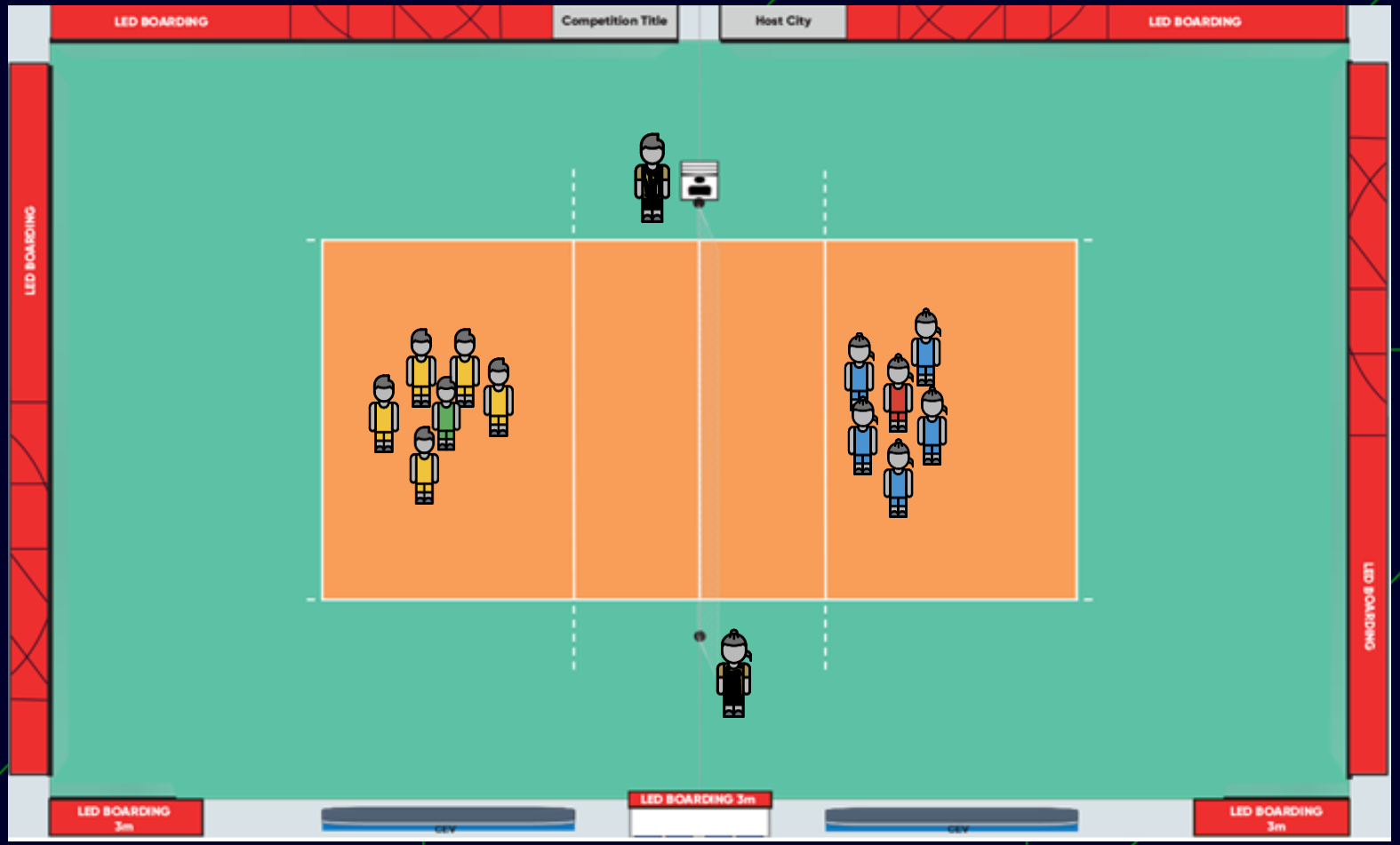
CEV Official Post-Match Protocol

CEV Champions League Volley

Rundown

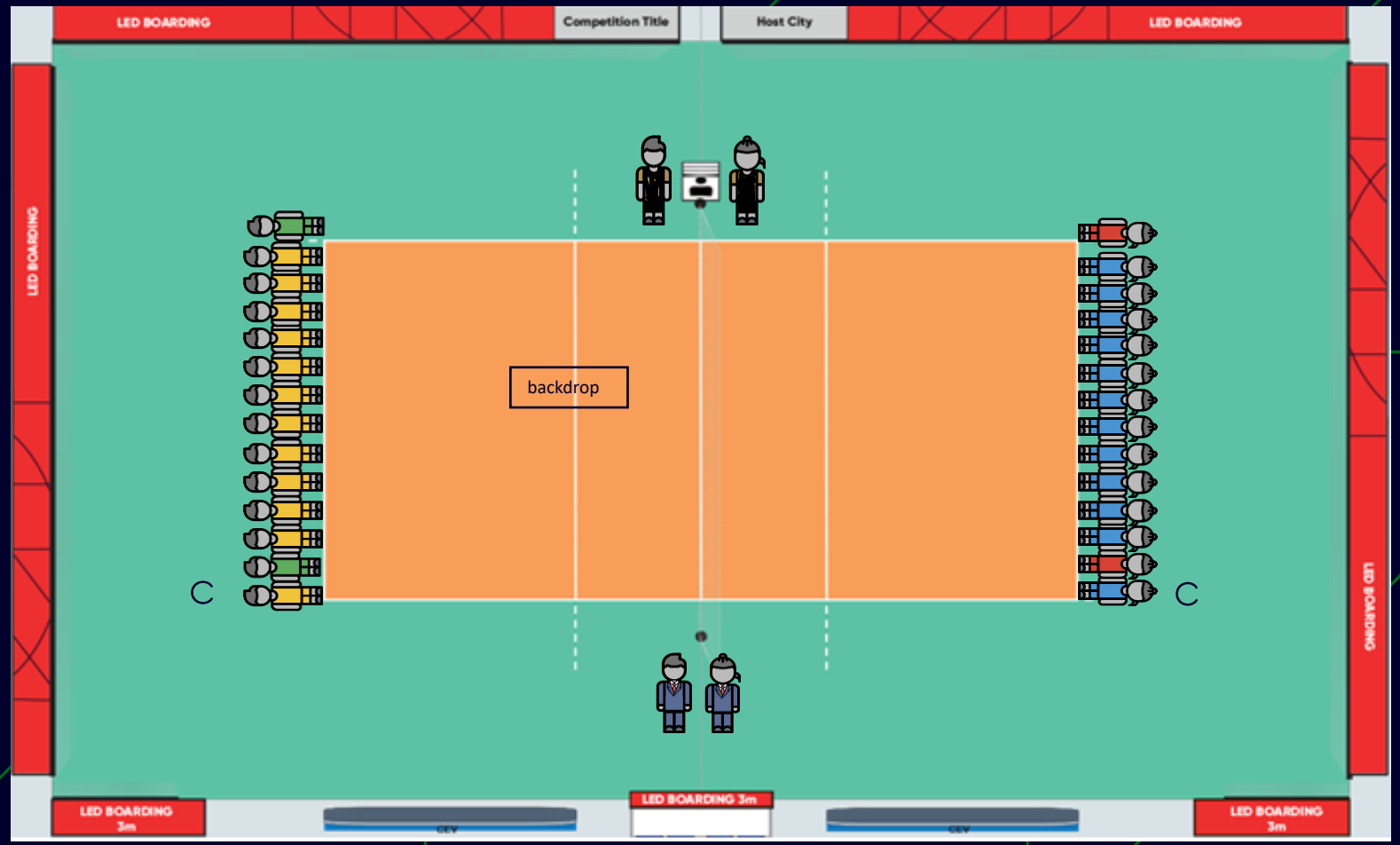
TIME	DURATION	TEAM'S ACTION
+00:00:00	00:01:00	Celebrations
+00:01:00	00:00:30	Athletes line up on the 9m line. Captain is closest to the player's bench - MVP backdrop to be placed on the side of the winning MVP
+00:01:30	00:00:30	MVP Awarding Introduction
+00:02:00	00:00:30	MVP Awarding - VIPs/Supporters take position in front of the backdrop - MVP joins the VIPs/Supervisor in front of the backdrop - Photo moment
+00:02:30	00:00:30	Fairplay Handshake - Finalisation of the match

Celebrations (+00h:00m:00s)



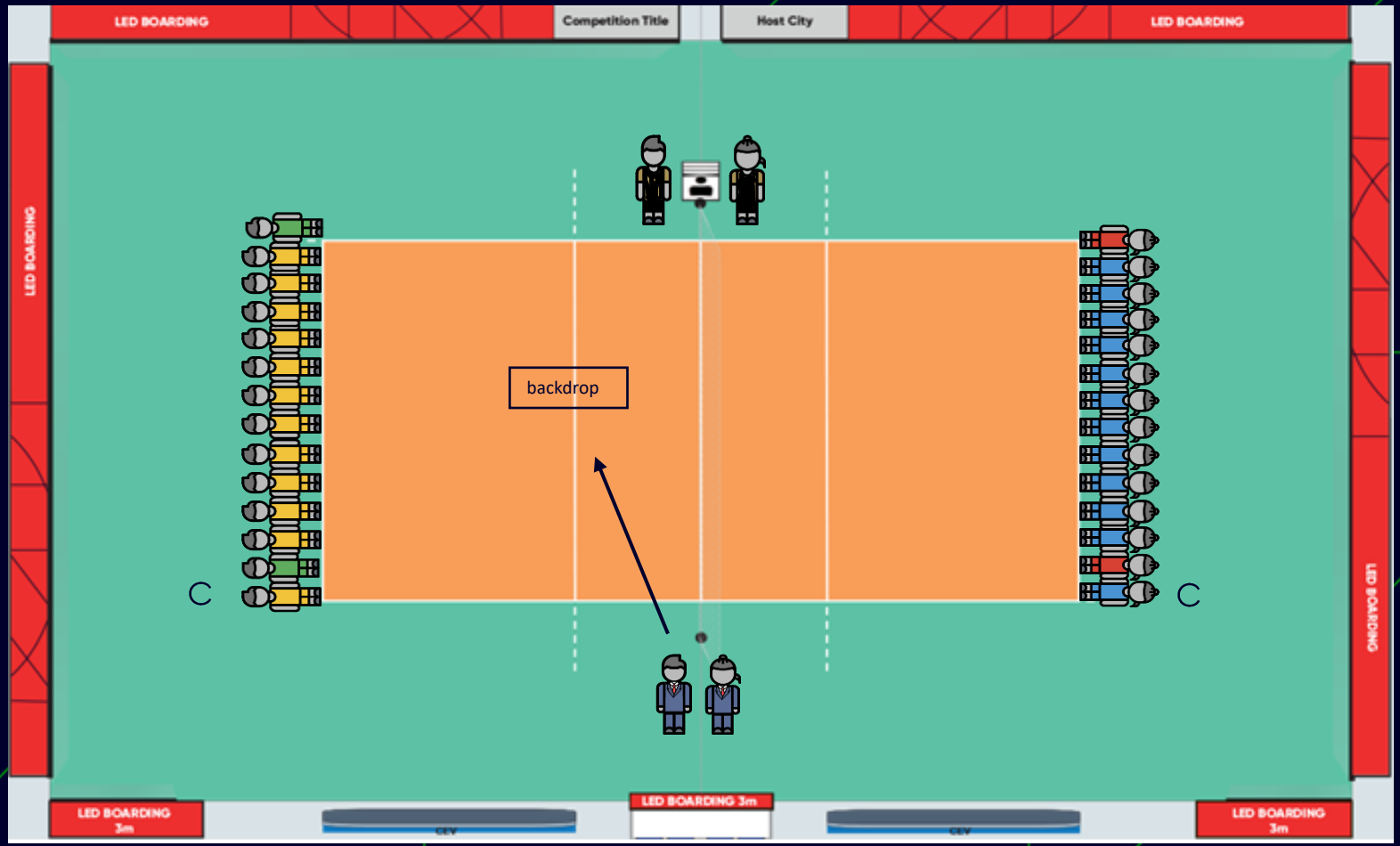
- Athletes' celebration

Players Line-up (+00h:01m:00s)



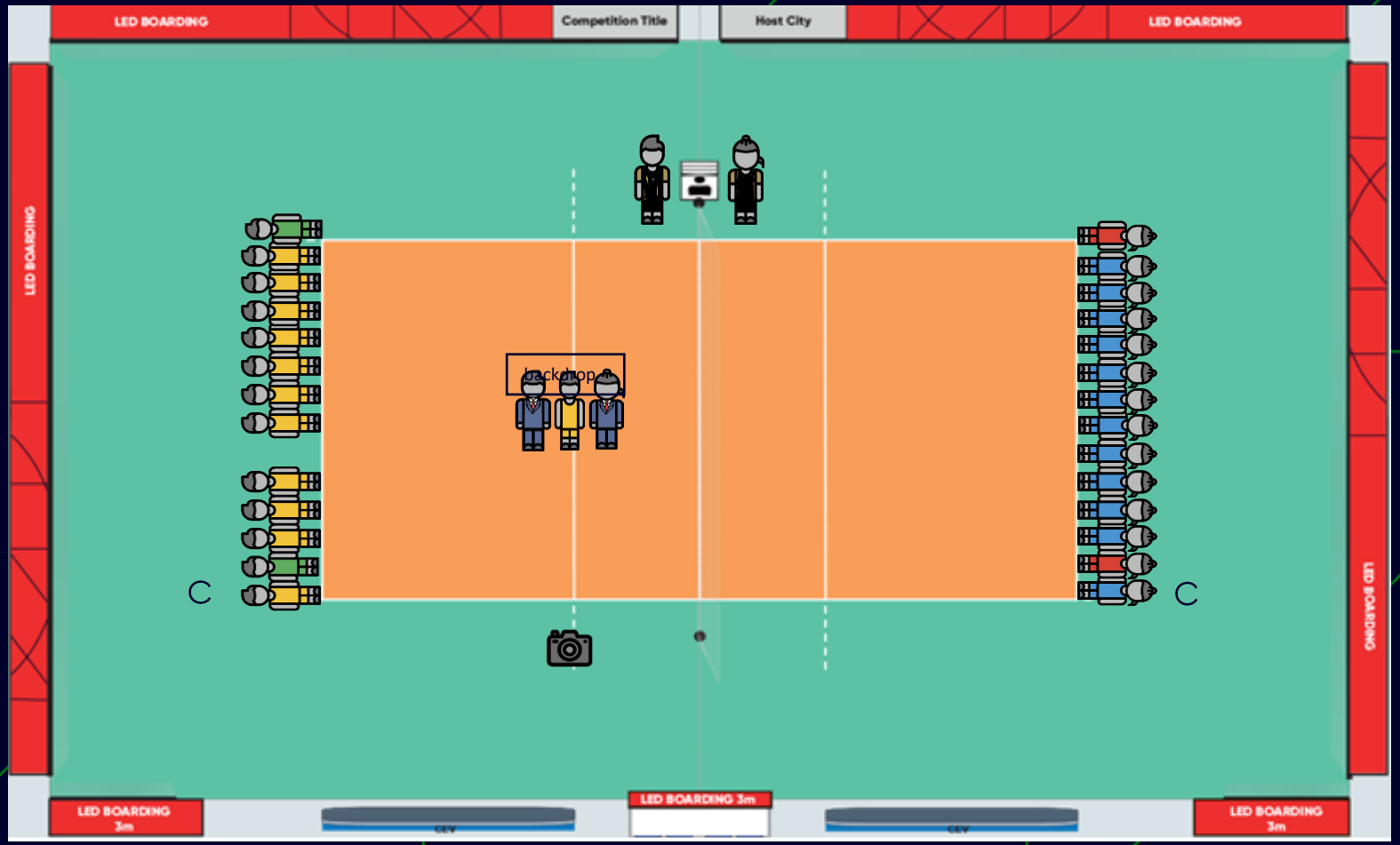
- Referees whistle and indicate the position to the players
- Athletes line up at the 9m line for MVP awarding
- PA Read to introduce the VIPs/Supervisor
- VIPs/Supervisor position in front of Jury table
- Backdrop is positioned on the side of the MVP

MVP Awarding Introduction (+00h:01m:30s)



- VIPs/Supervisor walk towards the backdrop

MVP Awarding (+00h:02m:00s)



- PA Read to announce the MVP
- MVP shake VIPs/Supervisor hands and position between the VIPs
- Picture moment

Fairplay Handshake (+00h:02m:30s)



- Athletes move along the net for a fairplay handshake.

CEV Official Pre-Match Protocol & Post-Match Protocol

CEV Volleyball Cup
CEV Volleyball Challenge Cup

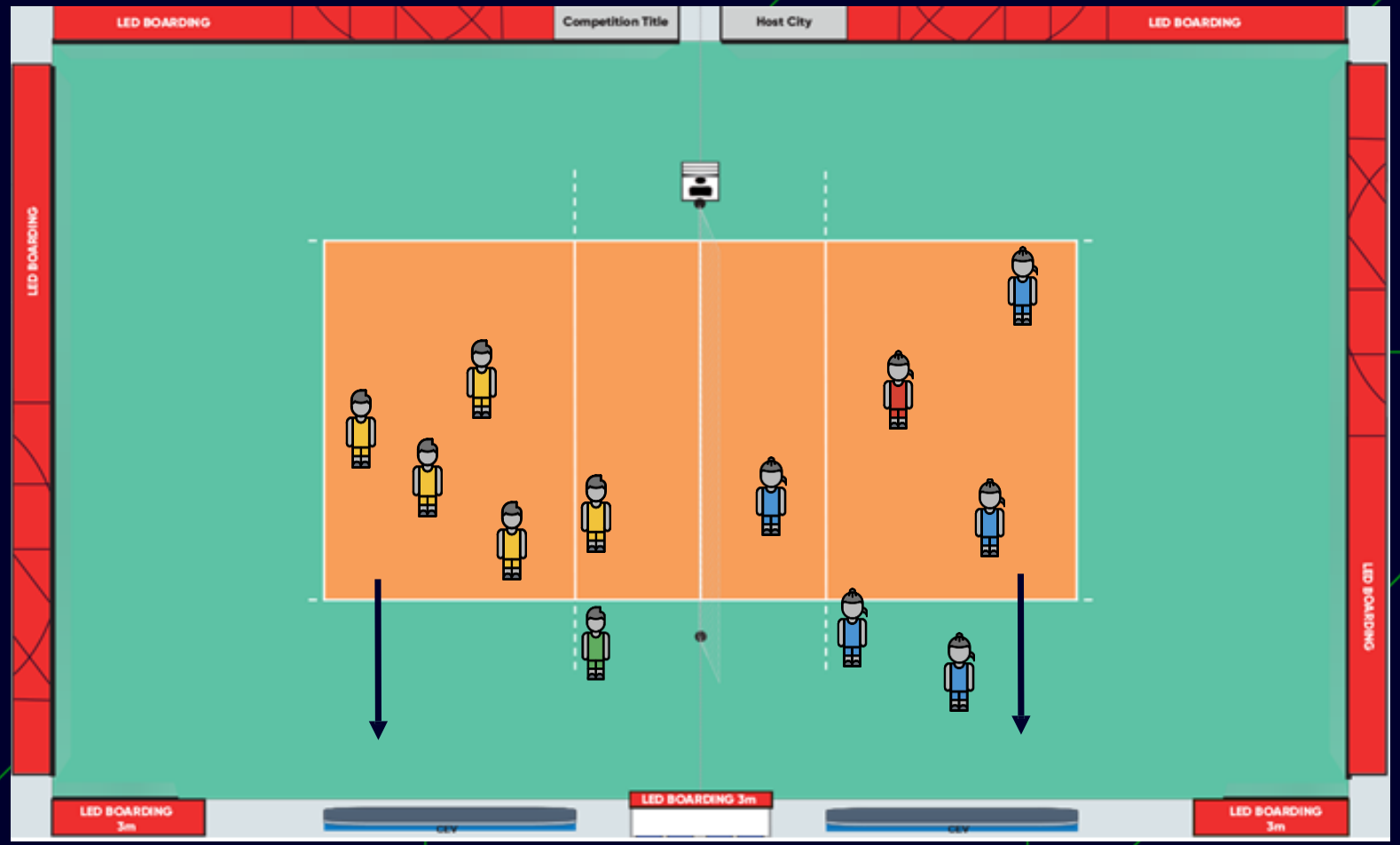
CEV Official Pre-Match Protocol

CEV Volleyball Cup
CEV Volleyball Challenge Cup

Rundown

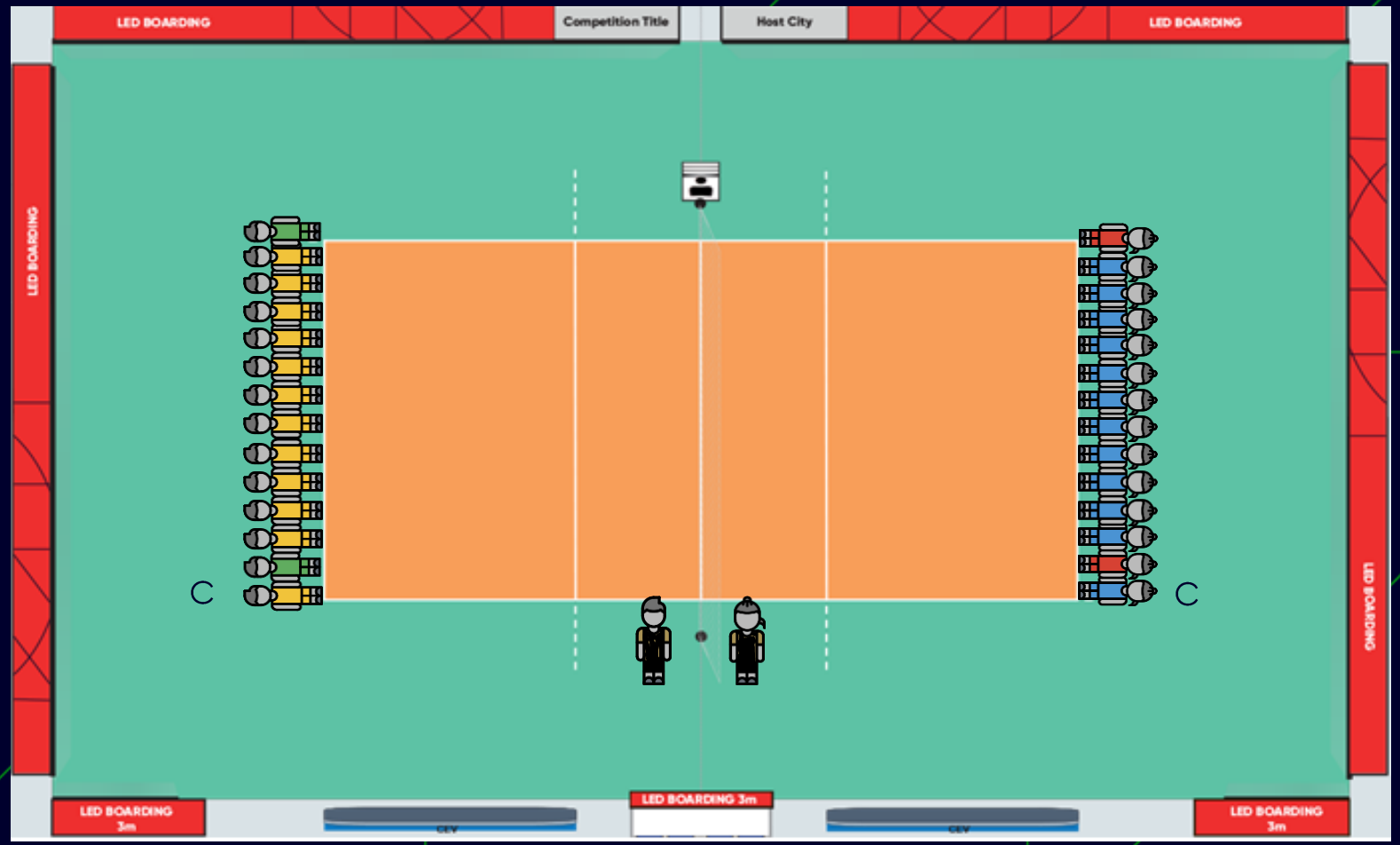
TIME	DURATION	TEAM'S ACTION
-00:60:00		Start of the warm-up
-00:16:00	00:01:00	Teams in official match uniform in front of the net for the official team photo
-00:15:00	00:01:00	Official **Coin Toss**. Both Team Captains report to the scorer's table.
-00:14:00	00:10:00	Teams' warm-up at the net
-00:04:00	00:00:30	Referee whistle for end of warm-up
-00:03:30	00:01:00	Player's presentation. - Players line up on 9m line. - Team Officials line up in front of the substitution bench. - Clubs names to be announced by speaker. ▪ Guest team is introduced first ▪ Home team is introduced second
-00:02:30	00:00:30	Players pass the net to shake hands with opponents Team Officials
-00:02:00	00:00:30	Presentation of referees. - Referees walk to the centre of the court, facing the Jury table. - Referees are being announced by speaker. - Referees walk to their dedicated position.
-00:01:30	00:01:00	Starting 6, Libero and Head Coach are being announced. ▪ Guest team is introduced first ▪ Home team is introduced second
-00:00:30	00:00:30	Referees check the line-ups
00:00:00		Referees whistle for start of the match

End of warm-up (-00h:04m:00s)



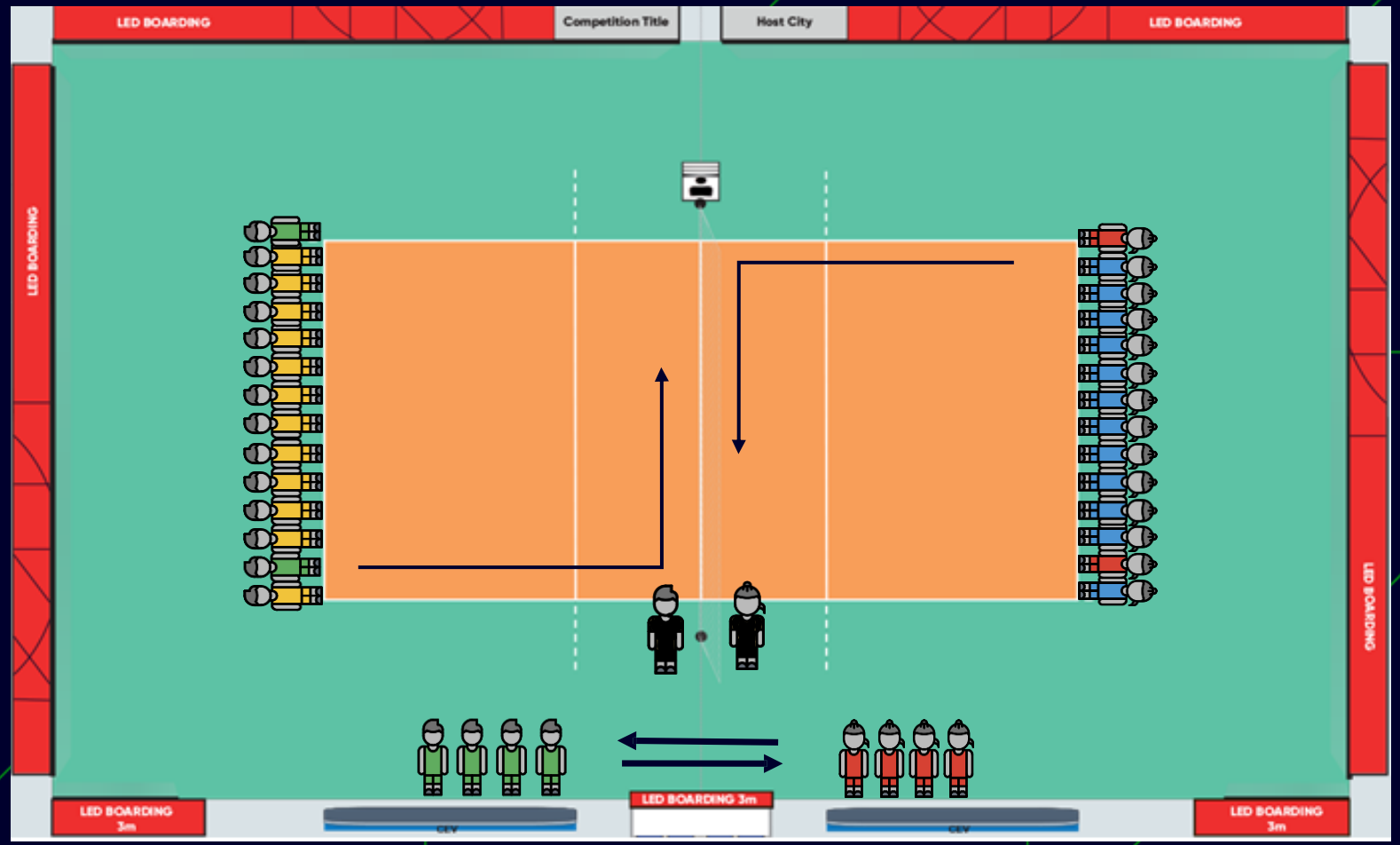
- Referee whistles end of warm-up
- Athletes gather at the players bench for final match preparations

Player’s line-up (-00h:03m:30s)



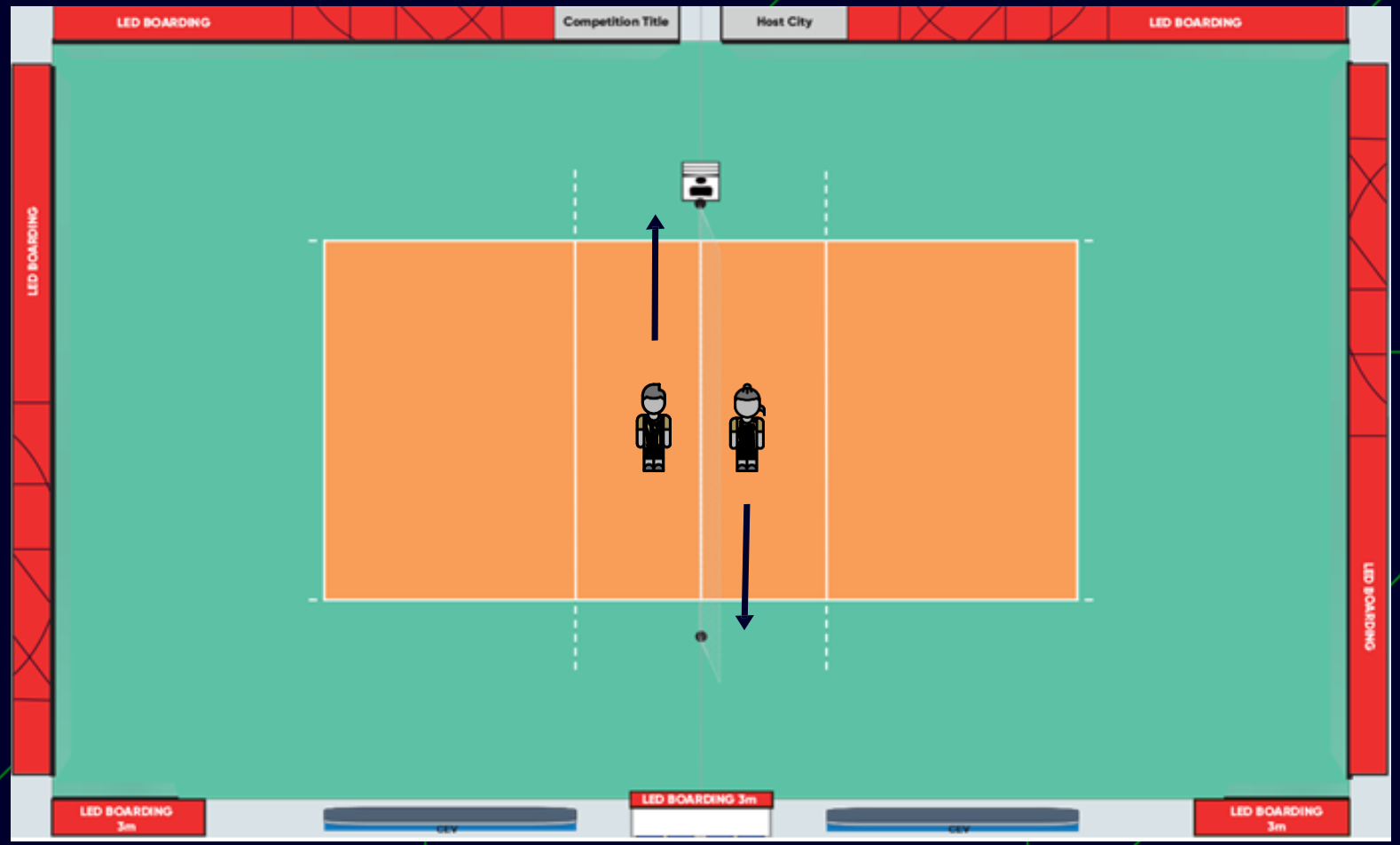
- Players line up at the 9m line. The Captain of each team is positioned closest to the player's bench.
- Referees line up on either side of the net post, on the side of the court nearest to the scorer table, 1st referee on the left side and 2nd referee on the right side.

Fairplay Handshake (-00h:02m:30s)



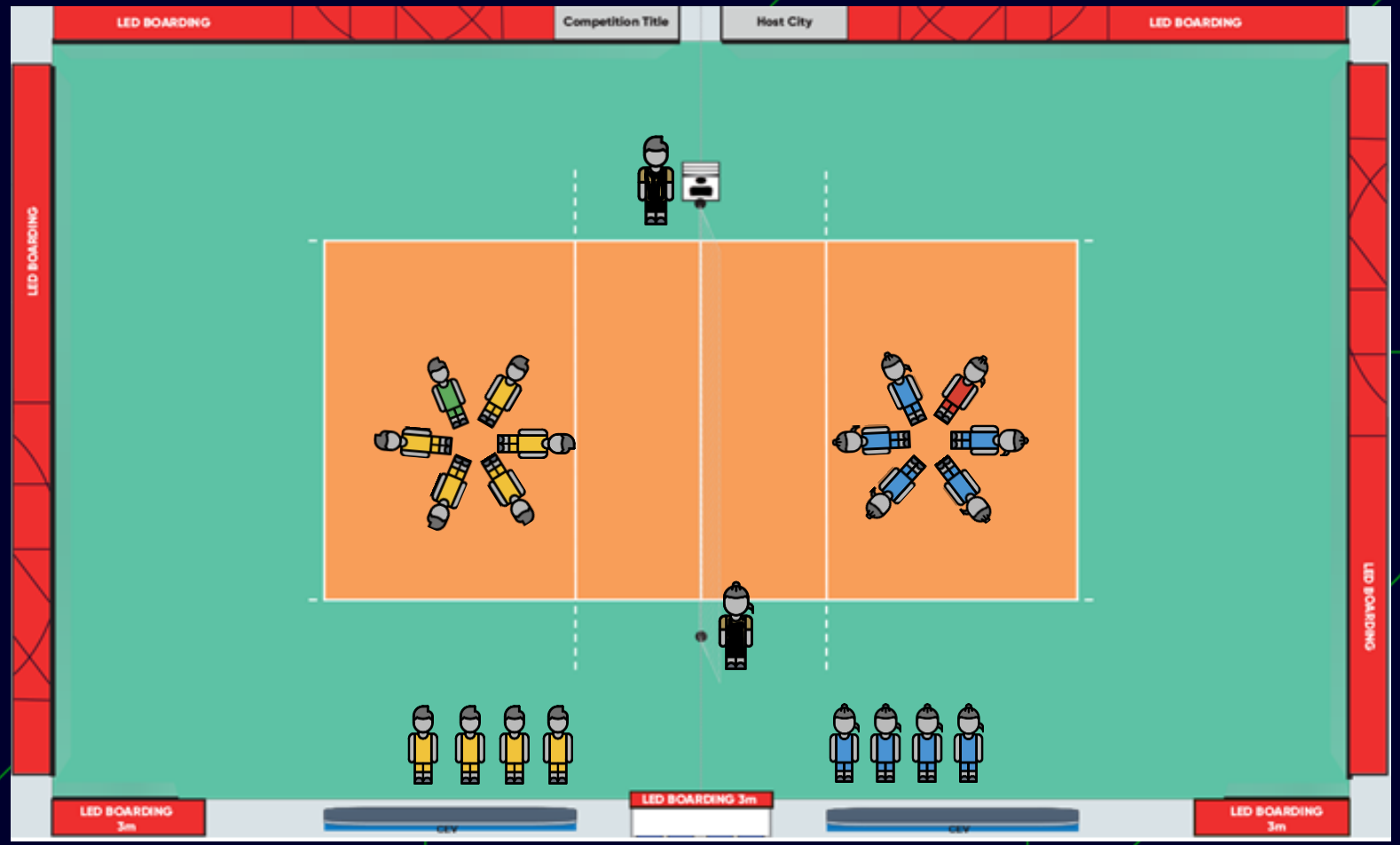
- Athletes move along the net for a fairplay handshake and gather at the players bench
- Team Officials shake hands with opponent Team Officials

Referee Introduction (-00h:02m:00s)



- PA Read to introduce the nationality and full name of both referees
- Referees walk to the centre of the court
- Referees move to their dedicated position

Starting Six Introduction (-00h:01m:30s)



- PA Read to announce the starting 6 in ascending jersey number order, followed by the Libero and Head Coach.
- The starting 6 run one by one to the centre of the FoP

First Serve (-00h:00m:00s)



- Referee whistles start of the match
- First serve

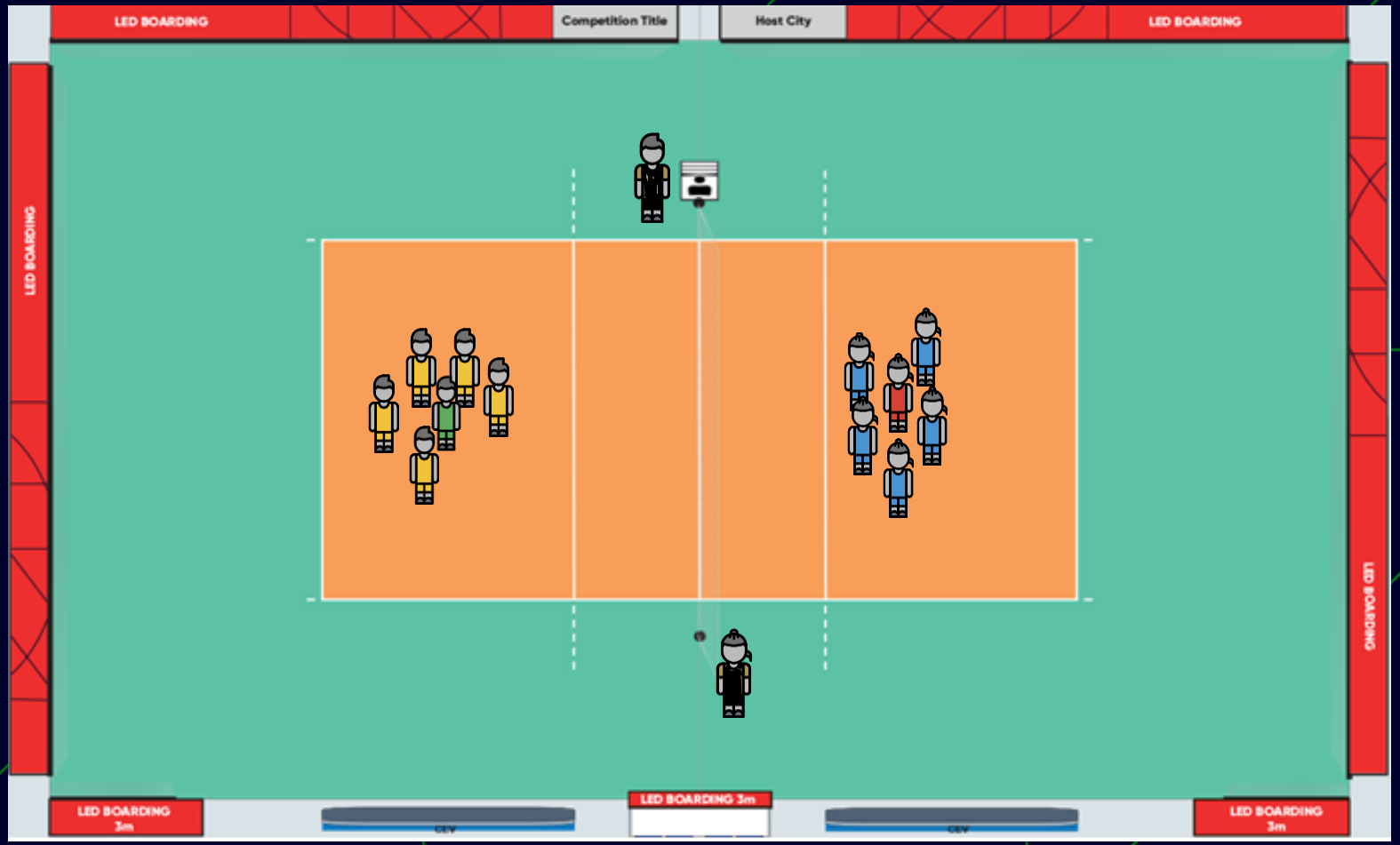
CEV Official Post-Match Protocol

CEV Volleyball Cup
CEV Volleyball Challenge Cup

Rundown

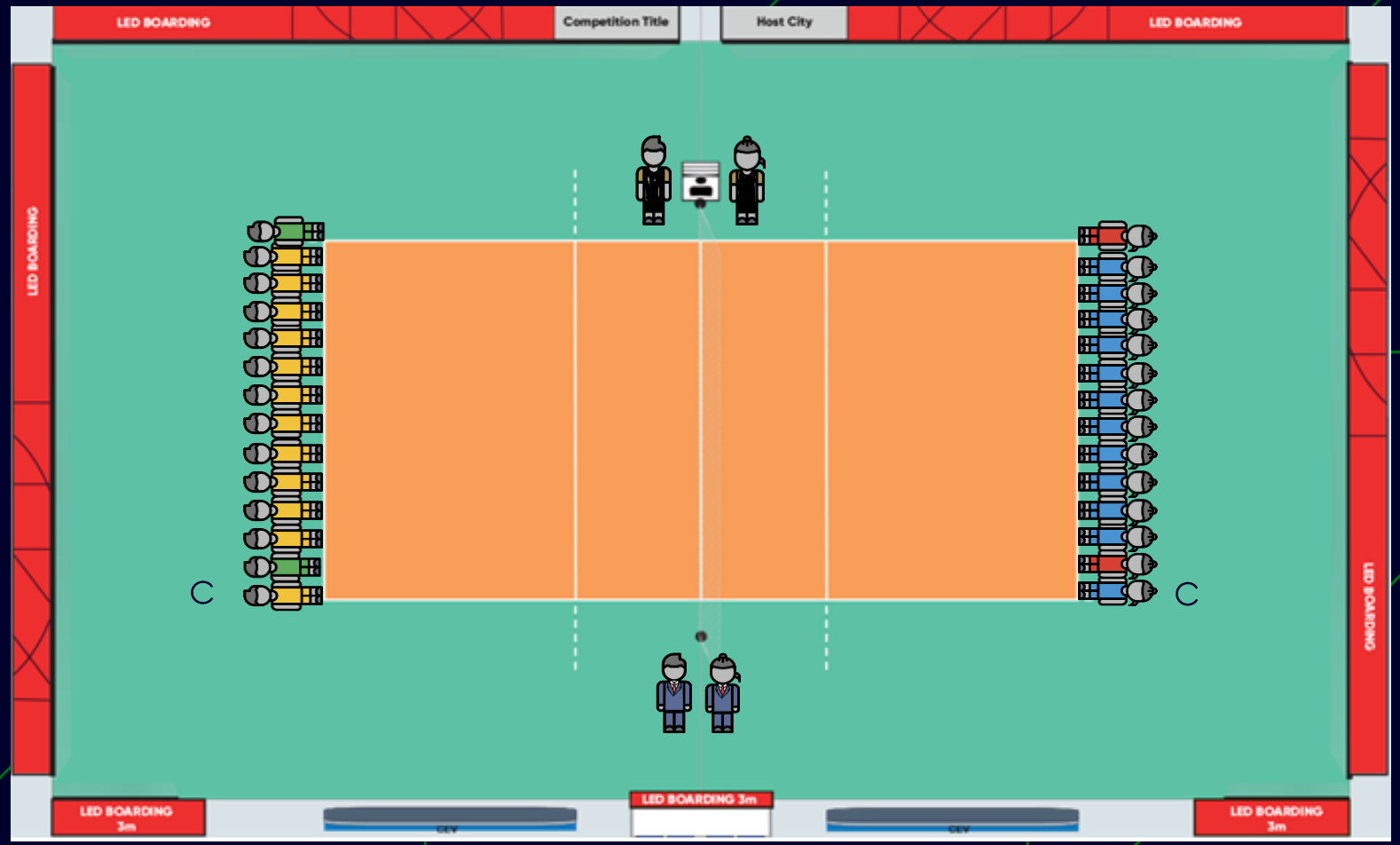
TIME	DURATION	TEAM'S ACTION
+00:00:00	00:01:00	Celebrations
+00:01:00	00:00:30	Athletes line up on the 9m line. Captain is closest to the player's bench
+00:01:30	00:00:30	Fairplay Handshake - Finalisation of the match

Celebrations (+00h:00m:00s)



Athletes' celebration

Players Line-up (+00h:01m:00s)



- Referees whistle and indicate the position to the players
- Athletes line up at the 9m line

Fairplay Handshake (+00h:01m:30s)



- Athletes move along the net for a fairplay handshake and gather at the player's bench

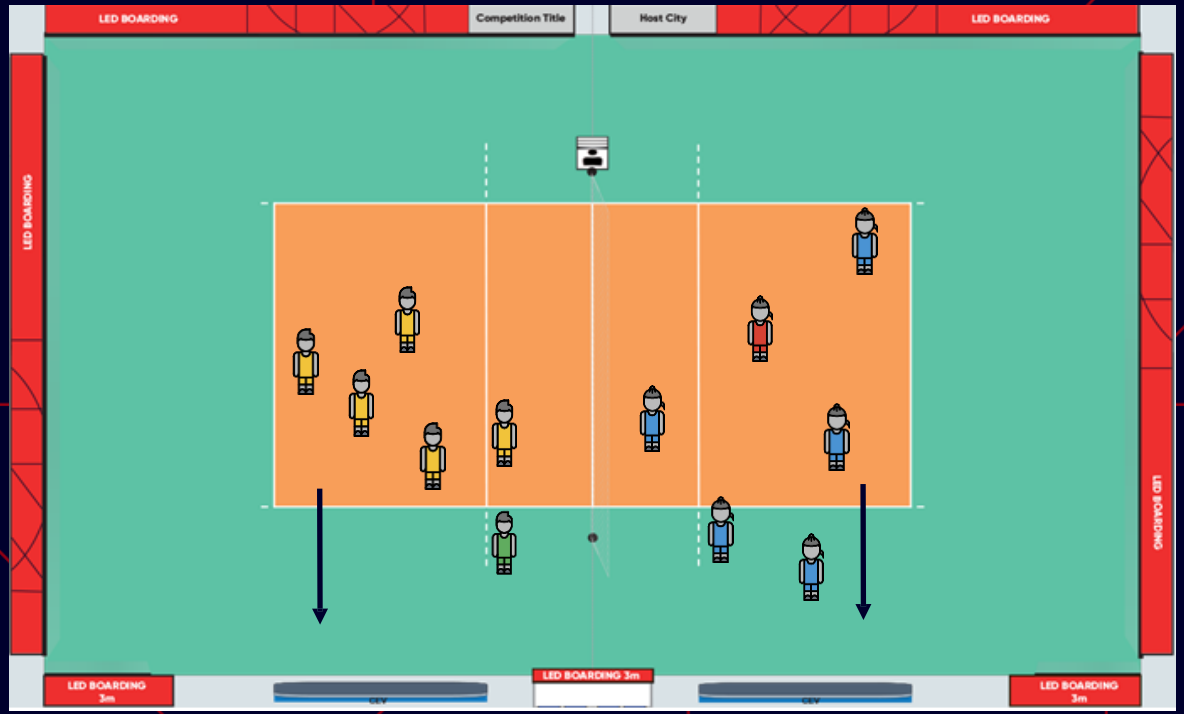
CEV Official Pre-Match Protocol

National Teams

Rundown

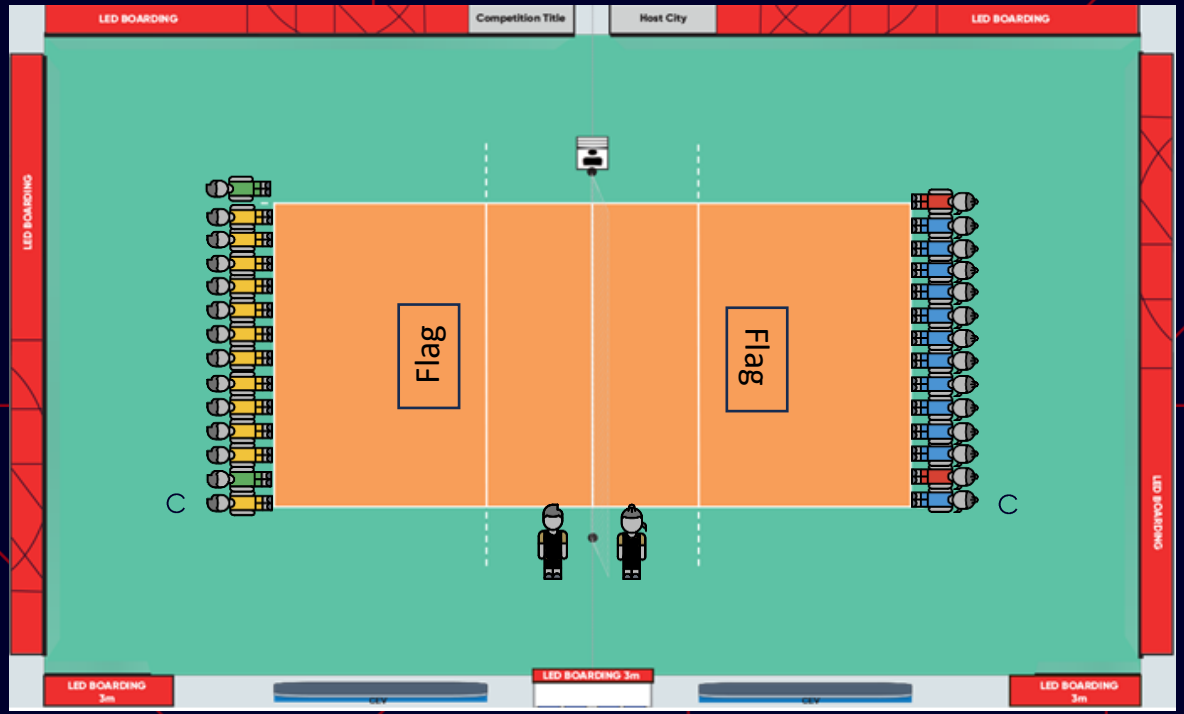
TIME	DURATION	TEAM'S ACTION
-00:60:00		Start of the warm-up
-00:18:00	00:01:00	Teams in official match uniform in front of the net for the official team photo
-00:17:00	00:01:00	Official **Coin Toss**. Both Team Captains report to the scorer's table.
-00:16:00	00:10:00	Teams' warm-up at the net
-00:06:00	00:00:30	Referee whistle for end of warm-up
-00:05:30	00:01:00	Player's and flag presentation - Players line up on 9m line and Team Officials line up in front of the substitution bench. - Flag kids take position on the FoP - National teams to be announced by speaker: ▪ Guest team is introduced first ▪ Home team is introduced second
-00:04:30	00:02:00	National Anthems - Introduction National Anthem guest team - Introduction National Anthem home team
-00:02:30	00:00:30	Players pass the net to shake hands with opponents. - Flag kids leave the FoP.
-00:02:00	00:00:30	Presentation of referees. - Referees walk to the centre of the court, facing the Jury table. - Referees are being announced by speaker. - Referees walk to their dedicated position
-00:01:30	00:01:00	Starting 6, Libero and Head Coach are being announced. ▪ Guest team is introduced first ▪ Home team is introduced second
-00:00:30	00:00:30	Referees check the line-ups
00:00:00		Referees whistle for start of the match

End of warm-up (-00h:06m:00s)



- Referee whistles end of warm-up
- Athletes gather at the players bench for final match preparations

Player's line-up (-00h:05m:30s)



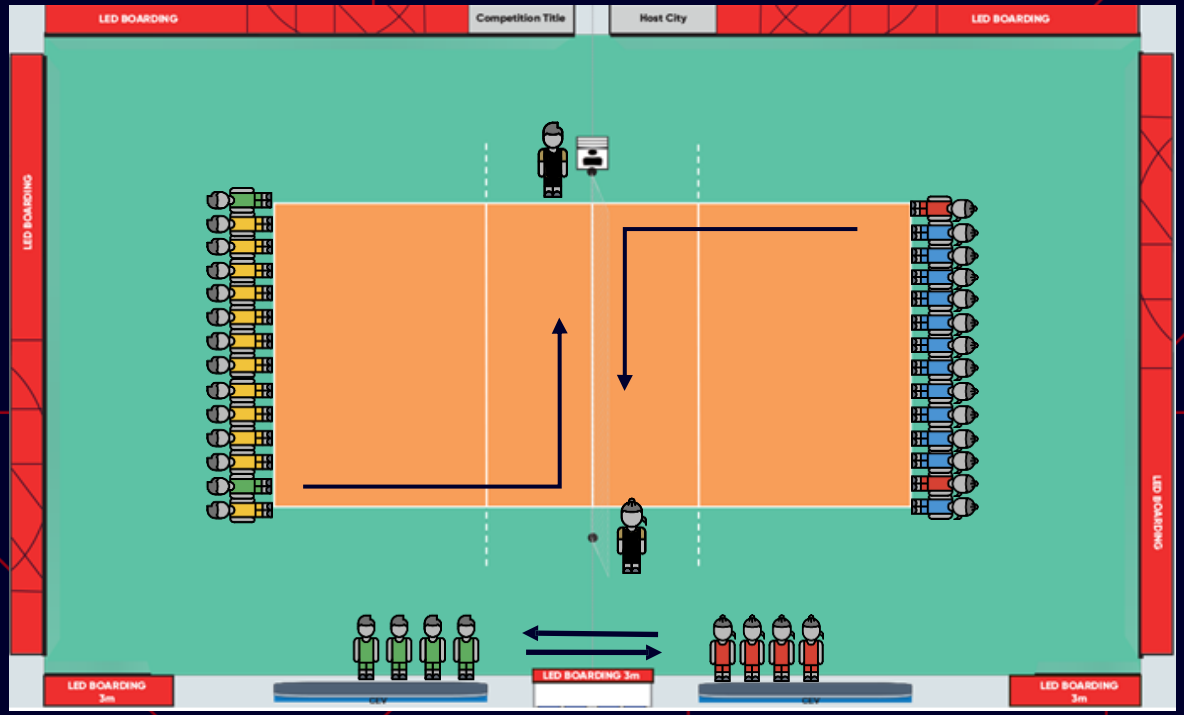
- Players line up at the 9m line. The Captain of each team is positioned closest to the player's bench.
- Flag kids take position on FoP
- Referees line up on either side of the net post, on the side of the court nearest to the scorer table, 1st referee on the left side and 2nd referee on the right side.

Introduction National Anthems (-00h:04m:30s)



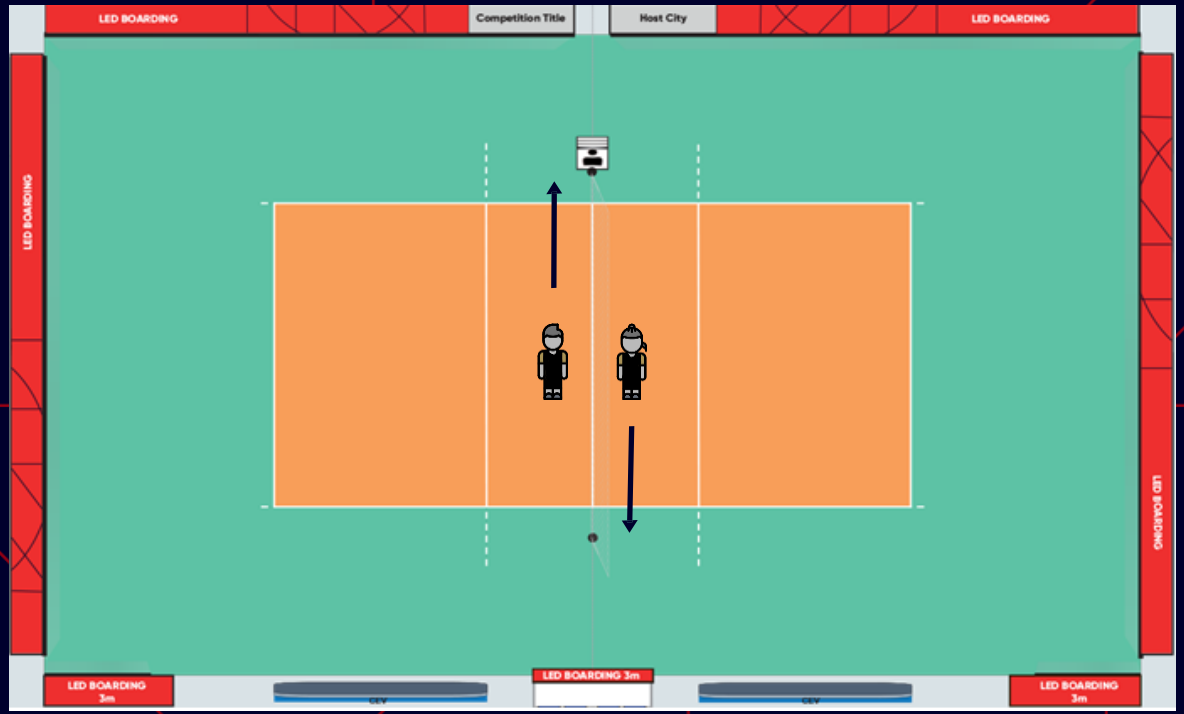
- PA Introduces National Anthems, requests fans to stand
- First National Anthem guest team
- Second National Anthem home team

Fairplay Handshake (-00h:02m:30s)



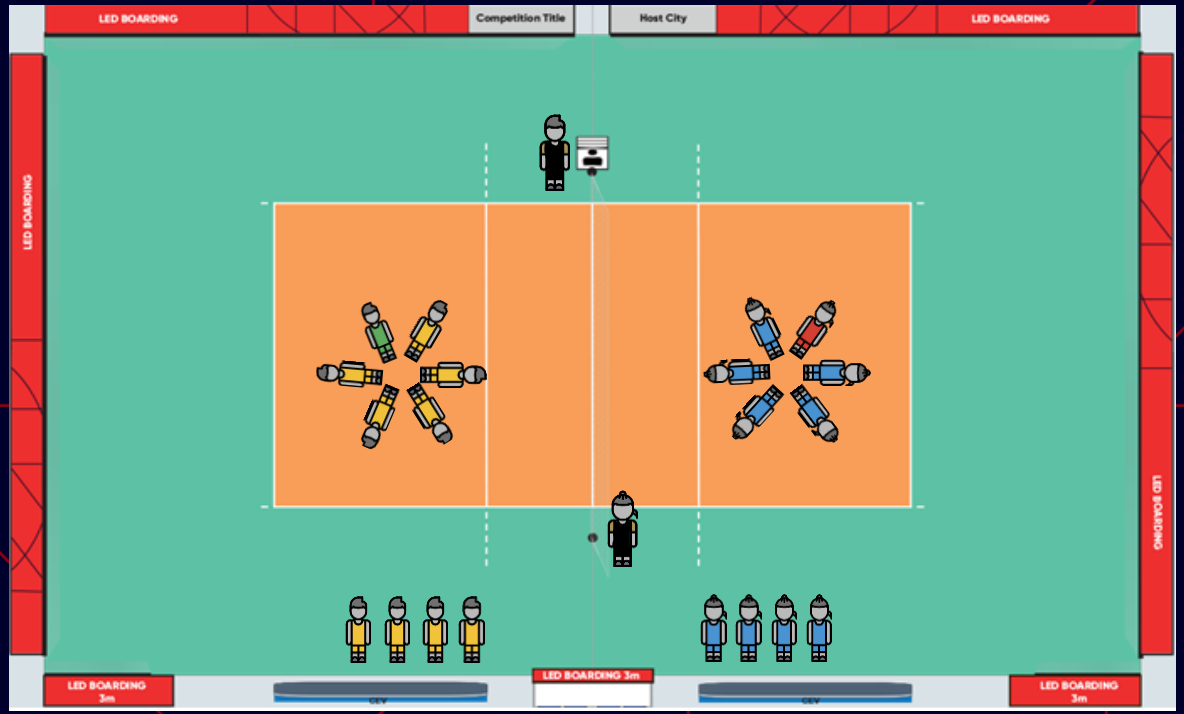
- Athletes move along the net for a fairplay handshake and gather at the player's bench
- Team Officials shake hands with opponent Team Officials

Referee Introduction (-00h:02m:00s)



- PA Read to introduce the nationality and full name of both referees
- Referees walk to the centre of the court
- Referees move to their dedicated position

Starting Six Introduction (-00h:01m:30s)



- PA Read to announce the starting 6 in ascending jersey number order, followed by the Libero and Head Coach.
- The starting 6 run one by one to the centre of the FoP

First Serve (-00h:00m:00s)



- Referee whistles start of the match
- First serve

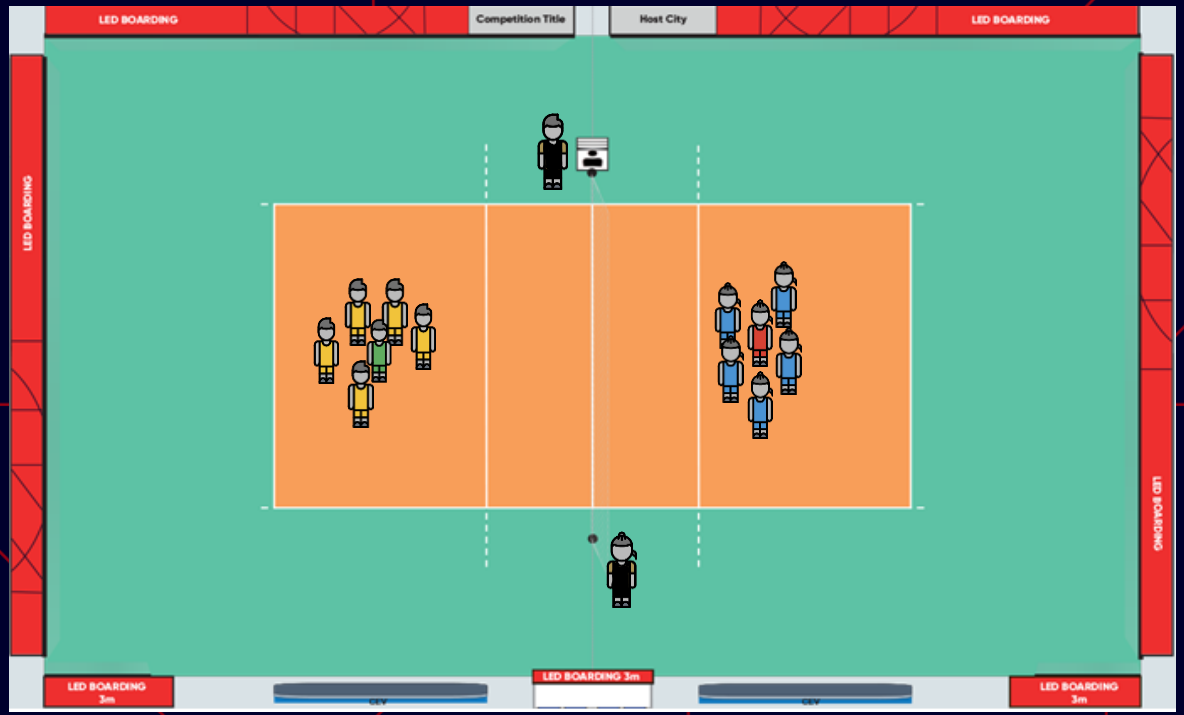
CEV Official Post-Match Protocol

National Teams

Rundown

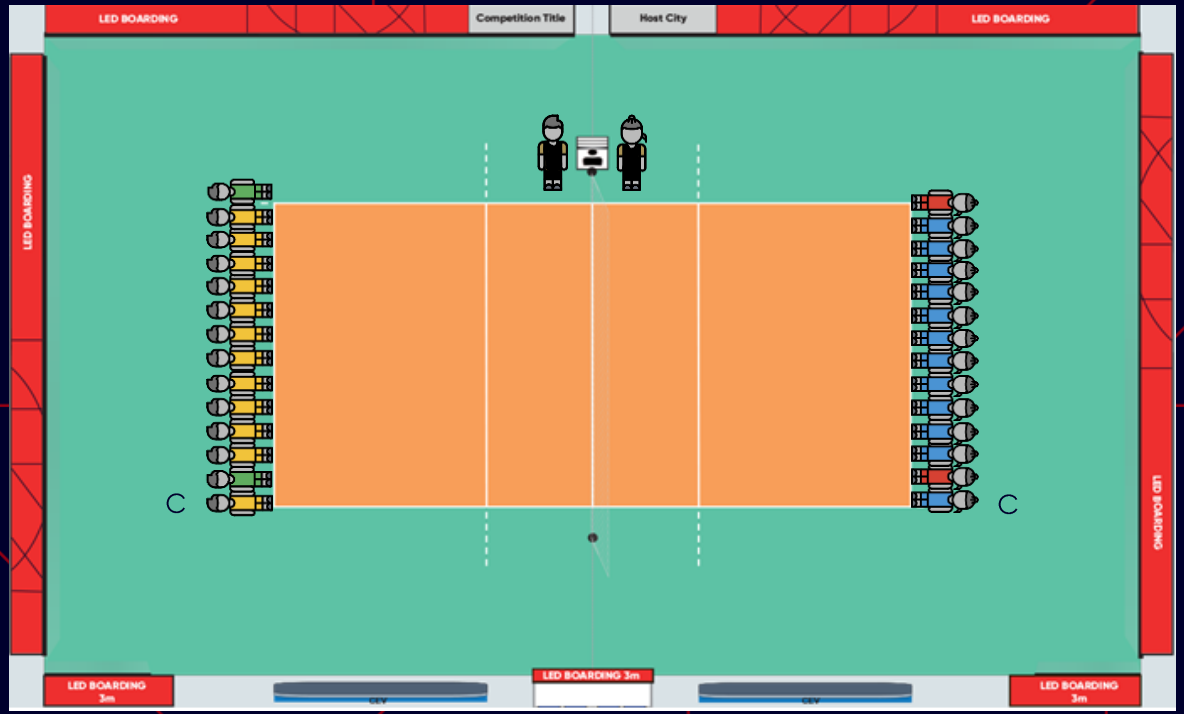
TIME	DURATION	TEAM'S ACTION
+00:00:00	00:01:00	Celebrations
+00:01:00	00:00:30	Athletes line up on the 9m line. Captain is closest to the player's bench
+00:01:30	00:00:30	Fairplay Handshake - Finalisation of the match

Celebrations (+00h:00m:00s)



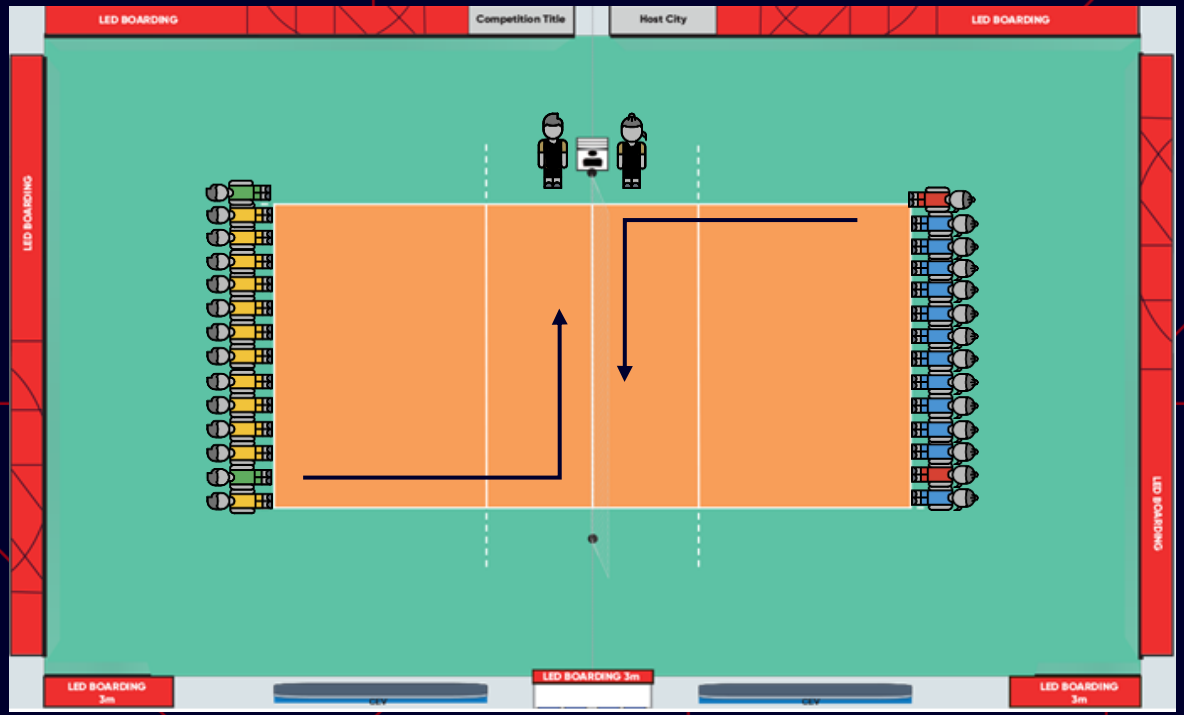
- Athletes' celebration

Players Line-up (+00h:01m:00s)



- Referees whistle and indicate the position to the players
- Athletes line up at the 9m line for MVP awarding

Fairplay Handshake (+00h:01m:30s)



- Athletes move along the net for a fairplay handshake and gather at the player's bench

Good Luck!

