

Match Preparation & Court Measurement

By the end of this session, you should be able to prepare a beach volleyball court for competition

- Check equipment and confirm court safety
- Measure, then square, all court lines
- Adjust net to correct height

Equipment & Court Safety:

Ball, Net, and Court

The Ball

Color:

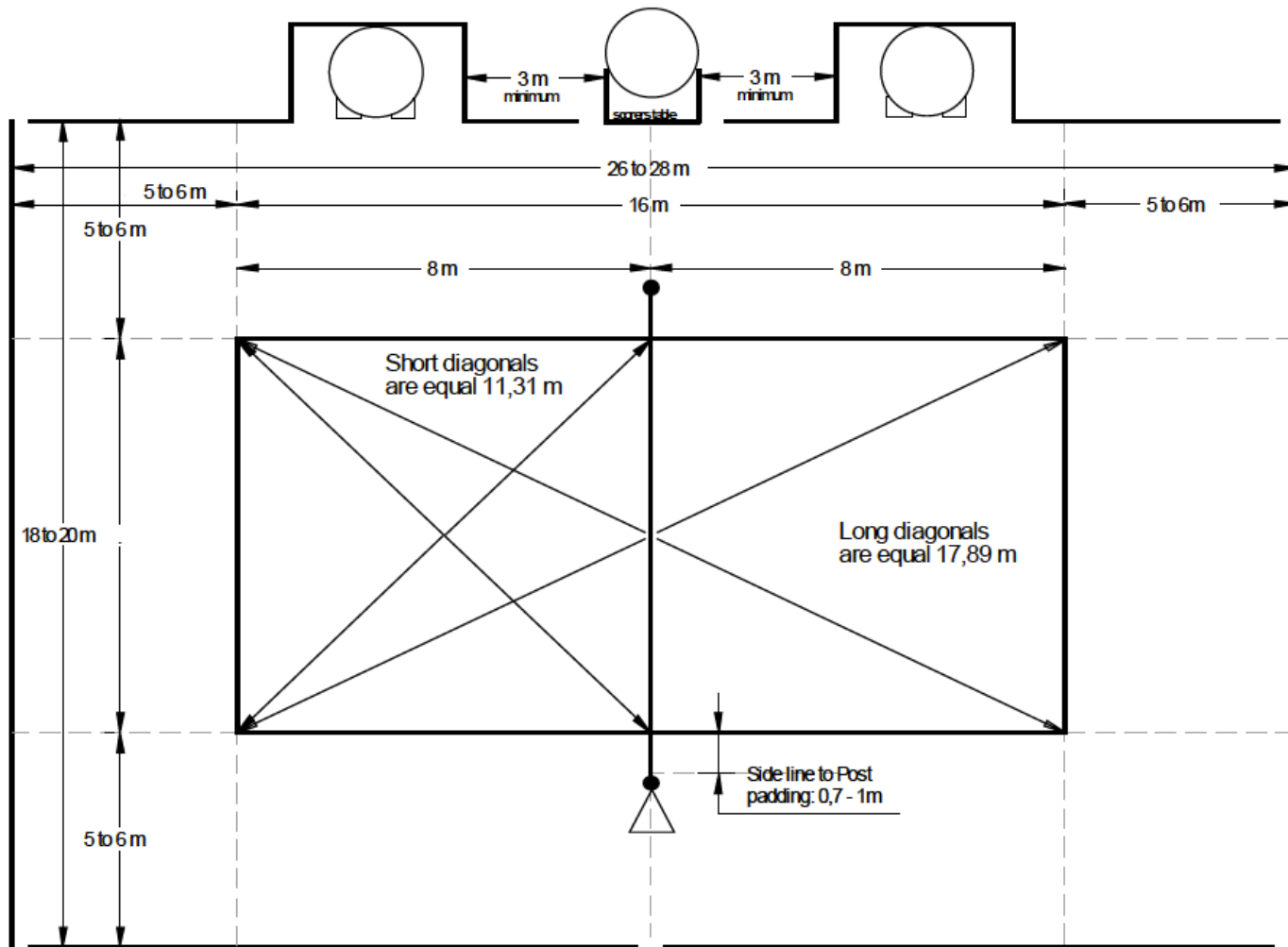
- The ball should be light in color.
Alternately multiple light colors can be used together

Pressure: 2.5 - 3.2 psi

- Ball pressure can change dramatically depending on the weather conditions.
 - *Pressure increases on hot, sunny days.*
 - *Pressure decreases on cold, rainy days.*
- Be sure to check the ball pressure regularly throughout the competition day.



The Court



The Court

Confirm the court is safe and ready for play!

- **Is there a referee stand?**
 - Can the referee stand be adjusted? Height and Side of Court?
 - Where will the sun be rising / setting?
- **Are the net poles covered / padded?**
- **Is there a rake to level the sand?**
- **Are the player boxes and free zone clearly defined?**
 - Are chairs and umbrellas available for players?
- **Is there a water cooler(s) available for players, officials and volunteers?**
 - Is the cooler stocked with water and ice?

Ready to Play!

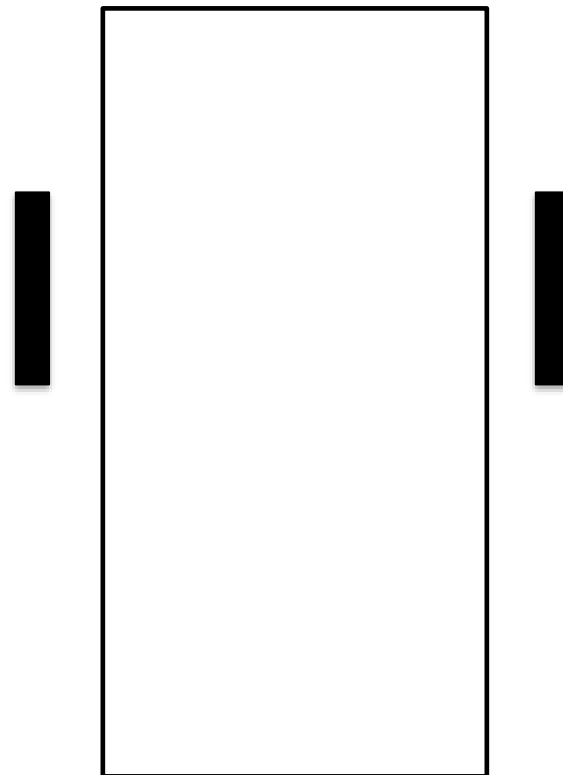


How do I measure a beach volleyball court?

Measure the Court

There are many steps required to correctly measure a beach volleyball court, take your time!

1. Using a sand rake, prepare the court by smoothing the sand under the net and in the area where the lines will be placed.
2. Throw the lines visibly straight
3. Confirm lines are reasonably centered between net posts



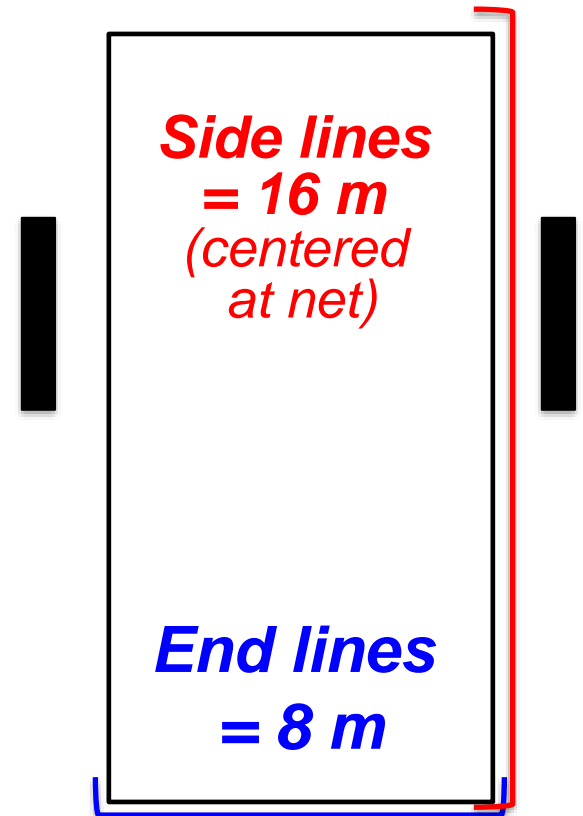
Measure the Court

4. Measure the court lines to make sure they are the correct length

- End lines = 8 m (26' 3")
- Side lines = 16 m (52' 6")

5. If your lines have buckles, use those to adjust the line lengths.

- Don't worry if the buckles aren't exactly under the net!



How do I make sure a beach volleyball court is square?

Hint: Don't attempt to start "squaring" the court until the line lengths are correct!

Square the Court

Again, there are many steps required to correctly SQUARE a beach volleyball court. Take your time!

Each of these steps will be covered in detail in the following slides.

1. Center the court lines beneath the net
2. Mark the position of the side lines under the net
3. Find the corners of the court (using two tapes)
4. Set the corners of the court
5. Center the net between posts

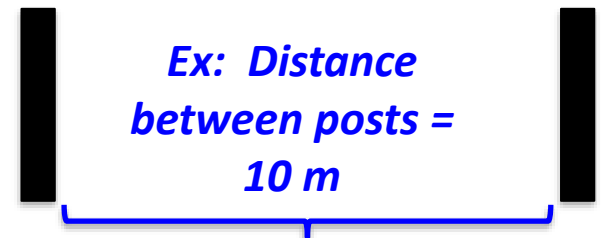
*Partner up – it is VERY challenging to measure a court alone.
You're going to need a buddy (or 2)!*

Square the Court

1. Center the court lines beneath the net (Yes, you have to do some math!)

1. Measure the distance between the posts:

- *While the measuring tape is taut between the posts, draw a short line in the sand under each antenna*



$$10\text{ m} - 8\text{ m} = 2\text{ m}$$

2. Subtract 8m from this distance

$$2\text{ m} / 2 = 1\text{ m}$$

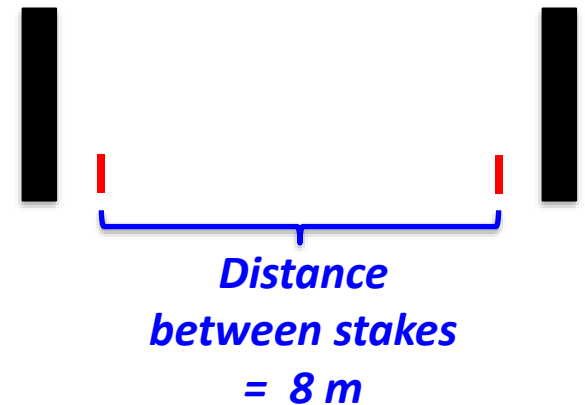
3. Divide by 2 to determine the correct distance between each post and the side line

*Distance between posts
and sideline = 1 m*

Square the Court

2. Mark the position of the side lines under the net

1. The distance calculated in step 3 will become the position of the side line under the net. The antenna will be directly above this point.
2. Use two court stakes to mark these positions (measuring “in” from the net posts).
 - *These stakes mark the position of the outside edge of each side line directly beneath the antenna.*
3. Confirm the distance between the two court stakes at 8m (26' 3")



Square the Court

Measure in from the net post and mark the position of the side lines under the net



Square the Court

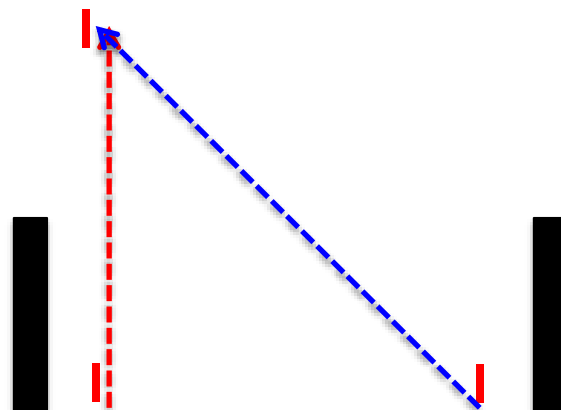
Confirm the distance between the two court stakes at 8m (26' 3")



Square the Court

3. Find the corners of the court

1. Using two measuring tapes, hold the base (zero) of one tape on each of the previously set court stakes
2. Measure straight down the sideline 8 m (26' 3")
3. Measure diagonally across the court 11.31 m (37' 1")
4. The place where the tapes intersect is the corner of the court – mark this position with a court stake



*Measure down
the sideline 8 m*

*Measure across
the court
diagonally
11.31m*

Square the Court

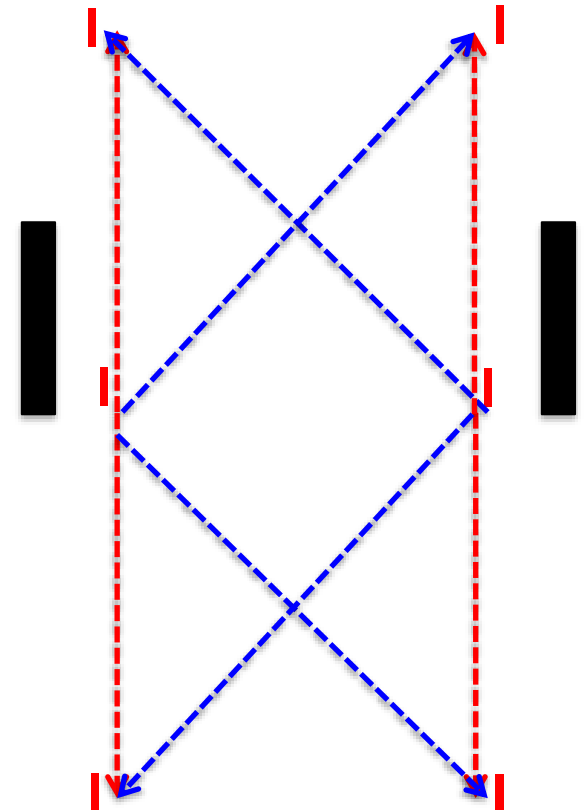
Where the tapes intersect is the corner of the court – mark this spot!



Square the Court

3. Find the corners of the court

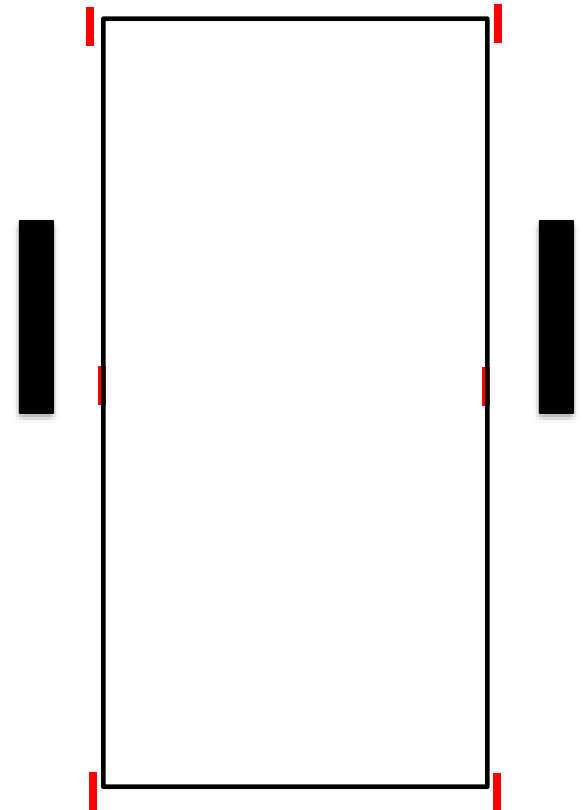
5. Repeat steps 1-3 to find the location for each corner of the court
6. Use a court stake to mark the position of each corner



Square the Court

4. Set the corners of the court

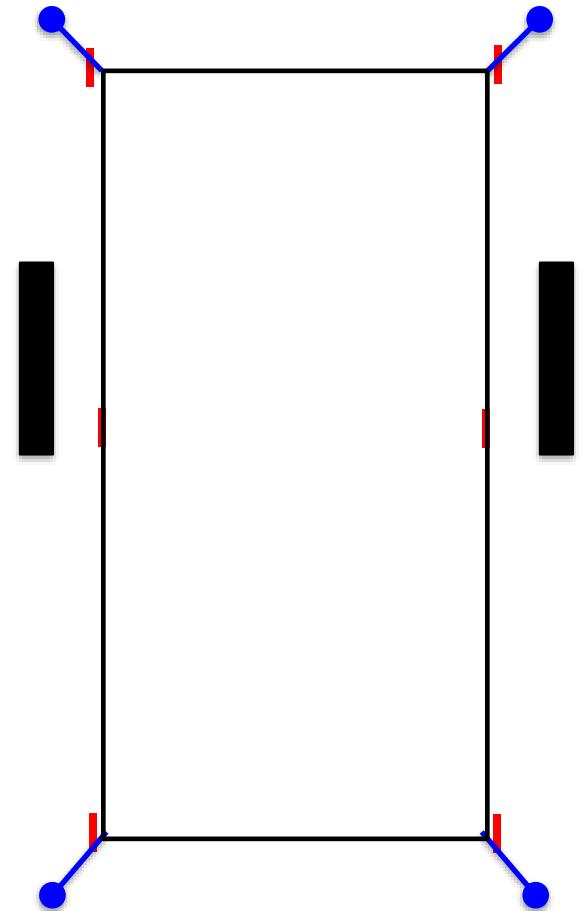
1. Place the court lines so that the outside of each corner is at the recently set court stake
2. Adjust bungee cords holding court anchors (both buried in the sand) so that they hold the court in place
 - *It is important that court lines be taut enough to hold square, without being so tight as to create an increased trip hazard*



Square the Court

4. Set the corners of the court

3. If the court is being set-up for the first time; it is necessary to dig in the sand and place the court anchors
 - *Court anchors should be set at a 45 degree angle to the corner*
4. If the court has previously been set-up, it may be necessary to “re-dig” the sand anchors to hold the court in the correct position



Square the Court

5. Center the net between posts

1. Loosen both antennas at the top and bottom of the net
2. Adjust the position of the net by sliding it on the net cables until it is an equal distance from each post
 - *If equipment is not adjustable, then set the lines and antennae keeping safety and fairness in mind*
3. Following the centering adjustment, make sure the net is pulled tight, then secure each antenna at the top and bottom in the proper position

**How do I check the net height
and place the antennas?**

The Net

Net Length: 28' (8.5m)

Net height at center:

- Men 2.43 m (7' 11 5/8")
- Women 2.24 m (7' 4 1/8")
- Net height can be 3/4" higher at antennae

Net height for age groups

- 16 years and under
- 14 years and under
- 12 years and under

Female

- 2.24 m (7' 4 1/8")
- 2.24 m (7' 4 1/8")
- 2.12 m (6' 11 1/2")

Male

- 2.43 m (7' 11 5/8")
- 2.24 m (7' 4 1/8")
- 2.12 m (6' 11 1/2")

Antennae are required

- If there are no antennae, the net post should be considered the net "out" limit



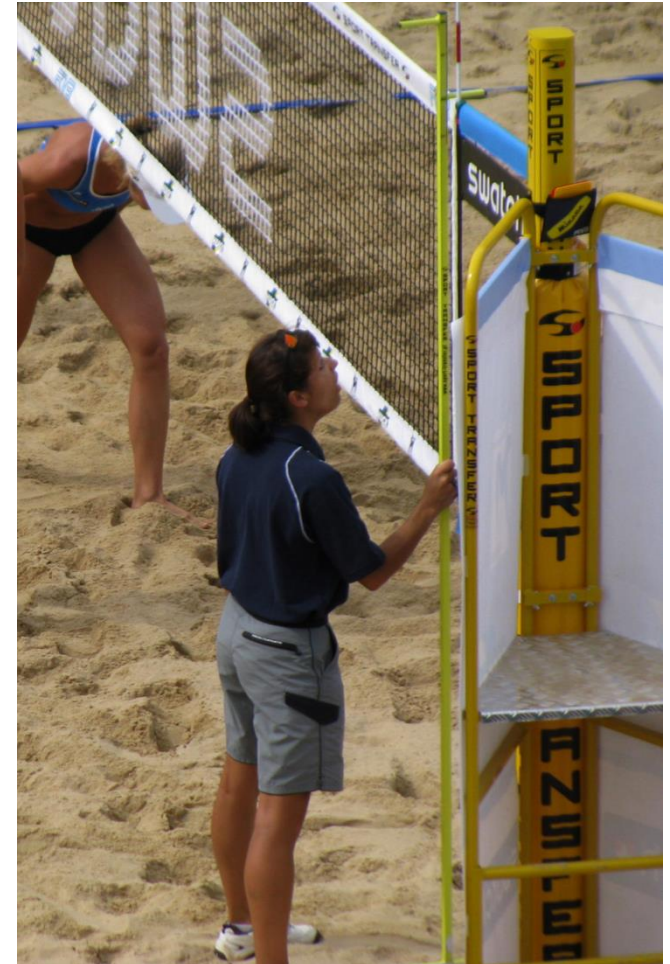
Net Height

- **Begin with a level surface**
 - When necessary, rake the sand under the net prior to checking net height
 - Often, the sand is higher under the antenna and should be raked toward the center of the court under the net



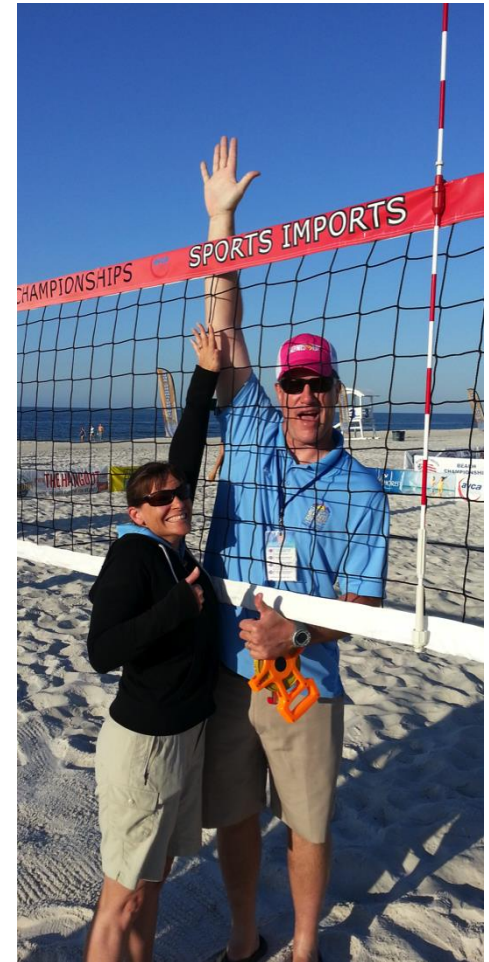
Net Height

- If available, use a measuring pole to verify net height
 - *Net height chains are not used on the beach*
 - Start in the center of the court and verify the net height
 - Then move to a position about a foot inside each antenna to measure the net height again
 - A variance 2cm (or $\frac{3}{4}$ ") is allowed from the center of the court to the antenna



Net Height

- Net height measuring poles are not always available
 - Each official should know on their arm / hand where the net height should reach
- *Everyone will have a different mark!*



Antenna Placement

- Ensure each antenna is set straight up and down above outside edge of each side line
- Secure the antenna tightly to top and bottom of net
- Check for any potential safety hazards on the antenna
 - *Example: Broken plastic, rusted connectors – apply white athletic tape over safety hazards*

How do I maintain a beach volleyball court?

Court Maintenance

- **Leveling** the court means making the sand as flat as possible
 - Sometimes leveling is only fine turning the court, other times it is more like using a bull dozer!
 - *Ex: Service reception area, underneath the net and antenna*
- **Grooming** the court involves making changes to the SURFACE of the sand:
 - *Ex: Smoothing lines during timeouts or between sets*



Court Maintenance

A court that has been leveled and groomed



What other questions do you have?

- **Without a net height chain, how should I measure the net height?**
 - As we demonstrated in previous slides, you should know how to smooth the sand under the net, and then use your own arms to measure the net height. Engage the players in this process. If the players disagree about the net height, then use a marked net-height-rod to confirm that the net height is accurate. Remember that on the beach, you can rake the sand to adjust net height!

**This concludes the USAV Beach Court
Preparation and Measurement training**

See you on the BEACH!!!