



## 2021 USA Volleyball Men's Beach Collegiate Challenge FAQ

This Fall, USAV, AVCA, and Stevenson University are partnering to host the first ever *USA Volleyball Men's Beach Collegiate Challenge*. The event is sanctioned by USA Volleyball as part of their National Team Development Program (NTDP). The dates are September 11-12, with a possible qualifier on September 10, at Stevenson University in Owings Mills, Maryland (outside of Baltimore) and the entry fee is \$200 per pair. Here are answers to frequently asked questions from college coaches and administrators:

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*\*Updated August 13, 2021 – The AVCA and USA Volleyball have fielded a series of questions regarding NCAA rules and regulations. Here are the answers to these questions and their corresponding bylaws:*

### **Can Men's Indoor SA's play in this event if they have started their fall training block for indoor?**

No. We recommend coaches not begin their fall training block until after the event concludes. Here are the bylaws specific to this question:

- Division I: [17.33.3\(e\)](#)
- Division II: [14.7.5.1\(d\)](#)
- Division III: [14.7.3\(d\)](#)

### **Can student-athletes play in this event if they have NOT started their fall training block?**

Yes. If the fall training dates have not begun, NCAA athletes are eligible to participation. Here are the bylaws specific to this question:

- Division I: [17.33.3\(e\)](#)
- Division II: [14.7.5.1\(d\)](#)
- Division III: [14.7.3\(d\)](#)

### **Can coaches coach their team?**

Yes, but only at the event itself. Any training or practice will need to be conducted without coach instruction. Here are the bylaws specific to this question:

- Division I: [17.1.1.1](#)
- Division II: [16.8.1.2.1](#)
- Division III: [16.8.1.3.1](#)

### **Can teams wear school gear and be sponsored by their institutions?**

Yes, because the tournament is a USA Volleyball National Team event, student-athletes may wear their school uniforms. Here are the bylaws specific to this question:

- Division I: [17.02.8.1](#)
- Division II: [17.02.8.1](#)
- Division III: [17.02.9.1](#)

### **Does the event count as a non-traditional playing date?**

No, the tournament is an exempt event that does not count against dates during the non-traditional season. Here are the NCAA bylaws specific to this question:

- Division I: [17.33.3\(e\)](#)
  - Division II: [14.7.5.1\(d\)](#)
  - Division III: [14.7.3\(d\)](#)
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### **Why are USA Volleyball & Stevenson University partnering on this event?**

Currently there is a gap in the 18-22 age range in the USAV pipeline for developing international-level male beach players. Stevenson University built four quality beach courts for their women's team and has interest in adding a beach volleyball program for men. This event allows the USAV NTDP scouts to evaluate talent in the appropriate age group while offering Stevenson University the opportunity to host a college men's beach event.

### **Can current players on a varsity men's indoor team compete in this event?**

Yes, NCAA Bylaw 20 and 17 allow participation in NGB-sanctioned, NTDP-events by current student-athletes outside the playing and practice season. The dates are exempt from counting in the institution's declared playing and practice season.

**Can the university pay the \$200 entry fee and SA expenses?** Yes, but they are not required to; SA may self-fund. Coaches may not fund SA participation.

### **How many pairs are expected to compete?**

The main draw will include 16 pairs (12 in on points and 4 teams from a qualifier). Max qualifier size is 16.

### **Who can compete? Can schools send more than one pair?**

Applications are open to any college/university male student over 18 who is enrolled in at least six credit hours and is a U.S. citizen. Partners must come from the same school and wear matching school-branded uniforms. USAV reserves the right to select the participants should there be more than 32 pairs that apply and to limit participation to a maximum of three pairs per school.

### **What is the format of the tournament?**

Depending on the number of pairs competing, the exact format is still TBD. Pairs will compete in at least one round of pool play before playing a single elimination tournament. Format will be finalized 10-14 days before tournament.

### **Can coaches attend the event and coach their pair(s)?**

Yes, coaches can attend the tournament and coach their competing players(s), but NCAA rules do not permit extra training days to prepare for the event or select the participants.

**Can coaches select the players who represent their school?** Yes, coaches may select those players most likely to succeed in a NTDP.

### **How does a pair register? Is there a deadline to register? What is required to register?**

A registration link is being prepared through USA Volleyball and will be shared when ready.

The deadline to register is **Friday, August 27**.

Pairs must provide the following at time of registration:

- Letter from the school or University attending
- Copy of passport, birth certificate or driver's license

### **What is the Covid protocol for the event?**

All attendees (athletes, coaches, etc.) will either need to provide a proof of vaccination or a negative PCR covid test a maximum of 72 hours before the event for unvaccinated individuals.

### **Who are the individuals organizing the event?**

Here are the individuals involved with the event:

- **Tournament Director: Melissa Weymouth**, USAV Director of Beach National Team Events & Sponsorship
  - [melissa.weymouth@usav.org](mailto:melissa.weymouth@usav.org)
  - (719) 228-6800
- **Carolina Garbato**, USAV Beach National Team Development Program Manager
  - [carolina.garbato@usav.org](mailto:carolina.garbato@usav.org)
- **Brett Adams**, Stevenson University, Director of Athletics
  - [bcadams@stevenson.edu](mailto:bcadams@stevenson.edu)
- **Aldis Berzins**, Head Men's VB Coach at Stevenson University
  - [aberzins@stevenson.edu](mailto:aberzins@stevenson.edu)
- **Megan Burgdorf**, Beach Volleyball Consulting, Advisor to AVCA on Men's Collegiate Beach
  - [megan@beachvolleyballconsulting.com](mailto:megan@beachvolleyballconsulting.com)
- **Brad Wilson**, AVCA Director of Men and Boys' Volleyball
  - [Bradley.wilson@avca.org](mailto:Bradley.wilson@avca.org)

### **What are the plans for college men's beach volleyball?**

NAIA schools are already sponsoring and adding varsity college men's beach teams and several NCAA schools are sponsoring men's beach at the club level. USAV and AVCA will continue to explore options for developing opportunities for men to excel and train in this Olympic sport.