



## **2023 USA VOLLEYBALL BEACH TOUR QUALIFIER MANUAL**

The following manual contains information regarding the USA Volleyball Beach Tour and the qualifying process for the USA Volleyball Beach Tour National Championship

(Updated August 2022)

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## **INTRODUCTION**

USA Volleyball (USAV) is recognized by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee as the National Governing Body for the sport of volleyball in the United States, including the disciplines of beach, indoor and sitting volleyball.

The purpose of the USA Volleyball Beach Tour Qualifier Manual (USAVBTQM) is to publish the standards established by USAV for the USA Volleyball Beach Tour (USAVBT) and to explain the process of qualification at the USA Volleyball Beach Tour National Championship (USAVBNC) through both Beach Regional Qualifiers (BRQ) and Beach National Qualifiers (BNQ).

Beach Regional Qualifier events are solely run and operated by the Regional Volleyball Associations (i.e. Chesapeake Region, Florida Region, etc.) and must comply with the parameters set forth in this manual.

Beach National Qualifier events are licensed by USAV and must operate within the parameters set forth by USAV.

The USA Volleyball Beach Tour Qualifier Manual is intended to be a resource to those hosting and attending BNQs, BRQs, and the USA Volleyball Beach Tour National Championship.

## **MANUAL CHANGES**

The USA Volleyball Beach Tour Qualifier Manual (USAVBTQM) is a corporate document. Suggestions to change the USAVBTQM and the qualifying process come from the RVAA, in conjunction with USA Volleyball. Suggested changes must follow a review process, determined by USAV; changes that have monetary or legal significance may also require a review by USAV. Once a suggested change is approved, the implementation may take up to two full seasons.

The USA Volleyball Beach Events Department annually updates the USAVBTQM and distributes an electronic copy of the updated version to each USAV Region. Updates to the USAVBTQM will be posted on the USA Volleyball website.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Bid:** A bid is an invitation to each member of a qualifying team to play in the BNC. To use the bid, a team or individual must meet all entry deadlines and other requirements set by both their USAV Region and the USAV National office.

**BNC:** USA Volleyball Beach Tour National Championship

**BNQ:** Beach National Qualifier; specific events licensed by USAV to be run by either USAV, Regional organizations or promoters.

**BRQ:** Beach Regional Qualifier; specific events hosted and run by Regional Volleyball Associations

**Bracket Play:** A tree diagram that represents the series of games played during a knockout tournament

**Event:** Multiple tournaments or activities associated within the same title, sanction and host organization.

**IMPACT:** (Increased Mastery and Professional Application of Coaching Theory) USA Volleyball currently has a minimum level coaching education requirement to coach a USAV Junior Volleyball program. Completion of a USAV IMPACT course or IMPACT clinic webinar meets this requirement. For more information, please refer to [www.usavolleyball.org](http://www.usavolleyball.org).

**Match:** Best 2 out of 3 sets. The first two sets are played to 21 pts. Third set (tie breaker) is played to 15 pts. Sets must be won by a minimum of 2 pts.

**Performance-Based Seeding:** A team's seeding after pool play based on their win/loss record and point ratio vs all other teams that finished in the same place in their pools.

**Pool Play:** A round robin of play within a determined group.

**Results:** The outcome of a competition. This may also be referred to as a "place or finish"

**RVA:** Regional Volleyball Association of USA Volleyball.

**Sanction:** Recognition and coverage of a given event, and/or tournament within an event, by either an RVA or the USAV National Office.

**Seeding:** The order in which teams are ranked to begin a tournament. For the BNQs and USAVBTNC, seeding will utilize the points awarded on the USA National Beach Ranking System.

**Set/Game:** Single game to pre-determined point total.

**"Snake method":** The sequence in which the seeded teams are placed in a pool so the ranked teams are equally distributed.

**Tournament:** Competition of a specific group of teams (i.e. Girls' 16 & Under Open Tournament) that could also be known as a "Championship."

**USAVBTQM:** USA Volleyball Beach Tour Qualifier Manual

**USAV:** USA Volleyball, the National Governing Body (NGB) for Volleyball.

## **BEACH REGIONAL QUALIFIERS (BRQs) - OVERVIEW**

The primary purpose of the BRQs is to select, through tournament competition, teams in various age divisions to compete in the American Division at the BNC. There are several secondary purposes for the BRQs, including:

- Provide a high level of competition for teams at different levels within each age division.
- Showcase junior talent for college recruiters and National Team programs.
- Promote the growth and development of volleyball in a geographic area.
- Provide a training ground for officials.

**BRQ Hosting Requirements** If you wish to host a BRQ, contact your USA Volleyball Region Beach/Outdoor Representative to obtain sanctioning approval and fill out the [Event Affiliation Form](#).

### **Minimum requirements to host a BRQ:**

- Event must be sanctioned by your USA Volleyball Region
- Must provide equal opportunity for both boys & girls to compete
- All participants must be current USA Volleyball members
- **Athletes that are 18 years old must complete Safe Sport Training**
- **All coaches and event staff must be a USAV member, impact certified, pass a background screen, and be Safe Sport Trained.**
- **No alcohol can be served during any BRQ events**
- Results must be submitted within 3-5 days after the event completion for posting on the USAV Beach Rankings *(Results must be submitted to Kristin Stanley ([kristin@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:kristin@floridavolleyball.org)) in the approved format, details can be found by [CLICKING HERE](#))*

### **Recommended “Best Practices”**

- Athletic trainer available on-site
- Head Official available for the duration of the tournament
- Adhere to the USAV Beach Tournament Dress Code (see below)
- Prizes are nice to have if available. USAV does not supply prizes.
- Utilize USAV recommended tournament software and submit results *(Results must be submitted in the [approved format](#))*

## **BRQ Tournament Guidelines**

### **Junior Player Age Classification and Definition**

USA Volleyball offers junior beach competition to boys and girls ages 10 to 18 years. Each gender has the following age divisions: 12 and Under (12U), 14 and Under (14U), 16 and Under (16U), 18 and Under (18U).

Please refer to USA Volleyball’s [website](#) for the full age group definitions.

## Team Entries

Teams are comprised of two (2) male or two (2) female players. Coed teams are allowed in the 12's and 14's divisions only. Co-Ed teams will play against other girls or boys teams depending on amount of teams registered for the tournament. Note: If a team qualifies for the National Championship they will not be allowed to play as a co-ed team. However, each individual player can use their bid to play with another player of the same gender. Teams are permitted to "play up", but athletes cannot compete in younger age groups.

In efforts to increase **BOYS** participation: if there are two (2) or less boys' teams per division, then the following adjustments in format are permitted:

1. Combine boys' division age groups (12U & 14U, 14U & 16U, 16U & 18U) to create a minimum of three (3) team pools.
2. Combine the boys' teams with the girls' teams in the age group deemed appropriate by the tournament director.
  - a. This **will not** prevent the girls' teams from making the playoffs or affect their seeding out of pool.
  - b. Boy's teams will not advance outside of pool. The boy's teams will compete for medals. If there is only one team, then they will receive the bid for their division.
  - c. In the case that there is only one (1) Boys 18U team, and they are only eligible to compete in the 18U division (not a younger team, playing up), tournament directors may award the team a Boys' 18U bid, but cancel the division/refund the team.

The above mentioned are **NOT** rules but rather guidelines. If the host/director elects to follow these guidelines, they need to access the ability of the boys to determine which girls' age/division would be most appropriate for the boys to compete in.

## USA Volleyball Beach Events Dress Code/Attire (RECOMMENDED)

Uniforms are not required but are encouraged. All athletes are REQUIRED to wear a top, for girls it must cover your midsection when standing, and bottoms such as spandex, shorts or leggings. No bikinis will be permitted for any team. For boys it must be a tank top or t-shirt that covers the midsection when standing, and bottoms such as board shorts, athletic shorts. No brief type swim trunks.

Coaches must be in proper coaching attire throughout the tournament – polo shirt, long sleeve shirt, t-shirt, tank top, jacket, long pants, leggings, shorts and hat if desired. Mid sections should be covered at all times and no brief type of swim trunks.

## BRQ Tournament Formats (RECOMMENDED)

BRQ Tournaments may be 1-day or 2-day events should the Tournament Director choose. These are NOT rules but rather guidelines.

- BRQ events are recommended to utilize the “snake” method for seeding pools. Seeding should be based on the USAV Rankings.
- Wave play option must have enough daylight and or lights to be able to accommodate the listed options of format to complete the tournament.
- In a **1-day format**, pool play should consist of one of the following:
  - 1 game/set (to 28pts) for 4 team pools and 1 game/set (to 21pts) for 5 team pools. These point totals should equal 84 points for each team.
  - 2 games/sets (to 21) for 4 team pools and 3 games/sets (to 21) for 3 team pools. These point totals should equal 126 points for each team.
  - 1 game/set (to 28) for 4 team pools and 2 games/sets (to 21) for 3 team pools. These point totals should equal 84 points for each team
- In the **1-day format**, pool play must be a single elimination playoff bracket and is under the discretion of the tournament director to host top two or all teams to a Gold or Silver playoff bracket.
- In a **2-day format**, Day One should consist of one of the following:
  - 4 or 5 team pools playing match play (best 2 out of 3 games/sets; first 2 games/sets to 21 points; game/set 3, if needed, to 15 points).
  - If there is a 11-team division, it is recommended to have 2- 4 team pools and 1 – 3 team pools. Each pool playing match play (2 games/sets to 21, tie breaker to 15)
- In the **2-day format**, pool play should be a single elimination or double elimination playoff bracket and is also under the discretion of the tournament director to host the top two teams or all teams to a gold or silver playoff bracket.
- Gold Playoff Brackets will be based on top two or three (if 5 team pool) teams from each pool advance and are seeded based on either performance-based seating or pool -based seeding. USA Volleyball recommends performance-based seeding. Silver Playoffs will be based on bottom one (if 3 team pool) or two teams from each pool advance and are seeded on performance-based seeding or pool-based seeding

All Gold playoff brackets are recommended to have match (2 games/sets to 21pts, tie breaker to 15pts) play for final, semi-final and third place games. If all four players agree and prefer to play just 1 set to 28 points that is acceptable.

## BRQ Registrations

While it is recommended to use the USA Volleyball preferred registration system, BRQ Hosts are welcome to use a registration system of their own choice. Additionally, BRQ hosts have the option to make their event open only to members of their USAV Region or open to all USAV Members.

- **International Teams** – If the BRQ Host permits, International Teams may be allowed to compete, however they must first submit paperwork to the USA Volleyball National Office before they can

register. International Teams must confirm with the BRQ Host that they can compete, then send a letter of interest to: [BeachEvents@usav.org](mailto:BeachEvents@usav.org).

## **BRQ Bids/Awards, Results, and Points**

### **Bid and Awards**

**FOR THE GIRLS' DIVISIONS:** Both athletes of the top three (3) finishing teams (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) in the Gold playoff bracket will receive bids in to AMERICAN DIVISION of the USAV Beach Tour National Championship. Third place **must** be played to determine **one (1) 3<sup>rd</sup> place team**.

**FOR THE BOYS' DIVISIONS:** ALL PARTICIPATING teams will receive bids to the OPEN DIVISION of the USAV Beach Tour National Championship.

Bid certificates are supplied by USA Volleyball to each USAV Region. BRQ hosts must contact their USAV Region representative to obtain bid certificates prior to the start of their event.

- **The top 3 finishing GIRLS teams** receive bids and bid certificates to the AMERICAN DIVISION.
- **All participating BOYS teams** receive bids and bid certificates to the OPEN DIVISION.

**Trickledown Bids (For Girls' Divisions Only):** BRQ bids for girls' divisions may trickledown, but no further than 5<sup>th</sup> place. When ties occur, the 5<sup>th</sup> place trickles down against the field at the event. Bids trickledown **ONLY** when BOTH athletes of a team either declines the bid or has already earned a bid. If one of the players of the team accepts the bid, the remaining individual bid does not trickle down. **Bids may only trickle down for the current event taking place and may not be used at other BRQ events.**

\* Example: Of the final four 5<sup>th</sup> place teams, the bid will first trickledown to the team that was seeded highest at the start of the event. If this team declines the bid, the offer would go to the next highest seeded team prior to the event and so on.

**Awards** are nice if available. USA Volleyball does not supply prizes to BRQs.

**Results and Points:** All BRQ results must be uploaded into the USA National Beach Ranking System within 3-5 days following the event. Results must be submitted to Kristin Stanley ([kristin@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:kristin@floridavolleyball.org)) in the approved format, details can be found by [CLICKING HERE](#)

**BRQ SCHEDULE:** <https://usavolleyball.org/compete/usavolleyball-beach-tour/>

QUESTIONS ABOUT BRQ BIDS? [CHECK OUT OUR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS!](#) BEACH NATIONAL QUALIFIERS (BNQs) - OVERVIEW



The primary purpose of BNQs is to select, through tournament competition, teams in various age divisions to compete in the Open Division at the USAVBNC. There are several secondary purposes for the BNQs, including:

- Promote inter-regional play.
- Provide a high level of competition for teams at different levels within each age division.
- Showcase junior talent for college recruiters and National Team programs.
- Promote the growth and development of volleyball in a geographic area.
- Provide a training ground for officials.

**BNQ Hosting Requirements:** If you wish to host a BNQ, contact your USA Volleyball Region Beach/Outdoor Representative.

**Minimum requirements to host a BNQ:**

- Event must be sanctioned by your USAV Region & the USAV Beach National Office
- BNQs **CANNOT** be combined with other qualifier events or organizations
- **All coaches and event staff must be a USAV member, Impact Certified, pass a background screen, and be Safe Sport Trained.**
- All participants must be current USA Volleyball members
- **Athletes that are or will be 18 years old during the event must complete Safe Sport Training**
- Must offer both boys & girls divisions for each age group
- BNQs must provide an Athletic trainer to be available on-site
- Head Official available for the duration of the tournament
- Must adhere to the USAV Beach Tournament Dress Code (see below)
- BNQs must utilize USAV preferred registration and tournament software
- BNQs may only use the Molten BV5000 Elite Beach Volleyball
- No competing sponsors of USAV are allowed at BNQ events (signage, vendors etc.)  
(A list of USAV sponsors is available upon request)

**BNQ Tournament Guidelines:**

**Junior Player Age Classification and Definition**

USA Volleyball offers junior beach competition to boys and girls ages 10 to 18 years. Each gender has the following age divisions: 12 and Under (12U), 14 and Under (14U), 16 and Under (16U), 18 and Under (18U).

Please refer to USA Volleyball's [website](#) for the full age definition (scroll down to view Age Definitions).

**Team Entries**

Teams are comprised of two (2) male or two (2) female players. Coed teams are allowed in the 12's and 14's divisions only. Co-Ed teams will play against other girls or boys teams depending on amount of teams registered for the tournament. Note: If a team qualifies for the National Championship they will not be allowed to play as a co-ed team. However, each individual player can use their bid to play with another player of the same gender. Teams are permitted to "play up", but athletes cannot compete in younger age groups.

Athletes who are or will be 18 years old during the event **must be Safe Sport Trained**.

In efforts to increase BOYS participation: if there are two (2) or less boys teams per division, then the following adjustments in format are permitted:

1. Combine boys division age groups (12U & 14U, 14U & 16U, 16U & 18U) to create a minimum of three (3) team pools.
2. Combine the boys teams with the girls teams in the age group deemed appropriate by the tournament director.
  - a. This will not prevent the girls' teams from making the playoffs or affect their seeding out of pool.
  - b. Boy's teams will not advance outside of pool. The boy's teams will compete for medals. If there is only one team, then they will receive the bid for their division.
  - c. In the case that there is only one (1) Boys 18U team, and they are only eligible to compete in the 18U division (not a younger team, playing up), tournament directors may award the team a Boys' 18U bid, but cancel the division/refund the team.

The above mentioned are **NOT** rules but rather guidelines. If the host/director elects to follow these guidelines, they need to assess the ability of the boys to determine which girls' age/division would be most appropriate for the boys to compete in.

### **USA Volleyball Beach Events Dress Code/Attire (REQUIRED)**

Uniforms are not required but are encouraged. All athletes are REQUIRED to wear a top, for girls it must cover your midsection when standing, and bottoms such as spandex, shorts or leggings. No bikinis will be permitted for any team. For boys it must be a tank top or t-shirt that covers the midsection when standing, and bottoms such as board shorts, athletic shorts. No brief type swim trunks.

Coaches must be in proper coaching attire throughout the tournament – polo shirt, long sleeve shirt, t-shirt, tank top, jacket, long pants, leggings, shorts, and hat if desired. Mid sections should be covered at all times and no brief type of swim trunks.

### **BNQ Tournament Formats (RECOMMENDED)**

- BNQ events must use the USAV Rankings for tournament seeding and utilize the "snake" method for pool placements.

- Wave play option must have enough daylight and or lights to be able to accommodate the listed options of format to complete the tournament.

BNQ Tournaments may be 1-day, or 2-day events should the Tournament Director choose. These are NOT rules but rather guidelines. Formats may be modified as needed, **with approval from USAV. BNQ Host must provide the proposed tournament format to the USAV Beach Events Department at least 5 days prior to the start of the event.**

- In a **1-day format**, pool play should consist of one of the following:
  - 1 game/set (to 28pts) for 4 team pools and 1 game/set (to 21pts) for 5 team pools. These point totals should equal 84 points for each team.
  - 2 games/sets (to 21) for 4 team pools and 3 games/sets (to 21) for 3 team pools. These point totals should equal 126 points for each team.
  - 1 game/set (to 28) for 4 team pools and 2 games/sets (to 21) for 3 team pools. These point totals should equal 84 points for each team
- In the **1-day format**, pool play must be a single elimination playoff bracket and is under the discretion of the tournament director to host top two or all teams to a Gold or Silver playoff bracket.
- In a **2-day format**, Day One should consist of one of the following:
  - 4 or 5 team pools playing match play (best 2 out of 3 games/sets; first 2 games/sets to 21 points; game/set 3, if needed, to 15 points).
  - If there is a 11-team division, it is recommended to have 2- 4 team pools and 1 – 3 team pools. Each pool playing match play (2 games/sets to 21, tie breaker to 15)
- In the **2-day format**, pool play should be a single elimination or double elimination playoff bracket and is also under the discretion of the tournament director to host the top two teams or all teams to a gold or silver playoff bracket.
- Gold Playoff Brackets will be based on top two or three (if 5 team pool) teams from each pool advance and are seeded based on either performance-based seeding or pool -based seeding. USA Volleyball recommends performance-based seeding. Silver Playoffs will be based on bottom one (if 3 team pool) or two teams from each pool advance and are seeded on performance-based seeding or pool-based seeding

All Gold playoff brackets are recommended to have match (2 games/sets to 21pts, tie breaker to 15pts) play for final, semi-final and third place games. If all four players agree and prefer to play just 1 set to 28 points that is acceptable.

## BNQ Registrations

All teams and coaches are required to register online by the event deadlines posted on the event website. If a division becomes full prior to the deadline teams may be placed on a waiting list. Information and updates will be posted as soon as possible to the event website.

All BNQ events will utilize the USAV approved beach event management software. All registration information and requirements will be posted on the event website.

- **TEAM REGISTRATION** – to register a team visit the [USA Volleyball Website](#) and follow the links to register you team.
  - Entry Deadline: 12:00 PM noon Pacific Time the Wednesday before each BNQ event.
  - At the discretion of the Tournament Director, the entry deadline may be pushed to a later time. Any late or walk-up teams must still register online via the USAV registration system.
    - \*Registration accepted on a space available basis only. No seeding with walk-up registration.
  
- **INTERNATIONAL TEAMS** – International teams are permitted to participate in BNQ events, but must first complete required paperwork before they may register. International Teams interested in competing in a BNQ must contact [BeachEvents@usav.org](mailto:BeachEvents@usav.org)
  
- **REGISTRATION – COACHES** - All coaches wishing to coach at the BNQ must register online at the event website and **MUST** meet all of the following requirements:
  - Be a current USA Volleyball Member
  - Complete annual SafeSport training
  - Background Screened
  - IMPACT Certified
  1. Coaches must register by the **Wednesday before the event at 12:00 PM noon Pacific Time.**
  2. No late or walk-up registration will be permitted, unless the tournament host has the ability to verify a coach’s certifications onsite.
    - a. Any late or walk up coaches must register online via Bracket Pal upon verification by the Tournament Host.
  3. Coaches will be required to wear wrist bands (or other designated form of identification for the event) when interacting with athletes and/or on the field of play.
  4. Coaches working with more than one (1) team, only need to register once per event but **MUST** identify the teams they are coaching to the tournament staff.
  
- **ON-SITE REGISTRATION AND CHECK IN**
  - Prior to beginning of play, a Team (**both players only**) should confirm a team’s presence at the tournament by checking in at the Tournament Desk.

- It is the teams' responsibility to confirm their court and pool assignment.

## **BNQ Bids/Awards, Results, and Points**

### **Bid and Awards**

**FOR THE GIRLS' DIVISIONS:** Both athletes of the **top four (4)** finishing teams (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>) in the Gold playoff bracket will receive bids in to OPEN DIVISION of the USAV Beach Tour National Championship, regardless of division size. Third place **must** be played to determine **one (1) 3<sup>rd</sup> place winning team.**

**FOR THE BOYS' DIVISIONS:** ALL PARTICIPATING teams will receive bids to the OPEN DIVISION of the USAV Beach Tour National Championship.

BNQ Bids **DO NOT** trickledown.

Bid certificates are supplied by USA Volleyball and will be provided prior to the event. Qualified teams will all receive bids to the **OPEN DIVISION** of the USA Volleyball Beach Tour National Championship.

**Awards** must be given to both members of a team finishing 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> in their respective age and gender division. No awards other than USA Volleyball approved awards may be given out at a BNQ Event. Bid certificates must also be distributed to the top 4 teams finishing in each age group at a BNQ Event. USA Volleyball will provide prizes to first place bid winners only.

**Results and Points:** All BNQ results must be completed as soon as possible in order to be uploaded into the **USA National Beach Ranking System within 2 days following the event.** Results will be uploaded by USAV Beach Events Staff, but BNQ Hosts are responsible for ensuring results are completed and accurate.

**BNQ SCHEDULE:** <https://usavolleyball.org/compete/usavolleyball-beach-tour/>

**FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING USAV RULES OF PLAY, PLEASE VIEW THE [CURRENT USAV BEACH RULES BOOK.](#)**

**QUESTIONS ABOUT BNQ BIDS? [CHECK OUT OUR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS!](#)**

## **ADDITIONAL BNQ INFORMATION**

### **Team Officiating Duties**

The event must publish officiating assignment schedule for the teams. Teams must fulfill all their scheduled officiating assignments. These officiating schedules should be posted on the pool sheet. At the first round of bracket play, teams will be assigned officiating duties. After this round, the losing team will officiate the next game on that court.

Teams should acknowledge which player is first referee. The other player would be considered second referee and scorer for all assigned matches (unless an assigned match has a certified official as first referee). If a match is assigned a certified official, then the officiating team should both work as second referee and assist with scoring.

- A team that fails to officiate their assignment at the time the court is ready to proceed will be penalized by losing points in the first game/set of its next match.
  - For every minute, an officiating team is late to fulfill its assignment, one point will be awarded to that team's next opponent in the first game/set of the next match, up to a maximum of either 21 or 28 points, whichever minimum is being used to win the next game/set.
- A team may forfeit its entire next match for failing, a second time, to show up for their officiating assignment.
- A team that leaves the tournament after being eliminated, without completing their final officiating assignment will not be awarded their ranking points from the tournament.

Teams choosing not to play a match are still required to fulfill the officiating assignments that come from forfeiting/losing a match.

### **Head Official**

BNQs must provide a Head Official for each day at a minimum. The Head Official will ensure all teams are following the rules of play. It is recommended that the Head Official act as the first referee for the semi-final and final matches of each Gold Division playoff bracket. More than one official may be needed to cover all semi-final and final matches.

### **Warm-Up Protocol**

Timed warm-ups (10 minutes total): Only the four players share unlimited access to the entire court (Use good sportsmanship)

**Including a coin toss at seven minutes.**

## Competition Format Details in Appendix B

### Recommended Facility Requirements

It is recommended that an event have enough space for four (4) teams in each division offered.

All facilities must conform to the safety guidelines in the current USAV Domestic Competition Regulations.

- The playing court is a rectangle measuring 16 x 8 m (52'6" x 26'3"), surrounded by a free zone, which is a minimum of 3 m (9'10") wide on all sides.
- Free space for courts that are side by side is 4.5 m (15') from playing line to playing line.
- Free space for courts that are end to end is 6 m (19' 6") from end line to end line.
- The free playing space is the space above the playing area, which is free from all obstructions.
- The free playing space shall measure a minimum of 7 m (23') in height from the playing surface.

Players referee the opponents' matches. **See Appendix B** for more details.

### Safety Standards for Participants

#### Outdoor Safety

- Stay hydrated.
- Use sunscreen, as well as clothing and headgear that protects from sun exposure.
- Be prepared for cold or wet weather as well as for heat and sun!

A certified ATC must be present always and available to assist participants during the event. ATC must come equipped with all necessary equipment and supplies.

### Alcohol Policy

USAV prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages during all junior events. Even with this rule there are situations where alcohol might be adjacent to a junior event due to the location of the event. Many facilities which have volleyball courts also have restaurants and bars located within or adjacent to the facility. When this occurs, the event director should take special precautions to limit alcohol reaching the viewing area of the courts and to limit junior access to the area where liquor is being sold. Below are recommendations for conducting a safe event for juniors where alcohol is present:

1. The viewing area where spectators are present should clearly denote alcohol is not permitted in the general viewing area.
2. Volunteers should be instructed to be on alert for patrons possessing alcoholic beverages and how to deal with the situation.
3. There should be separate access for juniors to access the playing area. This area must be separate from the area where alcohol is served.
4. There must be a clear pathway to restrooms that is clear of alcohol being served or sold.



5. The area where alcohol is served and consumed should be roped off and clearly indicated that no juniors are allowed.
6. No alcohol is permitted in the areas where the junior event is held.
7. The facility must have its own liquor license and insurance which should be properly posted.
8. Alcohol signage should be removed or covered whenever possible, especially from court signage (net tapes, ball stops, etc.)
9. The event, the event director, USAV, and the club should be included as additional insureds under the liquor license.

If you should encounter any additional questions regarding this issue, please contact the USAV Beach Events Department at (719) 228-6800.

## Inclement Weather

Athletes and coaches will be expected to continue in wind or rain that does not present a threat of danger to the participants. Under no circumstances will athletes be allowed to participate when lightning, tornados or other dangerous weather is present in the area. The following criteria will result in a postponed tournament:

- **Lightning:** The Tournament Director must monitor the weather. When 30 seconds (10 miles) or fewer occur between seeing the lightning flash and hearing its associated thunder, all individuals must leave the venue site and take cover at a safer structure or location. Before resuming play, 30 minutes must pass after both the last sound of thunder and the last flash of lightning. If lightning is seen without thunder being heard, it may be out of range and therefore less likely to be a significant threat (Source: [ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)). Weather should be monitored at: <http://www.weather.gov>.
- **Rain:** The Tournament Director is responsible to monitor rain to cancel or postpone a tournament, rainfall must be significant and pose a threat to the athletes by creating excessive puddles and hard divots in the sand.
- **Wind:** While all beach volleyball athletes must be prepared to contend with windy playing conditions, wind gusts of over 25 miles create a safety hazard at tournaments and equipment (poles, nets, etc.) may become unstable. When winds on the sand are measured at 25 mph or higher, the Tournament Director may postpone tournament activities or cancel the tournament entirely.
- **Heat:** The Tournament Director is recommended to run a Wet Bulb Globe Test (WGBT) to assess the Heat Stress, a combination of temperature, relative humidity, and radiant heat, at the start of each tournament. The American College of Sports Medicine has produced guidelines regarding how an event should consider reacting to various weather conditions. The ACSM has purposely avoided creating a strict cancellation

standard, stating that it does not want to handcuff an event director; rather it offers recommendations about the course of action that should be taken in various weather conditions. The temperatures in the ACSM guidelines are all WBGTs (wet bulb globe temperatures). The WBGT is an index that takes into account heat (dry bulb), humidity (wet bulb), and the ambient temperature (black bulb, which factors in additional variables such as reflected heat and wind). A WBGT thermometer can be purchased from a medical supply house for about \$100.00.

### **ACSM Heat and Humidity Recommended Guidelines:**

\*Wet Bulb Globe Temperature and action recommendations vary by state.  
Confirm actions with local guidelines

**WBGT >82° F (>28° C) Black Flag:** Cancel or recommend voluntary withdrawal. (Events that are always held in these conditions should acknowledge the extreme heat risk to the poorly acclimated and non-resident competitors in literature and announcements). The risk for developing heat illness is extremely high when the Wet-Bulb Globe Temperature is greater than 82° F (28° C). At these temperatures, athletes should consider rescheduling event for another day or moving it to early morning or late evening to avoid the hottest period of the day. If competition must occur in a hot, humid environment, proper hydration must be strongly encouraged and precautions such as longer and more frequent water breaks, removing equipment during breaks and taking breaks in cool, shaded areas must be taken to prevent heat illness.

**WBGT 73° F - 82° F (23° C - 28° C) Red Flag:** Recommend participants at increased risk for heat collapse withdraw from event and others slow pace to match conditions.

**WBGT 65° F - 72° F (18° C - 22° C) Yellow Flag:** Recommend participants at increased risk for heat collapse slow pace. Warn entrants of increased risk of heat collapse.

**WBGT <65° F (<18° C) Green Flag:** Collapse can still occur. Decreased risk of hyperthermic and hypothermic collapse.

**WBGT <50° F (<10° C) White Flag:** Increased risk of hypothermic collapse

For the most up-to-date information check: [www.ACSM.org](http://www.ACSM.org)

## APPENDIX B: BEACH NATIONAL QUALIFIER COMPETITION FORMAT

Tournament schedule (unless noted otherwise) can be **one day format** or **two-day format** – (See rule **1.5.1 and 1.5.2**). The competition will consist of a set number of pairs per age group and per gender which will compete in pool play (depending on locations number of courts available).

The top two teams in each pool advances to the “Gold” bracket and the bottom two (or remaining teams from each pool) advances to the “Silver” bracket to compete in a single or double elimination bracket playoff at the discretion of the tournament director (**Refer to rule 1.5.5.3**). Gold bracket playoffs finishers 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> place will earn bids to the Open Division at the NBTJC. Matches will be played out until a gold, silver and bronze medal is awarded.

**All competition will be played with the Molten BV5000 and will be provided on site.**

For both genders the USA Volleyball Beach Tour Manual rules will be used as a guideline as well as the USAV Age Requirement Guidelines:

- To access the USA Volleyball Beach Tour Manuals online, click [here](#)
- [USAV Age Guideline](#); scroll down the page to the “Age Definitions” section

**USAV/Event Host reserves the right to amend tournament schedule and format, subject to available courts, number of teams, weather, and any other unforeseen situations.**

1. Competition Format – Beach National Qualifier
  - 1.1.1 Match Play = 2 out of 3 games/sets as follows:
    - a) First and second game/sets 21 Points
      - Switch sides every increment of 7
      - one technical time-out of 60 sec. at third court switch (sum of 21 points)
      - one time-out of 60 sec. per team, per game/set
    - b) Third eventual game/set (tie breaker)
      - 15 points
      - Switch sides every increment of 5
      - One time-out per team of 60 sec.

All sets win by 2 points and intervals between games/sets to be of 1 minute.

- 1.2 Set/Game= Typically a game to 21 or 28
  - a) Set/Game is one game in pool or bracket play.
    - Can be to 21 or 28

- Switch sides every increment of 7
- Game to 21 - one technical time-out of 60 sec. at third court switch (sum of 21 points)
- One time-out per team of 60 sec.
- Game to 28 - one technical time-out of 60 sec. at fourth court switch (sum of 28 points)

All games/sets win by 2 points and intervals between games/sets to be of 1 minute.

1.3 A technical meeting (player, parent, coach meeting) will be held the morning of and prior to start of tournament. The athletes', parents and coach's attendance are recommended.

1.3.1 Both athletes of the team must be present at check in, confirm their presence by submitting their medical release form and attend the player, parent and coach meeting prior to start of tournament. All coaches must also be present and receive their credentials.

1.3.2 If required, pools will be adjusted as needed, if teams are removed or added to tournament.

1.3.3 Finalized pool sheet will be distributed and updated on BracketPal after all teams have confirmed entry and any additional corrections are needed.

1.3.4 If any player/team arrives late or fails to attend the technical meeting, there is a risk of disqualification or loss of first game or match of pool play.

1.4 Pool play = A group of teams playing in a round robin format.

1.4.1 In one-day format, pools will be in groups of three (3), four (4) pairs or five (5). Three (3) team pools will play 3- sets/games to 21. Four (4) team pools will play 2-sets/games to 21. No third/tie breaker set. Then single elimination playoff bracket. Match play (2 games to 21, tie breaker to 15) in semi-final, final and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

1.4.2 In two-day format, pool play will be played over one day in groups of four (4) or five (5) pairs. Each pool will play match play (two games to 21, tie-breaker to 15). Then single or double elimination playoff bracket, match play (2 games to 21, tiebreaker to 15)

1.4.3 The participating pairs of the event must bear all costs related to their travel, board and lodging.

1.4.4 Seeding will utilize the “snake” method for pool play and will be based off USAV’s preferred Ranking System (combined total points) as of registration deadline of event.

1.4.5 Teams, in most cases, can play between 2 - 4 different teams in pool play.

1.4.5.1 If pool play is in single game (set) or sets, then ranking of teams within their Pools for playoffs will be determined by win/loss (sets) record and point ratio

1.4.5.2 If pool play is match play (2 games to 21, tiebreaker to 15), then ranking of teams within their pools for playoffs will be determined by win/loss and point ratio.

Wins	Total game/set won
Losses	Total game/set loss
Point Ratio	Total Points for divided by total points against

1.4.5.3 All pairs will advance to a single or double elimination bracket phase. In the case of 10 or less teams in a division, all teams will advance to the Gold playoff bracket to compete for the Open bids. Divisions with 11 or more teams, the top two teams of each pool advance to the Gold playoff bracket, where they will compete for the Open bids. The bottom remaining teams from each pool advance to the Silver playoff bracket and do not compete for bids.

1.4.5.4 A tie is defined as two or more teams with the same Win/Loss record. In case of a tie in the pools during the round robin, the following rules will apply:

- Between two teams: Head-to-head, is ranked higher. If a tie still exists, then head-to-head points ratio, then total rally point ratio.
- Between three teams: If three teams have a tie, then the top team is determined by the rally points ratio in the matches between the three tied teams. For the remaining two teams, will go head-to-head, if still a tie (split sets) then head-to-head point ratio, if still a tie, then overall point ratio.

- Between four teams: The top two teams are determined by the rally points ratio in the matches between the four tied teams, if still a tie then overall point ratio. Third and fourth teams will be determined by head to head, then head-to-head point ratio, then overall head-to-head point ratio.

**Point Ratio = Points for divided by points against. A higher number is better. (For example: A team plays three (3) games in pool, 21-17, 17-21, 21-15. Take the total number of points a team has earned, 21 + 17 + 21 = 59. Then add the points the team had scored against them, 17 + 21 + 15 = 53. Divide: 59 / 53 = 1.1132 (higher number is best).**

If a tie still exists, then the teams will be determined by highest seed at the beginning of the tournament.

- 1.5 Bracket play will be single elimination or double elimination format.
  - 1.5.1 Playoff seeding is determined by performance-based seeding.
  - 1.5.2 In a one-day format, single elimination format will be 1 game to 28 in Gold and 1 game to 21 in Silver. In a two-day format, single elimination format will be match play (2 games to 21, tiebreaker to 15) in Gold and Silver brackets.
    - Once a team loses its match, they are eliminated from the event.
    - Losing team must remain and ref next match
  - 1.5.3 In a two-day format, double elimination format with crossover will be match play (2 games to 21, tiebreaker to 15) in Gold and Silver brackets.
    - Winners remain in winner bracket
    - A loss in the winner's bracket will put the team in the contender's bracket.
    - A loss in the contender's bracket eliminates the team from the tournament.
    - Losing team in the winners or contenders bracket must ref next match.
  - 1.5.4 Semi-Final, Final and 3<sup>rd</sup> place match in Gold Bracket must be Match Play (2 games to 21, 3<sup>rd</sup> game if necessary, to 15, win by 2).
- 1.6 During the event, accredited coaches will be allowed to sit in the player's area and interact with the players during official warm-up, time-out, and technical time-out and

between games/sets. Pairs wanting to have a coach(es) must identify their coach(es) at the time of registration. Late registration of coaches may not be accepted.

1.6.1 USA Coaches must:

- Be a current USAV member in good standing
- Have successfully completed the SafeSport Training
- Have successfully passed USAV approved background screening
- IMPACT certified

1.6.2 International Coaches must:

- Show proof they are in good standing with their federation
- Be approved by their federation to coach in the USA National Beach Tour Qualifier

1.6.3 Coaches are permitted to coach pairs in both genders.

1.6.4 Pairs are not required to have a coach.

1.6.5 A coach may be registered for more than one team.

1.6.6 Only one team coach will be permitted into the playing area for warm up until the 10 min till start time whistle.

1.6.7 The coach (as well as the team captain) may request Time out by showing the official hand signal and requesting “time out” when the ball is out of play and before the 1st referee’s whistle for service. His/ her contacting official is the 2nd referee should one be appointed. If there is no 2<sup>nd</sup> referee, then the 1<sup>st</sup> referee should be contacted. Requests made after or at the same moment of the 1st Referee’s whistle for service, or requests made after the team has exhausted its time outs in that set, will be regarded as improper requests. Should resumption of the game be delayed by this, the team will be sanctioned for delay.

1.6.8 During a medical timeout, only players may warm up in the playing area.

1.6.9 Teams can have up to two coaches during play, but both coaches must remain on the player’s side of the court or player box (if available).

1.7 Results/ Finishes

1.7.1 After pool play, playoffs can be broken into two playoff brackets, Gold playoff bracket and Silver playoff bracket. Finishes will be started in the Gold playoff bracket followed by the Silver playoff bracket.

- 1.7.2 Gold bracket contains top finishers (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> etc.). Silver bracket top two finishers will receive the same finish as the last finisher in Gold. The remaining teams in Silver will earn places up to the total number of teams in this division.

**For example,** If Gold Playoffs had 8 teams and Silver Playoffs had 8 teams. This would mean 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> and 4- (four) 5<sup>th</sup> place teams would be in the Gold. Silver's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place would receive 5<sup>th</sup> place, the remaining rounds of teams would receive 9<sup>th</sup> place.

**\*\*See below sample bracket for place/finish spots.**



