



BEACH

COLLEGIATE CHALLENGE

TOURNAMENT MANUAL

September 29 - October 1, 2023

Virginia Beach, VA



This document outlines the procedures and regulations for the 2023 USA Volleyball Women's Beach Collegiate Challenge. This competition will be held September 29 – October 1, 2023, alongside the 49th Annual Virginia Beach Neptune Festival at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront.

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MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

All athletes must be eligible to compete for the United States per USAV, NORCECA, FIVB, and IOP regulations/requirements.

ELIGIBILITY

- ★ Be eligible to compete for the United States per USAV, NORCECA, FIVB and IOC regulations/requirements. This program will follow all rules and regulations as established by the FIVB in the following manual: [2023 FIVB BVB Sports Operations Manual](#)
- ★ Be a currently registered member of USAV. Complementary memberships will be provided for all athletes participating that do not already have a current USAV membership.
- ★ Athletes must be at least 18 and less than 25 years of age on October 1, 2023. If graduate students are over the age of 25, they may send an appeal to bntdp@usav.org. Athletes on a pair can be from separate universities.
- ★ Athletes must be currently officially registered as progressing towards a degree or diploma at a university or similar institution whose status is recognized by the appropriate national academic authority of the United States.
- ★ Student athletes must have taken at least 6 credits towards a degree or diploma within the last six months before the event. The standard is that the athlete must be 'progressing' towards a degree.
- ★ Former students of the institutions who have obtained their academic degree or diploma in the six months preceding the event start date are permitted to compete. Submit a signed letter from their university approving the athlete to participate. Should there be any issues not resolved by the University in relation to entry please see

ENTRY

- ★ This event is open to any athlete who meets the minimum requirements in the SECTION ABOVE. However, priority will be given to pairs who are both from the same university.
- ★ Interested athletes can register via the following link: <https://usav.bracketpal.com/signup/316>. A signed letter on university letterhead approving the athlete to participate must be submitted with the registration. The letter must be signed by a university official with their title clearly stated.
- ★ The participating pairs of the event must bear all costs. Athletes should check with their university regarding possible financial assistance.
- ★ The competition will consist of a 32-team main draw.
- ★ 24 teams will be granted entry based on the following: 1 team per school (only those registered before the August 29th deadline), USAV and AVP Ranking Points as of August 30, 2023. If teams do not have points, then teams will be granted entry based on the time of their registration.
- ★ Eight teams may be granted entry through wild cards granted by USAV. Any unused wild cards will default to the process in Section 2.4.1. (Teams that registered after August 15th will automatically be placed on the waitlist.)

DEADLINES AND REGISTRATION FEES

Deadlines are at 5:00 PM, Pacific Time, on the following dates:

- ★ May 12, 2023: [Registration](#) posted online and open
- ★ August 29, 2023: Regular Registration Deadline
- ★ August 30, 2023: Confirmed Entry List Released
- ★ September 12, 2023: Last day for late entries
Last day to withdraw with no penalty
[Coach and Medical Registration](#) Deadline
- ★ September 28, 2023: Technical meeting
- ★ September 29 – October 1, 2023: Main Draw Tournament

REGISTRATION FEES

- ★ Registration fees are as follows:
 - Standard registration fee per pair including one coach before the August 29, 2023, deadline \$261.89 ([LINK](#))
 - Late registration may be accepted until September 12, 2023, by emailing bntdp@usav.org and accepted teams will be placed on the Reserve List
 - Late registration cost is \$333.99
- ★ Coaches and Medical may register for free before the September 12, 2023, deadline. Click [HERE](#) to register.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

MAIN DRAW

Thirty-two (32) teams – MAIN DRAW playing in 8 pools of 4 teams in each pool (Round Robin system). The best 3 ranked teams in each pool (a total of 24 teams) will advance to the next phase of Single Elimination. Twenty four (24) teams will proceed to the single elimination phase which will be played until the bronze and gold medal matches.

*Teams from the same university, if possible, shall not be placed in the same pool. The 2nd, 3rd, 4th and any other eventual university teams) will have their seed increased (for example from Seed #15 to Seed #16) until they are in a different pool than the other team from their university. Should increasing the seed not work (or not be possible) then the seed is reduced (for example from Seed #32 to Seed 31) until the teams from the same university are in a different pool.

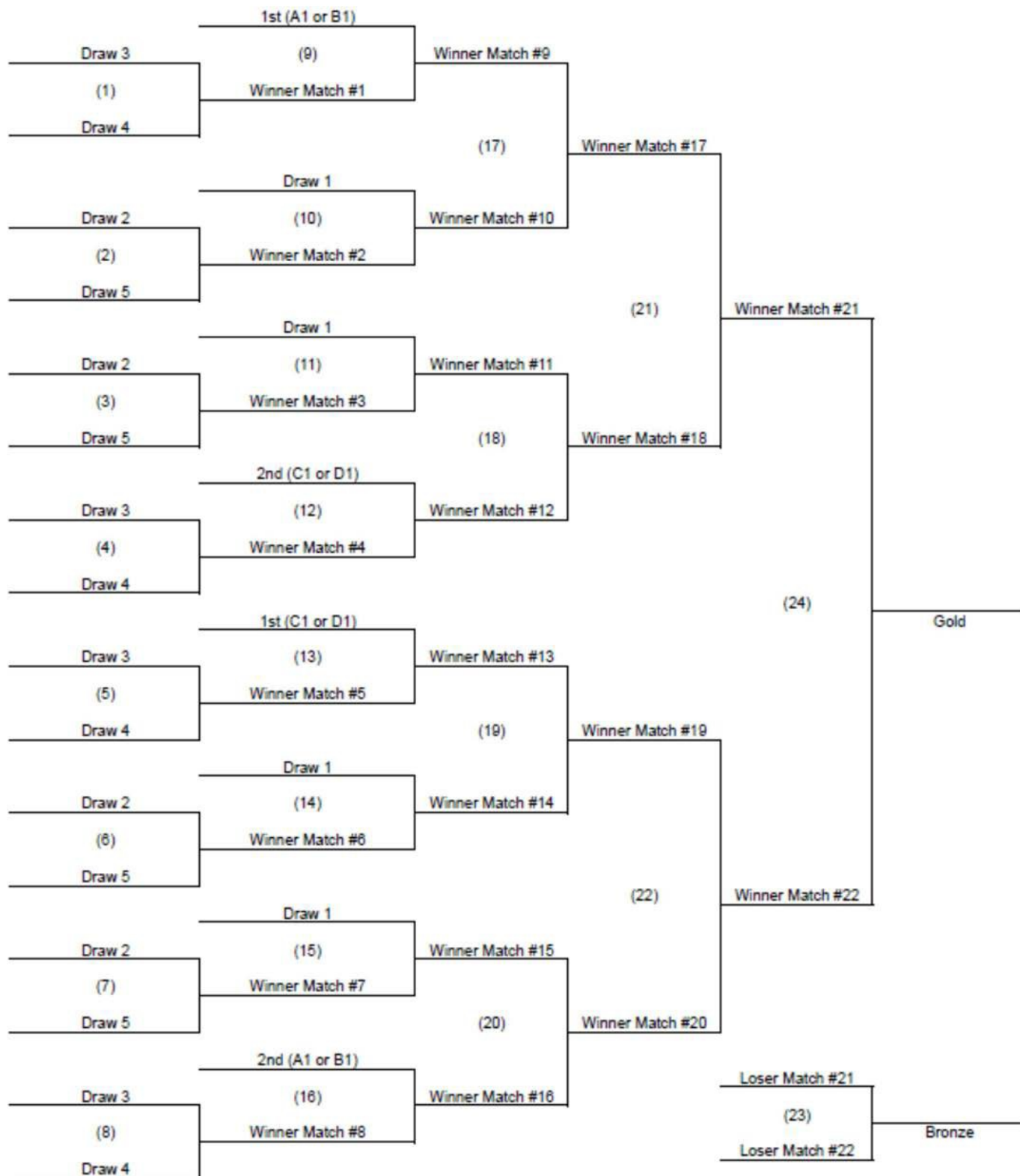
DRAW FORMAT

The Drawing of Lots procedure (for the single elimination phase):

- ★ The top three ranked teams from each pool, will advance to the final phase.
- ★ A1 or B1 are decided by best ratio (wins, sets, points*) – highest ratio match #9, lowest ratio match #16
- ★ C1 or D1 are decided by best ratio (wins, sets, points*) – highest ratio match #13, lowest ratio match #12
- ★ Draw 1 = E1 + F1 + G1 + H1
- ★ Draw 2 = 4 x 2nd place teams from pool play with best ratio (match points, set ratio, rally point ratio, and if a tie still exists in rally point ratio, a draw will be conducted to break the tie)
- ★ Draw 3 = 4 x 2nd place teams from pool play with worst ratio (match points, set ratio, rally point ratio, and if a tie still exists in rally point ratio, a draw will be conducted to break the tie)
- ★ Draw 4 = 4 x 3rd place teams from pool play with best ratio (match points, set ratio, rally point ratio, and if a tie still exists in rally point ratio, a draw will be conducted to break the tie)
- ★ Draw 5 = 4 x 3rd place teams from pool play with worst ratio (match points, set ratio, rally point ratio, and if a tie still exists in rally point ratio, a draw will be conducted to break the tie)

* In the first two rounds teams from the same pool can't meet e.g. If Match #9 = B1 vs Winner of Match #1 then Match #1 can't have a team from Pool B

* Points earned from a forfeit don't count in this ratio (The matches won, and sets won do count)



LAST MINUTE WITHDRAWALS

The list of reserve teams is constantly updated until the Technical Meeting. Reserve teams must be present at the Technical Meeting and both players must sign in to register for the tournament to be considered for the potential inclusion in the event due to late withdrawals or no shows.

In case of the withdrawal(s) of team(s) after the completion of the Technical Meeting/Preliminary Inquiry, the regulations of the lucky loser draw shall be implemented to determine the extra qualified team(s). The Lucky loser draw regulation is as follows:

- ★ The lucky loser draw is conducted by the Technical Delegate assigned after the completion of the Technical Meeting/Preliminary Inquiry.
- ★ The lucky loser draw is implemented among the teams from the reserve list, provided they attend and sign in at the Technical Meeting/Preliminary Inquiry as eligible 'lucky losers';
- ★ The first draw is between the two highest seeded teams among the eligible 'lucky loser';
- ★ For each additional available spot, the next highest seeded team must be drawn against the loser of the previous draw;
- ★ This procedure continues until all additional open spots are filled.

In case there are no eligible reserve team(s) physically present at the Technical Meeting/ Preliminary Inquiry, the Host reserve teams as in the Confirmed Entry List will be picked up and the priorities will be given to the teams with higher Entry Points. If there is a tie between the 2 Host country reserve teams, a drawing of lots shall be conducted to determine the priority.

The Tournament is deemed to have started once the seeding has been confirmed at the Technical Meeting/Preliminary Inquiry and no further changes are allowed.

TECHNICAL MEETING

The Main Draw Tournament Technical Meeting will be held the evening of September 28, 2023, via zoom call. Athlete and coach attendance is mandatory.

Technical Meeting – 6:00-7:00 PM EST

- ★ Organizers will provide all Organizing Committee members, USAV Officials, referees, athletes, coaches, medical, VIPs, journalists, technical staff, court personnel, volunteers, etc. with an official accreditation and will ensure that only people with appropriate accreditation will have access to the designated venue areas.
- ★ The technical meeting is an opportunity for athletes and coaches to ask questions. Finalized seeding and additional detailed information on the competition will be distributed on the USAV website within 1 hour after the completion of the Technical Meetings
- ★ The Main Draw Tournament, including pool play matches, will take place September 29 – October 1, 2023, and will consist of up to 32 pairs.

POOL PLAY SEEDING

- ★ Teams will be seeded by their USAV Ranking Points as of September 25, 2023
- ★ Teams remaining that do not have USAV Ranking Points will have their seed determined by entry date. FIVB regulations will be followed for moving pairs of the same university to a different pool.
- ★ Exact pools will be posted online following the technical meeting in advance of the event on the tournament webpage
- ★ Pools will be seeded in the following format:

POOL A	POOL B	POOL C	POOL D	POOL E	POOL F	POOL G	POOL H
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES, ATHLETES AND UNIVERSITY STAFF

ATHLETES

Male athletes must wear shorts that are a minimum of 10 inches in length and a top that identifies the university they are representing. If athletes are from different universities, the team must wear matching uniform tops. The attire includes, at a minimum, shorts and tank tops that cover the midsection. The tops should have two (2) different numbers clearly visible that correspond to each player. College logos are permitted on any personal item. Hats, visors, sunglasses and sand socks are considered optional personal attire. In addition, for competitions, pairs must have matching tops and same-colored bottoms. Cold weather clothing is permitted in conjunction with the uniform and should fit snugly under any uniform.


During this event, one accredited medical staff member will be allowed inside designated areas to assist athletes with any medical needs. The accredited medical staff member must register for an accreditation by September 5, 2023, deadline ([ATC Registration](#)) And must:

- ★ Be a current USAV member in good standing
- ★ Be SafeSport Trained
- ★ Successfully completed a USAV background screening
- ★ Provide a copy of current medical license
- ★ Provide a copy of current liability insurance

COACHES

During this event, accredited coaches will be allowed to sit in the player's area and interact with the players during official warm-up, time-out, technical time-out and between sets. To receive an accreditation, the coach **must register by September 12, 2023, deadline:** [Coach Registration](#). Coaches of men's pairs may be a named beach or indoor volleyball coach of the university which the athletes represent or must meet the requirements in Coaches must:

- ★ Be a current USAV member in good standing
- ★ Be SafeSport Trained
- ★ Successfully completed a USAV background screening
- ★ Pairs are not required to have a coach.
- ★ A coach may be registered for more than one pair. Coaches are permitted to enter a match to coach once and should they leave the match they are not permitted to return. It is recommended that coaches stay with one pair for the duration of the match (i.e. from warm up



until the final whistle). Only one coach will be permitted into the playing area beginning with the warmup until the final whistle.


- ★ The coach must wear a uniform which is different from the pair (e.g. polo/ track suit top, showing university name or logo). Should the coach not adhere to the USAV dress code, the referee will make a remark on the score sheet and the Technical Delegate will rescind the coach's accreditation until the regulation is complied with.
- ★ Coaches must wear the accreditation provided during the entire competition and present it to the match officials.
- ★ The Coach should sign the score sheet prior to the match (after the toss) in the Remarks box (or in the Coach's confirmation box, where a modified score sheet is being used), to confirm his/ her status as a member of the team, subject to the Rules of Play. In addition, the coach must leave his/ her accreditation on the score table. Hence for the purposes of this competition, the coach is included under the term's "pair" and "pair member". Should the Coach refuse to comply with this regulation or have no ID, he/ she will be requested to leave the playing area and can have no further involvement in the match.
- ★ The Coach sits at the designated pair seating areas and must remain seated during play, intervals between rallies except when switching courts, during set intervals and while instructing players during time outs. During court switches, the Coach switches with the pair.
- ★ The Coach must not stand during play or talk to the pair members. Should either Referee have to remind the Coach of this fact, he/ she may be subject to the misconduct scale, just like the players. An accredited coach may interact with his/her players only during warm-up, change of set, between rallies, at switch of the court (should not delay) and during time-out.
- ★ The coach can freely give instructions during Time-outs, Technical Timeouts, Set intervals, and during exceptional game interruptions. The coach may also give instructions during court switches (while walking) – however, the match shall not be delayed by this. Existing rules concerning coaching players from outside the playing area still apply.

- ★ The coach (as well as the pair captain) may request a 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 2nd referee, then the 1st 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 pair has exhausted its time outs in that set, will be regarded as improper requests. Should resumption of the game be delayed by this, the pair will be sanctioned for delay.
- ★ During a medical time out, only players may warm up in the playing area.
- ★ Specific Regulations and Sanctions will be followed from the FIVB Age Group Beach Volleyball Handbook. Regulations regarding athletes can be found in [Section 7](#).

REMOVAL OF ATHLETE(S)

Any athlete confirmed to compete in the USAV Men's Beach Collegiate Challenge may be removed as a competitor for any of the following reasons, as determined by USAV:

- ★ Injury or illness as certified by a board-licensed physician or medical staff approved by USAV. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician, or medical staff approved by USAV, his/her illness or injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- ★ Violation of USA Volleyball's Code of Conduct
 - <http://www.pairusa.org/usa-volleyball/membership/forms-and-information>
- ★ An Anti-Doping violation as stipulated in 8.1
- ★ Any athlete removed from the pair pursuant to a provision above has the right to a hearing per USAV Bylaws (Article X & XIII) or USOC Bylaws, Section 9.
- ★ If a pair withdraws without a valid reason before a match (e.g. no show) or during a match (e.g. refusal to continue) they will lose by forfeit.
- ★ All discontinued matches or matches that have not started are to be assessed by the Technical Delegate to determine if the losing pair is marked as Disqualification (DSQ) or Disqualification by Injury (INJ/DSQ).
 - If a pair is disqualified during pool play due to a positive doping test, it will lose all the matches in the pool (played or to be played) by forfeit (see above). It will receive no rank. All of the pair's matches in the Pool will be recorded as a forfeit for ranking purposes.
 - If a pair is disqualified after the pool play (after the Drawing of Lots) of the tournament due to a positive doping test, it will lose the last pool matches played by forfeit (see above). If the single-elimination phase has already started and if they have not played yet they forfeit their match and the opponent will be then moved to the next round. The final pool ranking will be maintained. If the pair already played its match and won the match, the match result will not be changed and this pair will forfeit the next round.



However, if a pair is disqualified from the tournament due to a positive doping test after the conclusion of the drawing of lots but before the commencement of the first match of the single-elimination phase, they will be replaced in the draw directly by the 4th ranked pair in its pool. And the final pool ranking will be maintained. The disqualified pair will receive no final ranking. It should be shown on the bottom of the final standing without rank and “DSQ”.

REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETE(S)

In the event a confirmed pair loses one of its athletes, after the release of the Confirmed Entry List and prior to the technical meeting, due to reasons identified in Section 5 above, and/or to a withdrawal request a selection committee consisting of an NTDP representative, the Director of Beach Events, the Tournament Directors, and the University Coach in relation to the pair will select a replacement athlete from among those who are eligible for the University in question that have not already gained entry. The participating Pair/University may:

- ★ Submit through a withdrawal request to USAV bntdp@usav.org to submit the withdrawal, disband or 'change of athlete' request. If the withdrawal, disband or 'change of athlete' request is for an athlete/pair in the Main Draw tournament, the new pair shall be approved by the Selection Committee per the requirements in Section 2.4 to maintain their Main Draw position,
- ★ After September 12, 2022, the participating Pair/University may:
 - Submit through a withdrawal request with the supporting medical certificate and travel proof (such as flight ticket issued with flight number, etc.) to USAV Beach Events (beachevents@usav.org and to bntdp@usav.org) to submit the withdrawal, disband or 'change of athlete' request.
- ★ Failure of the Pair/University to provide proof of a travel itinerary and medical certificate may result in the Pair/University forfeiting their registration fee.
- ★ Should a pair encounter an injury after the technical meeting has taken place, no replacement athlete can be used.

MEDALISTS

- ★ All pairs that medal per gender will have an opportunity to be invited to participate in future Beach National Team Development Programs.
- ★ The ATHLETE will be present for the award ceremony at the event in which his pair finishes among the top 3 pairs, wearing their uniform for the photography and media session.

ANTI-DOPING & CODE OF CONDUCT

- ★ Athletes must adhere to all World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) and US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) protocols, policies and procedures. This includes out-of-competition testing as required by WADA, FIVB and USADA.
- ★ Athletes must sign and adhere to the USAV Code of Conduct. Found [HERE](#)

MEDIA

- ★ USAV owns all media rights including photographs, video, digital television at the event.
- ★ The ATHLETE will do his/her utmost to be available for professional interviews by USAV or credentialed media immediately following matches and will use reasonable efforts to organize his/her schedule accordingly. USAV will respect the ATHLETE'S need to train, play, eat, sleep and prepare for coming games during the EVENT when requesting the ATHLETE'S participation in such activities.

DISCLAIMER

- ★ If any force of nature or force majeure should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised pursuant to approval of the USA Volleyball Beach office.

ATHLETE INQUIRIES

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete should contact USAV: bnmdp@usav.org.

- ★ If you have further questions that the USAV staff were not able to answer, please contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman at: ombudsman@usathlete.org.

**Information is subject to changes. Information current as of May 12, 2023.*