



**USA**Volleyball.

USAVolleyball.org

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January 26, 2026

## **USAV NORCECA BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOUR NOMINATION REGULATIONS**

USA Volleyball (USAV) will conduct playoffs as outlined below to decide which teams to nominate to NORCECA Beach Volleyball Tour events.

### **1. PLAYOFF LOCATION**

1.1 The playoff location will be listed on the respective playoff registration page at [Event Registration - USA Volleyball](#) as soon as reasonably possible once the information becomes available from NORCECA. Published Playoff locations are subject to change based on NORCECA calendar changes and force majeure reasons. Any changes will be updated online ASAP.

### **2. PLAYOFF DATES**

2.1 Playoff dates will be posted at [Event Registration - USA Volleyball](#) as soon as reasonably possible once the information becomes available from NORCECA. Published Playoff dates are subject to change based on NORCECA calendar changes and force majeure reasons. Any changes will be updated online ASAP.

### **3. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

- 3.1 Be a national of the United States.
- 3.2 Hold a valid U.S. passport.
- 3.3 Be eligible to compete for the United States per USAV, NORCECA, FIVB and IOC regulations/requirements -[Microsoft Word - FIVB Sports Regulations 2015 23 11 2015 Clean.docx](#).
- 3.4 Be a currently registered member of USA Volleyball (that includes a signed Registration Form and Code of Conduct).
- 3.5 Pay a \$75 per athlete registration fee (**Teams that do not gain entry into the respective playoff and current BNP athletes as defined by the BNP Handbook will not be charged for this registration fee**).

OR

For a 16 team, 2-day playoff, pay a \$125 registration fee per athlete (**Teams that do not gain entry into the respective playoff and current BNP athletes as defined by the BNP Handbook will not be charged for this registration fee**).

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#### 4. PLAYOFF ENTRY

- 4.1 Teams must register with USAV by completing the online registration form by the specified deadline. Links to the online registration forms and registration deadlines will be posted at [Event Registration - USA Volleyball](#) as soon as reasonably possible once the information becomes available from NORCECA. Published Playoff dates and locations are subject to change based on NORCECA calendar changes and force majeure reasons. Any changes will be updated online ASAP.
- 4.2 Teams that fail to register by the specified entry deadline can apply for late entry up to -7 days before the playoff at 5 pm Pacific by emailing [sean.scott@usav.org](mailto:sean.scott@usav.org). Late registering athletes will be charged \$250 per athlete for entry and entry is at the discretion of USAV.
- 4.3 Both athletes on a team must register separately and will receive a confirmation email upon completing the registration process.
- 4.4 Eight (8) Team Playoff:
  - a. The top six (6) teams per [TruVolley](#) rating plus two (2) wild cards will gain entry to the playoff. Any unused wild cards will be allotted to the next highest-rated team. Teams will be ranked per the sum of the individual [TruVolley](#) rating points of both partners.
- 4.5 Sixteen Team Playoff:
  - a. Top eight (8) teams plus eight (8) wild cards. Any unused wild card spots will be allotted to the next highest-ranked team. Teams will be ranked per the sum of the individual [TruVolley](#) rating points of both partners.
- 4.6 If enough teams do not sign up to fill the Draw, USA Volleyball reserves the right to enter teams at its discretion to complete the Draw.

#### 5. WILD CARDS

- 5.1 Wild cards allocated to each of the playoff formats:
  - a. Eight (8) team playoff = Two (2) wild cards
  - b. Sixteen (16) team playoff = Eight (8) wild cards
- 5.2 Athletes interested in receiving a wild card can email [sean.scott@usav.org](mailto:sean.scott@usav.org) by the specified registration deadline for the playoff concerned. Any requests for wild cards received after the registration deadline will not be taken into consideration.
- 5.3 Wild card allocations are at the discretion of USAV. USAV will take into consideration the technical merits, athletes' career, satisfactory technical/status of the team, etc. to evaluate the request(s).
- 5.4 There is no guarantee wild cards will be granted.
- 5.5 Any unused wild cards will be allocated to the next highest-ranked team.
- 5.6 Wild cards are announced through the confirmed entry list issued by USAV for the playoff concerned.
- 5.7 The wild card is not transferable if there is a disbanding of the team or withdrawal of the team. However, considering 'force majeure' or injury of one or both athletes, as exception, the wild card may be transferred at USAV's discretion due to the new team's merits.

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## 6. COMPETITION FORMAT

6.1 NORCECA Playoffs will be played as either an 8 or 16-team playoff as outlined below:

- a. Eight Team Playoff - Single elimination with a playoff for 3rd place (see attachment A for further details).
- b. Sixteen Team Playoff - Played in two (2) phases consisting of a Pool Phase and Elimination Phase (see attachment B for further details).

## 7. COMPETITION RULES

7.1 Please refer to the FIVB Official Beach Volleyball Rules 2025-2028 ([FIVB-Beach Volleyball Rules 2025 2028-EN.pdf](#))

## 8. NORCECA EVENT NOMINATIONS & WITHDRAWALS

- 8.1 The team that wins the playoff will be entered as the #1 U.S. team for the assigned NORCECA tournaments. USAV will cover the NORCECA \$500 entry fee for the #1 team per gender.
- 8.2 Should USAV get a 2<sup>nd</sup> spot, the 2nd place team in that gender will be entered as the #2 U.S. team for the assigned NORCECA tournaments. **USAV will NOT cover the \$500 entry fee for the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. team in a gender.** The team will be responsible for the NORCECA \$500 entry fee, which must be paid to USAV before the NORCECA event. Failure to do so will result in that team being withdrawn from the event.
- 8.3 If a team accepts a bid to a NORCECA event and then withdraws for a non-force majeure reason, each athlete may be fined \$250 for every offense.
- 8.4 Teams who withdraw due to a force majeure reason and participate in another event during the same timeframe as the NORCECA event may be fined per the scale in 8.3.
- 8.5 Players must compete in the qualified for NORCECA events with the same partner they competed with in the corresponding NORCECA Playoff except in the following instance:
  - a. In case of injury, an athlete can change partners and maintain their spot in a NORCECA event once per calendar year. Athletes must submit a medical certificate from a certified medical doctor and see the Beach National Team Athletic Trainer. No other medical certificates will be accepted.
- 8.6 If a team pulls out of the assigned NORCECA event or declines the nomination, the next highest finishing team in the corresponding NORCECA Playoff will be offered their spot. This will continue on a "trickle-down" basis until a team accepts the nomination and all spots are filled. If none of the teams that participated in the playoff accept the spot, then USAV can fill the spot at its discretion.
- 8.7 Teams that qualify for a NORCECA event through the Playoff will not be given a nomination to another NORCECA event should the NORCECA event they qualified for be canceled.

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## 9. PLAYOFF WITHDRAWALS

- 9.1 Should a team withdraw after the NORCECA Playoff registration deadline up to 4 pm Pacific the day before the playoff, USAV will replace the team with the highest-seeded team from the reserve list and reseed the playoff accordingly. If there are no reserve teams, then USAV reserves the right to replace the team with a team of its choosing and will reseed the playoff accordingly. The withdrawing team will forfeit any entry fee unless a medical certificate from a certified medical doctor is provided. USAV reserves the right to have the USAV BNT Head Athletic Trainer evaluate the athlete to confirm the injury.
- 9.2 Should the withdrawal happen after 4 pm the day before the playoff, USAV will NOT replace the team with a team from the reserve list and the team that was supposed to play the withdrawing team will get a bye. The withdrawing team will forfeit their entry fee.
- 9.3 Change of athlete requests are **NOT** allowed after the NORCECA Playoff registration closes except in the case of injury. In the case of injury, the change of player request must be received by 4 pm Pacific the day before the playoff. The new team must have enough TruVolley rating points to maintain their position in the tournament draw or they will be removed and USAV will enter the highest-seeded team from the reserve list and reseed the playoff accordingly. The injured athlete must provide a medical certificate from a certified medical doctor. USAV reserves the right to have the USAV BNT Head Athletic Trainer evaluate the athlete to confirm the injury. Should the new team maintain a spot in the tournament draw, USAV will not provide a registration fee refund, and the withdrawing athlete will have to get reimbursed directly from the replacement athlete. If the new team does not maintain a spot in the tournament draw, then USAV will refund any athlete registration fees minus any fees.

## 10. REMOVAL OF ATHLETE(S)

- 10.1 Any athlete confirmed to compete in a NORCECA Playoff or NORCECA Beach Tour Event 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 Beach. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician, or medical staff approved by USAV Beach, 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.
  - An Anti-Doping Violation.
- 10.2 Any athlete removed from the team according to a provision above has the right to a hearing per USAV Bylaws (Article X & XIII) or USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.





## 11. NORCECA EVENT FUNDING

- 11.1 USAV will cover the \$500 NORCECA entry fee for the #1 USA team per gender. Should a 2<sup>nd</sup> USA team in a gender gain entry, they will be responsible for their \$500 NORCECA entry fee. The fee must be paid to USAV before the respective NORCECA event or USAV may remove the team from the event.
- 11.2 The promoter is responsible for covering the hotel and meals for the #1 USA team per gender from the Thursday night before the tournament to the Monday morning following the tournament. The #2 USA teams is responsible may for paying for their accommodations and meals.
- 11.3 USAV will provide an \$800 per athlete travel stipend to the highest finishing USA teams per gender at the designated NORCECA beach volleyball event provided the athlete meets the following standards:
- Finishes 5<sup>th</sup> or better. If a tie occurs, the team with the highest entry seeding for the corresponding NORCECA Beach Tour event will receive the stipend.
- 11.4 USAV reserves the right to fund a 2nd team per gender at its discretion.

## 12. UNIFORMS

- 12.1 Uniforms for NORCECA Beach Tour events must have specific number and country code branding as specific in [Beach Volleyball Competitions Regulations 2023.pdf](#). NORCECA and the promoter **DO NOT** provide these team uniforms, however USAV can. Teams interested in USAV provided uniform tops can reach out to Joviana Romero ([joviana.romero@usav.org](mailto:joviana.romero@usav.org)) asap, but no later than 7 days before the respective NORCECA Beach Tour event.

## 13. DISCLAIMER

- 13.1 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 may be revised by USAVolleyball.
- 13.2 If a NORCECA Beach Volleyball Tour Event is canceled, USAV is not responsible for airline or other fees.

## 14. ATHLETE INQUIRIES

- 14.1 Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete should contact Sean Scott ([sean.scott@usav.org](mailto:sean.scott@usav.org)).
- 14.2 If you have further questions that the USAV Beach staff were not able to answer, please contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman at [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org).

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**ATTACHMENT A – 8 Team Playoff**



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### ATTACHMENT B – 16 Team Playoff

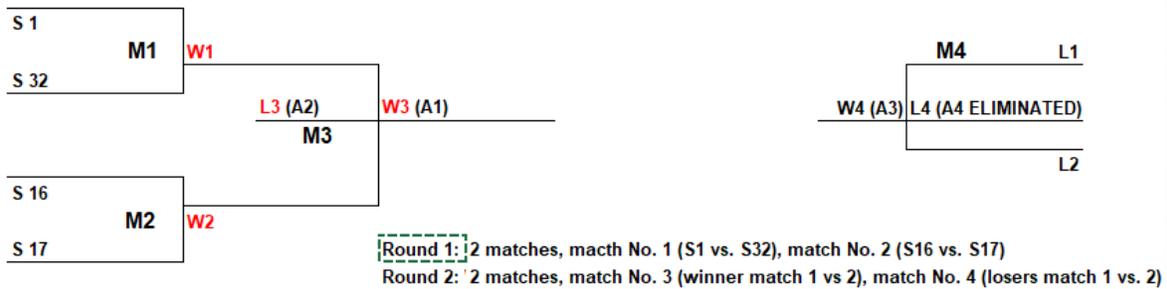
#### Pool Phase:

- 16 teams per gender will be placed into four (4) pools with four (4) teams each based on their seeding and will be placed per the serpentine principle.

Women's Teams and Men's Teams			
Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D
Seed #1	Seed #2	Seed #3	Seed #4
Seed #8	Seed #7	Seed #6	Seed #5
Seed #9	Seed #10	Seed #11	Seed #12
Seed #16	Seed #15	Seed #14	Seed #13

- Pool Phase is played through four (4) pools of four (4) teams each in a modified pool play where the highest seeded team will play the lowest seeded team in the same pool, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest seeded team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest seeded team in the same pool. The winners of the above two matches will play each other, with the winner to top the pool and the loser as 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team from the pool phase. The losers of the above two matches will play each other, with the winner as the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team from the pool phase and the loser eliminated from the Pool Phase.

#### GROUP



- The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked teams of each pool after the completion of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase advance to the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of 12-teams bracket in single elimination format.

#### Single Elimination Phase:

- Matches will be played in the single elimination format by the teams qualified from the Pool Phase, until the semi-finals. The winners of semifinals will play each other for 1<sup>st</sup> place while the losers of semi-finals will play each other for 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

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