



U.S. BEACH CLUB
CHAMPIONSHIP

Gulf Shores - Alabama

MAY 1-2, 2025

INTRODUCTION

USA VOLLEYBALL, AVP & BEACH CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

USA Volleyball (USAV), recognized by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee as the National Governing Body for volleyball, holds several national championships annually, including the USA Volleyball Beach National Championships in July and the U.S. Beach Club National Championships in May.

The U.S. Beach Club National Championship, now in its third year, is a joint venture between USA Volleyball and the Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP).

The U.S. Beach Club National Championships (BCNC) provides competition by age classifications in various divisions of the Championships. Teams must register to play at the BCNC for all Divisions.

Teams can register to play in whichever Division they feel fits their skill level.

PURPOSE OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL

The primary purpose of this BCCM is to publish the standards established by USAV/AVP for the BCNC. The secondary purpose is to explain the process of registering to play at the BCNC.

The BCCM is intended to be a resource to those organizations whose Teams attend the BCNCs.

CHANGING THE CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL

The BCCM is a USAV/AVP corporate document. Only the USAV Beach Events Department and the AVP may authorize changes, deletions, and additions to this BCCM and to the qualifying process itself.

Suggestions to change the BCCM and the qualifying process can come from the USAV Beach Events Department (Beach Events), the USAV Regional Volleyball Association Assembly (RVAA), and/or the AVP.

Beach Events annually updates the BCCM and distributes an electronic copy of the updated version to the RVAA Beach Committee for review. Beach Events will post the updated BCCM on the USAV website.

GENERAL INFORMATION

USA VOLLEYBALL/AVP U.S. BEACH CLUB NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (BCNC) – OVERVIEW

The primary purpose of the BCNC is to offer an annual, high-quality National Championship tournament for Beach Clubs across the country for girls and boys, in various age groups, and different divisions to accommodate the range of skill level.

The Molten Elite Beach Volleyball BV5000 is the Official Ball of USAV Beach Events and will be used at the USAV/AVP BCNC.

The main goal of USA Volleyball and AVP sanctioning a Club vs Club model is to build a sustainable beach club division in the United States. USA Volleyball, AVP and beach clubs throughout the country will work in tandem to create an inclusive and dynamic Club vs Club National Championship Division. The vision would be to have this division feature the best competition in the US and be straightforward while also promoting the growth of beach volleyball clubs throughout the States, which is the final frontier of the Juniors Level of the Sport.

JUNIOR BEACH PLAYER AGE DEFINITIONS

For use during the 2025 U.S. Beach Club Championship

The Junior Beach Player Age Definition Classification has shifted from an athlete's birthdate to an athlete's High School graduation year. This Classification was most recently approved and updated by the USA Volleyball Board of Directors on October 23, 2024.

AGE DIVISION DEFINITIONS

- 18 & Under: Athletes graduating high school in 2025 or later.
- 16 & Under: Athletes graduating high school in 2027 or later.
- 14 & Under: Athletes graduating high school in 2029 or later.

2025 EVENT INFORMATION

DATE & LOCATION

Date: May 1-2, 2025

Location: Gulf Shores, Alabama (Gulf Shores Public Beach, 101 Gulf Shores Parkway, Gulf Shores, Alabama, 36542)

Airport: Pensacola International Airport (Pensacola, Florida)

Lodging: If you're club or athletes are looking accommodations, please [click here](#).

SCHEDULE OF USAVP EVENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

- 2025 U.S. Beach Club Championships (Afternoon Wave)

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025

- 2025 U.S. Beach Club Championships (Morning Wave)
- Beach National Team Development Program Accelerator (Afternoon)
- 2025 USAV Gulf Coast Region BeachFest National Qualifier (Afternoon/Early Evening)

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025

- 2025 USAV Gulf Coast Region BeachFest National Qualifier
- 2025 USAV Gulf Coast Region BeachFest Regional Qualifier

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025

- 2025 USAV Gulf Coast Region BeachFest National Qualifier
- 2025 USAV Gulf Coast Region BeachFest Regional Qualifier

BCNC DIVISIONS OF PLAY: OPEN AND NATIONAL

There are two (2) major divisions of play at the BCNCs – **OPEN** Divisions and **NATIONAL** Divisions.

The goal of the BCNCs **OPEN Division** is to identify, through competition, the best team in each BCNCs age group from among teams registered.

- Teams can openly register to compete in the OPEN Division at the BCNC
- “Out-of-Region Athletes” are not permitted. However, athletes that do not have a club to represent may compete with a club in a neighboring USA Volleyball Region.

The goal of the BCNCs **NATIONAL Division** is to showcase Regional Teams and provide the opportunity for more teams to participate at the BCNCs without following a qualification process.

- Teams can openly register to compete in the NATIONAL Division at the BCNC.
- “Out-of-Region Athletes” are not permitted.

TEAM ENTRIES

USAV & AVP will have an open registration for all divisions. Soft caps will be set respective to each division. Additional teams may be accepted into each division dependent on available court space and only in multiple of 3 or 4 Teams dependent upon the division.

INITIAL REGISTRATION CAPS

- Girls 18/16 OPEN: 16 Teams
- Girls 18 NATIONAL: 8 Teams
- Girls 16 NATIONAL: 8 Teams
- Girls 14: 12 Teams
- Boys 18/16 OPEN: 8 Teams
- Boys 14 OPEN: 8 Teams

**NOTE: Clubs would be restricted to register two (2) teams per division. If there is availability as of Tuesday, April 1, 2025, USA Volleyball and AVP will open up registration for clubs to register more Teams.*

MEMBERSHIP

Participating athletes and coaches will need to have eligible memberships for both USA Volleyball and AVP.

USA Volleyball Membership: [Click here.](#)

AVP Membership: [Click here.](#)

U.S. BEACH CLUB NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2025 U.S. Beach Club National Championships will incorporate a 2-Day Tournament Format for all divisions.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISIONS

The OPEN Division will be offered for Girls 18U/16U and 14U, in addition to Boys 18U/16U and 14U.

The NATIONAL Division will be offered for Girls 18U, 16U and 14U.

Girls 14s will begin as one division and then split into OPEN and NATIONAL after the initial round of pool play is complete. The Girls 14 Division must be full in order for this to occur.

**NOTE: Clubs would be restricted to register two (2) teams per division. If there is availability as of Tuesday, April 1, 2025, USA Volleyball and AVP will open up registration for clubs to register more Teams.*

GUARANTEED MATCHES

Each team will be guaranteed a certain number of matches for each day of the championship.

Day 1: 3 Matches

Day 2: 1 Match

The official tournament flow and schedule will be released once registration closes on April 7, 2025.

RULES OF PLAY

The rules of play are as prescribed in the [USA Volleyball Beach Rules Book](#). Below are new rules and points of emphasis regarding the new USAVP Beach Club National Championship:

- Athletes must have uniforms with numbers that coincide with the Official Roster. Uniform numbers must be clearly visible and centered side to side on the front and back of the jersey.

DUAL FORMATS

The preferred Dual format is pools of four (4) with each dual having match play being the best 2-out-of-3 sets.

Duals will be played to completion. All matches within the Dual will be played to match completion.

5v5 DUALS

The following divisions will follow the 5v5 Dual Format: Girls 18U/16U Open.

- A. Teams consist of five (5) pairs with an optional two (2) additional athletes, known as alternates.

- B. Pairs within the Team should be ranked from #1 through #5. The #1 ranked pair is the Team's best pair.
- C. The Dual will mimic the NCAA format where the 1s, 2s, 3s, 4s and 5s pairs will compete in match play throughout the Tournament. See below:
 - a. 1 vs 1, 2 vs 2, 3 vs 3, 4 vs 4, 5 vs 5
- D. A dual win is awarded to the Team that wins 3 of 5 matches played. All five (5) matches will be played in full.
- E. Coaching is permitted.

**NOTE: Clubs would be restricted to register two (2) teams per division. If there is availability as of Tuesday, April 1, 2025, USA Volleyball and AVP will open up registration for clubs to register more Teams.*

3v3 DUALS

The following divisions will follow the 3v3 Dual Format: Girls 14U Open, Girls 18U, 16U and 14U National, and Boys 18U, 16U, and 14U Open.

- A. Teams consist of three (3) pairs with an optional two (2) additional athletes, known as alternates.
- B. Pairs within the Team should be ranked from #1 through #3. The #1 ranked pair is the Team's best pair.
- C. The Dual will mimic the NCAA format where the 1s, 2s, and 3s pairs will compete in match play throughout the Tournament. See below:
 - a. 1 vs 1, 2 vs 2, 3 vs 3
- D. A dual win is awarded to the Team that wins 2 of 3 matches played. All three (3) matches will be played in full.
- E. Coaching is permitted.

SEEDING OF DIVISIONS

The Seeding of divisions for the 2025 U.S. Beach Club National Championships will be made utilizing each team's cumulative USAVP Ranking Points. USAVP Rankings are based on an athlete's best three (3) results (domestic and/or international). For Junior and Amateur athletes (non-Pro players), the eligible window is defined as the last 365 days. For more information, [click here](#).

TIE BREAKERS TO DETERMINE POOL FINISH

Below are the procedures for breaking ties to determine pool finish at the 2025 U.S. Beach Club National Championships.

Ath the conclusion of a pool, the pool finish position of each Team is determined by their dual record within the pool.

If there is a tie in a dual record among two (2) or more teams in the pool, the tie(s) is resolved using the Tie Break Rules.

TIE BREAK RULES

Ties in Duals are broken by the following steps:

TWO TEAMS TIE IN DUALS

Always broken head-to-head. No exceptions.

THREE-OR-MORE TEAMS TIE IN DUALS

1. Head-to-head results are used to determine pool finished for Teams that are tied in Dual Record.
 - a. A Team that beats all the other Teams with which it is tied in Dual Record will finish ahead of the other Teams in the pool.
 - b. A Team that has lost to all the other Teams with which it is tied in Dual Record is placed behind other Teams in pool finish.
 - c. If there are only two Teams tied in matches after steps 1(a) and 1(b) have been applied, the head-to-head winner of those 2 teams earns the higher pool finish.
 - d. If after applying steps 1(a), 1(b), and 1(c), Teams remain tied, then the ranking of those remaining Teams follows the procedure in Step 2.
2. Match Percentage is the 2nd level of breaking ties and is used to rank a pool in which Teams remain tied after applying the rules in Step 1.
 - a. Teams with a higher Match Percentage finish ahead of Teams with a lower Dual Match Percentage.
 - b. If only two Teams are tied in both Dual Percentage and Match Percentage, the Team that won head-to-head receives the higher finish in the pool.
 - c. If three Teams (or more) are tied in Dual Percentage and Match Percentage after applying steps 2(a) & 2(b), the tie breaking procedure followed is based on whether a Team is eliminated from advancing to the Gold at BCNCs using Steps 2(d) and 2(e).
 - d. **If no Team is eliminated from advancing to the Gold at BCNCs**, pool finish among the teams tied in Dual percentage and Match percentage is determined by Set Percentage. If two Teams are still tied in Set Percentage, the head-to-head winner finishes higher.
 - e. **If a Team would be eliminated from advancing to the Gold at BCNCs**, the remaining Teams that are tied in Dual Percentage and Match Percentage have Playoff Tie Breaker Dual(s) played as defined in Step 3.
3. Playoff Tie Breaker Duals are played if 3 or more Teams remain tied after applying Steps 1 & 2.
 - a. Tied Teams are ranked by their Set Percentage from the pool. Tie Breaker Duals are played as matches with all pairs playing one (1) set to 15 and may be brackets of 2, 3, or 4 teams. Tie Breaker Duals will only be played for the last spot leading to the GOLD Bracket. The first Team to win 3 matches (5v5) or 2 matches (3v3) will advance.
 - b. The Tie Breaking Procedure is the same as outlined in the above steps 3(a), 3(b), & 3(c).
 - c. It is possible for one or more of the tied teams to advance without having to play in a Tie Breaker Duel as only the last spot is played off.

CLUB, TEAM AND PLAYER POLICIES

CLUB REGISTRATION

All club directors must register their club through Volleyball Life, the official Tournament Management System of USAV, to participate in the BCNCs.

All participating members (players, coaches, and club directors) **MUST BE FULL MEMBERS** of a Region of USA Volleyball AND AVP in order to participate in any USAV/AVP Beach Club event.

OUT-OF-REGION ATHLETES

"Out-of-Region" Athletes will not be permitted for the 2025 U.S. Beach Club Championship. USA Volleyball and the AVP highly support athletes representing clubs from their USAV Region. While maintaining the sanctity of the USAV Regions, we understand that athletes in certain areas throughout the country do not necessarily have the opportunity to be a part of a Beach Club that would be able to participate in this type of event. Athletes that do not have a club to represent may compete with a club in a neighboring USA Volleyball Region.

To learn more about USA Volleyball Regions and the region you belong to, please visit <https://usavolleyball.org/membership/>.

TEAM UNIFORMS

Team players are required to wear matching kits that are in full compliance with the USAV/AVP regulations. This is defined as matching tops athletes and similar bottoms of the same color for all competing athletes.

It is strongly recommended that teams wear uniforms with numbers. If two (2) or more sets of uniforms are used, players are required to wear the identical number for each set of shirts.

- The number "0" and "00" are not permitted.
- The numbers must be centered.
- Front numbers must be a minimum of 4" and back numbers a minimum of 6."

Team members need to be in proper uniform when warming up.

TEAM OFFICIATING DUTIES

The BCNQ must publish an officiating assignment schedule for the Teams; the Teams must fulfill all their scheduled officiating assignments.

Teams are responsible for providing an officiating/work crew for Duals/Matches in which they are not scheduled to play. Those work assignments can be found in the official play schedule. Only rostered individuals are eligible to complete these assignments.

OFFICIAL TEAM ROSTERS

A Team must have a minimum of one (1) head coach and six (6) players for 3v3 or ten (10) players for 5v5. A Team may have a maximum of eight (8) players for 3v3 and 12 players for 5v5 along with up to four (4) additional personnel on their roster, one of which must be listed at the Head Coach. The other three (3) roster positions may be any combination of the following:

1. Assistant Coach
2. 2nd Assistant Coach
3. 3rd Assistant Coach

ROSTERED ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

All rostered players must be FULL MEMBERS of USA Volleyball and AVP.

Athletes turning 18 during the season will be required to take “Core” Center for SafeSport training upon turning 18. To prevent any disruption in play, the center will allow athletes who are 17, turning 18 during the season to take “Core” given parental consent. Once a player turns 18, he/she will not be permitted to continue play until “Core” SafeSport training has been completed.

PLAYER’S NUMBER ON OFFICIAL ROSTER

For teams wearing uniforms with numbers, each player is required to wear the **same jersey number as listed on the official roster** throughout the entire Event, with limited exceptions as required by emergency or blood rule applications.

If a player is found playing in the wrong numbered jersey, the Event Arbitrator, with the input of the Tournament Director, will determine the penalty(ies) to be imposed. Penalties should be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Uniform numbers are not mandatory but strongly encouraged.

PLAYER MISSING FROM OFFICIAL ROSTER

Each player is required to be listed on the official roster throughout the entire event. If a player is found participating and is not on the official roster, penalties will be imposed.

ROSTERED STAFF REQUIREMENTS

All rostered personnel (non-players) must:

- Be FULL MEMBERS of a Region of USA Volleyball
- Be SafeSport trained, and
- Have a current, cleared background screening, if applicable.

Junior level members under the age of 18 do not need to be background screened and can only serve as a Team Manager on the roster.

Junior members 18 years old and above, serving in non-player capacity on a junior Team, must have submitted, and cleared a background screening within 30 days of their 18th birthday and must be SafeSport trained.

In order to be listed as a coach, serve in a coaching capacity, one must possess a minimum coaching certification level of IMPACT (Entry Level).

The addition of staff to an official roster is not allowed once a Team has begun Dual/Match play in the Event.

ROSTER VERIFICATION AND TEAM CHECK-IN

USAV/AVP will publish information about the process and requirements for roster verification registration and Team check-in.

For the BCNCs, an adult staff member listed on the roster will need to sign that the club has and abides by the BCNC Event policies.

OFFICIAL ROSTER SUBMISSION FOR EVENTS

Official Team Rosters must be submitted on Volleyball Life by Friday, April 25, 2025.

Prior to beginning play an adult staff member (Coach, Club Director or other designated adult) listed on the roster must confirm a Team's presence at the Tournament by signing an Official Competition Roster (Official Roster) at the Tournament Check-In.

No additions or changes for players or staff on a Team's roster are allowed once a Team has officially completed the Team Check-In process for the event, except as specifically stipulated elsewhere in this document or outlined in the USAV Rules Book. The person who signs the Official Roster, whether the Coach, Club Director or other designated adult (Signing Agent), assumes all responsibility for verifying that:

- All of the information contained on the Official Roster is both complete and correct, including that:
 - All rostered positions adhere to the requirements listed under TEAM ROSTERS
 - All reported Team competition results are complete and accurate.

DUAL LINEUPS

Once a Team is officially checked in, the Team will be able to submit Dual Lineups. Lineups must be submitted to and verified by the Head Referee before each match at the tournament desk.

Lineups should be in order of 1 (strongest) to 3 (weakest) for 3v3 and 1 (strongest) to 5 (weakest) for 5v5 along with the two alternates, if necessary. A Team's coaching staff must utilize the guidelines below when positioning their athletes.

- A. Player movement within the team lineup is restricted to one position up or down from one match to another.
- B. Changes to the official lineup must be reported to the Head Referee. The Head Referee will share the lineup changes with the opponent's Head Coach prior to the dual.
- C. A Head Coach may make lineup changes from one dual to another as long as they stay within the one position parameter for moving players.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

A player may initially enter the team lineup in one of two (2) ways:

1. As an original player
2. From the alternate player list

LINEUP ADJUSTMENTS

If an athlete is out of the lineup due to an injury, USAV/AVP has adopted a protocol to adjust an athlete's returning spot.

- A. If an athlete is injured during play and has to forfeit the match but is cleared to play in the following match, the athlete may return to the spot they played in during the previous match.
- B. If an athlete is injured, replaced and out:
 - a. For 1 dual, the athlete may return one spot lower in the lineup than where they went out.
 - b. For 2 – 3 duals, the athlete may return two spots lower in the lineup than where they went out.