



2024-25 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 February 2025)

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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.

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.

AGE DEFINITIONS

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

A new set of Age Definitions have been established for the 2024-2025 USA Volleyball Beach Tour season and foreseeable future. The Age Definitions for the 2024-2025 season are as follows:

- 18 and Under Division: Players with a high school graduation year of 2025 or later.
- 16 and Under Division: Players with a high school graduation year of 2027 or later.
- 14 and Under Division: Players with a high school graduation year of 2029 or later.
- 12 and Under Division: Players with a high school graduation year of 2031 or later.

The updated Beach/Outdoor Age Definition Policy was most recently approved by the USA Volleyball Board of Directors on October 23, 2024.

The 2025 USA Volleyball Beach Tour and National Championships will adhere to updated age definitions.

Bids earned at BNQs and BRQs before October 23, 2024, will be honored for the 2025 USA Volleyball Beach National Championship. Athletes must compete in their age division based on eligibility at the event. For example, a 12U qualifier who turns 13 before the championship must compete in 14U. Bids remain valid but must align with the 2025 USA Volleyball Beach National Championships age guidelines.

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

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

BEACH REGIONAL QUALIFIERS (BRQs)

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 complete 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 and girls to compete
- All participants must be current USA Volleyball members
- Athletes that are 18 years old must complete SafeSport Training
- All coaches and event staff must be a USAV member, IMPACT certified, pass a background screen, and be SafeSport trained.
- No alcohol can be served during any BRQ events
- Notification of the event must be submitted within 48 hours after the completion of the event.

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 (Volleyball Life)

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 assess the ability of the boys to determine which girls' age/division would be most appropriate for the boys to compete in.

BEACH EVENTS DRESS CODE AND ATTIRE

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.

BRQ BIDS/AWARDS, RESULTS AND POINTS

BID AND AWARDS

GIRLS' DIVISIONS

Both athletes of the top three (3) finishing teams (1st, 2nd, 3rd) 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) 3rd place team**.

The top 3 finishing GIRLS teams receive bids and bid certificates to the AMERICAN DIVISION.

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.

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 5th place. When ties occur, the 5th 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 5th 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 appreciated if available. USA Volleyball does not supply prizes to BRQs.

RESULTS AND POINTS

All BRQ results should be uploaded into the USA National Beach Ranking System within 3-5 days following the event. Confirmation of event and results should be submitted to Cody Liner (cody.liner@uasv.org).

BRQ SCHEDULE

[Click here](#) to view the current 2024-25 USA Volleyball Beach Tour Schedule.

QUESTIONS ABOUT BRQs

[Click here](#) to view 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 **CAN ONLY** be co-sanctioned with AVP Juniors qualifiers. 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 HOSTING PROCESS

1. Respective USAV Region or Tournament Promotor completes the USAV BNQ Contract and both parties (host and USAV) need to sign before moving forward.
 - a. Tournament Promotors must gain approval from their respective USAV Region prior to completing the contract.

2. BNQ Host completes the USAV Beach Tour Event Information Form for each event being hosted.
3. Once the USAV Outdoor Events Team receives the executed contract and the completed Event Information Form, USAV will build the BNQ in Volleyball Life. Once complete, USAV will transfer the BNQ to the Host Organization.

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.

BEACH EVENTS DRESS CODE AND 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

- 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

COACH REGISTRATION

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

Coaches must register by the **Wednesday before the event at 12:00 PM noon Pacific Time.**

No late or walk-up registration will be permitted, unless the tournament host has the ability to verify a coach's certifications onsite.

Any late or walk up coaches must register online via Bracket Pal upon verification by the Tournament Host.

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.

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

BIDS AND AWARDS

FOR THE GIRLS' DIVISIONS

Both athletes of the **top four (4)** finishing teams (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th) 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) 3rd place winning team.**

FOR THE BOYS' DIVISIONS

ALL PARTICIPATING teams will receive bids to the OPEN DIVISION of the USAV Beach Tour National Championship.

TRICKLEDOWN BIDS

BNQ Bids **DO NOT** trickledown.

AWARDING OF BID CODES

Bid codes will be sent by USA Volleyball through Volleyball Life at least 48 hours post-event. Qualified teams will all receive bids to the **OPEN DIVISION** of the USA Volleyball Beach Tour National Championship.

AWARDS

Awards must be given to both members of a team finishing 1st-3rd in their respective age and gender division. No awards other than USA Volleyball approved awards may be given out 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 submitted into the **USA National Beach Ranking System within 2 days following the event.** BNQ Hosts are responsible for ensuring results are completed and accurate.

BNQ SCHEDULE

[Click here](#) to view the current 2024-25 USA Volleyball Beach Tour Schedule.

QUESTIONS ABOUT BNQs

[Click here](#) to view our Frequently Asked Questions.

USAV RULES OF PLAY

[Click here](#) to view the current USAV Beach Rules Book.

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 competing in the match share unlimited access to the entire court. Please use good sportsmanship.

This includes the coin toss at the seven-minute mark.

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.

APPENDIX A: 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 1st thru 4th 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 3rd 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 3rd place match in Gold Bracket must be Match Play (2 games to 21, 3rd 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 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 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 (1st, 2nd, 3rd 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 1st thru 4th and 4- (four) 5th place teams would be in the Gold. Silver’s 1st and 2nd place would receive 5th place, the remaining rounds of teams would receive 9th place.

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

