



BEACH

★ *National Championship* ★ ★

Virginia Beach

Virginia

July 16-21

2025

2025 USA Volleyball Beach Tour National Championship Manual

The following manual contains information regarding the
2025 USA Volleyball Beach Tour National Championship.
(Updated as of January 2025)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
MANUAL CHANGES	3
GLOSSARY OF TERMS	4
USA VOLLEYBALL BEACH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (BNC)	5
BNC TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES:	6
TEAM REGISTRATIONS	10
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE	11
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT	11
SAFETY STANDARDS FOR PARTICIPANTS	12
• Lightning:	12
• Rain:	12
• Wind:	12
• Heat:	13

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 Championship Manual (USAVBNM) is to publish the standards established by USAV for the USA Volleyball Beach Tour National Championship (USAVBNC) 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 National Championship Manual is intended to be a resource to those hosting and attending the USA Volleyball Beach Tour National Championship.

MANUAL CHANGES

The USA Volleyball Beach National Tour Championship Manual (USAVBNM) is a corporate document. Suggestions to change the USAVBNM 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 USAVBNM and distributes an electronic copy of the updated version to each USAV Region. Updates to the USAVBNM will also 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.

USA VOLLEYBALL BEACH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (BNC)

The primary purpose of the BNC is to offer an annual, high-quality National Championship tournament after a series of qualifier events across the country for both boys and girls, in various age groups, and different divisions to accommodate the range of skill level. There are several secondary purposes for the BNCs, 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 beach volleyball across the country.
- Provide a training ground for officials.

The Molten Elite Beach Volleyball BV5000 is the official ball beach of USAV and will be used at the USAVBNC.

JUNIOR PLAYER AGE CLASSIFICATION AND DEFINITIONS

The USA Volleyball Beach National Championship 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 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.

TEAM COMPOSITION

Teams are comprised of two (2) male or two (2) female players. Coed teams are not allowed. Teams may only compete in the Open or American Division if at least 1 athlete has earned a bid. The Patriot Division does not require a bid.

USA VOLLEYBALL BEACH EVENTS REQUIRED DRESS CODE / 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 of swim trunks.

BNC TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES:

USA VOLLEYBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISIONS & BIDS

The USA Volleyball Beach National Championship comprises of three (3) divisions of play:

OPEN DIVISION

This is the elite competitive division. Teams are **required** to earn a bid at a Beach National Qualifier (BNQ) event or receive a wild card bid from their region to register for this division. Boys may also earn an Open Division bid at a Beach Regional Qualifier (BRQ) event.

For the Girls' Divisions: the top four (4) finishing teams, per age group from each BNQ event receive bids into the Open Division.

For the Boys' Divisions: All teams that have participated in a BNQ or BRQ event receive Open Division Bids.

AMERICAN DIVISION

This division is available for **girls only**. Teams must earn a bid by competing at a BRQ event. The top three (3) finishing girls' teams, per age group from each BRQ event receive bids into the American Division.

All Boys' teams that compete in BRQ events will be awarded Open Division bids.

PATRIOT DIVISION

This division is for teams who have not received a bid but would still like to compete for a Championship title. The Patriot Division will have a cap of 16 teams per division available on a first come, first serve basis with a waitlist. As the season progresses, spots may become available as registered teams qualify for the Open or American divisions.

*Teams are welcome to register in the Patriot Division to secure a spot in the Championships and can then be "moved up" into the American or Open Division by emailing BeachEvents@usav.org with their bid code.



WILDCARD BID APPLICATION PROCEDURES

WILDCARD BIDS FOR THE OPEN DIVISION OF THE USA VOLLEYBALL BEACH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

USAV Regions may apply for up to TWO (2) wildcard bids, per age group for girls and may apply for as many Wildcard Bids for boys as they wish, under the following criteria:

1. Athlete must have a current USA Volleyball membership and be a member of the requesting USAV Region
2. Athlete must not have already earned a bid to the USA Volleyball Beach National Championships, in any age group, or division for the current year.
3. Athlete must have competed at a USA Volleyball Beach Tour event within the last two years (events include Beach Regional Qualifiers (BRQ), Beach National Qualifiers (BNQ), and the National Championships)
4. To compete, an athlete must be within the top 20 in their region as determined by the USAV ranking system in the age division they wish to participate.

Bids are awarded to ONE (1) athlete, and they may select a partner of their choice (partner must be a USA Volleyball member and eligible to compete in the age group).

Athletes must register for the National Championship with their Wildcard Bid Code by the registration deadline.

To request a wildcard: Athletes/families must contact their USAV Region Beach Representative. The Region Representative may then submit a request via email that must include following information:

1. Send an email subject line “Wildcard Request – (USAV Region Name)” to BeachEvents@usav.org
2. Athlete Full Name & contact email
3. Athlete USAV ID #

4. A statement confirming the athlete meets all the criteria to be awarded a wildcard.
5. The request must come from the USAV Region Beach Representative or Region Representative.

*Requests from athletes/families directly, will not be considered

AUTOMATIC BIDS

For each team that finishes top three in ANY age/division, both players will automatically receive a bid for the next year's national championship **in that same age/division**. These bids will **ONLY** be eligible for the same division, unless that player has aged up to the next division due to their birth date.

WARM-UP PROTOCOL

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

Including a coin toss at seven minutes.

TIE-BREAKER PROCEDURE

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

Point Ratio = Points for divided by points against. A higher number is better. For example: A team plays three (3) games in the 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: $59 / 53 = 1.1132$.

FORFEITURES

Teams must physically check-in onsite prior to the start of the tournament, to be determined "in the tournament". If teams do not check-In, the team will be removed from the tournament at the Tournament Director's (TD) discretion.

For teams that have checked-in but do not show up for their match, the opposing team or the team refereeing the match must immediately report the missing team to the Tournament Director. It is

under the TD's discretion to determine how much time they will allow the team to report to the court.

Guidelines for the forfeit rules are:

- There is a 10 min warm up period that starts at the end of the previous match.
- After the 10 min warm-up, the start of a match is official, and the missing team will immediately forfeit the 1st game.
- After 15 minutes, and if the missing team has still not reported to the court, they forfeit the 2nd game, therefore forfeiting the match.
- If the match is a single game, then the team forfeits the game and match after the first 10 min warm up period.

No refunds will be given after the registration deadline, including for teams that forfeit

If a team must forfeit or withdraw from the tournament due to a player injury or any other reason, that team will forfeit ALL games for the day both played and unplayed. This removes all their points, making it fair for the remaining teams to get the same number of points.

OFFICIATING

TEAM OFFICIATING DUTIES

Teams will be officiating game play during the championship. Team Referee assignments will be on the tournament schedule. Teams must fulfill all their scheduled officiating assignments. 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 the head 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, the officiating team should 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.
- Teams choosing not to play a match are still required to fulfill the officiating assignments that come from forfeiting/losing a match.

USAV OFFICIALS

USAV certified officials will be present to monitor courts and will be led by the Head Official. For questions regarding USAV Rules of Play, please view the [current USAV Beach Rule Book](#).

FINAL RESULTS, AWARDS, AND POINT ALLOCATION

Awards will be given to both members of a team finishing 1st-3rd in the Gold Brackets only, for each age group and gender in each Division. Teams will be asked to please remain for photos, if possible.

* Note: a 3rd place match will be played to determine one (1) 3rd place winner.

All results will be completed as soon as possible to be uploaded into the USA National Beach Ranking System within 5-7 business days following the event. Results will be uploaded by USAV Beach Events Staff.

TEAM REGISTRATIONS

REGISTRATION

The BNC will utilize the USAV registration system. All registration information and requirements will be posted on the event website. The registration links can be found at the [USA Volleyball website](#).

- Teams may register for the division(s) they have earned a bid for.
- Teams must complete payment by the Entry Deadline to ensure their spot for the BNC.
- 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.

* USAV members in good standing with their region must be allowed to participate if they follow the proper entry procedures and protocol.

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

A limited number of international teams* will be allowed to participate in the BNC. Teams may compete in USA Volleyball Beach Tour Qualifiers to earn a bid **or** apply for entry into the National Championship. To apply, teams must complete the following:

- Teams must send a letter of interest to: BeachEvents@usav.org
 1. Teams must provide the following documents:
 - a. Letter of Good Standing from the team's federation for all athletes on a team & coaches wishing to participate
 - b. [Foreign Participant Registration form](#) for each athlete of the team(s)
 - c. An official letter (on signed letter head) from the federation that provides the team's official ranking or national standing. Contact information for the federation must be included in the letter for verification.
 2. Once all documents are received, teams will be permitted to register for the Open, American, or Patriot Division of the USA Volleyball Beach Tour National Championship.
 3. Acceptance is not guaranteed. All paperwork must be completed and received no later than July 1st, 2024. Acceptance is dependent on availability of space at the competition venue as well as teams being in good standing with USAV as well as their home federation.

*Please note teams from Puerto Rico are considered “International Teams” due having a separate Olympic Federation from the United States Olympic & Paralympic Federation and are required to submit the paperwork listed above.

COACHES REGISTRATION

All coaches wishing to participate with their teams at the BNC must register online prior to the start of the tournament. Coaches must have a current USAV Membership and be up to date on the following:

- SafeSport trained
- Background Screened
- IMPACT Certified
 1. Coaches must register no later than one week before the start of the event. Late walk ups are permitted upon verification of coaching requirements including IMPACT, SafeSport training and successful completion of a background screen.
 2. 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.
 3. 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.

International Coaches must submit a Letter of Good Standing from their federation to BeachEvents@usav.org before registering online.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

The BNC schedule is dependent upon the dates allocated for the event based on the event permit, and local regulations. More specific schedule information will be provided on the event registration page.

Tournaments typically begin at 8:00 a.m. with check-in at 7:00 a.m. local time. Some locations may have space limitations and/or weather restrictions which may affect starting times. The Tournament Director along with other appropriate tournament officials will determine delays and new start times. Participants are required to check the event website for start times, playing schedule and any weather-related delays.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

The BNC will be seeded using the “snake” method for pool play based on USAV ranking points. The National Championship is a three (3) day event:

- Day 1 – Pool Play; Teams are seeding by their USAV Ranking Points. Either of the following formats may be selected for pool play:
 - 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

- Day 2 – Pool Play; Teams will be reseeded by performance-based results from Day 1: Either of the following formats may be selected for pool play:
 - 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
- Day 3 – Single Elimination Playoff Brackets; Teams’ bracket placements and seeding are by their performance-based on results from **Day 2 ONLY**
 - Gold Bracket: top two teams from 4 team pools, top three from 5 team pools
 - Silver Bracket: All remaining teams
 - The first round for each team is match play, then single set games. The semi-final, 3rd place, and Finals return to match play.

These formats may be modified as needed by USAV.

SAFETY STANDARDS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Outdoor Safety

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

A certified ATC will be available to assist participants during the event.

Inclement Weather

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

- **Lightning:** The Tournament Director must monitor the weather. When 30 seconds (10 miles) or fewer occur between seeing the lightning flash and hearing its associated thunder, all individuals must leave the venue site and take cover at a safer structure or location. Before resuming play, 30 minutes must pass after both the last sound of thunder and the last flash of lightning. If lightning is seen without thunder being heard, it may be out of range and therefore less likely to be a significant threat (Source: [ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)). Weather should be monitored at: <http://www.weather.gov>.
- **Rain:** The Tournament Director is responsible for monitoring rain to cancel or postpone a tournament, rainfall must be significant and pose a threat to the athletes by creating excessive puddles and hard divots in the sand.
- **Wind:** While all beach volleyball athletes must be prepared to contend with windy playing conditions, wind gusts of over 25 miles create a safety hazard at tournaments and equipment (poles, nets, etc.) may become unstable. When winds on the sand are measured

at 25 mph or higher, the Tournament Director may postpone tournament activities or cancel the tournament entirely.

- **Heat:** The Tournament Director is recommended to run a Wet Bulb Globe Test (WBGT) to assess the Heat Stress, a combination of temperature, relative humidity, and radiant heat, at the start of each tournament. The American College of Sports Medicine has produced guidelines regarding how an event should consider reacting to various weather conditions. The ACSM has purposely avoided creating a strict cancellation standard, stating that it does not want to handcuff an event director; rather it offers recommendations about the course of action that should be taken in various weather conditions. The temperatures in the ACSM guidelines are all WBGTs (wet bulb globe temperatures). The WBGT is an index that takes into account heat (dry bulb), humidity (wet bulb), and the ambient temperature (black bulb, which factors in additional variables such as reflected heat and wind).

ACSM Heat and Humidity Recommended Guidelines:

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

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

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

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

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

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

*For the most up-to-date information check: www.ACSM.org

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

Questions? Check out our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).