

USA Volleyball

NTDP

National Team Development Program



BEACH

2026



2026 U18 Beach National Team Trials Manual

January 29 - 31, 2026 - Manhattan Beach, CA

This document outlines the procedures for the USA Beach Volleyball U18 National Team Trials. Trials winners will earn a spot on the U18 Age Group Beach Volleyball National Team.

Contents

Minimum Requirements.....	2
Team Commitment and Participation Agreement	2
Trials Entry.....	4
Entry Formula	4
Confirmed Entry List	5
Trials Seeding.....	5
Format.....	7
Deadlines and Registration Information.....	9
Responsibilities of Coaches and Athletes.....	10
Removal of Athlete(s).....	11
Replacement of Athlete(s).....	12
Medalists.....	13
Anti-Doping & Code of Conduct.....	14
Disclaimer	15
Athlete Inquiries.....	16
Appendix:.....	17
Tentative Schedule	17
Main Draw Bracket.....	17

Minimum Requirements

- ★ Be eligible to compete for the United States per USAV, NORCECA, FIVB, and IOC regulations/requirements. [LINK](#)
- ★ Be a currently registered member of USAV in good standing.
- ★ Athletes must be born on January 1, 2009 or later.
- ★ Must complete all FIVB-required paperwork and documents as needed.
- ★ Attending all training sessions assigned by USA Volleyball after the trials.
- ★ Training #1: February 1-3, 2026 (Hermosa Beach, CA)
- ★ The trials winners are going to earn a spot on the U18 National Team roster and are not guaranteed a spot on the traveling roster for the U18 World Championship. If the trials winners are selected as one or both traveling individuals following training #1 (February 1-3, 2026, in Hermosa Beach, CA), the athlete(s) must:
 - Hold a valid passport with an expiration date no earlier than January 3, 2027
 - Attend the second mandatory training block May 14-17
- ★ Be available to travel with the National Team for the 2026 U18 World Championship in The Hague, Netherlands (July 1-12, 2026)

Team Commitment and Participation Agreement

1. MANDATORY TRAINING COMMITMENT

1. The undersigned team members ("Athletes") hereby agree that, upon winning trials, they will earn a position on the U18 National Team Roster. From this roster, one athlete from the pair, both athletes, or neither athlete may be selected for the traveling roster for international competitions, with no guarantee that pairs will travel together. Athletes on the U18 National Team Roster will be required to attend the following mandatory training blocks post-trials. Attend ALL mandatory training blocks, specifically:
 - ★ Training Block #1: February 1-3, 2026 (Hermosa Beach, CA)
 - ★ Training Block #2: May 14-17, 2026 (Manhattan Beach, CA)

- This is conditional to the athlete and/or pair being selected as one of the traveling athletes and/or pair.
- Training Block #3: This training block will take place ahead of travel in Southern California. Dates are TBD.

2. Accept full responsibility for completing all assigned tasks and projects.
3. Acknowledge that failure to fulfill these training commitments by one or both team member will result in forfeiture of their individual or team position.

2. PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

Each Athlete hereby:

1. Confirms possession of a valid passport (if selected as one of the U18 National Team athletes) with an expiration date extending beyond six (6) months from date of travel (01.07.2027)
2. Agrees to provide proof of passport renewal if current passport is expired.
3. Acknowledges that failure to provide passport documentation to USA Volleyball by the specified deadline will result in team forfeiture of their designated Beach National Team position.

3. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

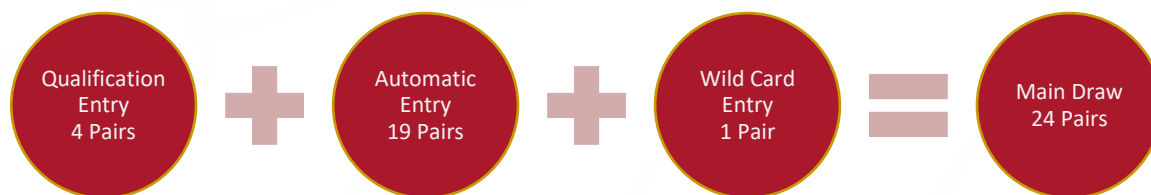
We, the undersigned Athletes, fully understand and agree to all terms and conditions stated above

Trials Entry

- ★ The U18 National Team Trials is open to any athlete who meets the minimum requirements in SECTION 1 – Minimum Requirements.
- ★ Interested athletes can register via the following link: [Athlete Registration](#)
- ★ The participating athletes of the U18 National Team Trials must bear all costs related to their travel, board, and lodging.
- ★ For 2026, USA Volleyball will be following FIVB's Volleyball World Beach Pro Tour Tournament regulations ([FIVB BVB Sports Operations Manual](#)).
- ★ Format is subject to change up to 6 days out from the event (January 23, 2026).

Entry Formula

- ★ The Main Draw Tournament will consist of a maximum of 24 pairs in each gender as outlined below:



- ★ Twelve (12) places will be awarded to the main draw according to a pairs' combined [USA Volleyball Beach Ranking](#) points on January 22, 2026 at 12pm (PST).
- ★ Up to one (1), Wild Cards per gender may be awarded by USA Volleyball. Any remaining unused wild card places will be granted entry according to the [USA Volleyball Beach Ranking](#) as of January 22, 2026.
 - Teams interested in applying for a Wild Card should either list or upload a document listing team accolades and accomplishments during registration.
- ★ Up to four (4) places will be awarded to the main draw from the qualification tournament, the top four (4) finishing teams.

- ★ The Qualification Tournament will consist of a maximum of 24 pairs to qualify for four places in the Main Draw Tournament in each gender.
- ★ Entry into the Qualification Tournament will be awarded to the best-remaining pairs per the [USA Volleyball Beach Ranking](#) as of January 22, 2026, not already awarded entry to the Main Draw Tournament. USAV reserves the right to award one (1) team per gender wild card into the Qualification Tournament. Any remaining unused wild card places will be awarded entry according to the [USA Volleyball Beach Ranking](#) as of January 22, 2026.
- ★ A Qualification Tournament will only be held if there are more than 24 total teams registered.
- ★ Any pairs who registered and did not receive entry into the Main Draw or Qualification Tournament will be seeded and placed on a Reserved List. If a place becomes available, the highest-ranked Pair from the reserve list will be notified and has 24 hours to reply if they accept. If they decline or do not reply within 24 hours, the place will be offered to the next highest team. Teams will be ranked on the reserve list as per the [USA Volleyball Beach Ranking](#) as of January 22, 2026.
- ★ A drawing will break any ties in the entry of lots.

Confirmed Entry List

- ★ For the USA Volleyball Beach Age-Group National Team Trials event, the confirmed entry list will be issued 7 days prior to the start of the tournament. The 2026 U18 Beach National Team Trials Confirmed entry list will be issued on January 23, 2026.
- ★ Twelve (19) places will be awarded according to a pairs' combined [USA Volleyball Beach Ranking](#) on January 22, 2026.
- ★ Up to one (1), Wild Cards per gender may be awarded by USA Volleyball. Any remaining unused wild card places will be granted entry according to the [USA Volleyball Beach Ranking](#) as of January 22, 2026.

Trials Seeding

- ★ For both the Qualification and Main Draw tournaments, the seeding list will be established one day prior to the respective tournament and after completion of the respective technical meetings.
- ★ All seeding points will be based on the [USA Volleyball Beach Ranking](#) as follows:
- ★ Qualification Tournament: January 28, 2026
- ★ Main Draw: January 29, 2026

- ★ Qualification Tournament Seeding List will be released on January 28th following the Qualification Tournament Technical Meeting.
- ★ Main Draw Tournament Seeding List will be released on January 29th following the Main Draw Tournament Technical Meeting.

Format

- ★ The competition will consist of a one-day single-elimination Qualification Tournament of up to 24 teams per gender, if necessary, followed by a two-day Main Draw Tournament consisting of up to 24 pairs. The Main Draw will consist of round-robin or modified pool play and a single-elimination bracket. All competitions will be played with the MIKASA BV550C BALL and will be provided on-site. [FIVB rules](#) will apply, and matches will be played out until a gold medal winner awarded. See Appendix A for the provisional match schedule. USA Volleyball has the right to amend the format and rules.
- ★ The Qualification Tournament is single-elimination and played with a maximum of 24 pairs, with a max of four (4) pairs qualifying for the Main Draw Tournament. Qualifying tournament will be held on [January 29, 2026](#).
- ★ Teams in the Qualification Tournament will be seeded per their combined USAV Beach Ranking at the release of the confirmed entry list. Any ties in seeding will be broken per a drawing of lots.
- ★ The Main Draw Tournament is round-robin or modified pool play followed by a single-elimination bracket. It will be held from [January 30-31, 2026](#)
- ★ Teams in the Main Draw, including the teams advancing from the Qualification Tournament (as well as teams, if any, picked up by the lucky-loser draws), are seeded per their combined USAV Beach Ranking at the release of the confirmed entry list. Any ties in seeding will be broken by drawing of lots.
- ★ Exact pools will be posted online following the completion of the Qualification Tournament and any necessary draws. Pools will be seeded in the following format:

Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D	Pool E	Pool F
1	2	3	4	5	6
12	11	10	9	8	7
13	14	15	16	17	18
24	23	22	21	20	19

- ★ The first, second, and third-finishing pairs in their respective pools will advance automatically to the 18-team single-elimination phase. The fourth finishing pair will be eliminated. Please see the following Section from the [FIVB Age Group WCH's Handbook](#) for how ties in the Pool Phase will be broken.
- ★ Thirty minutes following the final match of pool play in each gender, USA Volleyball will host a drawing of lots. The drawing of lots establishes the seeding of the single-elimination phase. Coaches and athletes are welcome to attend, but attendance is not required.
- ★ The drawing of lots will occur per the FIVB Age Group WCHS Handbook..
- ★ Matches will be played out for first place only.

Deadlines and Registration Information

- ★ Deadlines are at 12 pm PT on the following dates:
- ★ December 17, 2025 Registration posted online and opens ([LINK](#))
- ★ January 22, 2026 Last day for any partner changes
- ★ January 22, 2026 Registration Deadline
- ★ January 23, 2026 Confirmed Entry List released (19 teams will gain entry into the Main Draw and up to 24 teams will gain entry to the Qualification Tournament)
- ★ January 26, 2026 Coach Registration Deadline
- ★ January 29, 2026 Qualification Tournament
- ★ January 30-31, 2026 Main Draw Tournament
- ★ Registration will open on December 17, 2025 and can be found at the [following LINK](#).
- ★ Registration per Pair will be \$250 + online fees.
- ★ Entry into the Main Draw and/or the Qualification Tournament will be contingent upon the pairs USA Beach Ranking Points once the registration has closed on January 22, 2026.
- ★ Coaches must register at the following [LINK](#) by January 26, 2026. Late coach registration WILL NOT be accepted.
 - Coaches must be a current USAV Member in good standing
 - Be SafeSport trained
 - Successfully completed a USAV background screening

Responsibilities of Coaches and Athletes

- ★ All-female athletes must wear shorts or spandex (1" inseam, min) and a tank top that covers the midriff when arms are at the sides. Hats, visors, sunglasses, and sand socks are considered optional personal attire. In addition, for competitions, pairs must be dressed identically, including matching tops and bottoms (including lengths). Cold weather clothing is permitted in conjunction with the uniform, and tops should fit snugly under any uniform.
- ★ Male athletes must wear matching shorts and tanks. The shorts must be a minimum of 10 inches in length, and the tank tops must cover the midsection. Hats, visors, sunglasses, and sand socks are considered optional personal attire. Cold weather clothing is permitted in conjunction with the uniform and should fit snugly under any uniform.
- ★ During this event, accredited coaches will be allowed to sit in the player's area and interact with the players during official warm-up, time-out, technical time-out and between sets. To receive an accreditation, the coach must register by the January 26, 2026, deadline. [Coach](#)

Registration:

- Coaches must:
 - Be a current USAV member in good standing
 - Successfully completed the SafeSport certification
 - Successfully completed a USAV background screening
- Coaches are permitted to coach pairs in both genders.
- Pairs are not required to have a coach.
- A coach may be registered for more than one Pair.
- ★ In general, coaches and pairs must follow the regulations as stated in the Coaches Section of the FIVB manual:
- ★ [Manual Link](#)

*(Please note certain sections i.e. team leaders, special hotel and food rates, uniform dress may not apply for this trials event).

Removal of Athlete(s)

- ★ Any athlete confirmed to compete in the USAV U18 National Team Trials may be removed as a competitor for any of the following reasons, as determined by USAV:
- ★ An injury or illness as certified by a board-licensed physician or medical staff approved by USAV. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician or medical staff approved by USAV, his/her illness or injury will be assumed to be disabling, and he/she may be removed.
- ★ Violation of USA Volleyball's Code of Conduct
- ★ An Anti-Doping violation as stipulated in 8.1
- ★ Any athlete removed from the Pair pursuant to a provision above has the right to a hearing per USAV Bylaws (Article X & XIII) or USOC Bylaws, Section 9.
- ★ Please see section 5 regarding discontinued matches or matches that have yet to be started:
[LINK](#)
- ★ USAV reserves the right to disqualify a pair if one or both athletes fail to fulfill the requirements as listed in this manual.

Replacement of Athlete(s)

- ★ In the event a qualified and nominated pair (both athletes) is entirely removed pursuant to the "Removal of Athletes" section above prior to the technical meeting, then the next highest ranked Pair not already in the tournament will gain entry.
- ★ After January 22, 2026, no replacement of athletes can be made.
- ★ Before the Confirmed Entry List release on January 22, 2026, the participating Pair may submit a withdrawal or change of athlete request to BOTH Carolina Garbato (Carolina.Garbato@usav.org) and Judit Kolada (judit.kolada@usav.org).
- ★ It is MANDATORY that the participating Pair both confirm the withdrawal/change to proceed with the request.
- ★ Once USAV issues the Confirmed Entry List on January 23, 2026 up until January 22, 2026 the participating Pair may:
 - Submit through a withdrawal request with the supporting Medical certificate and travel proof (such as flight ticket issued with flight number, etc.) to Carolina Garbato (Carolina.Garbato@usav.org) and Judit Kolada (judit.kolada@usav.org) and submit the withdrawal, disband or 'change of athlete' request.
 - Failure of the Pair to provide proof of a travel itinerary and medical certificate may result in the Pair forfeiting their registration fee.
- ★ If the withdrawal or 'change of athlete' request is for an athlete/team in the Main Draw tournament, the new team shall have enough combined USAV Beach Ranking Points to maintain their Main Draw position. Otherwise, the team shall be placed in the Qualification Tournament and/or Reserve List.
- ★ If the withdrawal or 'change of athlete' request is for an athlete/team in the Qualification Tournament, the team shall have enough combined USAV Beach Ranking Points to maintain their Qualification Tournament position. Otherwise, the team shall be placed in the reserve list. However, if the team has enough combined USAV Beach Ranking Points to enter the Main Draw, the team will remain in the Qualification Tournament.
- ★ The list of reserve pairs is constantly updated until the preliminary inquiry of the Qualification tournament. Reserve pairs must be present at the start of the Qualification tournament and both players must sign to register in the tournament to be considered for the potential inclusion in the event due to late withdrawals or no shows.

Medalists

- ★ The first place-winning pairs per gender will earn a spot on the USAV Beach U18 National Team
- ★ The top pair (1st place finishers) will earn a position on the U18 National Team Roster. From this roster, one athlete from the pair, both athletes, or neither athlete may be selected for the traveling roster for international competitions, with no guarantee that pairs will travel together
- ★ Training Block #1: February 1-3, Hermosa Beach, CA
- ★ Training Block #2: May 14-17, 2026 (Manhattan Beach, CA)
 - This is conditional to the athlete and/or pair being selected as one of the traveling athletes and/or pair.
- ★ Training Block #3: This training block will take place ahead of travel in Southern California. Dates are TBD.
- ★ Teams or individual athletes unwilling to attend the USAV mandatory training and/or unable to fulfill any of the USAV, FIVB, and/or host requirements to participate will forfeit their spot.
- ★ Final Selection of U18 Age Group National Team Traveling Athletes and Pairs
 - Traveling athletes and pairs will be selected following February 3-5, 2026 training block #1. Selection decisions will take into account, but are not limited to, the following criteria:
 - Athlete participation and performance in the Beach NTDP Training Series in 2024 and 2025
 - Athlete participation and performance in the 2024 and 2025 Beach NTDP Age Group National Teams
 - Athlete talent identification scores submitted by the Scouting Network
 - Post-program evaluations and measures assessing athlete potential and current performance

Anti-Doping & Code of Conduct

- ★ Athletes must adhere to all World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), and US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) protocols, policies, and procedures. This includes out-of-competition testing as required by WADA, FIVB, and USADA. [LINK](#)
- ★ Athletes must sign and adhere to the USAV Code of Conduct.
- ★ Media:
 - USAV owns all media rights, including photographs, video, digital television, at the event.
 - The ATHLETE will do his/her utmost to be available for professional interviews by USAV or credentialed media immediately following matches and will use reasonable efforts to organize his/her schedule accordingly. USAV will respect the ATHLETE'S need to train, play, eat, sleep and prepare for coming games during the EVENT when requesting the ATHLETE'S participation in such activities.

Disclaimer

- ★ Suppose any force of nature or force majeure should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document. In that case, these selection procedures will be revised pursuant to the approval of USA Volleyball.
- ★ USAV reserves the right not to take a pair or athlete and/or to select a different pair or athlete, if one or both athletes fail to fulfill the requirements as listed in this manual.
- ★ Due to force majeure (such as COVID-19, a global crisis, etc.). USA Volleyball reserves the right to change the tournament format, athlete selection, and/or change the event date and location.
 - If possible, any changes will be notified to registrants at least 7 days ahead of the event.
- ★ In the event USAV is unable to host trials due to force majeure, all athletes will be chosen subjectively by a committee formed by the two assigned head coaches and USAV Staff.

Athlete Inquiries

- ★ Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete should contact USAV NTDP: bntdp@usav.org.
- ★ If you have further questions that the USAV NTDP staff were not able to answer, please contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman at 719-866-5000 or email: kacie.wallace@usoc.org or sara.clark@usoc.org.

Appendix:

Tentative Schedule

January 29 - Qualification Tournament

Time	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4	Court 5	Court 6	Court 7	Court 8
9:00	GR24	GR24	GR24	GR24	GR24	GR24	GR24	GR24
10:00	GR24	GR24	GR24	GR24	BR24	BR24	BR24	BR24
11:00	BR24	BR24	BR24	BR24	BR24	BR24	BR24	BR24
12:00	GR16	GR16	GR16	GR16	GR16	GR16	GR16	GR16
1:00	BR16	BR16	BR16	BR16	BR16	BR16	BR16	BR16
2:00	GR8	GR8	GR8	GR8				
3:00	BR8	BR8	BR8	BR8				

January 30 - Main Draw

Time	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4	Court 5	Court 6	Court 7	Court 8
7:00	GU18 A1	GU18 A1	GU18 B1	GU18 B1	GU18 C1	GU18 C1	GU18 D1	GU18 D1
8:00	GU18 E1	GU18 E1	GU18 F1	GU18 F1	BU18 A1	BU18 A1	BU18 B1	BU18 B1
9:00	BU18 C1	BU18 C1	BU18 D1	BU18 D1	BU18 E1	BU18 E1	BU18 F1	BU18 F1
10:00	GU18 A2	GU18 A2	GU18 B2	GU18 B2	GU18 C2	GU18 C2	GU18 D2	GU18 D2
11:00	GU18 E2	GU18 E2	GU18 F2	GU18 F2	BU18 A2	BU18 A2	BU18 B2	BU18 B2
12:00	BU18 C2	BU18 C2	BU18 D2	BU18 D2	BU18 E2	BU18 E2	BU18 F2	BU18 F2
13:00	GR18	GR18						
14:00	BR18	BR18	GR16	GR16	GR16	GR16	GR16	GR16
15:00	GR16	GR16	BR16	BR16	BR16	BR16	BR16	BR16
16:00	BR16	BR16						

January 31 - Main Draw

Time	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4	Court 5	Court 6	Court 7	Court 8
9:00	G Q.F.	G Q.F.	G Q.F.	G Q.F.				
10:00	B Q.F.	B Q.F.	B Q.F.	B Q.F.				
11:00	G S.F.	G S.F.	G S.F.	G S.F.				
12:00	G Finals							
13:00	B Finals							

First Phase, 24 teams will be placed into six (6) 4 – team pools and will play modified pool play. The last place from each pool will be eliminated.

Second Phase, 18 teams based on pool play results, will qualify for the 18-team single elimination play off bracket

Main Draw Bracket

	1. 1st (A1 or B1)			
16. Draw 5	3			
1				
17. Draw 5		11		
	8. Draw 2			
	4			
	9. Draw 2			
			15	
	5. 1st (E1 or F1)			
	5			
	12. Draw 3			
		12		
	4. 2nd (C1 or D1)			
	6			
	13. Draw 4			
				17
	3. 1st (C1 or D1)			
	7			
	14. Draw 4			
		13		
	6. 2nd (E1 or F1)			
	8			
	11. Draw 3			
			16	
	7. Draw 2			
	9			
	10. Draw 3			
		14		
	2. 2nd (A1 or B1)			
15. Draw 4	10			
2				
18. Draw 5				

A1 or B1 are decided by best ratio (wins, sets, points*) - highest ratio goes to match #3, lowest ratio goes to match #10

C1 or D1 are decided by best ratio (wins, sets, points*) - highest ratio goes to match #5, lowest ratio goes to match #4

E1 or F1 are decided by best ratio (wins, sets, points*) - highest ratio goes to match #5, lowest ratio goes to match #4

Draw 2 = 3 x 2nd place teams from pool play with best ratio (match points, set ratio, rally point ratio, and if a tie still exists in rally point ratio, a draw will be conducted to break the tie)

Draw 3 = 3 x 2nd place teams from pool play with worst ratio (match points, set ratio, rally point ratio, and if a tie still exists in rally point ratio, a draw will be conducted to break the tie)

Draw 4 = 3 x 3rd place teams from pool play with best ratio (match points, set ratio, rally point ratio, and if a tie still exists in rally point ratio, a draw will be conducted to break the tie)

Draw 5 = 3 x 3rd place teams from pool play with worst ratio (match points, set ratio, rally point ratio, and if a tie still exists in rally point ratio, a draw will be conducted to break the tie)