

2026



BEACH

★ *National Championship*



CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL



Welcome to **VIRGINIA BEACH!**

The countdown is almost over and the time to *RISE* is now!

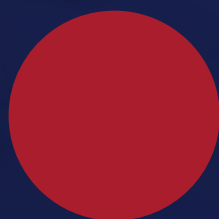
On behalf of USA Volleyball and the Outdoor Events Department, we are thrilled to welcome you to the Virginia Beach Oceanfront in Virginia Beach, VA for the 2026 USA Volleyball Beach National Championship.

This championship represents the culmination of a season of dedication, hard work, and passion. We are honored to celebrate the nation's best as they compete on one of the sport's grandest stages.

We thank you for your continued support and offer our best wishes to each participant for a successful and enjoyable experience.

Athletes can look forward to some fun in the sun while competing, making new friends, and catching up with long-time ones.

We extend our thanks to the Old Dominion Region of USA Volleyball and the Tidewater Volleyball Association for helping to host this championship. They are already working hard preparing for this championship.



A NOTE FROM USA VOLLEYBALL

USA Volleyball's vision, and unwavering commitment, is "to build, create, and support a safe, inclusive, positive volleyball experience and a lifetime of opportunity for all."

Harassment Incident Response - Officials & Staff (HIROS)

In addressing the increasing number of harassment incidents making headlines in sports, this serves as a reminder that there is ZERO TOLERANCE for harassment towards our officials, tournament staff, players, coaches, and spectators. To ensure accountability, the creation of the Harassment Incident Response – Officials & Staff (HIROS) is presented at all Qualifiers and National Championships to encourage tournament staff to confidently respond in real-time to what is deemed as hate speech, inappropriate gestures, or aggressive physical interaction targeting an individual's ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and physical appearance. Those who witness on-site harassment must report these unacceptable behaviors and actions to our officials, arbitrators, or tournament staff.

Spectator Conduct

We also remind coaches of their crucial role in maintaining respectful and courteous behavior and their responsibility to guide their teams and spectators. Unsportsmanlike conduct by spectators will be addressed by Arbitrators and Event Staff and may lead to dismissal from the event.

Let's all play our part in upholding the safety and integrity of the game and ensure a positive experience for all involved.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Hotels

Team Travel Source is the official housing company for the 2025 USA Volleyball Beach National Championship.

[Book your lodging today!](#)

Ground Transportation

Public Transportation Throughout Oceanfront

Virginia Beach Trolleys

Hampton Roads Transit's VB Wave Trolley and Bayfront Shuttle services are an easy way to get around the Virginia Beach Oceanfront, Rudee Inlet, and even reach First Landing State Park along the Chesapeake Bay to walk the trails. Hop aboard, kick back, and let us do the driving. With VB Wave Trolleys arriving approximately every 15 minutes during peak hours, visitors and residents alike can easily explore Virginia Beach on their schedule. [Click here](#) for more information.

Route 30 Trolley (Atlantic Avenue Trolley) runs every 15 minutes from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., cruising up and down Atlantic Avenue, from 2nd Street to 40th Street.

Public Parking

Numerous public parking garages and other public parking options can be found located near the competition venue.

Parking Lots and Garages in Close Proximity

Municipal parking garages with more than 1,670 parking spaces are located along Pacific Avenue at 25th and 31st Streets.

Fee: \$2/hour (\$24 max)

Metered street parking can be found along the oceanfront streets for \$2/hour.

More information on Oceanfront Parking can be found [here](#).

Beach Equipment Rentals

Beach chairs, umbrellas and other equipment rentals are available at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Sunrise Beach Services by Boucher Brothers

Phone Contact: +1 (757) 615-0720



Competition

sports
activities

COMPETITION INFORMATION

Dates of Competition

Please see the Age Division Schedule below for the 2026 USAV Beach National Championship.

	Session I			Session II		
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Division	13-Jul	14-Jul	15-Jul	16-Jul	17-Jul	18-Jul
Girls 18 Open				Pool Play	Pool Play	AM Brackets & Finals
Girls 18 American				Pool Play	Pool Play	AM Brackets & Finals
Girls 18 Patriot				Pool Play	Pool Play	AM Brackets & Finals
Girls 16 Open	Pool Play	Pool Play	AM Brackets & Finals			
Girls 16 American	Pool Play	Pool Play	AM Brackets & Finals			
Girls 16 Patriot	Pool Play	Pool Play	AM Brackets & Finals			
Girls 14 Open				Pool Play	Pool Play	AM Brackets & Finals
Girls 14 American				Pool Play	Pool Play	AM Brackets & Finals
Girls 14 Patriot				Pool Play	Pool Play	AM Brackets & Finals
Girls 12 Open	Pool Play	Pool Play	AM Brackets & Finals			
Girls 12 American	Pool Play	Pool Play	AM Brackets & Finals			
Girls 12 Patriot	Pool Play	Pool Play	AM Brackets & Finals			
Boys 18 Open				Pool Play	Pool Play	AM Brackets & Finals
Boys 16 Open	Pool Play	Pool Play	AM Brackets & Finals			
Boys 14 Open				Pool Play	Pool Play	AM Brackets & Finals
Boys 12 Open				Pool Play	Pool Play	AM Brackets & Finals

Note: ALL teams will play at least one match on the last day of your Session at the Championship. All Gold medal matches will be played that day on one of the Championship Courts while Bronze medal matches will be played on one of the surrounding courts, followed by the awards ceremony.

Note: We have tentatively scheduled all championship and bronze medal matches to start no later than 2:00 p.m. We recommend that all departure flights are booked no earlier than 5:00 p.m. This is tentative and the schedule may change.

Championship Schedule & Event Page

Click here to view the main Event Page for the 2026 USA Volleyball Beach National Championship.

Athletes and coaches will utilize the above Volleyball Life Event Page to see the schedule and record match scores.

The schedule for each Session will be released at approximately 5:00 p.m. ET the night before Day 1.

Session I: 5:00 p.m. ET on Sunday, July 12th

Session II: 5:00 p.m. ET on Wednesday, July 15th

Wave times for each Session will be released on Saturday, July 11th.

Open Divisions

Given ALL Open Divisions will be competing in full match-play format, all teams should expect to play at various times throughout the day. Our team will do our best to schedule adequate rest time between matches.

Official Ball of the Championship

USA Volleyball is proud to announce the launch of its new official outdoor volleyball, developed in partnership with Molten. Designed for both beach and grass play, the ball represents a significant step forward in performance, durability and consistency across outdoor disciplines.

The new USA Volleyball x Molten Outdoor Volleyball has been engineered to meet the unique demands of outdoor competition. It features enhanced grip, superior flight stability and long-lasting construction suited for varying weather conditions and surfaces. Additionally, the contrasting colors of the design allow players to easily track ball rotation during play.

Welcome, the Molten BV5005-3US.



Championship Layout

Please see the below map for the latest layout of the 2026 Beach National Championship.



Required Dress Code & Attire

Uniforms are not required but encouraged. All athletes are **REQUIRED** to wear a top.

Female Athletes

Tops for girls must cover your midsection when standing. Bottoms such as spandex, shorts, or leggings are acceptable. No bikinis will be permitted for any team.

Male Athletes

Tops for boys must be a tank top or t-shirt that covers the midsection when standing. Bottoms such as board shorts and athletic shorts are acceptable. No brief-type swimwear will be permitted.

Event Deadlines

All teams must complete registration by the established deadlines listed below.

Deadlines	
Registration Opens	Saturday, October 4
Deadline for Qualifier Events	Friday, July 10
Deadline for Submission of Countable USAV Point-Based Events	Saturday, July 11
Deadline for Team Registration for All Divisions	Friday, July 10 - 11:59 p.m. ET
Deadline for All Refunds	Friday, July 10 - 5:00 p.m. ET
Deadline for Coach Registration - Session I	Sunday, July 12 - 11:59 p.m. ET
Deadline for Coach Registration - Session II	Wednesday, July 15 - 11:59 p.m. ET

Partner Switches & Change Deadlines

A partner switch may be made prior to registration closing on Friday, July 10th. No partner switches may be made after this time unless an official request is made and deemed appropriate and accepted by the USAV Beach National Championship Committee.

All partner switches must show a current and valid 2025-2026 USAV Membership to be eligible.

Check-In at the Championship

Athlete Check-In

All necessary check-in procedures will take place at the Championship Tent located on the beach between 31st and 32nd Streets. BOTH athletes MUST be present together in order to complete the check-in process. Athletes will not be able to check in without their partner.

Coach Check-In

Coaches must complete the check-in process in order to coach at the championship. All necessary check-in procedures will take place at the Championship Tent located on the beach between 31st and 32nd Streets. Coaches must have a valid form of ID. (i.e. Driver's License) to be able to check in.

Tournament Credentials

Participating Athletes

1. On-Site Check-In will take place at the Championship Tent located on the beach between 31st and 32nd Streets.
2. BOTH athletes are to be active Full Members of USA Volleyball.
3. Those persons whose names appear for the pair are permitted to be on the court and utilize the players boxes. NO PARENTS are permitted in players boxes.

Participating Coaches

1. On-Site Check-In will take place at the Championship Tent located on the beach between 31st and 32nd Streets.
2. ALL Coaches MUST BE FULL active and valid members of USA Volleyball and complete all necessary requirements, including a USAV Background Check, SafeSport Certification, and IMPACT Training. NO EXCEPTIONS.
3. Coaches must have a valid ID (driver's license, birth certificate, passport, or state/federal ID -

photo ID is preferred if available) to obtain their Coach Credential. It is to be shown at check-in to any authorized representative of the Championship Committee, USAV Staff, Arbitrator or the Event Security Staff.

4. Coaches will receive a credential and wristband on Day 1 of each Session. Credentials AND Wristbands are NOT VALID for adults or parents of the players who are not registered as coaches.
5. BOTH the credential and wristband MUST be worn at ALL times while coaching to access the playing areas and players boxes.

Coach Registration

All coaches wishing to participate with their teams at the Beach National Championship must register online prior to the start of the tournament.

Coach Registration Process

6. Select "Register" for the Event
7. Bypass the "Bid Code" field by clicking "Next"
8. Select "Junior Coach" Division
9. Insert the coach's name into the "Player Name" field and click "Next"
10. Complete the rest of the registration

ALL coaches must have a current and valid 2025-2026 USAV Membership that ensures the following items are up-to-date and valid:

1. 2025-2026 USAV Background Screen completed
2. SafeSport training is updated
3. IMPACT Certified

Coaches MUST register no later than one day before the start of each session: Sunday, July 12 (Session I) and Wednesday, July 15 (Session II). Late walk-ups may be permitted upon verification of coach registration and requirements including a successful completion of the 2025-2026 USAV Background Screen, SafeSport Certification, and IMPACT Training.

Coaches are required to and MUST wear both the credential and wristband when interacting with athletes to have access to be on field of play and coach during the match.

Note: NO COACHING FROM NON-CERTIFIED COACHES IS PERMITTED! This includes family members and spectators providing any form of coaching or feedback during the course of the match.

Practice Opportunities

Practices will be allowed at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront on Sunday, July 12th from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, July 15th from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Courts will be first-come, first-serve with an allotted 1-hour practice maximum.

Enhanced Officiating

It's time to up our game! In an effort to enhance the athlete experience, the 2026 Beach National Championship will feature an increased presence of officials throughout the competition.

All Open Division matches will feature certified officials officiating. This exciting enhancement eliminated self-officiating responsibilities but will still maintain score-keeping tasks, creating a more consistent, fair and professional competition environment while accommodating rest time during full best-of-three matches.

American Divisions will experience an elevated officials presence with an increased number in of court monitors throughout the venue. This enhancement ensures athletes, coaches, and fans enjoy a more customer-focused and supportive environment throughout every match.

Provocative Behavior

USA Volleyball conducts USA Championship events, which are primarily domestic in nature, and while teams from other countries may participate, these Events are NOT International Events. Furthermore, domestic teams are representative of USAV Member Organizations, and, as such, do not officially represent a governmental structure within the United States.

Therefore, the following standing policy will apply to all USA Championship volleyball events conducted by USA Volleyball: "Comments and/or actions by an Event Participant, Team Member (roster personnel) or Spectator, which is deemed to be provocative, or provokes an opponent, other participant(s), team member(s), opponent's team member(s) or spectator(s) will not be tolerated and shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Event Arbitrator."

COMPETITION RULES & TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Competition Technical Information

Initial Seeding

Initial Seeding for Day 1 of each Session for the 2026 USAV Beach National Championship will be based off of the pair's TruVolley Rating. The pair's rating is the average TruVolley rating between the two athletes.

To learn more about TruVolley, visit <https://truvolley.com/about>.

If two or more teams have the same TruVolley rating, USAVP Ranking Points will be used to break the tie in seeding.

Tournament Flow

Day 1: Pool Play (based on initial seeding from TruVolley Rating)

Day 2: Pool Play (based on Performance-based seeding from Day 1 Results)

Day 3: Single-Elimination Bracket play

Open Division Play

ALL Open Divisions for both boys and girls age groups will compete under a full best-of-three match play format (21, 21, 15). Teams will navigate pool matches over the first two days before advancing to mini match play (15, 15, 11) on the third day. The final stages of the Gold Bracket with the semifinals and medal matches will feature the full best-of-three structure.

American & Patriot Division Play

All American and Patriot Divisions will continue with the established set-play structure during pool play followed by the single-elimination bracket structure where each pair's first match on Day 3 will be a full best-of-three match (21, 21, 15) followed by set-play matches to 21 points. The semifinals and finals of the Gold Bracket will feature the full best-of-three structure.

Note: A detailed competition flow and schedule will be published in the near future.

Warm Up Protocol

Timed warm-ups (10 minutes total): Only the four players share unlimited access to the entire court. We ask that athletes practice good sportsmanship.

Officials & Officiating

Open Division

USAV certified officials will be officiating all OPEN-Division courts and will be led by the Head Official. For questions regarding USAV Rules of Play, please view the current [USAV Beach Rule Book](#).

Teams will be required to keep score of matches they are assigned to do so 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.

When a match is assigned to a certified official, the officiating team should work as second referee and assist with scoring.

American / Patriot Divisions

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](#).

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.

Missed Officiating Duties

A Team's failure 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.

Competition Format

Open Divisions

All OPEN Divisions will be guaranteed two full matches per day (best-of-3 sets).

Pools of 4

All pools of 4 will play modified pool play format. Please see example below.

Match 1: 1 vs 4

Match 2: 2 vs 3

Match 3: Winner of Match 1 vs Winner of Match 2

Match 4: Loser of Match 1 vs Loser of Match 2

Pools of 3

All pools of 3 will play round robin pool play format. Please see example below.

Match 1: 1 vs 3

Match 2: 2 vs 3

Match 3: 1 vs 2

American / Patriot Divisions

All AMERICAN and PATRIOT Divisions will be guaranteed the same number of points per day.

Pools of 4

All pools of 4 will play sets to 28 points.

Pools of 5

All pools of 5 will play sets to 21 points.

Tie-Breaking Procedures

PROCEDURES For Breaking Ties to Determine Pool Finish have been reinstated for the 2026 Beach National Championships.

At the conclusion of a pool, the pool finish position of the Teams is determined by their pool match records.

If there is a tie in match record among 2 or more Teams in the pool, tie(s) are resolved using the Tie Break Rules.

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:

Two Teams Tie in Matches

Always broken head-to-head. No exceptions.

Open Division - Modified Pool Play

In a 4-team Open Division pool, if two teams finish with the same match record, the team that won its first scheduled pool match (Match 1 or Match 2) will be placed higher in the final pool standings than the team that lost its first scheduled pool match.

Three-or-More Teams Tie in Matches

- 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: $59 / 53 = 1.1132$.

Team 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 un-played. This removes all their points, making it fair for the remaining teams to get the same number of points.

GENERAL VENUE INFORMATION

Oceanfront Rules & Regulations

Coolers, chairs, umbrellas and tents are permitted to be brought into the event footprint. Spectator seating will be available for the two Championship Courts. Alcohol and drugs are NOT permitted.

Beach chairs, umbrellas and other equipment rentals are available at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Anyone discovered in possession or consuming illegal substances will be automatically expelled from the championship footprint. There are no warnings for alcohol consumption by players or any other underage person whose names appear on the official team rosters. There are no warnings for drug consumption by players or any person whose names appear on the official team rosters. If discovery occurs after the conclusion of play for the player/team, the USAV Corporate Ethics and Eligibility Committee will be notified and the extension of sanctions may result in the limiting of future participation with USA Volleyball. Any high performance, youth, or junior national team member found in possession of alcohol or illegal substances may be removed from participation with the national program.

Event Merchandise

Event merchandise sales will be held at the venue during the USA Volleyball Beach National Championship. Merchandisers will include the official event merchandiser, Simpatico. The Official Merchandise Tent will be located on the Championship Block between 31st and 32nd Streets.

Inclimate 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 (within 10 miles), tornadoes or other dangerous weather is present in the area. If there is a need to evacuate the oceanfront, an announcement will be made on-site. Event updates will then be sent out via Volleyball Life.

Event Photography

If you are interest in making a reservation for action photography throughout the course of the event, please contact Quad C Photography at (979) 476-2473 or at quadcphotography@quadcphotography.com.

