



USAVolleyball.

USAVolleyball.org

20501 Earl Street, Suite 3 | Torrance, CA 90503 | 310 975 3930

2026 USA VOLLEYBALL NORCECA OLYMPIC QUALIFIER PLAYOFF REGULATIONS

USA Volleyball (USAV) will conduct a playoff as outlined below to decide which teams to nominate to the 2026 NORCECA Continental Olympic Qualifier to be held in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico from November 04 to 09, 2026.

1. PLAYOFF LOCATION

1.1 Southside Manhattan Beach Pier, Manhattan Beach, CA, USA.

2. PLAYOFF DATES

2.1 September 1, 2026

3. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 Be a national of the United States.
- 3.2 Hold a valid U.S. passport.
- 3.3 Be eligible to compete for the United States per USAV, NORCECA, FIVB and IOC regulations/requirements - [Tools \(fivb.com\)](https://www.fivb.com)
- 3.4 Be a currently registered member of USA Volleyball (that includes a signed Registration Form and Code of Conduct).
- 3.5 Pay a \$75 per athlete registration fee (**Teams that do not gain entry into the playoff will receive a refund minus any credit card and Volleyball Life fees. Current BNP athletes, as defined by the BNP Handbook, will not be charged a registration fee.**)

4. PLAYOFF ENTRY

- 4.1 Teams must register with USAV by completing the online registration form by the specified deadline. Links to the online registration forms and registration deadlines will be posted at [Event Registration - USA Volleyball](#).
- 4.2 Teams that fail to register by the specified entry deadline can apply for late entry up to -6 days before the playoff at 5 pm Pacific by emailing sean.scott@usav.org. Late registering athletes will be charged \$100 additional per athlete for entry and entry is at the discretion of USAV.
- 4.3 Both athletes on a team must register separately and will receive a confirmation email upon completing the registration process.
- 4.4 The eight (8) highest-ranked registered teams per gender according to FIVB Entry Points as of the entry deadline ([FIVB VIS WebManager](#)) will be allowed to compete. A team's FIVB Entry points will be the sum of the two individual athlete's FIVB Entry Points.
- 4.5 If two or more teams are tied on FIVB Entry Points, the following tie-break procedure will apply:

Proud Member



- First tie-break: Compare the combined individual athlete ranking points earned at Volleyball World Beach Pro Tour tournaments, FIVB Beach Volleyball Senior World Championships, and FIVB-sanctioned or homologated beach volleyball tournaments during the 365-day period immediately preceding the registration deadline. The Team with the higher combined total will receive the higher entry ranking.
- Final tie-break: If the Teams remain tied after applying the first tie-break, the entry ranking will be determined by a drawing of lots.

5. COMPETITION FORMAT

5.1 Eight (8) team single elimination format. See Attachment A for more details.

6. COMPETITION RULES

6.1 Please refer to the FIVB Official Beach Volleyball Rules 2025-2028 ([Official Rules of the Games – FIVB](#))

7. 2026 USAV NORCECA OLYMPIC QUALIFIER PLAYOFF WITHDRAWALS

- 7.1 Should a team withdrawal before 5 pm Pacific the day before the playoff, USAV will replace the team with the highest-seeded team from the reserve list and reseed the playoff accordingly. The withdrawing team will forfeit any entry fee.
- 7.2 Should the withdrawal happen after 5 pm the day before the playoff USAV will NOT replace the team with a team from the reserve list and the team that was supposed to play the withdrawing team will get a bye. The withdrawing team will forfeit their entry fee.
- 7.3 Should an athlete withdrawal, or a change of athlete request, occur at any time before 5pm Pacific the day before the playoff, for a team in the tournament, the new team shall have enough USAV Ranking Points to maintain their position in the tournament draw. Otherwise, the team will be removed, and the highest-seeded team from the reserve list will be entered and the playoff reseeded accordingly. The withdrawing athlete shall supply a medical certificate from a certified medical doctor, otherwise, the athlete will forfeit their entry fee.

8. 2026 NORCECA CONTINENTAL OLYMPIC QUALIFIER NOMINATION

8.1 The team that wins the 2026 USAV NORCECA Olympic Qualifier Playoff will be nominated to represent the United States at the 2026 NORCECA Continental Olympic Qualifier, to be held November 4–9, 2026, in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico.

9. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

9.1 An athlete who is nominated to the 2026 NORCECA Continental Olympic Qualifier may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by NGB:

Proud Member





USAVolleyball

USAVolleyball.org

20501 Earl Street, Suite 3 | Torrance, CA 90503 | 310 975 3930

- Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete submits a written letter to the NGB Beach National Team Director requesting to voluntarily withdraw.
- Injury or illness. A physician (or medical staff) approved by NGB provides certification that the Athlete has a debilitating condition. If Athlete refuses to provide verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be debilitating, and they may be removed.
- Failure to meet qualification standards. Athlete does not meet FIVB or NORCECA minimum Olympic Qualification requirements
- Code of Conduct Violation. Athlete violates the [NGB Code of Conduct](#)
- Athlete Agreement. Athlete violates a term in their signed NGB Athlete Agreement.
- Non-compliance. Athlete does not meet the athlete eligibility requirements listed in Section 3 of this document.
- An Athlete may be removed as a nominee if found to have violated IOC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and NGB SafeSport policies, as applicable.
- Any athlete removed from the team pursuant to a provision above has the right to a hearing per USAV Bylaws (Article X & XIII) or USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

10. 2026 NORCECA CONTINENTAL OLYMPIC QUALIFIER WITHDRAWAL

- 10.1 In the event a qualified and nominated Team loses one of its athletes due to those reasons identified in previous section, then the remaining athlete of that Team may select an athlete to complete the Team from the Replacement Pool. The Replacement pool shall be those athletes of the same gender who are eligible to compete and competed in the 2026 USA Volleyball NORCECA Olympic Qualifier Playoff.
- 10.2 If a selected Replacement Pool athlete declines to participate with the remaining athlete, the procedure will be repeated until the Team is complete. Should an athlete in the Replacement Pool decline to play with the remaining athlete, then the Replacement Pool athlete shall forfeit the right to compete in the 2026 NORCECA Continental Olympic Qualifier.
- 10.3 Should the remaining athlete decline to play with any of the Replacement Pool athletes, then the remaining athlete shall forfeit the right to compete in the 2026 NORCECA Continental Olympic Qualifier, and a replacement team shall be identified as the next highest placing team in the 2026 USA Volleyball NORCECA Olympic Qualifier Playoff. Any ties in placement will be broken by 2026 USA Volleyball NORCECA Olympic Qualifier Playoff entry seeding.

Proud Member





- 10.4 In the event that a qualified and nominated team (both athletes) is entirely removed, then a replacement team shall be identified as the next highest placing team in the 2026 USA Volleyball NORCECA Olympic Qualifier Playoff. Any ties in placement will be broken by 2026 USA Volleyball NORCECA Olympic Qualifier Playoff entry seeding.
- 10.5 Any athlete removed from the team pursuant to a provision above has the right to a hearing per USAV Bylaws (Article X & XIII) or USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

11. FUNDING

- 11.1 USAV will book and cover the flights for the athletes that compete in the 2026 NORCECA Continental Olympic Qualifier.
- 11.2 The 2026 NORCECA Continental Olympic Qualifier promoter will cover the room and board for competing athletes from the night before competition starts until Monday after competition.
- 11.3 USAV book and cover the costs of any additional rooming costs.
- 11.4 USAV will provide Ten Thousand (\$10,000) Dollars to any team that earns the U.S. a 2028 Olympic Games quota place by winning the 2026 NORCECA Continental Olympic Qualifier.

12. DISCLAIMER

- 12.1 If any force of nature or force majeure should cause the alteration or cancellation of the playoff listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised by USA Volleyball.

13. ATHLETE INQUIRIES

- 13.1 Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete should contact Sean Scott (sean.scott@usav.org).
- 13.2 If you have further questions that the USAV Beach staff were not able to answer, please contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman at ombudsman@usathlete.org.





ATTACHMENT A

