

# USA Men's Beach Volleyball National Team

## Tryout Manual - September 29-30, 2026

### Table of Contents

|                                                        |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Welcome Letter .....                                   | 3  |
| 1. Men's Beach National Team Pathway and Purpose ..... | 4  |
| Men's Beach National Team Pathway .....                | 4  |
| 2. Program Objectives .....                            | 5  |
| 3. Eligibility .....                                   | 5  |
| Tryout Field .....                                     | 5  |
| Eligibility Requirements .....                         | 7  |
| 4. Tryout Format .....                                 | 7  |
| Day One Schedule.....                                  | 7  |
| Day Two Schedule .....                                 | 8  |
| 5. Athlete Evaluation .....                            | 8  |
| Evaluation Process .....                               | 9  |
| Indoor-to-Beach and Crossover Athletes .....           | 9  |
| Objective Performance Metrics .....                    | 9  |
| Subjective Evaluation Criteria .....                   | 10 |
| 6. Selection Procedures .....                          | 10 |
| 7. Partnership Policy .....                            | 11 |
| Preferred Partnerships .....                           | 11 |
| Partial Partnership Selection.....                     | 11 |
| Minimum Partnership Commitment .....                   | 11 |
| Partnership Reevaluation.....                          | 11 |
| 8. Program Expectations .....                          | 12 |
| Attendance .....                                       | 12 |
| Competition.....                                       | 12 |
| Coaching .....                                         | 12 |
| Strength and Conditioning .....                        | 13 |

|                                                                                                 |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Sports Medicine and Recovery .....                                                              | 13 |
| Nutrition .....                                                                                 | 13 |
| Mental Performance .....                                                                        | 13 |
| Athlete Handbook Cross Reference .....                                                          | 13 |
| Professional Conduct.....                                                                       | 13 |
| 9. Athlete Benefits .....                                                                       | 13 |
| 10. Program Term, Evaluation, and Renewal.....                                                  | 14 |
| 11. Athlete Alternate Pool.....                                                                 | 15 |
| 12. Appeals, Questions, and Communication .....                                                 | 15 |
| 13. Frequently Asked Questions .....                                                            | 16 |
| Which athletes are exempt from participating in the tryout? .....                               | 16 |
| Do current National Team Program (A2) athletes automatically receive a tryout invitation? ..... | 16 |
| Is this tryout for the Senior Beach National Team (formerly known as A1)? .....                 | 16 |
| What if I am injured and cannot try out or finish the tryout? .....                             | 16 |
| Can I miss training if selected?.....                                                           | 16 |
| What if I get an international opportunity with someone outside the program? .....              | 16 |
| Can I be in college and train with the program? .....                                           | 16 |
| What if I have a conflict with the tryout date? .....                                           | 17 |
| Appendix A .....                                                                                | 17 |
| Athlete Evaluation Rubric .....                                                                 | 17 |
| Objective Criteria .....                                                                        | 17 |
| Subjective Evaluation .....                                                                     | 18 |
| Other Notes .....                                                                               | 18 |

## Welcome Letter

Dear Athlete,

Thank you for your interest in the USA Volleyball Men's Beach Volleyball National Team Tryout. This tryout is designed for athletes who aspire to pursue excellence on the international stage and compete for the opportunity to represent the United States at the Olympic Games.

The goal of the tryout is to provide every athlete with a fair, transparent, and comprehensive evaluation. Athletes will be assessed across a broad range of technical, tactical, physical, and competitive situations, including their ability to execute fundamental skills, read and anticipate the game, make effective decisions under pressure, and adapt while competing with a variety of partners.

Talent identification at the highest level is inherently subjective. Although the coaching staff will collect objective performance data and evaluate measurable aspects of play, those metrics represent only one component of the selection process. Equally important are qualities that cannot be fully captured by statistics, including attitude, coachability, communication, competitiveness, decision-making, work ethic, response to adversity, and long-term potential for growth.

Selection to the Beach National Team provides the opportunity to train daily in a world-class high-performance environment alongside experienced national team coaches and an integrated performance support staff. Athletes selected to the team may receive coaching, strength and conditioning, sports medicine, performance nutrition, mental performance support, monthly stipends, and individualized development intended to accelerate growth and success in international competition.

This tryout is primarily intended to identify athletes for the USA Volleyball Men's Beach National Team. Exceptional performers may also be identified for future evaluation or opportunities within the Senior Beach National Team pathway at the discretion of the coaching staff. Participation in this tryout does not guarantee selection to the Senior Beach National Team.

Because the program currently has capacity for up to five (5) teams, selection is highly competitive. USA Volleyball recognizes the commitment required to prepare for this opportunity and sincerely appreciates the time, effort, and passion each athlete invests in the process.

On behalf of the coaching staff, thank you for your interest in the USA Volleyball Men's Beach National Team pathway. Best wishes throughout the tryout process.

Sincerely,

The Men's Beach Volleyball National Team Tryout Selection Committee

## 1. Men's Beach National Team Pathway and Purpose

The USA Volleyball Men's Beach National Team pathway operates through a centralized coaching and high-performance model across two (2) tiers. Every athlete works with USA Volleyball coaches assigned to that athlete and team, creating one connected system from the Senior Beach National Team through the Beach National Team.

### Men's Beach National Team Pathway

- The Senior Beach National Team consists of athletes and teams designated by USA Volleyball through the applicable men's beach national-team selection and performance processes, including current performance standards and Elo-based criteria. Senior Beach National Team status is distinct from tryout eligibility and does not, by itself, determine whether an athlete is exempt from participating in the Men's Beach National Team Tryout.
- For purposes of the 2026 Men's Beach National Team Tryout, up to three Senior Beach National Team teams—consisting of no more than six athletes total—may be exempt from participation, as designated by USA Volleyball. To qualify for an exemption, each team must meet the then-current Elo Band 1 minimum at the time of designation.
- Any designated Senior Beach National Team that does not meet the Band 1 minimum, as well as all other athletes seeking selection or continued placement in the Beach National Team program, must participate in the tryout. This includes athletes affiliated with Senior-level teams ranked fourth or lower.
- The Beach National Team consists of athletes and teams selected by the Men's Beach National Team coaching staff based on current international competitive level, projected development, partnership viability, and long-term National Team potential. The coaching staff may determine the size and composition of the Beach National Team roster based on program capacity, available funding, athlete quality, and the long-term needs of the Men's Beach National Team pathway.
- Athletes selected to the Beach National Team train within the centralized environment and work with USA Volleyball-assigned coaches. To maintain program status, athletes must satisfy all applicable eligibility, performance, conduct, and participation requirements in the Athlete Handbook and athlete agreement.

To maintain team status, each athlete must meet all eligibility and performance requirements outlined in the applicable Athlete Handbook. Failure to meet those requirements may result in termination of the athlete's contract.

Senior Beach National Team and Beach National Team status are governed through USA Volleyball's applicable men's beach national-team selection and performance processes. This tryout is primarily a Beach National Team selection opportunity. The coaching staff may identify exceptional athletes for future Senior National Team evaluation or opportunities at its discretion; however, participation in this tryout does not guarantee Senior National Team selection.

The Men's Beach coaching staff, led by Head Coach Matt Fuerbringer and Assistant Coaches Reinder Nummerdor and Casey Patterson, oversees both the Men's Senior Beach National Team and the Men's Beach National Team within the same technical, tactical, physical, and performance framework. Independent-contractor coaches may be engaged to support practice delivery, including setup, teardown, and targeted technical instruction as needed.

The coaching staff also supports National Team athletes by establishing individualized performance plans, building appropriate training programs, and setting measurable key performance indicators over defined eight-week training cycles. The men's talent pool may include experienced professional beach volleyball athletes, collegiate beach athletes, elite indoor athletes transitioning to beach, junior and developmental athletes, and other high-level crossover athletes.

## 2. Program Objectives

The Men's Beach National Team is designed to:

- Provide a centralized, coach-assigned Beach National Team pathway from high-level volleyball domestic professional beach competition into the international beach volleyball environment.
- Identify exceptional Beach National Team athletes who may warrant future evaluation for Senior Beach National Team opportunities, at the discretion of the coaching staff.
- Identify and develop athletes with long-term international and Olympic potential.
- Accelerate athlete development through daily exposure to a world-class high-performance training environment.
- Deliver comprehensive support through coaching, strength and conditioning, sports medicine, nutrition, mental performance, and performance analysis.
- Prepare athletes for the technical, tactical, physical, and professional demands of international competition.
- Strengthen the long-term depth and sustainability of the USA Volleyball Men's Beach National Team pipeline.

## 3. Eligibility

The USA Volleyball Men's Beach Volleyball National Team Tryout is open to eligible male athletes with high-level volleyball experience who demonstrate Men's Beach National Team potential and aspire to pursue international competition and the Olympic Games. All applications will be reviewed, and athletes will be accepted based on their demonstrated potential to meet the performance standards and developmental requirements necessary to contribute to the program and progress toward becoming world-class beach volleyball athletes.

### Tryout Field

- The 2026 tryout will consist of up to 48 athletes. The field will include automatically invited current National Team Program athletes (formerly known as A2) who meet the published registration and administrative requirements, as well as outside applicants selected through an invitation-based review process. Current National Team Program athletes, including current Beach National Team (A2) athletes and non-protected Senior-level athletes, will receive an automatic invitation to participate, provided they register by the deadline and meet the published eligibility and administrative requirements. Automatic invitation guarantees access to the tryout process and does not guarantee selection or continued program status.
- Remaining positions in the field, up to the 48-athlete limit, will be filled through a Selection Committee review of outside applicants. Outside applicants will be evaluated based on demonstrated National Team potential, performance history, competitive results, technical, tactical,

physical, and psychological profile, learning rate, projected international ceiling, work ethic, competitive spirit, and alignment with long-term program needs.

- Athletes will be reviewed and accepted based on a comprehensive evaluation of their potential to contribute to the Men's Beach National Team and develop into world-class international competitors. Evaluation factors may include performance history; competitive results and finishes; technical, tactical, physical, and psychological profile; learning rate; projected international ceiling; work ethic; competitive spirit; and alignment with the long-term needs of the program.
- Objective performance indicators may include, but are not limited to, vertical touch, speed, arm strength, TruVolley ranking, Elo rating, indoor volleyball pedigree, prior participation in the National Team Development Program, and results achieved through the National Team Development Program or other high-level competition opportunities.

All athletes seeking to participate must register through Volleyball Life by the September 18 registration deadline. Registration is required for all participants but does not, by itself, guarantee entry into the tryout.

Current Beach National Team athletes—including athletes on designated Senior Beach National Team teams that do not qualify for the tryout exemption described above—and current A2 athletes are required to register but will not be charged a tryout fee. Current National Team Program athletes who satisfy the published registration and eligibility requirements will receive an automatic invitation to participate.

Outside applicants will be reviewed by the USA Volleyball Men's Beach Volleyball National Team Tryout Selection Committee, which will determine invitations for the remaining available positions in the 48-athlete field.

Invitations will be communicated within five business days after registration closes. The Selection Committee consists of:

- Matt Fuerbringer, USAV Men's Beach National Team Head Coach
- Casey Patterson, USAV Men's Beach National Team Assistant Coach
- Reinder Nummerdor, USAV Men's Beach National Team Assistant Coach
- April Ross, USAV Beach National Team Head of Coaching
- Sean Scott, USAV Beach National Team Director

All athletes participating in the 2026 tryout must receive an official invitation from USA Volleyball. Current National Team Program athletes, including current Beach National Team (A2) athletes and non-protected Senior-level athletes, will receive an automatic invitation provided they register by the deadline and meet all published eligibility and administrative requirements. These athletes are required to register but may do so at no cost

Outside applicants may receive an invitation following review by the Men's Tryout Selection Committee and subject to available space within the 48-athlete field. Invitation letters will be sent within five business days after registration closes. Athletes who are unsure of their status after registration closes should email Sean Scott at [sean.scott@usav.org](mailto:sean.scott@usav.org).

Athletes who do not receive an invitation will receive a refund of the registration fee, less any non-refundable fees incurred by USA Volleyball, including Volleyball Life and credit-card processing fees.

## Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the 2026 Men's Beach Volleyball National Team Tryout, athletes must:

- Be a citizen of the United States and hold a valid U.S. passport or be able to obtain one.
- Be eligible to represent the United States in international competition in accordance with USA Volleyball, NORCECA, FIVB, and IOC regulations and requirements.
- Not have previously competed on behalf of another international federation.
- Be a currently registered USA Volleyball member, including a signed registration form and code of conduct.
- Meet all published application requirements before the registration deadline.
- Register for the tryout through Volleyball Life before the deadline.
- Pay the \$150 registration fee per athlete, unless the fee is waived for a current Beach National Team athlete as defined in the Beach National Team Handbook.

Athletes who do not gain entry into the tryout will receive a refund of the registration fee, less any non-refundable fees incurred by USA Volleyball, including Volleyball Life and credit card processing fees.

This tryout is intended for athletes seeking selection or continued placement in the USA Volleyball Men's Beach National Team program who do not qualify for a tryout exemption based on the applicable Elo criteria. Senior Beach National Team teams designated by USA Volleyball may be exempt from participation only if they meet the then-current Elo Band 1 minimum, as outlined above.

Current A2 athletes and all non-protected Senior-level athletes—including athletes fourth-and below ranked teams—must participate in the tryout if they seek selection or continued placement in the Beach National Team program.

Exceptional performers may be identified for future Beach Senior National Team evaluation or opportunities at the discretion of the coaching staff; participation in this tryout does not guarantee Beach National Team selection.

## 4. Tryout Format

The tryout is designed to evaluate athletes across a variety of technical, tactical, physical, and competitive situations. Athletes will be assessed individually while working with multiple partners throughout the evaluation process.

### Day One Schedule

#### September 29, Manhattan Beach Pier

#### Session One: 8:00 AM-10:00 AM (Tentative schedule)

Athletes should arrive early enough to complete all personal warm-up activities and be fully prepared to begin drills promptly at 8:00 AM.

#### Practice itinerary:

- Star setting drill.

Last Revision: September 9, 2026

- In-system passing and setting.
- Out-of-system setting.
- In-system attacking.
- Out-of-system attacking.
- Serving evaluation.
- Sand vertical jump touch.
- Competitive game play.

### **Session Two: 12:00 PM-2:00 PM**

Athletes should arrive early enough to complete all personal warm-up activities and be fully prepared to begin drills promptly at 12:00 PM.

#### **Practice itinerary:**

- Pass-set-hit warm-up.
- King of the Court with rotating blockers and defenders.

### **Day Two Schedule**

#### **September 30, Manhattan Beach Pier**

Each athlete will attend one of the following sessions, as determined by the coaching staff by the end of the second session on September 29.

### **Session One: 8:00 AM-10:30 AM**

Athletes should arrive early enough to complete all personal warm-up activities and be fully prepared to begin drills promptly at 8:00 AM.

**OR**

### **Session Two: 11:30 AM-2:00 PM**

Athletes should arrive early enough to complete all personal warm-up activities and be fully prepared to begin drills promptly at 11:30 AM.

#### **Practice itinerary:**

- Pass-set-hit warm-up.
- 16-11 serving to one player, with one mulligan per server.
- Seeded round-robin competition.
- Round-robin teams will be seeded based on Day One King of the Court results.

The Selection Committee reserves the right to modify the tryout schedule as necessary. Athletes are responsible for their individual needs while participating in the tryout, including water, sunscreen, towels, snacks, and lunch.

## **5. Athlete Evaluation**

Selection to the USA Volleyball Men's Beach National Team is determined through a holistic coaching evaluation administered by the USA Volleyball Men's Beach Volleyball National Team Tryout Selection Committee. Objective data informs selection, but it does not independently determine selection.

Last Revision: September 9, 2026

The mission of the Beach National Team is not only to identify athletes performing at the highest level today, but also to identify those with the greatest long-term Men's Beach National Team potential. USA Volleyball seeks athletes who can contribute to future international success, including at World Championships and Olympic Games. Although this tryout is a Beach National Team selection process, the Selection Committee may identify exceptional athletes for future Beach Senior National Team evaluation or opportunities.

### **Evaluation Process**

The following evaluators will be on site during the tryout:

- Rich Lambourne.
- Patty Dodd.
- Mike Dodd.
- Theo Brunner.
- Jake Gibb.
- Chris Flood.

Evaluators will observe athletes throughout the tryout and assess performance using the standardized evaluation criteria outlined below. They will document their observations and provide feedback to the Selection Committee, as identified in this manual.

The Selection Committee will review evaluator feedback, objective performance data, video and live observations as applicable, and all other relevant information in making final recommendations. Invitations to participate in the Men's Beach National Team program will be extended based on those final recommendations.

### **Indoor-to-Beach and Crossover Athletes**

The Selection Committee may consider athletes with limited current beach experience when size, movement, volleyball IQ, arm talent, serving ability, blocking profile, ball control, competitiveness, and learning rate indicate meaningful international beach volleyball potential. This does not lower the performance standard; rather, it expands the lens used to identify future international athletes.

### **Objective Performance Metrics**

Throughout the tryout, performance data may be collected through live observation, evaluator documentation, and post-tryout video analysis, including:

- Passing accuracy.
- Setting accuracy.
- Jump-setting proficiency.
- Serving accuracy.
- Service ace-to-error ratio.
- Defense and digging.
- Blocks and controlled blocks.
- Sideout efficiency.
- Point scoring.

- Match and drill wins and losses.
- Jump testing.

### **Subjective Evaluation Criteria**

In addition to measurable performance, evaluators and the Selection Committee will assess qualities essential to long-term international success, including:

- Attitude.
- Communication.
- Work ethic.
- Performance under pressure.
- Decision-making.
- Reading and anticipation.
- Competitiveness.
- Coachability.
- Long-term development potential.

Each athlete will be evaluated using a standardized USA Volleyball evaluation form, where applicable. Appendix A is included at the conclusion of this manual for athlete reference.

## **6. Selection Procedures**

The Men's Beach National Team has a planned roster capacity of up to five (6) teams and may select up to ten (12) athletes through this tryout, subject to program needs, funding, athlete quality, partnership viability, and final Selection Committee decisions. Athletes are evaluated and selected individually; roster decisions also consider team capacity, athlete quality, partnership viability, and the long-term developmental needs of the Men's Beach National Team pathway.

Final decisions are made holistically. Tryout scores, match results, and objective statistics are important inputs, but selections are not determined by cumulative points alone. The program develops both athletes and teams, and consistent team training is essential to offensive and defensive systems, communication, trust, and international-level performance.

During registration, athletes are asked to identify a preferred partner, where applicable. If both athletes are selected based on their individual evaluations, the coaching staff will strongly consider maintaining that partnership. If only one athlete from a preferred partnership is selected, the Beach National Team coaching staff will collaborate with that athlete to identify the strongest available partnership.

If an athlete chooses not to participate with a team-approved partner after that collaborative process, the athlete will be deemed to have declined the invitation to the Beach National Team. Final roster decisions are made collectively by the USA Volleyball Men's Beach Volleyball National Team Tryout Selection Committee and must be approved by majority vote of the committee members.

All athletes selected through this tryout will enter the Beach National Team and will work with USA Volleyball coaches assigned within the centralized Men's Beach National Team system. Selection through this tryout does not guarantee placement on the Senior Beach National Team.

Appeals regarding selection decisions must be submitted to Carolina Garbato at [carolina.garbato@usav.org](mailto:carolina.garbato@usav.org) within three (3) weeks of the conclusion of the tryout.

## **7. Partnership Policy**

### **Preferred Partnerships**

If two athletes register as preferred partners and both athletes are independently selected to the Men's Beach National Team program, the coaching staff will make reasonable efforts to maintain the partnership.

### **Partial Partnership Selection**

If only one athlete within a preferred partnership is selected, the coaching staff will work with the selected athlete to identify the strongest available developmental partnership opportunity.

If the athlete does not accept a team-approved partnership opportunity, the athlete will be considered to have declined participation in the Men's Beach National Team program. The Selection Committee may then extend an invitation to the next highest-evaluated eligible athlete.

### **Minimum Partnership Commitment**

New partnerships formed through the tryout process, in collaboration with the Men's Beach National Team coaching staff, are expected to train and compete together in a minimum of three coaching staff-approved international competitions before pursuing an alternative partnership.

The three required competitions will be identified in the team's Yearly Training Plan.

Because the international competition calendar operates year-round, athletes are expected to maintain availability for approved events throughout the year, except in cases of injury, illness, or conflicts approved in advance by the coaching staff.

Competition approval will be based on the partnership's developmental needs, competitive level, event-entry eligibility, and FIVB point total. For example, if a team's collective points permit entry only into an FIVB Futures event, that event will generally be approved. Conversely, a team eligible to enter an FIVB Challenge event may not receive approval to count an FIVB Futures event toward its three required competitions. The team may still elect to compete in the Futures event, but that event will not count toward the three-competition commitment.

The Men's Beach National Team coaching staff will evaluate extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis and will communicate its decision before the registration deadline for the applicable event.

If a newly formed partnership separates before completing the three-competition commitment identified in its Yearly Training Plan, either or both athletes may be removed from the program at the discretion of the coaching staff, in consultation with the Selection Committee.

### **Partnership Reevaluation**

After completing the initial three-competition commitment, an athlete who wishes to pursue a different partnership must undergo reevaluation by the Men's Beach National Team coaching staff, in consultation with the Selection Committee.

The reevaluation will consider each athlete's training performance, competitive progression, professionalism, commitment, and overall development within the program. Following reevaluation, the coaching staff may:

- Continue both athletes in the program
- Continue one athlete in the program and remove the other
- Remove both athletes from the program

In consultation with the coaching staff, an athlete who remains in the program may pursue a partnership with another current Men's Beach National Team athlete or request consideration of a prospective partner outside the program.

If the coaching staff approves evaluation of a prospective partner from outside the program, that athlete will participate in a one-week evaluation period. The coaching staff will communicate its decision no later than 5:00p.m. Pacific Time on the Friday immediately following the evaluation period.

Athletes who are removed from the program following the initial three-competition period will be notified in person by the coaching staff.

USA Volleyball reserves the right to amend or update these partnership policies. Any changes will be communicated to affected athletes within five business days.

## **8. Program Expectations**

Selection to the Men's Beach National Team requires a full-time commitment to pursuing international excellence. Athletes must complete a Yearly Training Plan and Individual Performance Plan in collaboration with coaches and meet all performance priorities outlined in the Beach National Team Handbook. Failure to meet these expectations consistently may result in removal from the program.

### **Attendance**

Selected athletes are expected to attend all training sessions, meetings, assessments, and performance-support appointments identified in their USA Volleyball-approved Yearly Training Plan, unless an absence is approved in advance by the coaching staff. Training schedules, coach assignments, and individualized or group-training expectations are governed by the Athlete Handbook and the athlete's Yearly Training Plan.

### **Competition**

Athletes are required to compete in a minimum of six of the highest-level FIVB tournaments available to them over a 365-day period. The highest-level available tournament is defined as the highest-level FIVB tournament for which the team can gain entry based on its point total. Additional competition is strongly encouraged and will be considered as part of ongoing athlete evaluations.

### **Coaching**

Athletes will train exclusively with the official USA Volleyball Men's Beach National Team coaching staff throughout their participation in the program. Exceptions permitting outside coaching may be considered individually and require prior written approval from the Men's Beach National Team coaching staff.

Athletes seeking to use an outside coach must submit a written request at least five business days before

the applicable competition. When available, official USA Volleyball Men's Beach National Team coaches will serve as the exclusive coaches for athletes competing in FIVB and NORCECA events.

### **Strength and Conditioning**

Athletes are required to participate in the USA Volleyball strength and conditioning program and complete all required assessments, monitoring, and training activities. Strength and conditioning training will be conducted at the USA Volleyball Beach National Team training facility in Torrance, California, with USA Volleyball athletic performance staff, unless otherwise approved in writing by the coaching staff. Athletes must meet the performance priorities outlined in the current Beach National Team Handbook and any additional requirements agreed upon with the coaching staff and documented in their Individual Performance Plan or Yearly Training Plan.

### **Sports Medicine and Recovery**

Athletes will utilize USA Volleyball athletic trainers, physical therapists, and massage therapists unless referred to an outside provider by USA Volleyball medical staff. Athletes are expected to schedule regular recovery appointments, regardless of injury status, and must complete all required sports medicine assessments and monitoring. Use of outside medical, recovery, or performance resources is permitted in addition to USA Volleyball resources but must be disclosed to USA Volleyball medical staff.

### **Nutrition**

Athletes are expected to work with USA Volleyball performance nutrition staff and complete all required nutritional assessments and monitoring.

### **Mental Performance**

Athletes must complete all required mental-performance check-ins. Athletes are strongly encouraged to consistently use available USA Volleyball and United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee sport psychology services.

### **Athlete Handbook Cross Reference**

Detailed procedures relating to service delivery, scheduling, communication, participation, onboarding, and offboarding are set forth in the Athlete Handbook and may be amended by USA Volleyball from time to time.

### **Professional Conduct**

The Men's Beach National Team strives to create an inclusive, positive, challenging, and professional high-performance environment. Athletes are expected to demonstrate respect, professionalism, accountability, and integrity in all interactions with teammates, coaches, staff, officials, competitors, and members of the public while representing USA Volleyball. Athletes must uphold the USA Volleyball Code of Conduct at all times.

## **9. Athlete Benefits**

Athletes selected to the Men's Beach National Team receive support designed to accelerate international performance and promote long-term athlete development. Program benefits may include:

- Daily coaching from USA Volleyball National Team coaches.
- A full-time high-performance training environment.
- Athletic training and sports medicine services.
- Strength and conditioning programming.
- Mental-performance coaching.
- Performance nutrition support.
- Video analysis and performance review.
- Individualized annual training and competition plans.
- Competition support from USA Volleyball performance staff.
- Athlete mentorship.
- Tournament registration fees.
- Financial support, stipends, and travel support, if any, as determined by USA Volleyball in accordance with the Athlete Handbook, athlete agreement, available funding, athlete status, and program priorities.

USA Volleyball reserves the right to modify program benefits based on available funding, program needs, and organizational priorities.

## **10. Program Term, Evaluation, and Renewal**

Athlete contracts will have a total term of ten months within the applicable calendar year. USA Volleyball will identify the specific contracted months based on the FIVB competition schedule, program demands, the team's Yearly Training Plan, roster needs, and available funding, and will communicate those periods to athletes in advance.

Selected athletes are expected to commit to the program in quarterly evaluation periods, subject to the terms of their Athlete Agreement. At the conclusion of each evaluation period, USA Volleyball may confirm, modify, suspend, or discontinue an athlete's program status, funding, partnership assignment, training plan, competition plan, or contract continuation based on performance, progression, professionalism, compliance with program expectations, partnership viability, roster needs, available funding, and program priorities.

During their contracted months, athletes may be required to remain available for international competitions and other program activities, subject to injury, approved leave, and coach-approved conflicts.

Athletes will participate in formal evaluation meetings with the coaching staff approximately every eight weeks as part of USA Volleyball's ongoing assessment process. These meetings provide an opportunity to review athlete progression, training performance, competitive results, professionalism, adherence to program expectations, and developmental priorities. Evaluation outcomes may inform adjustments to an athlete's Individual Performance Plan, Yearly Training Plan, competition schedule, partnership status, funding, and continued participation in the program.

Completion of a ten-month contract term does not guarantee renewal, extension, or selection for a subsequent contract period. USA Volleyball may elect to renew or not renew an athlete's contract based on program demands, available funding, roster needs, partnership considerations, athlete performance

and progression, professionalism, compliance with program expectations, and the athlete's comparative evaluation within the selection pool.

Athletes who choose not to pursue a National Team coach-approved partnership, fail to uphold team standards or minimum program requirements, or otherwise do not satisfy program expectations may be released before the end of their contract term at the discretion of the coaching staff, in consultation with the Selection Committee. Athletes whose contracts are not renewed following the completion of their ten-month contract term will be eligible to access a designated mental-health provider for up to six months after their contract concludes. The nature, scope, and scheduling of this support will be determined by USA Volleyball and may be subject to provider availability and applicable program policies.

To maintain team status, each athlete must satisfy all eligibility, conduct, and performance requirements outlined in the Athlete Handbook. Failure to satisfy these requirements may result in modification, suspension, or termination of the athlete's contract or program status.

## **11. Athlete Alternate Pool**

The Selection Committee may establish and maintain an alternate pool of up to eight athletes. Alternates may be identified through this tryout, collegiate and developmental identification processes, domestic competition, or other emerging-athlete evaluation opportunities.

Athletes in the alternate pool may be considered for training, camps, evaluation opportunities, domestic events, international competition, or replacement of selected athletes when roster needs arise. Inclusion in the alternate pool does not guarantee selection to the Beach National Team, a contract, financial support, competition entry, travel support, or future program placement.

USA Volleyball will provide alternates with advance notice when practicable, with a goal of approximately one week or more when travel and event schedules allow. Shorter-notice invitations may be necessary in cases of injury, illness, withdrawal, partnership change, or other unforeseen circumstances. Alternates are responsible for maintaining current contact information and appropriate readiness to accept or decline opportunities.

## **12. Appeals, Questions, and Communication**

For athletes 18 years of age or older, all program-related communication will be directed to the athlete and managed by the coaching staff or Selection Committee. Parents or guardians will not be included in routine communications unless required by law, safeguarding protocols, or USA Volleyball policy.

Athletes may direct questions to the Men's Beach National Team coaching staff or to Director of Beach National Teams Sean Scott at [sean.scott@usav.org](mailto:sean.scott@usav.org). Appeals will be resolved by the Men's Tryout Selection Committee within ten (10) business days of receiving the appeal.

For information on athlete rights and issues affecting athletes, athletes may also contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman by telephone at (719) 866-5000 or by email at [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org). Additional information is available at [teamusa.org/athlete-ombuds](http://teamusa.org/athlete-ombuds). Athletes may also contact USA Beach Volleyball General Manager Carolina Garbato at [carolina.garbato@usav.org](mailto:carolina.garbato@usav.org).

## 13. Frequently Asked Questions

### **Which athletes are exempt from participating in the tryout?**

Only Senior Beach National Team teams designated by USA Volleyball that meet the then-current Elo Band 1 minimum are exempt from participation in the 2026 tryout. A maximum of three such teams—consisting of no more than six athletes total—may receive this exemption.

All other athletes seeking selection or continued placement in the Beach National Team Program, including current A2 athletes and Senior-level athletes who do not qualify for the Elo-based exemption, must participate in the tryout.

### **Do current National Team Program (A2) athletes automatically receive a tryout invitation?**

Yes. Current National Team Program athletes, including current Beach National Team (A2) athletes and non-protected Senior-level athletes, will receive an automatic invitation provided they complete registration by the deadline and meet all published eligibility and administrative requirements. Automatic invitation guarantees access to the tryout process and does not guarantee selection.

### **Is this tryout for the Senior Beach National Team (formerly known as A1)?**

This is primarily a tryout for the Beach National Team (formerly known as A2). The coaching staff may identify exceptional athletes for future Beach Senior National Team evaluation or opportunities, but participation in this tryout does not guarantee Beach Senior National Team selection.

### **What if I am injured and cannot try out or finish the tryout?**

Athletes unable to attend or complete the tryout due to injury may be offered an alternative tryout date at the coaches' discretion, provided they submit a valid medical note from a certified medical provider. USA Volleyball reserves the right to have its medical staff evaluate the athlete to confirm the reported injury.

If you are injured at the time of the tryout, please communicate that to the Men's National Team coaching staff and Sean Scott at [sean.scott@usav.org](mailto:sean.scott@usav.org).

### **Can I miss training if selected?**

Athletes are expected to attend all trainings outlined in their USA Volleyball-approved Yearly Training Plan unless prior approval for an absence is obtained from the coach.

### **What if I get an international opportunity with someone outside the program?**

Athletes must train and compete with their USA Volleyball-approved partner for a minimum of three tournaments unless prior approval for a change is obtained from the Men's Beach National Team coaching staff. Each opportunity will be evaluated by the coaches in conjunction with the athlete.

### **Can I be in college and train with the program?**

Yes. Athletes may be in college and train with the program provided they remain eligible under all applicable collegiate, institutional, and USA Volleyball requirements and can attend all trainings outlined in their USA Volleyball-approved Yearly Training Plan unless prior approval for an absence is obtained from the coach.

## What if I have a conflict with the tryout date?

Athletes with an approved conflict may be offered a makeup date at the Men's Tryout Selection Committee's discretion. A makeup date is not guaranteed. The structure and process of the makeup date will be decided by the Selection Committee on a case-by-case basis.

Please communicate any scheduling conflicts to the Men's National Team coaching staff and Sean Scott at [sean.scott@usav.org](mailto:sean.scott@usav.org) before the close of registration on September 18, 2026.

## Appendix A

### Athlete Evaluation Rubric

This evaluation rubric gives the Men's Tryout Selection Committee one consistent reference for athlete evaluation. It combines objective data with subjective observation to form the most quantifiable ranking possible within the tryout. The rubric helps the committee compare athletes and decide whom to invite to the Men's Beach National Team. Objective metrics inform the decision, but final selection remains a holistic judgment of fit with the team's developmental purpose and the long-term needs of the Men's Beach National Team pathway.

### Objective Criteria

| Athlete Skill Area | Technique | Accuracy | Efficiency |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| Passing            |           |          |            |
| Setting            |           |          |            |
| Jump setting (Y/N) |           |          |            |
| Option             |           |          |            |
| Attacking          |           |          |            |
| Serving            |           |          |            |
| Blocking           |           |          |            |
| Defending          |           |          |            |
| Point Scoring %    |           |          |            |
| Sideout            |           |          |            |

Technique is ranked on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 indicates mastery and 1 indicates beginner level.

Accuracy is ranked on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 indicates consistent accuracy and 1 indicates no accuracy.

Efficiency applies to blocking, defending, attacking, serving, optioning, point scoring, and sideout and may be calculated through video review.

| Competition Category | Wins | Losses | Score For | Score Against |
|----------------------|------|--------|-----------|---------------|
| Drill                |      |        |           |               |
| Set                  |      |        |           |               |
| Match                |      |        |           |               |

For drill scoring, first place equals three tallies, second place equals two tallies, third place equals one tally, and all remaining athletes receive one tally in the loss column.

## Subjective Evaluation

| Category                   | Rating | Notes |
|----------------------------|--------|-------|
| Attitude                   |        |       |
| Work Ethic                 |        |       |
| Communication              |        |       |
| Performance Under Pressure |        |       |
| Decision-Making            |        |       |
| Reading and Anticipation   |        |       |
| Competitiveness            |        |       |
| Potential                  |        |       |

Ratings are assigned from A through F. A indicates excellence in the area; B indicates proficiency with room to improve; C indicates average and inconsistent performance with moments of proficiency; D indicates an area of weakness requiring significant improvement; and F indicates the area is not developed.

### Other Notes

Notes