

OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 1

CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL


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Welcome to NASHVILLE!

The countdown to the first-ever USA Volleyball Adult Grass National Championship is over!

On behalf of USA Volleyball and the Outdoor Events Department, we are thrilled to welcome you to the Music City and Nashville, Tennessee for the 2026 USAV Adult Grass National Championship. This championship represents not just the culmination of the inaugural 2026 USAV Grass Tour but also USAV's commitment to investing in the growth of grass volleyball throughout the country and beyond. Alongside your dedication and passion to the sport, we are honored to celebrate this sport as you compete on what's to become one of grass's grandest stages.

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

Athletes can look forward to some fun in the sun while competing, socializing, dressing up for Halloween, and celebrating the culture of the grass community.

We extend our thanks to the Southern Region of USA Volleyball and Waupaca Boatride for helping host this inaugural championship.

Now, it's time to kick some grass!



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 participants 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.

EVENT PARKING

Event Parking

Complimentary parking will be available for all staff and athletes participating in the championship. All participants will be able to park in Lot 5 (overflow Lot 7) for free with proof of participation.

The Athlete & Staff Parking Pass will be sent out the week of the championship. This must be shown to the parking attendant.

Lots 5 and 7 are shown on the map below.

(MAP TO BE INSERTED)

2026 CHAMPIONSHIP EXPERIENCES

Grass Volleyball Night with the Nashville Predators

Throw it down with USA Volleyball at the Nashville Predators hockey game Thursday night as they take on the Washington Capitals at Bridgestone Arena. We've secured a group rate ticket for this match up!

Nashville Predators vs Washington Capitals

When: Thursday, October 29, 7pm CT (puck drop)

Where: Bridgestone Arena, 501 Broadway

Group Rate: $57 per ticket in the Bud Light Fan Zone for Grass Champs athletes, friends and family

Tickets include a post-game group photo on the ice immediately following the game.

Click here to get your discounted Preds Night tickets.

The Kick Grass Social Club

Introducing your official championship hangout, The Kick Grass Social Club, a new championship tradition debuting at this inaugural event! Grab a drink at the bar, kick back in the lounge, pull up a seat with your crew, or keep the competition going with outdoor games. This year, we're bringing it to life with a haunted honky-tonk twist, where Nashville's Western spirit meets spooky fun.

Costume Contest

Bring your Halloween spirit to the Championship on Saturday, October 31, for a costume contest packed with creativity, laughs, and spooky style. Go creepy, clever, outrageous, or coordinate with your crew. This is your chance to turn heads beyond the court.

Bring your best look, rally your teammates, and give everyone something to talk about!

Prizes will be awarded to the Best Dressed!

Mechanical Bull

All Thrills. No Bull.

Think you've got championship-level balance? Time to prove it! A mechanical bull is bucking into 2026 USAV Adult Grass National Championship on Saturday, October 31, bringing a little extra yee-haw to our championship in Music City. Take a break from the courts, saddle up, and give your partners and friends something to cheer (and laugh) about. Whether you're hanging on for fame or hipping off with a new blooper-reel moment, this is one ride you won't want to miss.

Grab your crew, bring your best cowboy or cowgirl energy, and let's see who can handle the ride!

Visit Nashville

The Nashville Convention & Visitors Corporation is excited to welcome you to Music City! To learn more about all that Nashville has to offer during your stay, visit our event's destination-based microsite below, courtesy of NCVC.

Click here to learn more about Music City.

COMPETITION



CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION

Dates of Competition

Please see the competition schedule below for the 2026 USAV Adult Grass National Championship.

Friday, October 30: Men's & Women's Doubles

Saturday, October 31: Men's & Women's Triples

Sunday, November 1: Reverse Coed Quads - Power

Note: All Gold medal matches will be played on one of the Championship Courts while Bronze medal matches will be played on one of the surrounding courts, followed by the awards.

Note: We have tentatively scheduled all championship and bronze medal matches to start no later than 4:00 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 Adult Grass National Championship.

Athletes 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 on Wednesday, October 28th.

America's #1 Grass Athlete

USA Volleyball will crown one male and one female as America's #1 Grass Athlete at the 2026 Adult Grass National Championship! The race to become Number 1 is based on the season-long USAV Grass Tour Ranking Points.

The winners will be crowned either Saturday or Sunday, once the Open championship matches have concluded and points have been calculated and added to all athletes' ranking points.

The Championship Committee will communicate updates on award scheduling. Scheduling will depend on the points race after each division is complete.

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.



Dress Code & Attire

Costumes are encouraged for Saturday, October 31st.

Roster Switches & Change Deadlines

A roster change may be made prior to registration closing on Monday, October 26th. No roster changes may be made after this time unless an official request is made and deemed appropriate and accepted by the USAV Adult Grass National Championship Committee.

All new athletes in a roster change must show a current and valid 2026-2027 USAV Membership to be eligible.

Check-In at the Championship

Athlete Check-In

All necessary check-in procedures will take place at Championship HQ located next to the main entrance of the venue. ALL athletes on the team's roster MUST be present together in order to complete the check-in process. Athletes will not be able to check in without their partner(s).

Tournament Credentials

Participating Athletes

1. On-Site Check-In will take place at Championship HQ located next to the main entrance of the venue.
2. ALL athletes are to be active Full Members of USA Volleyball.
3. Those persons whose names appear on team roster are permitted to be on the court and utilize the players boxes. NO SPECTATORS are permitted in players boxes.

Enhanced Officiating

In an effort to enhance the athlete experience, the 2026 USAV Adult Grass National Championship will feature an increased presence of officials throughout the competition.

All championship matches and OPEN semifinal 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.

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 pool play of each division for the 2026 USAV Adult Grass National Championship will be based off of the team's TruVolley Rating. The team's rating is the average TruVolley rating between all the team's athletes.

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

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

Tournament Flow

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

- All pool play matches will be two sets to 21 points with rally scoring.

Phase 2: Single-Elimination Playoffs (see playoff rules below.)

Tournament Rules

Doubles Tournament Rules

- ***Tournament Format:*** Round robin format with single elimination playoffs. See playoff rules below.
- ***Playing Rules:*** Same rules as Beach Doubles, except let serves are NOT legal. There are no antennas and the courts are full size.

Triples Tournament Rules

- ***Tournament Format:*** Round robin format with single elimination playoffs. See playoff rules below.
- ***Roster:*** Roster maximum of four (4) players. Players that start a game, must finish that game unless they are injured. See subbing rules below.
- ***Scoring:*** All games will be played using rally scoring.
- ***Tips:*** No open-hand tips are allowed.
- ***Double Contact:*** Players MAY NOT double contact any ball contact, unless a ball is hard driven on an attack provided the ball is not held. Players MAY NOT double contact any serve. Players MAY NOT double contact the second or third hits.
- ***Let Serves:*** Let serves are NOT legal.
- ***Blocking:*** A block is not counted as a team hit.
- ***Setting Over:*** When the ball is set into the opponent's court, the setter's shoulders MUST BE squared up (forwards or backwards) to the line of flight of the ball.
- ***Time Outs:*** Each team is allowed two 30-second timeouts per game.
- ***Side Changes:*** Teams should switch sides of the court after every 7 points in games to 17 or more, and every 5 points for games to 15.

Reverse Coed Quads - Power Tournament Rules

- ***Tournament Format:*** Round robin format with single elimination playoffs. See playoff rules below.
- ***Roster:*** Roster maximum of six (6) players. Players that start a game, must finish that game unless they are injured. See subbing rules below.
- ***Scoring:*** All games will be played using rally scoring.
- ***Tips:*** No open-hand tips are allowed.
- ***Double Contact:*** Players MAY NOT double contact any ball contact, unless a ball is hard driven on an attack provided the ball is not held. Players MAY NOT double contact any serve. Players MAY NOT double contact the second or third hits.
- ***Let Serves:*** Let serves are NOT legal.
- ***Blocking:*** A block is not counted as a team hit.
- ***Setting Over:*** When the ball is set into the opponent's court, the setter's shoulders MUST BE squared up (forwards or backwards) to the line of flight of the ball.
- ***Time Outs:*** Each team is allowed two 30-second timeouts per game.
- ***Side Changes:*** Teams should switch sides of the court after every 7 points in games to 17 or more, and every 5 points for games to 15.
- ***Net Height:*** The coed division is played on a men's height net.
- ***Coed Rule:*** Each coed team must have a minimum of 2 women on the court, but there is no rule stating that one of them must touch the ball on each possession.
- ***Coed Attacking:*** Men can hit from behind a spray painted 10' line and can jump serve, but can't block.

Playoff Information & Format

The 1st and 2nd place teams in ALL Divisions advance to Gold Bracket Playoffs, while the 3rd, 4th and 5th place teams advance to Silver Bracket Playoffs.

After your pool is completed, find the location of your playoff match on Volleyball Life and please move to that court and be ready to play your match as soon as your opponent arrives. Note that there could be another playoff match on your court before your scheduled match. Please verify that you are playing the correct team at the correct time. If the wrong two teams play, the team that was supposed to be on the court at that time will automatically advance and the other team will be eliminated. There will be no replay matches.

Playoff Scoring

All Gold Bracket matches will be played as a mini match best-of-three structure with all three sets being played to 15 (no cap).

Time and Daylight permitting, semi-finals and finals in each Gold Bracket may be switched to full best-of-three matches. If so, the first two games would be 21 (no cap) and the third to 15 (no cap).

After your match is completed, the winning team needs to report the result in Volleyball Life or to HQ.

Warm Up Protocol

Timed warm-ups (5 minutes total): Only the competing players share unlimited access to the entire court. We ask that athletes practice good sportsmanship.

Officials & Officiating

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 15 or 21 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.

Tie-Breaking Procedures

PROCEDURES For Breaking Ties to Determine Pool Finish are described below.

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. Tie-breaking playoff games will NOT be played after pool play. Teams may advance to their respective playoffs based on points. YOU MUST RECORD THE CORRECT SCORE AFTER EACH MATCH.

The following tie-break structure will be utilized if daytime allots. This will be up to the discretion of the Championship Committee. ONLY Open Divisions will be following "Showdown" Protocol.

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

If a team be eliminated from advancing to the Gold Bracket:

1. Head-to-Head Record
2. Showdown: If teams are still tied, specifically in head-to-head sets, and either team would be eliminated from advancing to the Gold Bracket. (see Showdown rules below)

If both teams advance to Gold or if both teams move to Silver Bracket:

1. Head-to-Head Record
2. Head-to-Head Set Differential

3. Head-to-Head Point Differential
4. Total Set Differential
5. Total Point Differential

Three-or-More Teams Tie in Matches

If any teams will eliminated from advancing to the Gold Bracket:

1. Head-to-Head: A team that beats all the other teams with which it is tied will finish ahead of the other teams. A team that has lost to all of the other teams with which it is tied will finish behind the other teams.
2. Total Set Differential Between Tied Teams to determine top team
3. Showdown if teams would be eliminated from advancing to the Gold Bracket (see Showdown rules below)

If all teams teams advance to Gold or if all teams move to Silver Bracket:

1. Head-to-Head: A team that beats all the other teams with which it is tied will finish ahead of the other teams. A team that has lost to all of the other teams with which it is tied will finish behind the other teams.
2. Total Set Differential Between Tied Teams to determine top team
3. Total Point Differential Between Tied Teams to determine top team
4. Head-to-Head Record between two remaining teams

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.

Showdown

One set. First to 15 (cap at 15). Everything on the line.

When the tiebreakers can't separate the teams, we settle it on the court. The tied teams face off in a single, decisive set to 15 points. The winner earns the higher finish.

If a Showdown exists in a three-way tie between all three teams, the two lowest teams will play one set to 15 with the winner advancing to play the highest team for the final spot.

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 5-minute warm up period that starts at the end of the previous match.
- After the 5-minute warm-up, the start of a match is official, and the missing team will immediately forfeit the 1st game.

- After 10 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 5-minute 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.

Miscellaneous Information / FAQ

Substitutions

No subbing will be allowed within a game/set. You can start different lineups each game, but you can only replace a player during a game if there's been an injury. If a player leaves due to injury, he/she may not return for the match.

Footwear

Players may not wear cleats or spikes of any kind. Players may play barefoot.

Weather Policy

This is a Rain or Shine Event. Athletes 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 park, an announcement will be made on site. Event updates will then be sent out via Volleyball Life.

The tournament has the final say on start time and stopping play due to any conditions that would deem unsafe. Please keep in mind when making travel arrangements. We will do whatever we can to crown champions each year at our championship.

Tournament Director

The tournament director and Championship committee have the authority to alter rules and make decisions not covered in the rules. If the tournament director and/or Championship committee does alter the rules, the tournament director will advise the participants of those changes prior to the start of the event if possible. The tournament director and Championship committee has absolute authority over players, game officials and spectators, on and off the court at a tournament, where the maintenance of order is concerned, and may impose disciplinary measures as needed. The tournament director/Championship committee has the authority to make any necessary decisions regarding entries and seeding. The tournament director/Championship committee may change the format of the tournament if, in his/her/their opinion, conditions warrant. The tournament director/Championship committee has the authority to settle any and all disputes. The tournament director/Championship committee is the sole authority who determines if weather conditions warrant a suspension or cancellation of play. The tournament director/Championship committee is the final authority in determining if courts are safe and playable.

GENERAL VENUE INFORMATION

Fair Park 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.

Staking of structures is not permitted at Fair Park. Any tents must be held down by weights, sand bags or other tools besides ground stakes.

Net systems are the only items approved for staking.

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 Adult Grass National Championship. Merchandisers will include the official event merchandiser, Simpatico. The Official Merchandise Tent will be located near the main entrance of the park.

Inclimate Weather

Athletes 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 park, an announcement will be made on-site. Event updates will then be sent out via Volleyball Life.

SEE YOU IN NASHVILLE!

USAVolleyball

ADULT GRASS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

2026 NASHVILLE

Oct. 30 – Nov. 1, 2026