



***USA Volleyball***®

**2021 USA NATIONAL BEACH TOUR  
QUALIFIER AND CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL**

The following manual contains information regarding the USA National Beach Tour and the qualifying process for the USA National Beach Tour Junior Championships

(updated November 2020)

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## **INTRODUCTION**

USA Volleyball (USAV) is recognized by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee as the National Governing Body for the sport of volleyball in the United States, including the disciplines of beach, indoor and sitting volleyball.

The purpose of the USA National Beach Tour Manual (NBTM) is to publish the standards established by USAV for the USA National Beach Tour (NBT) and to explain the process of qualification at the USA National Beach Tour Junior Championships (NBTJC) through both Beach Regional Qualifiers (BRQ) and Beach National Qualifiers (BNQ).

Beach Regional Qualifier events are solely run and operated by the Regional Volleyball Associations (i.e. Chesapeake Region, Florida Region, etc.) and must comply with the parameters set forth in this manual

Beach National Qualifier events are licensed by USAV and must operate within the parameters set forth by USAV.

The NBTM is intended to be a resource to those hosting and attending BNQs, BRQs, and the USA National Beach Tour Junior Championships.

## **MANUAL CHANGES**

The USA National Beach Tour Manual (NBTM) is a corporate document. Suggestions to change the NBTM and the qualifying process come from the RVAA, in conjunction with USA Volleyball. Suggested changes must follow a review process, determined by USAV; changes that have monetary or legal significance may also require a review by USAV. Once a suggested change is approved, the implementation may take up to two full seasons.

The USA Volleyball Beach Events Department annually updates the NBTM and distributes an electronic copy of the updated version to each USAV Region no later than September 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Updates to the NBTM will be posted on the NBT website, no later than September 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Bid:** A bid is an invitation to each member of a qualifying team to play in the NBTJC. To use the bid, a team or individual must meet all entry deadlines and other requirements set by both their USAV Region and the USAV National office

**NBTJC:** National Beach Tour Championships

**BNQ:** Beach National Qualifier; specific events licensed by USAV to be run by either USAV, Regional organizations or promoters

**NBTM:** National Beach Tour Manual

**BRQ:** Beach Regional Qualifier; specific events hosted and run by Regional Volleyball Associations

**Bracket Play:** A tree diagram that represents the series of games played during a knockout tournament

**CAP:** The USA Volleyball Coaching Accreditation Program (USAV-CAP) provides an opportunity for professional preparation and advancement for the volleyball coach. The curriculum addresses the essential topics for all coaching levels (from the volunteer to the internationally aspiring coach). All coaches wishing to become CAP certified must complete the prerequisite course of IMPACT. For more information, please visit [www.usavolleyball.org](http://www.usavolleyball.org).

**Event:** Multiple tournaments or activities associated within the same title, sanction and host organization.

**IMPACT:** (Increased Mastery and Professional Application of Coaching Theory) USA Volleyball currently has a minimum level coaching education requirement to coach a USAV Junior Volleyball program. Completion of a USAV IMPACT course or IMPACT clinic webinar meets this requirement. For more information, please refer to [www.usavolleyball.org](http://www.usavolleyball.org).

**Match:** Best 2 out of 3 sets. The first two sets are played to 21 pts. Third set (tie breaker) is played to 15 pts. Sets must be won by a minimum of 2 pts.

**Performance-Based Seeding:** A team's seeding after pool play based on their win/loss record and point ratio vs all other teams that finished in the same place in their pools.

**Pool Play:** A round robin of play within a determined group.

**Results:** The outcome of a competition. This may also be referred to as a "place or finish"

**RVA:** Regional Volleyball Association of USA Volleyball.

**Sanction:** Recognition and coverage of a given event, and/or tournament within an event, by either an RVA or the USAV National Office.

**Seeding:** The order in which teams are ranked to begin a tournament. For the BNQs and NBTJC, seeding will utilize the points awarded on the USA National Beach Ranking System.



**Set/Game:** Single game to pre-determined point total.

**“Snake method”:** The sequence in which the seeded teams are placed in a pool so the ranked teams are equally distributed.

**Tournament:** Competition of a specific group of teams (i.e. Girls’ 16 & Under Open Tournament) that could also be known as a “Championship.”

**USAV:** USA Volleyball, the National Governing Body (NGB) for Volleyball.

## **BEACH REGIONAL QUALIFIER - OVERVIEW**

The primary purpose of the BRQs is to select, through tournament competition, teams in various age divisions to compete in the American Division at the NBTJC. There are several secondary purposes for the BRQs, including:

- Provide a high level of competition for teams at different levels within each age division.
- Showcase junior talent for college recruiters and National Team programs.
- Promote the growth and development of volleyball in a geographic area.
- Provide a training ground for officials.

The top three (3) finishing teams (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) in the Gold playoff bracket per gender and age group will receive bids in to the National Beach Tour Junior Championships. Girls will receive bids and bid certificates to the American Division. **\*Boys will receive bids and bid certificates to the Open Division.** BRQ bids may trickle down to 5<sup>th</sup> place only. Being offered to the 5<sup>th</sup> place teams in order of initial seed at the beginning of the event (See example below). Bids trickle down only when a “Team”, not individual player of a team, either declines the bid or has already earned a bid. If one of the players of the team accepts the bid, the remaining individual bid does not trickle down. Bids may only trickle down for the current event taking place and may not be used at other BRQ events.

\*\* Example: Of the final four 5<sup>th</sup> place teams, the bid will first trickle down to the team that was seeded highest at the start of the event. If this team declines the bid, the offer would go to the next highest seeded team prior to the event and so on.

**BRQ SCHEDULE:** [www.nationalbeachtour.com](http://www.nationalbeachtour.com)

## **BEACH NATIONAL QUALIFIER AND CHAMPIONSHIP - OVERVIEW**

The primary purpose of BNQs is to select, through tournament competition, teams in various age divisions to compete in the Open Division at the NBTJC. There are several secondary purposes for the BNQs, including:

- Promote inter-regional play.
- Provide a high level of competition for teams at different levels within each age division.
- Showcase junior talent for college recruiters and National Team programs.
- Promote the growth and development of volleyball in a geographic area.
- Provide a training ground for officials.

The top four (4) finishing teams (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>) in the Gold playoff bracket, per gender and age group will receive bids and bid certificates to the Open Division at the USA National Beach Tour Junior Championships. BNQ bids **DO NOT** trickle down and do not have minimum team entries for bids to be awarded.

**BNQ AND CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE:** [www.nationalbeachtour.com](http://www.nationalbeachtour.com)

**BNQ AND NBTJC REGISTRATION:** <http://usav.bracketpal.com>

### JUNIOR PLAYER AGE CLASSIFICATION AND DEFINITION

USA Volleyball offers junior beach competition to boys and girls ages 10 to 18 years. Each gender has the following age divisions: 12 and Under (12U), 14 and Under (14U), 16 and Under (16U), 18 and Under (18U).

Please refer to USA Volleyball's [website](#) for the full age definition.

### Forfeit

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 min warm up period that starts at the end of the previous match.
- After the 5 min warm-up, the start of a match is official, and the missing team will immediately forfeit the 1st game.
- After 10 minutes, the team has still not reported to the court, they forfeit the 2<sup>nd</sup> game, therefore forfeiting the match.
- If the match is a single game, then the team forfeits the game and match after the first 5 min warm up period.

No refunds will be given after the registration deadline, including for teams that forfeit

### BNQ AND CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIFICS

Tournaments typically begin at 8:00 a.m. with check-in at 7:00 a.m. local time. Some locations may have space limitations and/or weather restrictions which may affect starting times. The Tournament Director along with other appropriate tournament officials will determine delays and new start times. Participants are required to check the event website for start times, playing schedule and any weather-related delays.

Players referee the opponents' matches. **See Appendix B** for more details.

Coaching is allowed under specified guidelines. Each coach MUST be a USAV member, SafeSport-Trained, background-screened and IMPACT Certified. **See Appendix A** for more details.

The Molten Elite Beach Volleyball BV5000 is the official ball beach of USAV and will be used at all BNQ and NBTJC events.





No competing sponsors of USAV are allowed at BNQ events. A list of USAV sponsors is available upon request.

Awards must be given to both members of a team finishing 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> in their respective age and gender division. No awards other than USA Volleyball approved-awards may be given out at a BNQ and NBTJC Event. Bid certificates must also be distributed to the top 4 teams finishing in each age group at a BNQ Event.

\*Note: 3<sup>rd</sup> place must be played to determine one (1) 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner.

### BNQ TOURNAMENT SPECIFICS

BNQ Tournaments are recommended to be 2-day events, but may be 1-day events should the Tournament Director choose:

- In a 1-day format, pool play should consist of one of the following:
  - 1 game/set (to 28pts) for 4 team pools and 1 game/set (to 21pts) for 5 team pools. These point totals should equal 84 points for each team.
  - 2 games/sets (to 21) for 4 team pools and 3 games/sets (to 21) for 3 team pools. These point totals should equal 126 points for each team.
  - 1 game/set (to 28) for 4 team pools and 2 games/sets (to 21) for 3 team pools. These point totals should equal 84 points for each team
- In a 2-day format, Day One should consist of one of the following:
  - 4 or 5 team pools playing match play (best 2 out of 3 games/sets; first 2 games/sets to 21 points; game/set 3, if needed, to 15 points).
  - If there is a 11-team division, it is recommended to have 2- 4 team pools and 1 – 3 team pools. Each pool playing match play (2 games/sets to 21, tie breaker to 15)
- Wave play option must have enough daylight and or lights to be able to accommodate the listed options of format to complete the tournament.

In the 1-day format, pool play must be a single elimination playoff bracket and is under the discretion of the tournament director to host top two or all teams to a Gold or Silver playoff bracket. In the 2-day format, pool play should be a single elimination or double elimination playoff bracket and is also under the discretion of the tournament director to host the top two teams or all teams to a gold or silver playoff bracket.

All BNQ events must be seeded using the “snake” method for pool play based on USA National Beach Ranking Points. Gold Playoffs will be based on top two or three (if 5 team pool) teams from each pool advance and are seeded based on either performance-based seating or pool -based seeding. USA Volleyball recommends performance-based seeding. Silver Playoffs will be based on bottom one (if 3 team pool) or two teams from each pool advance and are seeded on performance-based seeding or pool-based seeding

All Gold playoff brackets are recommended to have match (2 games/sets to 21pts, tie breaker to 15pts) play for final, semi-final and third place games.

Formats may be modified as needed, with approval from USAV if varying from above mentioned formats. Tournament host must provide the proposed tournament format to the USAV Beach Events Department at least 5 days prior to the start of the event.

### CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT SPECIFICS

Championships will be a 3-day event:

- Day 1 – Pool Play with either of the following formats:
  - 1 game/set (to 28pts) for 4 team pools and 1 game/set (to 21pts) for 5 team pools. These point totals should equal 84 points for each team.
  - 2 games/sets (to 21) for 4 team pools and 3 games/sets (to 21) for 3 team pools. These point totals should equal 126 points for each team.
  - 1 game/set (to 28) for 4 team pools and 2 games/sets (to 21) for 3 team pools. These point totals should equal 84 points for each team
- Day 2 – Pool Play; Teams will be reseeded based on results from Day 1:
  - 1 game/set (to 28pts) for 4 team pools and 1 game/set (to 21pts) for 5 team pools. These point totals should equal 84 points for each team.
  - 2 games/sets (to 21) for 4 team pools and 3 games/sets (to 21) for 3 team pools. These point totals should equal 126 points for each team.
  - 1 game/set (to 28) for 4 team pools and 2 games/sets (to 21) for 3 team pools. These point totals should equal 84 points for each team
- Day 3 – Single Elimination Playoff Brackets based on results from Day 2
  - Gold Bracket: Top two teams from 4 team pools, Top three from 5 team pools
  - Silver Bracket: All remaining teams

All Gold playoff brackets are recommended to have match (2 games/sets to 21pts, tie breaker to 15pts) play for final, semi-final and third place games.

### **NEW: The following adjustments will be implemented at the Championships for Boys only**

- **Open Division –required to earn a bid at a BNQ or BRQ event in order to register and play in this division.**
- **Patriot Division – No qualification bid necessary to compete in this division.**

The National Championship event will be seeded using the “snake” method for pool play based on USA National Beach Ranking Points. Gold Playoffs will be based on top two or three (if 5 team pool) teams from each pool advance and are seeded based on performance-based seeding. Silver Playoffs will be based on bottom one (if 3 team pool) or two teams from each pool advance and are seeded based on performance-based seeding. These formats may be modified as needed by USAV.

## TEAM ENTRIES

Teams are comprised of two (2) male or two (2) female players. Coed teams are not allowed.

The USA National Beach Ranking System will be used to seed teams in all BNQ events and the NBTJC.

### **Boys:**

To increase boys participation, if there are two (2) or less boys teams per division, then the following adjustments in format are permitted:

1. Combine boys division age groups (12U & 14U, 14U & 16U, 16U & 18U) to create a minimum of three (3) team pools.
2. Combine the boys teams with the girls teams in the age group deemed appropriate by the tournament director.
  - a. This will not prevent the girls' teams from making the playoffs or affect their seeding out of pool.
  - b. Boy's teams will not advance outside of pool. The boy's teams will compete for medals. If there is only one team, then they will receive the Gold medal and bid for their division.

The above mentioned are NOT rules but rather guidelines that hosts/directors can use to help build the boys program. If the host/director elects to follow these guidelines, they need to assess the ability of the boys to determine which girls' age/division would be most appropriate for the boys to compete in.

## DRESS CODE/ATTIRE:

**Uniforms are not required. However, matching color bottoms and tops are encouraged. All athletes are REQUIRED to wear a top, for girls it must cover the entire midsection when standing, and bottoms such as spandex, shorts or leggings. No bikinis will be permitted for any team. Boys must wear tank tops or t-shirts that cover the entire midsection when standing and bottoms such as swim trunks, surf shorts, or volleyball shorts. No brief type swim trunks.**

## EVENT REGISTRATION

All teams and coaches are required to register by the event deadlines posted on the event website. If a division becomes full prior to the deadline teams may be placed on a waiting list. Information and updates will be posted as soon as possible to the event website.

All BNQ events will utilize the USAV registration system - BracketPal. All registration information and requirements will be posted on the event website. Event registration links can be found at [usav.bracketpal.com](http://usav.bracketpal.com).

- *TEAM REGISTRATION – to register your team visit the NBT website and follow the links to register you team.*

- Entry Deadline: 12:00 PM noon Pacific Time the Wednesday before each BNQ event.
- At the discretion of the Tournament Director, the entry deadline may be pushed to a later time. Any late or walk up teams must still register online via Bracket Pal.
- \*Registration accepted on a space available basis only. No seeding with walk-up registration.
- \* USAV members in good standing with their region must be allowed to participate if they follow the proper entry procedures and protocol.
- **INTERNATIONAL TEAMS** – A limited number of international teams will be allowed to participate in the NBTJC. To apply for an entry into the event, teams must complete the following:
  - Teams must send a letter of interest to: [BeachEvents@usav.org](mailto:BeachEvents@usav.org)
    1. Teams must provide the following documents:
      - Letter of Good Standing for all athletes on a team & coaches wishing to participate
      - [Medical release forms](#) for all the athletes on a team
      - [Foreign Participant Registration form](#) for all athletes on a team
      - An official letter (on signed letter head) from the federation that provides the team's official ranking or national standing. Contact information for the federation must be included in the letter for verification.
    2. Once all documents are received, teams will be permitted to register for the Open, American, or Patriot Division of the National Beach Tour Junior Championships.
    3. Acceptance is not guaranteed. All paperwork must be completed and received no later than June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Acceptance is dependent on availability of space at the competition venue as well as teams being in good standing with USAV as well as their home federation.
- **REGISTRATION - COACHES**

All coaches wishing to coach at the BNQ must register online at the event website and have a current USAV Membership and be up-to-date on the following:

  - SafeSport trained
  - Background Screened
  - IMPACT Certified
  1. Coaches must register by Wednesday the week of the event at 12:00 PM noon Pacific Time.
  2. No late or walk-up registration will be permitted, unless the tournament host has the ability to verify a coach's certifications onsite.
    - a. Any late or walk up coaches must register online via Bracket Pal upon verification by the Tournament Host.
  3. Coaches will be required to wear wrist bands (or other designated form of identification for the event) when interacting with athletes and/or on the field of play.

4. Coaches working with more than one (1) team, only need to register once per event but MUST identify the teams they are coaching to the tournament staff.
- *ON-SITE REGISTRATION AND CHECK IN*
    - Prior to beginning of play, a Team (both players only) should confirm a team's presence at the tournament by checking in at the Tournament Desk and each player provide a medical release form.
    - It is the teams' responsibility to confirm their court and pool assignment.

### RESULT SUBMISSION

All BNQ results will be uploaded into the USA National Beach Ranking System by the USAV Beach Events Department, no later than 5:00 PM PT on the Tuesday following the event.

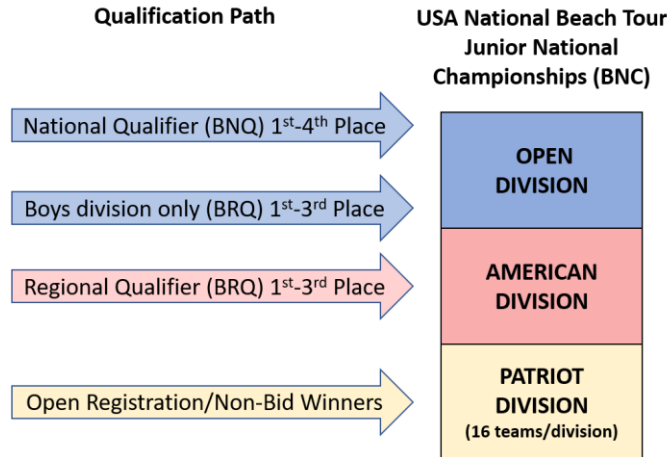
For BRQ events, results should be submitted to the appropriate Zonal Representative as designated on the USAV Ranking System website. Event results must be submitted in the appropriate format for upload into the ranking system. For more information please visit: [usav.seedingspal.com/home](http://usav.seedingspal.com/home)

### AWARDS AND POINTS

Players will compete for the opportunity to earn bids (invitations) to the USA National Beach Tour Junior Championships. At a BNQ event, bids for the Open Division will be awarded to the top four (1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>) finishing teams in each age division and gender in the "Gold" bracket. Additionally, medals will be awarded to those teams finishing in the top three (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>) in each age division and gender.

Participants in the BNQ event will receive more USA National Beach Tour Ranking points versus regional events.

NBTJC BIDS AWARDED BY A BNQ OR BRQ



BNQ events are licensed by USAV and operate under the parameters set forth by USAV.  
BRQ events are operated and managed by the Regional Volleyball Associations.

BNQ and BRQ Bid breakdown:

1. A Player is eligible to earn multiple bids in different age divisions but can accept only ONE (1) bid for each age division.
2. Bids are individual and are awarded to each player on a team that earned them from a BNQ or BRQ.
  - a. **BNQ:** The top four (4) finishing teams (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>) in the Gold playoff bracket, per gender and age group, will receive bids to the Open Division at the USA National Beach Tour Junior Championships.

**\*\*There are NO trickle-down bids at a BNQ\*\***

If a player competes in another BNQ event with a new partner in the same age division and places in a bid-winning spot, then the new partner earns a bid and the remaining bid **does not** trickle down.

- b. **BRQ:** The top three (3) finishing teams (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) in the Gold playoff bracket, per gender and age group, will receive bids to the American Division at the USA National Beach Tour Junior Championships. Bids may trickle down to 5<sup>th</sup> place teams. Reference Page 6 for more information.
3. **Patriot Division:** The Patriot Division at the NBTJC is for teams who have not received a bid but would still like to compete for a Championship title. The Patriot

Division will have a cap at 16 teams per division available through a first come, first serve basis with a waitlist. As the Tour season progresses, spots may become available as registered teams qualify for the Open or American divisions.

4. Divisions at the NBTJC may be combined at the Tournament Director/USAV's discretion.

## **USA NATIONAL BEACH TOUR – EVENT DETAILS**

### **EVENT SCHEDULE**

All event program links should be posted in a clearly visible location on the event website. BNQ events are required to utilize the USAV BracketPal account for scheduling the event. BRQ events can utilize their own BracketPal account or other scheduling system but are required to submit results to their appropriate Zonal Representative for inclusion in the USAV Ranking System. The Event Host is responsible for determining exact start times and notifying participants of any weather-related delays.

If the tournament format differs from the guidelines provided in this manual, the Event Host must submit event format to the USAV National office for approval prior to the event.

### **Sample Schedule** (based on one-day event format over two days)

Saturday: Boys & Girls 12U & 16U

7:00 a.m. Check-in Begins

7:25 a.m. Check-in Closes

7:25 a.m. Player & Parent Meeting Begins

7:45 a.m. Pools Sent to Courts

8:00 a.m. Pool Play Begins

1:00 p.m. Pool play ends (approximately)

1:15 p.m. Playoff bracket play begins

4:30 p.m. Finals

Sunday: Boys & Girls 14U & 18U

7:00 a.m. Check-in Begins

7:25 a.m. Check-in Closes

7:25 a.m. Player & Parent Meeting Begins

7:45 a.m. Pools Sent to Courts

8:00 a.m. Pool Play Begins

1:00 p.m. Pool play ends (approximately)

1:15 p.m. Playoff bracket play begins

4:30 p.m. Finals

All event start times should be posted on the event website prior to the opening of registration. Start times are subject to change but registrants will be notified in a timely manner. If wave assignments are

necessary, start times for each wave should be posted, with the check-in time for each wave noted accordingly.

The recommended wave start times are 8:00 AM for the morning wave (AM Wave) and 3:00 PM for the afternoon wave (PM Wave). If needed, for weather or other factors, events may opt to start waves at any time during the day. All events utilizing alternative wave play/evening play must insure adequate lighting is provided.

For general beach rules, refereeing responsibilities, coaching guidelines, player and parent conduct. See **Appendix A: Beach Volleyball Quick Guide**.

### SEEDING

BNQ and Championship events will be seeded utilizing the USA National Beach Ranking System through SeedingPal.

### WARM UP PROTOCOL

Timed warm-ups (10 minutes total): Only the four players share unlimited access to the entire court (Use good sportsmanship)

Three minutes on court, coin toss at seven, then five minutes formal warm-up.

### TIE-BREAKER PROCEDURE

See **Appendix B** section 1.4.4.3

### COMPETITION FORMAT

See **Appendix B**

### TEAM OFFICIATING DUTIES

The event should publish officiating assignment schedule for the teams. Teams must fulfill all their scheduled officiating assignments. These officiating schedules should be posted on the pool sheet. 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 first 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, then the officiating team should both work as second referee and assist with scoring.



- A team that fails 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.

### RULES OF PLAY

For a quick guide of rules, please see **Appendix A**

For additional info, please refer to the [Beach Domestic Competition Regulations](#) (DCR) for the current season.

### RECOMMENDED FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

It is recommended that an event have enough space for four (4) teams in each division offered.

All facilities must conform to the safety guidelines in the current USAV Domestic Competition Regulations.

- The playing court is a rectangle measuring 16 x 8 m (52'6" x 26'3"), surrounded by a free zone, which is a minimum of 3 m (9'10") wide on all sides.
- Free space for courts that are side by side is 4.5 m (15') from playing line to playing line.
- Free space for courts that are end to end is 6 m (19' 6") from end line to end line.
- The free playing space is the space above the playing area, which is free from all obstructions.
- The free playing space shall measure a minimum of 7 m (23') in height from the playing surface.

**For more information on recommended equipment dimensions, please see Appendix A.**

## HEAD OFFICIAL

BNQ's and the NBTJC must provide a Head Official for each day at a minimum. The Head Official will insure all teams are following the rules of play. It is recommended that the Head Official act as the first referee for the semi-final and final matches of each Gold Division playoff bracket. More than one official may be needed to cover all semi-final and final matches.

## EVENT MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

All adults (18 and above) contracted to be present during the event must be verified as having a current USAV membership, current SafeSport-Trained, and cleared USAV background check. This includes, but is not limited to, all event staff, medical personnel, photographers, officials, and arbiters.

All participants that are 18 years of age on the day of the event or turn 18 during the competition must complete the SafeSport Training course.

## SAFETY STANDARDS FOR PARTICIPANTS

- **Outdoor Safety**
  - Stay hydrated.
  - Use sunscreen, as well as clothing and headgear that protects from sun exposure.
  - Be prepared for cold or wet weather as well as for heat and sun!

A certified ATC must be present always and available to assist participants during the event. ATC must come equipped with all necessary equipment and supplies.

## ALCOHOL POLICY

USAV prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages during all junior events. Even with this rule there are situations where alcohol might be present at a junior event due to the location of the event. Many facilities which have volleyball courts also have restaurants and bars located within or adjacent to the facility. When this occurs, the event director should take special precautions to limit alcohol reaching the viewing area of the courts and to limit junior access to the area where liquor is being sold. Below are recommendations for conducting a safe event for juniors where alcohol is present:

1. The viewing area where spectators are present should clearly denote alcohol is not permitted in the general viewing area.

2. Volunteers should be instructed to be on alert for patrons possessing alcoholic beverages and how to deal with the situation.
3. There should be separate access for juniors to access the playing area. This area must be separate from the area where alcohol is served.
4. There must be a clear pathway to restrooms that is clear of alcohol being served or sold.
5. The area where alcohol is served and consumed should be roped off and clearly indicated that no juniors are allowed.
6. No alcohol is permitted in the areas where the junior event is held.
7. The facility must have its own liquor license and insurance which should be properly posted.
8. Alcohol signage should be removed or covered whenever possible, especially from court signage (net tapes, ball stops, etc.)
9. The event, the event director, USAV, and the club should be included as additional insureds under the liquor license.

If you should encounter any additional questions regarding this issue, please contact the USAV Beach Events Department at (719) 228-6800.

### **SAFETY STANDARDS FOR INCLEMENT 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, tornados or other dangerous weather is present in the area. The following criteria will result in a postponed tournament:

- **Lightning:** The Tournament Director must monitor the weather. When 30 seconds (10 miles) or fewer occur between seeing the lightning flash and hearing its associated thunder, all individuals should have left the athletics site and reached a safer structure or location. Before resuming athletics activities, 30 minutes must pass after both the last sound of thunder and the last flash of lightning. If lightning is seen without thunder being heard, it may be out of range and therefore less likely to be a significant threat (Source: [ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)). Weather should be monitored at: <http://www.weather.gov>.
- **Wind:** While all beach volleyball athletes must be prepared to contend with windy playing conditions, wind gusts of over 25 miles create a safety hazard at tournaments and equipment (poles, nets, etc.) may become unstable. When winds on the sand are measured at 25 mph or higher, the Tournament Director may postpone tournament activities or cancel the tournament entirely.
- **Heat:** The Tournament Director is recommended to run a Wet Bulb Globe Test (WGBT) to assess the Heat Stress, a combination of temperature, relative humidity, and radiant heat, at the start of each tournament. The American College of Sports Medicine has produced guidelines regarding how an event should consider reacting to various weather conditions. The ACSM has purposely avoided creating a strict cancellation standard, stating that it does not want to handcuff an event director; rather it offers recommendations about the course of

action that should be taken in various weather conditions. The temperatures in the ACSM guidelines are all WBGTs (wet bulb globe temperatures). The WBGT is an index that takes into account heat (dry bulb), humidity (wet bulb), and the ambient temperature (black bulb, which factors in additional variables such as reflected heat and wind). A WBGT thermometer can be purchased from a medical supply house for about \$100.00.

#### **ACSM Heat and Humidity Recommended Guidelines:**

**WBGT >82° F (>28° C) Black Flag:** Cancel or recommend voluntary withdrawal. (Events that are always held in these conditions should acknowledge the extreme heat risk to the poorly acclimated and non-resident competitors in literature and announcements). The risk for developing heat illness is extremely high when the Wet-Bulb Globe Temperature is greater than 82° F (28° C). At these temperatures, athletes should consider rescheduling event for another day or moving it to early morning or late evening to avoid the hottest period of the day. If competition must occur in a hot, humid environment, proper hydration must be strongly encouraged and precautions such as longer and more frequent water breaks, removing equipment during breaks and taking breaks in cool, shaded areas must be taken to prevent heat illness.

**WBGT 73° F - 82° F (23° C - 28° C) Red Flag:** Recommend participants at increased risk for heat collapse withdraw from event and others slow pace to match conditions.

**WBGT 65° F - 72° F (18° C - 22° C) Yellow Flag:** Recommend participants at increased risk for heat collapse slow pace. Warn entrants of increased risk of heat collapse.

**WBGT <65° F (<18° C) Green Flag:** Collapse can still occur. Decreased risk of hyperthermic and hypothermic collapse.

**WBGT <50° F (<10° C) White Flag:** Increased risk of hypothermic collapse

For the most up-to-date information check: [www.ACSM.org](http://www.ACSM.org)

- **Rain:** The Tournament Director is responsible to monitor rain to cancel or postpone a tournament, rainfall must be significant and pose a threat to the athletes by creating excessive puddles and hard divots in the sand.

# APPENDIX A

## BEACH VOLLEYBALL QUICK GUIDE

(Version 8.1)

For the complete beach rules, see the USAV DCR (Rulebook) or study online at [volleyballreftraining.com](http://volleyballreftraining.com). For Further information about Rules or Referee Certification, please contact us at [info@beachcommission.org](mailto:info@beachcommission.org) Rules Changes are flagged as **NEW**. Points of emphasis are highlighted. NCAA rule differences are underlined.

### Spirit of the Game:

- Teams play without outside intervention or assistance of any type.
  - Spectators, including parents and club-mates, are encouraged to cheer, but may not assist at any time (ex: “calling shots” is prohibited).
  - Coaches, when present, may cheer the exceptional play, but may only instruct during timeouts, side-changes, and between sets.

### Equipment and Area:

- Net 28' long. Height at center: Women 7'4<sup>1/8</sup>” and Men 7'11<sup>5/8</sup>”. Age U-13 (12 & Under): 6'11<sup>1/2</sup>” (2.12m): Age U-11 (10 & Under): 6'6” (1.98m)
- Antennas are required. Posts and referee stands should be padded.
- Court 26'3” x 52'6” square to 37'1” short diagonal. (8.0m x 16.0m with 11.31m short diagonal)
- Lines 2” wide are inside the court. (Buckles for adjusting the length of the lines, in all four sides, are strongly suggested.)
- Ball: light-colored, 9-10 oz. (260-280g) weight, with approx. 26” (66-68cm) circumference, at 2.5 to 3.2 psi (1.75-2.25 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>)
- When possible, the playing boundaries for each court should be established by banners, nets, curtains, etc.

### Teams (Players & Coaches):

- Two Players - no substitutes. The Captain represents the Team in communication with referees. Exception: TO in U-19 (18 & Under)
- Number of Coaches allowed: USAV: A coach and no more than one assistant coach. NCAA: No more than 3 coaches
- Coaches may only participate in on-court drills prior to the coin toss and official warm-up.
- During the official timed warm-up, coaches may instruct from the sideline, but may not engage in drills.
- During play, coaches observe from the player area. Instruction only takes place during timeouts, between sets, and (non-disruptively) during side-changes.
- Coaches may not attempt to influence or question the official's judgment at any time.

### Uniforms:

- Uniforms may or may not be required, as per event requirements. Please refer to dress code.
  - When uniforms are required, they should be worn so that player numbers are visible at the coin toss and thereafter.
  - NCAA: Tank tops covering abdomen & shorts with min 1” inseam required. Partners wear identical uniforms. Team displays matched color scheme.
  - **NEW:** USAV: if used, legal uniform numbers are 1-99 inclusive. NCAA: beach uniforms use basketball numbering system.
  - Cold weather gear (sweatsuits, Lycra undergarments, etc.) may be allowed. (Guideline temperature: “below 60 degrees”)

### Match Format:

- “Ten Minute Pre-Match Protocol” includes 5-minute Official Warm-Ups: USAV: coin toss at -7. (Juniors may vary)  
NCAA: coin toss at -10
- After the coin toss, the four players (only) share unlimited access to the entire court (coaches may be on sideline, but not involved in drills)
- Beach volleyball is played as Match Play, best-of-three sets played to 21, 21, (15). Rally scoring; win by two.
  - Scoring may be modified by Tournament Directors for specific events, (ex: “one game/set to 28,” or “two games/sets only to 21, without deciding game/set”).
- Winner of the toss chooses to serve, receive or side. Other captain chooses from remaining options. Both captains state service order for the game/set.
- All matches should utilize the etiquette of pre-match and post-match handshakes at the net between opponents.
- Unless a referee is present to whistle the start and end of each rally, the players are encouraged to “call the score” before serving.
- Service Order: Players alternate terms of service. **Officials identify the correct server for each rally and actively prevent wrong-server faults.**
- Position Faults: Players (other than server) must be on court at moment of service (no other requirement).
- Screening: Serving team must take positions so that the receiving team is able to see **EITHER** the server **OR** the flight of the ball.
  - Fair play: receiving team should use the “raised hand” signal to indicate a potential screen. Serving team should adjust position, without delay.
- Delay: The time between rallies should not exceed 12 seconds. In locations without banners or ball-retrievers, this guideline may be extended.
  - Violations result in Delay Warning, with subsequent occurrences leading to Delay Penalty.
- After 7 points of play in game/sets 1 and 2, the teams should switch sides. This is not a time out. Teams do not go to their player areas, or stop to get water or use a towel, but quickly move to the other side of the court and get ready to resume play.
  - Coaches may offer brief instruction during the court switch but must not delay the match.
- **Each team may call one timeout per game/set.** Total duration of all timeouts (including the TTO) is 60 seconds, as follows:
  - 15 seconds to move to player areas, 30 seconds at player area, (whistle at 45 sec), 15 seconds to return to play.
  - **NEW:** Coaches in age groups U-19 (18 & Under) may call time out for their team. NCAA: Coaches may suggest a time out to their captain.
- A “Technical Timeout” (TTO) after the 21<sup>st</sup> point of games/sets 1 and 2 is suggested. **Individual events may opt to add or reduce number of TTOs.**
- **The interval between sets is 2 minutes.** During the interval, the referee moves directly to the player area to:
  - Offer “first choice for game/set 2” to the captain of the team that lost the first coin-toss, and confirms “who will serve first for the team in this game/set”
  - Then offers the other captain the remaining choice and confirms “who will serve first for the team in this game/set”
  - If there is a deciding (3rd) game/set, the 1st referee should conduct another coin toss, and offer the same choices.
- Deciding Set: Play to 15 points, win by two. Switch sides on multiples of 5. There is not a Technical Time Out in the deciding game/set.
- At the end of the match, all players meet at the net near the referee stand to shake hands with each other, then with the officials.

#### Disputes:

- A Captain may occasionally approach the referee to request an explanation of a call (not judgment related).
- The referee(s) should be approachable and must offer an explanation based upon the rules, without prolonged discussion.
- A Captain has the right to protest rules misinterpretations / misapplications, but not judgment calls or sanctions.
- COACHES are not allowed to dispute calls, or to interact with match officials at all. Concerns should be addressed to the event Head Referee if necessary.

#### Warnings and Sanctions: **ALL DELAY AND MISCONDUCT WARNINGS REMAIN IN FORCE THROUGHOUT THE MATCH**

- Delays are indicated by displaying a “Card on Wrist”: Yellow = Warning      Red = Penalty (point and loss of rally)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Delay by a player or coach should result in a Team Delay Warning (Yellow card on wrist).
  - Any further delay by any member of that team, in the match, results in Delay Penalty. Multiple Delay Penalties may be assessed within a match.
- Misconduct by any player or coach should be managed when possible **through verbal warning(s)**.
  - Referees may offer one Formal Warning (Yellow Card) to a TEAM (player or coach) guilty of misconduct.
  - Subsequent minor misconduct by any team member (player or coach) on that team in that match must be sanctioned by Penalty (Red Card).
- Rude Conduct is sanctioned by Penalty (Red Card). It is not necessary that a Misconduct Warning (Yellow Card) have been issued previously.
  - Players may receive a maximum of TWO Penalties per player per GAME/SET. Further misconduct results in the player being EXPELLED for the GAME/SET.
  - Coaches may receive a maximum of ONE Penalty per GAME/SET. Further misconduct results in the coach being EXPELLED for the GAME/SET.
- AGGRESSIVE action by any player or coach at any time results in immediate Disqualification (Red and Yellow Cards held apart)
  - Expulsion or Disqualification of a Coach does not involve a penalty point. The Coach should report immediately to the Event Director or Head Referee.
  - Expulsion or Disqualification of a Player results in that team defaulting the game/set (expulsion) or match (disqualification).

#### **Playing Actions and Faults:**

- Blocks and play above the net:
  - Players must contact the ball within their own playing space (follow-through into the opponents playing space after contact is legal).
  - It is always illegal to attack a ball that is completely in the opponents’ space.
  - Blockers may contact a ball in the opponents’ space after the attack hit, or if in the referee’s judgment the attackers are not attempting to play the ball.
  - “Joust” (simultaneous contact above the net) between opponents is legal. Any player may make the next play, as their team’s 1st contact.
  - The block contact counts as first team contact; either player may make the 2nd team contact.
  - A player may block a ball in any direction.
  - “Directional” or “snap” blocks are legal unless the ball is caught or thrown. If the blocker clearly catches or throws the ball, the fault must be whistled.
    - As a guideline: the ball may be blocked quickly in one direction, with one motion.
- Attacks and Tips:
  - “Open hand tipping” is prohibited. Referees use “illegal attack” (Diagram 9, Signal 21).
  - Knuckles may be used to “poke” the ball, provided that the ball rebounds (is not caught or thrown).
  - Fingertips (including thumb) may be used to “poke” the ball only if those fingertips in contact with the ball are “rigid and together.”

- Attacks with finger action (setting over the net) must be made perpendicular to the shoulders - either directly forward or backward.
- Net Contact:
  - It is a fault to contact any part of the net between (and including) the antennas, during the action of playing the ball.
    - The action of playing the ball includes (but is not limited to) takeoff, hit (or attempt), and landing safely, ready for a new action.
- Play Under the Net, and Interference:
  - Players may contact any part of the ball until it has passed completely through the plane below the net.
  - There is no centerline. Players may contact any part of the opponents' court as long as they do not interfere with the opponents' next play.
  - A player who interferes with an opponents' ability to make their next play must be called for the fault.
    - Interference is a FAULT that results in a point, not a replay.
    - Note that this is sometimes a delayed call (the referee must wait to see if the opponents are truly hampered in their next action).
    - Incidental contact between opponents does not constitute interference (bump knees, briefly step on toes, etc.).
    - Interference can occur without physical contact (ex: fallen player under net prevents defender covering short).
    - *Point under the net with your index finger and say "interference." (This call will generally require explanation.)*
- Pursuit: Is legal in beach volleyball. Only balls which pass "over or outside" an antenna are eligible to be pursued.
  - A player may pursue the ball by any route, including under the net and/or through the opponents' court.
  - Opponents may not interfere with legal pursuit.
  - The ball must be played back on 2<sup>nd</sup> team contact "over or outside" the same antenna.
  - Third team contact must send the ball legally through the crossing space (between the antennas).
- Ball Marks: The ball is "IN" if it lands inside the court or touches a boundary line. Corner "tie-downs" are not considered boundary lines.
  - If the referee is in doubt of a line call, they should immediately initiate a "ball mark protocol". Players may not insist that a ball mark be reviewed.
    - Players cannot: alter the ball mark (or court boundaries), cross under the net to review a mark, or attempt to influence the decision of the officials.
    - The line-judge(s) may assist as the referee inspects the ball mark.
    - The referee must be careful to inspect the correct ball mark, considering ball trajectory, the effect of raised lines, and possible "splash" of soft sand.
      - If the referee determines that the line was moved significantly during the rally in question, they should fix the line before judging the result.
- Ball Handling / Hand Setting:
  - There are two types of ball handling faults: "Catch Balls" and "Double Contact".
    - The ball must be played with one quick motion.
    - Balls which significantly move downwards while in the hands, or visibly come to rest, are "Catch Ball" faults (aka: "deep dish," "held-ball," or "lift").
    - Clearly distinct and separate contacts of the ball constitute a "Double-Hit."



- Spin is not a fault ... but spin may be an indication that a “double-contact” fault has occurred.
- Simultaneous Contact by Teammates:
    - If teammates touch the ball simultaneously it counts as 2 team contacts. Either player may make the 3<sup>rd</sup> contact.
  - Defense:
    - It is LEGAL for ANY first-team contact without finger-action to strike two or more parts of a player during a single attempt to play the ball. Including:
      - Any style of contact: hands or fists together or apart, heels of hands together or apart, tomahawk, etc. (see finger-action below).
      - All plays without finger action, even if the ball is observed to have been clearly double-contacted.
    - First-team-contact WITH FINGER ACTION should be judged just as any setting contact:
    - The referee should call a double-hit if the player uses finger action and the ball contact is a clear double.
    - EXCEPTION: If the double contact was in defense of a “hard-driven attack” then the referee should allow play to continue.
      - In judging an attack as “hard-driven,” the referee must consider the following:
        - Speed and trajectory of the ball, as well as the distance between the attacker and defender.
        - The referee must judge the player’s action: “reactive” (double allowed) or “intentional” handset (double-contact called).
  - Serve Receive:
    - In serve receive, a double contact is allowed. If finger action is used, the referee will judge the contact as a set.
      - It is legal to use techniques such as: hands or fists together or apart, heels of hands together or apart, tomahawk, etc.
      - REMINDER: It is legal to receive serve “open handed with finger action”, but strict hand-setting judgment must be applied to the contact.
  - Outdoor Safety:
    - Stay hydrated. Use sunscreen, as well as clothing and headgear that protects from sun exposure.
    - Be prepared for cold or wet weather as well as for heat and sun! Play usually continues through wind or rain.
    - **For lightning safety guidelines, please refer to page 18 of this manual.** Click [HERE](#) for more information and resources provided by the National Weather Service.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **BEACH NATIONAL QUALIFIER COMPETITION FORMAT**

Tournament schedule (unless noted otherwise) can be **one day format** -Saturday: Boys and Girls 12U & 16U and Sunday Boys and Girls 14U & 18U. Or **two-day format**- Saturday all ages and genders play pool play and Sunday is single or double elimination playoff bracket. **See rule 1.5.1 and 1.5.2** below. The competition will consist of a set number (depending on locations number of courts available) of pairs per age group and per gender which will compete in pool play. Where the top two teams in each pool advances to the “Gold” bracket and the bottom two (or remaining teams from each pool) advances to the “Silver” bracket to compete in a single or double elimination bracket playoff at the discretion of the tournament director (Refer to rule 1.5.5.3 below for details). Gold bracket playoffs finishers 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> place will earn bids to the Open Division at the NBTJC. All competition will be played with the Molten BV5000 and will be provided on site.

For both genders the 2021 USA National Beach Tour Manual rules will be used as a guideline as well as the USAV Age Requirement Guidelines:

- To Access the NBT Manual online, click [here](#)
- [USAV Age Guideline](#) can be found at the bottom of the linked paged

Matches will be played out until a gold, silver and bronze medal is awarded.

**\*\*\*USAV/Event Host reserves the right to amend tournament schedule and format, subject to available courts, number of teams, weather, and any other unforeseen situations.**

#### 1. Competition Format – Beach National Qualifier

##### 1.1 Match Play = 2 out of 3 games/sets as follows:

###### a) First and second game/sets

21 Points

- Switch sides every increment of 7
- one technical time-out of 60 sec. at third court switch (sum of 21 points)

- one time-out of 60 sec. per team, per game/set
- b) Third eventual game/set (tie breaker)
- 15 points
  - Switch sides every increment of 5
  - One time-out per team of 60 sec.

All sets win by 2 points and intervals between games/sets to be of 1 minute.

1.2 Set/Game= Typically a game to 21 or 28

a) Set/Game is one game in pool or bracket play.

- Can be to 21 or 28
- Switch sides every increment of 7
- Game to 21 - one technical time-out of 60 sec. at third court switch (sum of 21 points)
- One time-out per team of 60 sec.
- Game to 28 - one technical time-out of 60 sec. at fourth court switch (sum of 28 points)

\*\*\* All games/sets win by 2 points and intervals between games/sets to be of 1 minute.

1.3 A technical meeting (player, parent, coach meeting) will be held the morning of and prior to start of tournament. The athletes', parents and coach's attendance are recommended.

1.3.1 Both athletes of the team must be present at check in, confirm their presence by submitting their medical release form and attend the player, parent and coach meeting prior to start of tournament. All coaches must also be present and receive their credentials.

1.3.2 If required, pools will be adjusted as needed, if teams are removed or added to tournament.

1.3.3 Finalized pool sheet will be distributed and updated on BracketPal after all teams have confirmed entry and any additional corrections are needed.

1.3.4 If any player/team arrives late or fails to attend the technical meeting, there is a risk of disqualification or loss of first game or match of pool play.

- 1.4 Athletes of the same team are encouraged but not required to wear matching uniforms. However, matching color bottoms and tops are encouraged. All athletes (boys and girls) are **REQUIRED** to wear a top that must cover the entire midsection when standing, and bottoms such as spandex, shorts, boardshorts or leggings. No bikinis will be permitted for any team.
- 1.5 Pool play = A group of teams playing in a round robin format.
- 1.5.1 In one-day format, pools will be in groups of three (3), four (4) pairs or five (5). Three (3) team pools will play 3- sets/games to 21. Four (4) team pools will play 2- sets/games to 21. No third/tie breaker set. Then single elimination playoff bracket. Match play (2 games to 21, tie breaker to 15) in semi-final, final and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
- 1.5.2 In two-day format, pool play will be played over one day in groups of four (4) or five (5) pairs. Each pool will play match play (two games to 21, tie-breaker to 15). Then single or double elimination playoff bracket, match play (2 games to 21, tiebreaker to 15)
- 1.5.3 The participating pairs of the event must bear all costs related to their travel, board and lodging.
- 1.5.4 Seeding will utilize the “snake” method for pool play and will be based off USA National Beach Ranking (combined total points) as of registration deadline of event.
- 1.5.5 Teams, in most cases, can play between 2-4 different teams in pool play.
- 1.5.5.1 If pool play is in single game (set) or sets, then ranking of teams within their Pools for playoffs will be determined by win/loss (sets) record and point ratio
- 1.5.5.2 If pool play is match play (2 games to 21, tiebreaker to 15), then ranking of teams within their pools for playoffs will be determined by win/loss and point ratio.

Wins	Total game/set won
Losses	Total game/set loss
Point Ratio	Total Points for divided by total points against

- 1.5.5.3 All pairs will advance to a single or double elimination bracket phase. In the case of 10 or less teams in a division, all teams will advance to the Gold playoff bracket to compete for the Open bids. Divisions with 11 or more teams, the

top two teams of each pool advance to the Gold playoff bracket, where they will compete for the Open bids. The bottom remaining teams from each pool advance to the Silver playoff bracket and do not compete for bids.

1.5.5.4 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:

- Between two teams: Head-to-head, is ranked higher. If a tie still exists, then head-to-head points ratio, then total rally point ratio.
- 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.

**Point Ratio = Points for divided by points against. A higher number is better. (For example: A team plays three (3) games in 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:  $59 / 53 = 1.1132$  (higher number is best).**

If a tie still exists, then the teams will be determined by highest seed at the beginning of the tournament.

1.6 Bracket play will be single elimination or double elimination format.

1.6.1 Playoff seeding is determined by performance-based seeding.

1.6.2 In a one-day format, single elimination format will be 1 game to 28 in Gold and 1 game to 21 in Silver. In a two-day format, single elimination format will be match play (2 games to 21, tiebreaker to 15) in Gold and Silver brackets.

- Once a team loses its match, they are eliminated from the event.
- Losing team must remain and ref next match

- 1.6.3 In a two-day format, double elimination format with crossover will be match play (2 games to 21, tiebreaker to 15) in Gold and Silver brackets.
- Winners remain in winner bracket
  - A loss in the winner's bracket will put the team in the contender's bracket.
  - A loss in the contender's bracket eliminates the team from the tournament.
  - Losing team in the winners or contenders bracket must ref next match.
- 1.6.4 Semi-Final, Final and 3<sup>rd</sup> place match in Gold Bracket must be Match Play (2 games to 21, 3<sup>rd</sup> game if necessary, to 15, win by 2).
- 1.7 During the event, accredited coaches will be allowed to sit in the player's area and interact with the players during official warm-up, time-out, and technical time-out and between games/sets. Pairs wanting to have a coach(es) must identify their coach(es) at the time of registration. Late registration of coaches may not be accepted.
- 1.7.1 USA Coaches must:
- Be a current USAV member in good standing
  - Have successfully completed the SafeSport Training
  - Have successfully passed USAV approved background screening
  - IMPACT certified
- 1.7.2 International Coaches must:
- Show proof they are in good standing with their federation
  - Be approved by their federation to coach in the USA National Beach Tour Qualifier
- 1.7.3 Coaches are permitted to coach pairs in both genders.
- 1.7.4 Pairs are not required to have a coach.
- 1.7.5 A coach may be registered for more than one team.
- 1.7.6 Only one team coach will be permitted into the playing area for warm up until the 10 min till start time whistle.
- 1.7.7 The coach (as well as the team captain) may request Time out by showing the official hand signal and requesting "time out" when the ball is out of play and before the 1st referee's whistle for service. His/ her contacting official is the 2nd referee should one be appointed. If there is no 2<sup>nd</sup> referee, then the 1<sup>st</sup> referee should be contacted.

Requests made after or at the same moment of the 1st Referee's whistle for service, or requests made after the team has exhausted its time outs in that set, will be regarded as improper requests. Should resumption of the game be delayed by this, the team will be sanctioned for delay.

1.7.8 During a medical timeout, only players may warm up in the playing area.

1.7.9 Teams can have up to two coaches during play, but both coaches must remain on the player's side of the court or player box (if available).

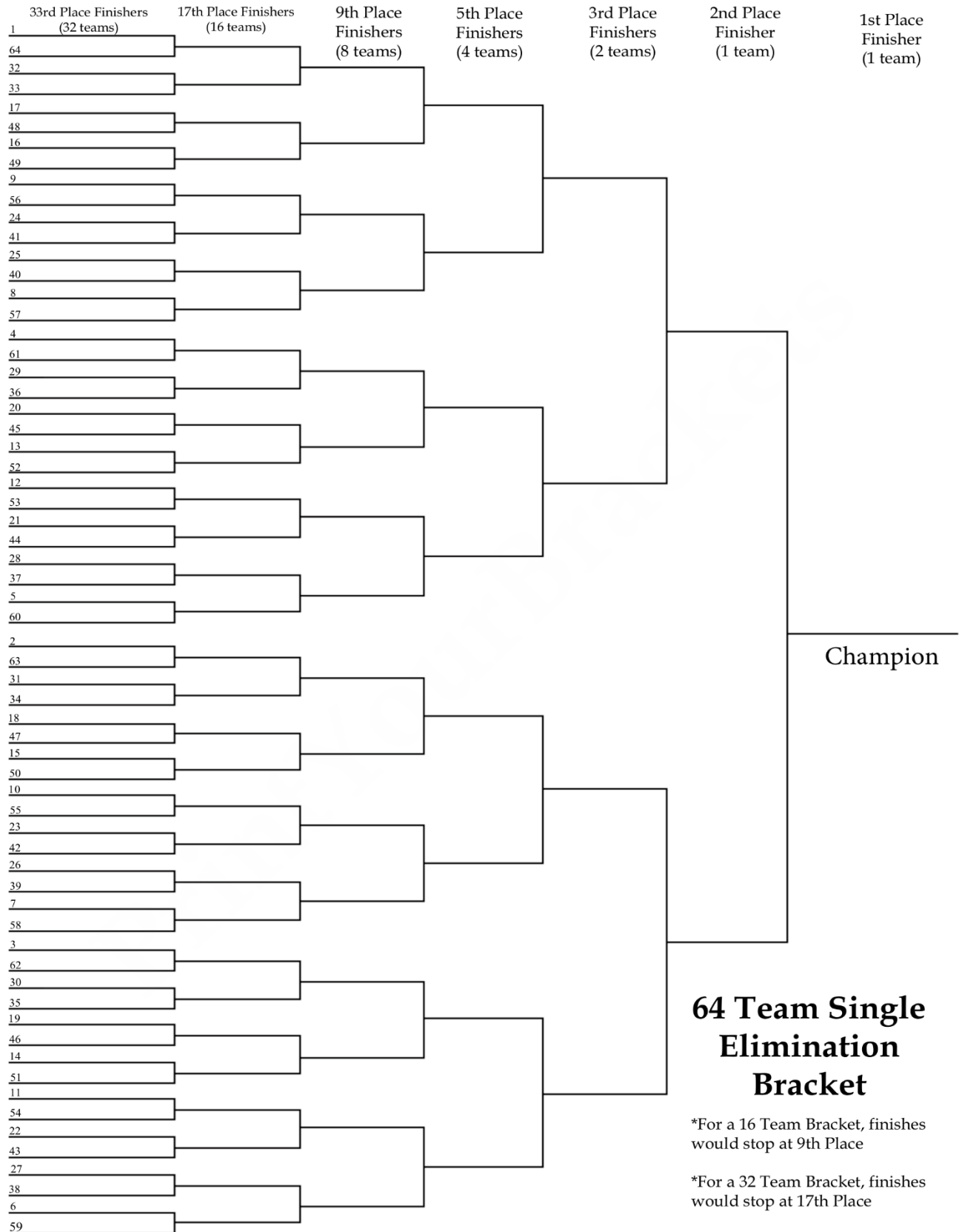
## 1.8 Results/ Finishes

1.8.1 After pool play, playoffs can be broken into two playoff brackets, Gold playoff bracket and Silver playoff bracket. Finishes will be started in the Gold playoff bracket followed by the Silver playoff bracket.

1.8.2 Gold bracket contains top finishers (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> etc.). Silver bracket top two finishers will receive the same finish as the last finisher in Gold. The remaining teams in Silver will earn places up to the total number of teams in this division.

**For example,** If Gold Playoffs had 8 teams and Silver Playoffs had 8 teams. This would mean 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> and 4- (four) 5<sup>th</sup> place teams would be in the Gold. Silver's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place would receive 5<sup>th</sup> place, the remaining rounds of teams would receive 9<sup>th</sup> place.

**\*\*See below sample bracket for place/finish spots.**





## Frequently Asked Questions

**1. How do I register for a tournament/event?** A: Go to [www.NationalBeachTour.com](http://www.NationalBeachTour.com) for a list of BNQ's and BRQ's and click on the event you would like to participate in. Remember that you need a partner and both participants must have a current USAV membership. One participant registers the team.

**2. If I play on a club team indoors in my USAV region, can I use that current membership for USA National Beach Tour events?** A: Yes, memberships operate on a year calendar from Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to Oct 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

**3. What is the Refund Policy?** Refunds for a team that withdraws no later than noon Pacific Time on the Wednesday before the event will be processed less a \$20.00 administrative fee. Late cancellations after that time will be handled on a case-by-case basis but may not be refunded.

**4. What time is the tournament?** Tournaments normally begin at 8:00 a.m. local time and check-in begins at 7:00 a.m. Some locations may have space limitations or weather restrictions and starting times may differ. Please check the individual event for times.

**5. What levels of play are offered?** Boys 12-and-under, 14U, 16U, 18U and Girls 12-and-under, 14U, 16U, 18U. After pool play, teams will advance to the Gold or Silver playoff bracket.

**6. What is the difference between a BNQ and BRQ?** BNQ's provide bids to the USA National Beach Tour Junior Championships Open Division. BRQ's provide bids to the USA National Beach Tour Junior Championships American Division for girls and Open Division for boys.

**7. What is the difference between the Gold and Silver playoff brackets?**

The Gold division playoff brackets within each BNQ represents the top two teams of their pool play. The Silver division playoff bracket represents the teams who finished in the remaining half of pool play. Not all events may have a Silver bracket.

**8. Can coed teams play?** No coed teams are allowed. Teams are comprised of two (2) male or two (2) female players. **In some cases, we allow 12U boys to play coed in a division.**

**9. Can I play in any division?** You can play in the age level your birthday assigns you to or higher. You cannot play below your age level. Players who knowingly play in the division under their age risk sanctioning by USAV and local Region. To play in the Open or American divisions at the National Beach Tour Junior Championships, you or your partner MUST have earned a bid at either a BNQ or BRQ. If you do not have a bid, you may still register in the Patriot Division.

**10. How long does my USAV BEACH Junior Ranking hold?** Rankings hold for one (1) year with points falling off after 365 days. Your ranking is based on your five (5) best finishes in the previous 365 days. If an event falls off after 365 days, and you now have four (4) finishes, it is replaced by your next best finish not currently counted from the 365-day period. If you have no other event, you will have to wait until you have a fifth event to add a score.

- 11. How long is my USAV membership valid?** From date of purchase to Oct 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 12. Can a team or player win multiple bids?** A Player can earn multiple bids in one (1) or different age divisions but can only accept one (1) bid for each age division.
- 13. Can an athlete, who has earned a bid, partner with someone who has not earned a bid to participate in the USA National Beach Tour Junior Championships?** Yes. We require at least 1 athlete per team to have earned a bid to compete in the Open or American Divisions of the NBTJC.
- 14. What age division should I register for?** Visit the *Age Divisions* file by visiting USA Volleyball's website by clicking [here](#) and then click on the PDF at the bottom of the page to view the chart.
- 15. We won a bid, how do we accept it?** Register your team for the USA National Beach Tour Junior Championships in the Open Division at the [National Beach Tour](#) website, be sure to have your bid code handy. Bid codes are printed on the bid certificate received at the BNQ event. Contact the USAV Beach Events office at (719) 228-6800 or email [BeachEvents@usav.org](mailto:BeachEvents@usav.org) for further information.
- 16. Do bids trickle down?** There is no trickle down for a BNQ event. However, for a BRQ event the bids may trickle down to 5<sup>th</sup> place. Please reference the "Beach Regional Qualifier" section of this manual.
- 17. What if the event is canceled because of severe weather?**  
If weather necessitates that an event be canceled, the Host will notify all participants immediately. It is the responsibility of the Host to maintain contact with the participants and update them of any potential or actual cancelation.
- 18. Can boys play in girls' divisions?** With the goal to improve boy's participation, we will accept boys playing with girls under limited circumstances. For more information, please see Team Entries in this Manual.
- 19. Can I play in events outside of my region?** Yes. BNQ events welcome participants from all regions. However, BRQ events may limit participation. Please contact the tournament host for specific events.
- 20. Can I participate at USA National Beach Tour events as an international athlete?** Yes, we welcome international athletes to participate at BNQ events. Please contact the Beach Events office at [BeachEvents@usav.org](mailto:BeachEvents@usav.org) in order to obtain the forms that will be required. If you wish to participate at a BRQ event, you will need to contact the host region for permission. If you would like to participate in the National Beach Tour Junior Championship, please read the information provided on [Page 12](#).