



USA Volleyball®

**USA NATIONAL BEACH TOUR
NATIONAL QUALIFIER MANUAL**

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

(as of December 4, 2017)

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INTRODUCTION

USA Volleyball (USAV) is recognized by the United States Olympic 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 this Beach National Qualifier Manual (BNQM) is to publish the standards established by USAV for the USA National Beach Tour National Qualifiers (BNQ) and to explain the process of qualifying to play at the USA National Beach Championships (BNC) through both Beach Regional Qualifiers (BRQ) and BNQs.

The BNQs are licensed by USAV and must operate within parameters set forth by USAV. The BRQ's are hosted and run through the USA Volleyball Regional organizations.

The BNQM is intended to be a resource to those hosting and attending BNQs and to those wishing to attend the USA National Beach Championships.

MANUAL CHANGES

The USA National Beach Tour National Qualifier Manual (BNQM) is a corporate document. Suggestions to change the BNQM and the qualifying process can come from the RVAA, in conjunction with USA Volleyball. Suggested changes must follow a review process, determined by USAV, in order to be approved; 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 BNQM and distributes an electronic copy of the updated version to each USAV Region no later than September 15th of each year. Updates to the BNQM will be posted on the USAV website, no later than November 1st of each year.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

At-Large Bid: See “Bid.”

CAP: This is a coaching education course offered by USAV. All coaches wishing to become CAP certified must complete the prerequisite course of IMPACT. For more information, please refer to www.usavolleyball.org.

Bid: A bid is an invitation to each member of a qualifying team to play in the BNC. 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.

BNC: Beach National Championships

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

BNQM: Beach National Qualifier Manual

BRQ: Beach Regional Qualifier; specific events hosted and run by USA Volleyball’s Regional organizations

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 refer to www.usavolleyball.org.

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

Set: Single game to pre-determined point total.

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.

JA: Junior Assembly of USA Volleyball

Match: Best 2 out of 3 sets. Set point totals may vary. 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.

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

RVA: Regional Volleyball Association of USA Volleyball.



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

Seeding: The order in which teams are ranked – to begin a tournament.

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 NATIONAL QUALIFIER - OVERVIEW

The primary purpose of the BNQs is to select, through tournament competition, teams in various age divisions to compete at the BNC. 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 particular geographic area.
- Provide a training ground for officials.

BNQ SCHEDULE

[Link/Web address to schedule]

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.

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 2 sets in each match-up for 4 team pools and 3 sets in each match-up for 3 team pools. Pool play is followed by single elimination brackets.
- In a 2-day format, Day One should consist of 4 or 5 team pools playing match play (best 2 out of 3 sets; first 2 sets to 21 points; set 3, if needed, to 15 points). Day Two should be a single or double elimination playoff bracket (best 2 out of 3 sets; first 2 sets to 21 points; set 3, if needed, to 15 points).

These formats may be modified as needed, with the approval from USAV. The tournament host must provide the proposed tournament format to the USAV Beach Events Department at least 3 days prior to the first day of the event.

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

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. Participants are required to check the event website for start times, playing schedule and any weather-related delays.



Coaching is allowed under specified guidelines. Each coach must be a USAV member, SafeSport Certified, background-checked and Impact Certified. **See Appendix A** for more details.

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

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

Awards must be given to both members of a team finishing 1st-3rd in their respective age and gender division. No awards other than USAV Beach awards may be given out at a USAV BNQ Event.

TEAM ENTRIES

Teams are comprised of two (2) male or two (2) female players. No coed teams are allowed. Uniforms are not required. But matching color bottoms and tops are encouraged.

The USA National Beach Tour Beach Ranking System will be used to seed teams in all USA Junior Beach events.

With the goal to improve boy's participation, if there are two (2) or less boy's 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 same age group.
 - 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 access the ability of the boys to determine which girls' age/division would be most appropriate for the boys to compete in.

EVENT REGISTRATION

All teams and coaches are required to register by the event deadlines posted on event website. If a division becomes full prior to the deadline, this information will be posted as soon as possible.

All events will utilize the USAV registration system - BracketPal. All registration information and requirements will be posted on the event website.

[\[Link to events listings\]](#)

All event hosts or tournament directors must input final event results to the USA National Beach Tour Ranking site, no later than 5:00 PM PT on the Tuesday following the event.

- **REGISTRATION - TEAM**

- Entry Deadline: 12:00 PM noon Pacific Time the Wednesday before each BNQ event.
- Early Bird minimum Registration Fee: \$80.00 closes the Wednesday two weeks before the entry deadline.
- Regular minimum Registration Entry Fee: \$100.00 starts after Early Bird Registration Wednesday at 12:00 PM noon Pacific Time and ends on the registration entry deadline.
- Post Deadline and Walk-Up minimum Registration Entry Fee: \$120.00, paid by check made out to HOST, from the entry deadline at 12:00 PM noon Pacific Time until close of onsite check-in at the event.

* Registration accepted on a space available basis only. No seeding with walk-up registration.

- **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 Certified
 - 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 permitted.
 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.
- Once a team has successfully checked in, they need to confirm their court and pool assignment.

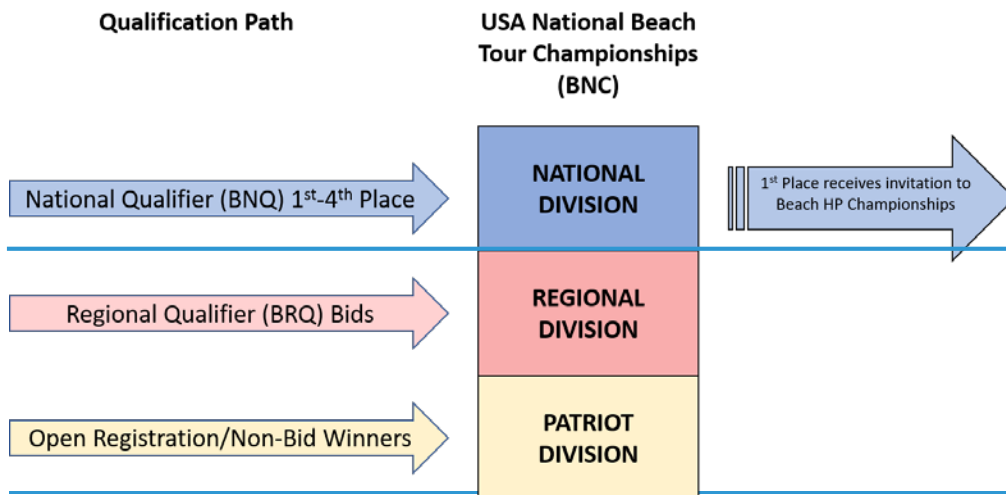
AWARDS AND POINTS

Players will compete for the opportunity to earn bids (invitations) to the USA National Beach Tour Championships. At a BNQ event, the top three (3) (1st thru 3rd) teams in each age division and gender in

the “Gold” bracket will earn medals and bids to the National Open Division. The 4th place team in each age division and gender will also earn a bid to the National Open Division at the Championships. Winners in each age and gender division of the National Open Division at the Championships will receive an invitation to compete at USA Volleyball’s Beach High Performance Championships.

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

BNC BIDS AWARDED BY A BNQ OR REGION QUALIFYING PROCESS



BNQ and BRQ Bid breakdown:

1. **BNQ:** The top four (4) finishing teams (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th) in the Gold playoff bracket, per gender and age group, will receive bids to the National Open Division at the USA National Beach Tour Championships. Bids offered at BNQ’s will be determined on a tier system per division as follows:

- 1 to 3 teams = 1 bid (1st Place only)
- 4 to 5 teams = 2 bids (1st & 2nd Places)
- 6 to 7 teams = 3 bids (1st, 2nd, 3rd Places)
- 8 or more teams = 4 bids (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Places)

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

2. **BRQ:** The top finishing teams (determined by the regions, please contact region for more info) per gender and age group, will receive bids to the Regional Division at the USA National Beach Tour Championships.
3. A Player is eligible to earn multiple bids in different age divisions, but can accept only ONE (1) bid for each age division.

4. Bids are individual and are awarded to each player on a team that earned them from a BNQ or BRQ.
5. If a player competes in another BNQ event with a new partner in the same age division and places in a bid awarded finish, then the new partner earns a bid and the remaining bid **does not** trickle down.
6. The number of bids available to each Region will be determined using the following scale:
 - a. Each of the 40 Regions will receive three (3) team bids (each team bid = 2 individual bids) in each age and gender division
 - b. Additional bids will be awarded based upon the total number of Top 10 individual(determined by their region membership) finishers across all age and gender divisions at the previous year's USA Junior Beach National Championships:
 - i. 1 additional team bid: 1-10 top 10 finishers
 - ii. 2 additional team bids: 11-20 top 10 finishers
 - iii. 3 additional team bids: 21+ top 10 finishers

Example: At the 2017 USA Junior Beach National Championships, the Heart Of America Region had 11 Top 10 finishers (individuals); 2 in B16U, 1 in G16U, 1 in G14U and 7 in G16U. With a total of 11 individual Top 10 finishers, the HA Region would earn 2 additional team bids to their base of 3 team bids in each age and gender division for a total of 5 team bids per division.

BEACH NATIONAL QUALIFIER – EVENT DETAILS

EVENT SCHEDULE

All event program links should be posted in a clearly visible location on the event website. Events may opt to use either an online scheduling system or paper schedules. The Event Host is responsible for determining exact start times and notifying participants of any weather-related delays. Event host is responsible for all on-site match results being reported to the USA National Beach Tour Ranking site by 5:00pm PT of the Tuesday of the week immediately following the event.

The Event Host must submit event format to the USAV National office for approval with their RFP. Any changes must be submitted and approved by USAV prior to the event.

Sample Schedule (based on one day event 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

Seeding for all BNQ events will be done by utilizing the USA National Beach Tour Ranking system. If a team does not appear on the Beach Ranking system, events should utilize local results, if available.

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 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 set of the next match, up to a maximum of either 21 or 28 points, whichever minimum is being used to win the next set.
- A team may forfeit its entire next match for failing, a second time, to have a first referee available on time for an officiating assignment.
- Team 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. [Include weblink]

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

Each event must provide a Head Official for each day. 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 Open Division. More than one official may be needed to cover all semi-final and final matches.

EVENT STAFF MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

All adults (18 and above) contracted by the event for on-site event staff must be verified by the event as having a current USAV membership, current SafeSport certification, and cleared USAV background check.

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 at all times 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 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 responsible for running a Wet Bulb Globe Test (WBGT) 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 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 (Source:

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

For the complete beach rules, see the USAV DCR (Rulebook) or study online at volleyballreftraining.com. For Further information about Rules or Referee Certification, please contact us at info@beachcommission.org

Rules Changes are flagged as **NEW**. **Points of emphasis** are highlighted.

Equipment and Area:

- Net 28' long. Height at center: Women 7' 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ " and Men 7' 11 $\frac{5}{8}$ " (**youth 12U is 6' 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "**). 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 suggested.)
- Ball: light-colored, 9-10 oz. weight, with approx. 26" circumference, at **2.5 to 3.2 psi**
- When possible, the playing boundaries for each court should be established by banners, nets, curtains, etc.

Teams and Uniforms:

- Two Players with no substitutes. **Only the team Captain** may interact with the referees, to request Time Out or explanation of rule.
- Uniforms may or may not be required, as per event requirements. Bathing suits or "shorts & tops" are typical requirements.
 - When uniforms are required, they should be worn so that player numbers are visible at the coin toss and thereafter.
 - Legal uniform numbers are 1 or 2, in traditional beach doubles.
 - Cold weather gear (sweatsuits, Lycra undergarments etc.) may be allowed. (Guideline temperature: "below 60 degrees")

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, court-switches, and between sets.

Coaches:

- Number of Coaches allowed: USAV: A coach and no more than one assistant coach.
- 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 may only take place during timeouts, between sets, and (non-disruptively) during side-changes.
- **NEW: Coaches in age groups 18 & under may call time out for their team.**
- **Coaches may not influence or question the official's judgment at anytime.**

Match Format:

- Official timed warm-ups: The four players (only) share unlimited access to the entire court (Use good sportsmanship)
 - USAV: 3 min on court, coin toss at -7, then "5 minutes" formal warm-up. **Event may reduce warm-up to -3 or -5**
- 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 set to 28," or "two sets only to 21, without deciding set")
- Winner of the toss chooses serve, receive or side. Other captain chooses from remaining options. Both captains state service order for the set.
- All matches should utilize the etiquette of pre-match and post-match handshakes at the net.
- **Officials identify the correct server for each rally, and actively prevent wrong-server faults.**
- Service Order: Players alternate terms of service.
- 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.
 - **In the spirit of fair play, impeded receivers should use the "raised hand" signal & the serving players should adjust position, without delay**
- Delay: The routine time between rallies should be 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*.
- Hand Signals: Both Referees should use a "full Signal Sequence:" Whistle, award rally, & show nature of fault. (R2 with clip-board is exempt)
- After 7 points of play, indicate that teams should **switch sides**. This is not a time out. Teams do not go to their player areas.

- Coaches may offer brief instruction during the court switch, **but must not delay the match.**
- **Each team may call one Timeout per set.** Total duration of a Regular Timeout 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.
- A “Technical Timeout” (TTO) after the 21st point of sets 1 and 2 is suggested in most formats. **Event may opt to add or reduce number of TTOs**
 - **TTO not usually used in a single set format**
- The interval between sets is 1 minute.
 - During that interval, a referee offers “first choice for set 2” to the captain of the team that lost the first coin-toss.
 - Then the other captain makes the remaining choice, and both captains declare their service order for the set.
- If there is a deciding (3rd) set, the 1st referee should conduct another coin toss, and offer these same choices.
 - Deciding sets: Play to 15 points, win by two. Switch sides on multiples of 5. There is not a TTO in the (3rd) 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, but without prolonged discussion.
- A Captain has the right to protest rules misinterpretations/misapplications, but not judgment calls or sanctions.

Warnings and Sanctions: ALL WARNINGS AND DELAY SANCTIONS REMAIN IN FORCE THROUGHOUT THE MATCH

- **Delays** are sanctioned by showing “Card on Wrist”: Yellow = warning Red = Penalty (point and loss of rally)
 - 1st Delay by a player should result in a Team Delay Warning. Any further delay by that team, in the **match**, results in delay penalty.
 - Multiple Delay Penalties may be assessed within a match.
- **Misconduct** by any player should be managed when possible through verbal warning(s).
 - Referee may offer one Formal Warning (Yellow Card) to a player guilty of misconduct.
 - Subsequent minor misconduct by *either player on that team in that match* must be sanctioned by Penalty (Red Card).
- **Rude Conduct** is sanctioned by Penalty (Red Card). **Maximum two Penalties per player per set.**
 - If a player reaches the level of a third Penalty in a set, they are instead Expelled for the set (Red & Yellow together)
 - AGGRESSIVE action by any player at any time results in Disqualification (Red and Yellow apart)
- **Coaches** are subject to individual sanctions as listed below; those sanctions apply through the **match**.
 - 1st per match: Yellow (Warning) 2nd per match: Red Card (Penalty) 3rd per match: R+Y cards (EXPULSION)

Playing Actions and Faults:

- **Plane of Net:**
 - **Players must initiate contact with the ball within their own playing space (follow-through after contact is legal).**
 - Blockers may contact the ball in the opponent’s space only after the attack hit or if opponents are unable to play the ball.
 - It is always illegal to attack a ball in the opponents’ space.
- **Blocks:**
 - The block contact counts as first team contact; either player may make the 2nd team contact.
 - **Blocked balls may rebound in any direction.** If the blocker clearly catches or throws the ball, they may be whistled for a fault.
 - “Joust” between opponents is legal. Any player may make the next play, as their team’s 1st contact
- **Tips:**
 - **“Open hand tipping” is illegal.** (use “illegal attack” signal)
 - Knuckles may be used to “poke” the ball, provided that the ball **rebounds** (is not caught or thrown).
 - Finger **tips** (including thumb) may be used to “poke” the ball **only** if those in contact with the ball are “rigid and together.”
- **Ball Under the Net:**
 - Players may contact **any** part of the ball until it has passed **completely** through the plane below the net.
- **Simultaneous Contact by Teammates:**
 - If teammates touch the ball simultaneously it counts as **2** team contacts. Either player may make the 3rd contact.
- **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.**
- **Play Under the Net, and Interference:**
 - There is no centerline. Players may contact any part of the opponents’ court as long as they do not interfere with the opponents.
 - A player who interferes with an opponents’ ability to make their next play must be called for the fault.
 - > Point to the court under the net with your index finger, and say “interference.” (this will generally require explanation)
 - 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

- o action)
 - o Incidental contact between opponents does not constitute interference, (bump knees, step briefly on toes, etc).
 - o Interference can occur without physical contact. (ex: fallen player under net prevents defender covering short).
- **Pursuit:** Is legal in beach volleyball.
 - o Only balls which pass “over or outside” an antenna are eligible to be pursued.
 - o *A player may pursue the ball by any route, including under the net and/or through the opponents’ court.*
 - o Opponents may not interfere with legal pursuit.
 - o The ball must be played back “over or outside” the same antenna.
 - o Third contact must send the ball legally through the crossing space (between the antennas).
- **Ball Marks:**
 - o The ball is “in” if it lands in bounds, or touches a boundary line
 - o **If the first referee is in doubt of a line call, s/he should immediately initiate a “ball mark protocol”**
 - > *Players may not insist on a ball-mark review. They should step away from the mark, and not influence the decision in any way.*
 - > Relevant line-judge(s) may assist as the referee views the mark from the sand.
 - > The referee must be careful to inspect the correct ball mark, to consider ball trajectory, and to understand “splash” of soft sand.
 - Lines moved during the play should be replaced by the referee before judging the result.
- **Hand setting:**
 - o There are two types of ball handling faults: “Catch Balls” and “Double Contacts.”
 - > The ball must be played with one quick motion.
 - > Balls which significantly move downwards, 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.
- **Serve Receive:**
 - o Double hits are allowed in serve receive attempts, unless finger action is employed. In that case, judge the contact as you would any set.
 - o It is legal to use techniques such as clenched fist(s), or the heels of the hands, in serve receive attempts
 - > This is legal whether the hands/fists **are together or apart.**
 - o **It is also legal to receive serve “open-handed with finger action,” but strict hand-setting judgment must be applied to the contact.**
- **Defense:**
 - o It is legal for any *first-team-contact* to strike two or more parts of a defender’s body during a **single** attempt to play the ball.
 - > Includes serve-receive (**hands do not have to be together**)
 - > Includes a double contact **without finger action**
 - o First-team-contact **with** finger action should be judged just as any setting contact. (*The referee can call double-hit.*)
 - > **Exception: ...unless the double contact was in defense of a “hard-driven attack”.**
 - It is legal to *momentarily* catch or double-contact a “hard driven” ball.
 - In judging an attack as “hard-driven,” the referee must consider the following:
 - 1) Player’s action: “reactive” (double allowed) or “intentional handset” (not allowed)
 - 2) Speed and trajectory of the ball
 - 3) Distance between attacker and defender.
 - o A serve is not an attack; therefore, the “hard-driven” exception does not apply.
- **Outdoor Safety:**
 - o Stay hydrated. Use sunscreen, as well as clothing and headgear that protects from sun exposure.
 - o Be prepared for cold or wet weather as well as for heat and sun! *Play usually continues through wind or rain.*
 - o **Tournament directors should be familiar with local regulations regarding lightning safety.**

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 (Refer to rule 1.5.54.32 below for details). Gold bracket playoffs finishers 1st thru 4th place will earn bids to the National Open Division at the BNC. All competition will be played with the Molten BV5000 and will be provided on site.

For both genders the 2018 Junior Beach National Qualifier Manual rules will be used as a guideline as well as the USAV Age Requirement Guidelines:

- [Add Link for Manual](#)
- [Add Link for USAV Age Guideline](#)

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

*****USAV reserves the right to amend tournament schedule and format Subject to available courts, number of teams, weather, and any other foreseen situations.**

1. Competition Format – Beach National Qualifier

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

a) First and second 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 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 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 sets win by 2 points and intervals between 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 is 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 update 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.

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) or four (4) pairs. 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 3rd 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 for pool play 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 match points.

Match Won	2 points
Match Lost	1 point
Match Forfeited	0 points (21-0; 21-0)

- 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 National 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 National 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 In case of a tie in the pools (match points or in sets) 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 in the main points or sets (win/ losses), 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 ranking is determined by the rally points ratio between all teams in the pool to determine first and second teams. 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 Seeding will be based on pre-seed of each pool.
 - 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 3rd place match in Gold Bracket must be Match Play (2 games to 21, 3rd 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 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 certification
- Have successfully completed a USAV approved background screening
- Be IMPACT certified at a minimum

1.7.2 International Coaches must:

- Be in good standing with their federation
- Be approved by their federation to coach at 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 beginning with the warm up until the final 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 2nd referee, then the 1st 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).

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. How do I register for a tournament/event?** A: Go to [\[insert link\]](#) 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
- 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?** A. **BNQ's** provide bids to the USA National Beach Tour National Championships National Open Division, the elite division of the National Championship. **BRQ's** are the only events that provide bids to the USA National Beach Tour Championships Regional Division.
- 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.
- 8. Can coed teams play?** No coed teams are allowed. Teams are comprised of two (2) male or two (2) female players.
- 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 suspension.

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 October 31, 2018. **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 Championships? Yes

14. What age division should I register for? Visit the *Age Divisions* tab at [\[insert link\]](#) and then click on the PDF to view the chart.

15. We won a bid, how do we accept it? Register your team for the USAV Junior Beach National Championships in the National Division at [\[insert link\]](#). Contact the USAV Beach Events office at (310) 975-3927 for further information.

16. Do bids trickle down? No.

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 on page 7 of this Manual.