



This document outlines the procedures and regulations for the USA Volleyball Men's Collegiate Beach Challenge. This competition will be held September 10-12, 2021, Stevenson University beach courts.

## 1. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1 Be eligible to compete for the United States per USAV, NORCECA, FIVB and IOC regulations/requirements. <https://www.fivb.com/-/media/2021/corporate/beach%20volleyball/tools/2021fivbbvbsportsregulationsv108122021clean.pdf?la=en&hash=A55F28BE1AB90CB07FB7BED8D2FFE0DD>
- 1.2 Be a currently registered member of USAV. Complementary memberships will be provided for all athletes participating that do not already have a current USAV membership.
- 1.3 Athletes must be at least 18 and less than 25 years of age on September 10, 2021.
  - 1.3.1 If graduate students are over the age of 25, they may send an appeal to [beachevents@usav.org](mailto:beachevents@usav.org)
- 1.4 Male athletes on a pair can be from separate universities.
- 1.5 Athletes must be currently officially registered as progressing towards a degree or diploma at a university or similar institution whose status is recognized by the appropriate national academic authority of the United States. Student athletes must have taken at least 6 credits towards a degree or diploma within the last year before the event. The standard is that the athlete must be 'progressing' towards a degree.
- 1.6 Former students of the institutions who have obtained their academic degree or diploma in the nine months preceding the event start date are permitted to compete.

## 2. ENTRY

- 2.1 This event is open to any athlete who meets the minimum requirements in SECTION 1 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS, which are recommended by their University. Should there be any issues not resolved by the University in relation to entry please see SECTION 11 ATHLETE INQUIRIES.

2.2 Interested athletes can register via the following link: <https://usav.bracketpal.com/signup/189>. A signed letter from their university approving the athlete to participate must be submitted with the registration.

2.3 The participating pairs of the event must bear all costs related to their travel, board, and lodging. Athletes should check with their university regarding possible financial assistance.

2.4 The competition will consist of a 24-team main draw.

2.4.1 18 teams will be granted entry based on the following: 1 team per school (only those registered before the August 27<sup>th</sup> deadline), USAV and AVP Ranking Points as of August 27, 2021. If teams do not have points, then teams will be granted entry based on the time of their registration.

2.4.2 Two teams may be granted entry through wild cards granted by USAV. Any unused wild cards will default to the process in Section 2.4.1. 4 teams will be granted entry through a qualifier to take place on September 10, 2021 (Teams that registered after August 27<sup>th</sup> will automatically be placed in the Qualifier)

2.4.2.1 16 teams will be allowed to register for the qualifier.

2.5 Deadlines are at 5:00 PM, Pacific Time, on the following dates:

- July 23, 2021, Registration link posted online and open
- August 27, 2021, Registration Deadline
- September 1, 2021, Last day to withdraw with no penalty
- September 1, 2021, Last day for late entries.
- September 3, 2021, Coach and Medical Registration Deadline
- September 9, 2021, Arrival of qualifier pairs
- September 9, 2021, Technical meeting for qualifier teams
- September 10, 2021, Qualifier
- September 10, 2021, Technical meeting
- September 11-12, 2021, Main Draw Tournament

2.7 Registration fees are as follows:

- Standard registration fee per pair including one coach before the August 27, 2021, deadline \$200.00 plus fees (<https://usav.bracketpal.com/signup/189>)
- Late registration may be accepted until September 1, 2021, by emailing [beachevents@usav.org](mailto:beachevents@usav.org) and accepted teams will be placed on the Reserve List
  - Late registration cost is \$320 plus fees
- Coaches and Medical may register for free before the September 6, 2021, deadline.

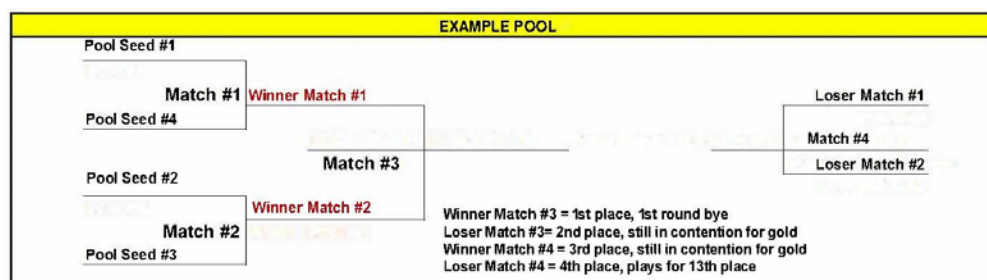
### **3. TOURNAMENT FORMAT**

#### **Qualification Tournament**

Single elimination qualifier to advance four teams into the main draw. Teams from the same university may play each other in the qualifier. Teams will be seeded per their ranking points and any ties will be broken by a drawing of lots.

### Main Draw

20 teams will be placed into the main draw plus 4 teams advancing from the qualifier. Teams will be placed in 6 pools of 4 and seeded per their ranking points. Any ties will be broken by a drawing of lots. Modified pool play will be used where seed one will play seed four and seed two will play seed three in each pool. The winning pairs will play off for first and second place in the pool and the losing pairs will play off for third and fourth place in the pool. The first two ranked teams from each pool, and the best four teams that rank third in their respective pools (first by match points, then by set ratio followed by rally point ratio and lastly by tournament seeding established at the general technical meeting), will advance automatically to the final phase.



Teams from the same university, if possible, shall not be placed in the same pool. The 2nd, 3rd, 4th and any other eventual university teams) will have their seed increased (for example from Seed #15 to Seed #16) until they are in a different pool than the other university. Should increasing the seed not work (or not be possible) then the seed is reduced (for example from Seed #32 to Seed 31) until the host country team is in a different pool.

### Draw Format

The Drawing of Lots procedure (for the single elimination phase):

The first two ranked teams from each pool, and the best four teams that rank third in their respective pools (first by match points, then by set ratio followed by rally point ratio and lastly by tournament seeding established at the general technical meeting), will advance automatically to the final phase.

All teams ranked no.1 in their pool will be placed in the brackets as below:

- Pool A: Seed 1
- Pool B: Seed 2
- Pool C: Seed 3
- Pool D: Seed 4
- Pool E: Seed 5
- Pool F: Seed 6



**Draw 1:**

- The top four third-ranked teams in the pools will be drawn for seeds 13 – 16. Note: Teams from the same pool cannot play in the first round of 16. However, teams from the same university will be able to meet in the first round of 16.
- The four teams' names will be placed in a container, with the first name drawn becoming seed 16 and placed as noted above (team cannot be from pool A).
- The second name drawn becomes seed 13 and placed as noted above (team cannot be from pool D).
- The third name drawn becomes seed 14 and placed as noted above (team cannot be from pool C).
- The fourth name drawn becomes seed 15 and placed as noted above (team cannot be from pool B).
- If either team is 'blocked' from a position then the teams must be automatically placed in the bracket. (Team from pool D cannot go to seed 13 and team from pool C cannot go to seed 14, B not to 15, A not to 16.)

If a team drawn is 'blocked' from being placed in its drawn position, the team will be placed aside and a new team drawn until an eligible team is obtained. The 'blocked' team will then be returned to the container.

**Draw 2:**

- All teams ranked second in their pool will be drawn for seeds 7 to 12 as shown below. Note: Teams from the same pool cannot play in the first round of 16. However, teams from the same university will be able to meet in the first round of 16.
  - The six teams' names will be placed in a container, with the first name drawn becoming seed 9 and placed as noted above
  - The second name drawn becomes seed 8 and placed as noted above.
  - The third name drawn becomes seed 12 and placed as noted above (team cannot be from pool E).
  - The fourth name drawn becomes seed 11 and placed as noted above (team cannot be from pool F).
  - The fifth name drawn becomes seed 7 and placed as noted above.
  - The sixth name drawn becomes seed 10 and placed as noted above.
- If a team drawn is 'blocked' from being placed in its drawn position, the team will be placed aside and a new team drawn until an eligible team is obtained. The 'blocked' team will then be returned to the container.
- If all possibilities for drawings are exhausted, then the remaining teams will be placed in the bracket as required.
- If an error is made then the drawing will only be revised back to the point where the error was made, not from the beginning of the draw.

### **Forfeit/Injury/Discontinued Matches**

All discontinued matches or matches that have not started are to be assessed by the Technical Delegate assigned to determine if the losing team is marked as Disqualification (DSQ) or Disqualification by Injury (INJ/DSQ) and whether they will receive any match points.

- If a team withdraws due to an injury before or during a match or gets disqualified during a match, it will earn one (1) match point and will keep the sets and points earned up to that moment, but the sets and points against will be the maximum. For example, if a team wins the first set 21:19 and is injured and forfeits the match when they are winning the second set 6:4, this injured team would earn 1 match point with sets of 1:2 and rally points of 21:19, 6:21 and 0:15. In this example, the winning team would get 2 match points with sets of 2:1 and rally points of 19:21, 4:6, 0:0. In addition, its match result will be marked with "INJ/DSQ".
- If the injury occurs before the match begins, the match will be marked "INJ/DSQ" and the losing team will be awarded 1 match point with sets of 0:2 and rally points of 0:21, 0:21. In this case, the winning team will be awarded 2 match points with sets of 2:0 and rally points of 0:0, 0:0.
- If a team withdraws without a valid reason before a match (e.g. no show) or during a match (e.g. refusal to continue) they will lose by forfeit 0-2 (0:21, 0:21) and will earn 0 match points. In addition, this match result will be marked with "DSQ". The winning team will receive 2 match points with sets of 2:0 and rally points of 0:0, 0:0.

### **Last Minute Withdrawals**

The list of reserve teams is constantly updated until the Preliminary Inquiry of the Qualification Tournament. Reserve teams must be present at the Preliminary Inquiry of the Qualification Tournament and both players must sign in to register for the tournament to be considered for the potential inclusion in the event due to late withdrawals or no shows.

- In case of the withdrawal(s) of team(s), in the Main Draw tournament, prior to the completion of the Preliminary Inquiry of the Qualification Tournament, the next eligible team(s) with highest

Entry Points in the Qualification Tournament shall be picked up to advance to the Main Draw, respecting the regulations of the country quota.

- In case of the withdrawal(s) of team(s), in the Main Draw tournament, after the completion of Preliminary Inquiry of the Qualification Tournament when the Qualification seeding list and match schedule have been developed, the regulations of the lucky loser draw shall be implemented to determine the extra team(s) qualify to the Main Draw. The Lucky loser draw regulation is as follows:

- The lucky loser draw is conducted by the Technical Delegate assigned after the completion of the Preliminary Inquiry of Main Draw;
- The lucky loser draw is implemented among the teams losing the last round of the Qualification Tournament, provided they attend and sign in at the Preliminary Inquiry of Main Draw tournament as eligible 'lucky losers';
- The first draw is between the two highest seeded teams among the eligible 'lucky loser';
- For each additional available spot to the Main Draw, the next highest seeded team must be drawn against the loser of the previous draw;
- This procedure continues until all additional open spots of the Main Draw are filled.

- In case of the withdrawal(s) of team(s), in the Qualification Tournament, the next eligible team(s) in the Reserve Team List shall be picked up. In case there are no eligible reserve team(s) physically present at the Preliminary Inquiry of the Qualification Tournament, the Host reserve teams as in the Confirmed Entry List will be picked up and the priorities will be given to the teams with higher Entry Points. If there is a tie between the 2 Host country reserve teams, a drawing of lots shall be conducted to determine the priority.

- The Qualification and Main Draw Tournaments are deemed to have started once the seeding has been confirmed at respective Preliminary Inquiry and no further changes are allowed.

1.2 The Main Draw Tournament technical meeting will be held the evening of September 10, 2021, via zoom call. Athlete and coach attendance is mandatory.

- Technical Meeting – 7:00-8:00 PM EST

1.2.1 Organizers will provide all Organizing Committee members, USAV Officials, referees, athletes, coaches, medical, VIPs, journalists, technical staff, court personnel, volunteers, etc. with an official accreditation and will ensure that only people with appropriate accreditation will have access to the designated venue areas.

1.2.2 The technical meeting is an opportunity for athletes and coaches to ask questions. Finalized seeding and additional detailed information on the competition will be distributed on the USAV website within 1 hour after the completion of the Technical Meetings

1.3 The Main Draw Tournament, including pool play matches, will take place September 11-12, 2021 and will consist of up to 24 pairs.

1.3.1 Seeding for pool play will follow this order:

- Teams will be seeded by their USAV Ranking Points as of August 27, 2021
  - Teams remaining that do not have USAV Ranking Points will have their seed drawn by lots. FIVB regulations will be followed for moving pairs of the same university to a different pool.
- 1.3.2 Exact pools will be posted online following the technical meeting in advance of the event. [Link TBD.](#)  
Pools will be seeded in the following format:

POOL A	POOL B	POOL C	POOL D	Pool E	Pool F
1	2	3	4	5	6
12	11	10	9	8	7
13	14	15	16	17	18
24	23	22	21	20	19

#### 4. Responsibilities of Coaches, Athletes, and University Staff

- 4.1 Male athletes must wear shorts that are a minimum of 10 inches in length and a top that identifies the university they are representing. If athletes are from different universities, the team must wear matching uniforms tops. The attire includes, at a minimum, shorts and tank tops that cover the midsection. The tops should have two (2) different numbers clearly visible that correspond to each player. College logos are permitted on any personal item. Hats, visors, sunglasses and sand socks are considered optional personal attire. In addition, for competitions, pairs must have matching bottoms and tanks in a similar style, but do not have to match in color. Cold weather clothing is permitted in conjunction with the uniform and should fit snugly under any uniform.
- 4.2 During this event, one accredited medical staff member will be allowed inside designated areas to assist athletes with any medical needs. The accredited medical staff member must register for an accreditation by September 6, 2021, deadline (<https://usav.bracketpal.com/signup/190>) And must:
- Be a current USAV member in good standing
  - Be SafeSport Trained
  - Successfully completed a USAV background screening
  - Provide a copy of current medical license
  - Provide a copy of current liability insurance
- 4.3 During this event, accredited coaches will be allowed to sit in the player's area and interact with the players during official warm-up, time-out, technical time-out and between sets. To

receive an accreditation, the coach must register by September 3, 2021, deadline: <https://usav.bracketpal.com/signup/190> Coaches of men's pairs may be a named beach or indoor volleyball coach of the university which the athletes represent or must meet the requirements in 4.4.3.

4.3.1 Coaches must:

- Be a current USAV member in good standing
- Be SafeSport Trained
- Successfully completed a USAV background screening
- Hold USAV IMPACT certification

4.3.2 .

4.3.3 Pairs are not required to have a coach.

4.3.4 A coach may be registered for more than one pair. Coaches are permitted to enter a match to coach once and should they leave the match they are not permitted to return. It is recommended that coaches stay with one pair for the duration of the match (i.e. from warm up until the final whistle).

4.3.5 Only one coach will be permitted into the playing area beginning with the warmup until the final whistle.

4.3.6 The coach must wear a uniform which is different from the pair (e.g. polo/ track suit top, showing university name or logo). Should the coach not adhere to the USAV dress code, the referee will make a remark on the score sheet and the Technical Delegate will rescind the coach's accreditation until the regulation is complied with.

4.3.7 Coaches must wear the accreditation provided during the entire competition and present it to the match officials. The Coach should sign the score sheet prior to the match (after the toss) in the Remarks box (or in the Coach's confirmation box, where a modified score sheet is being used), to confirm his/ her status as a member of the team, subject to the Rules of Play. In addition, the coach must leave his/ her accreditation on the score table. Hence for the purposes of this competition, the coach is included under the term's "pair" and "pair member". Should the Coach refuse to comply with this regulation or have no ID, he/ she will be requested to leave the playing area and can have no further involvement in the match.

4.3.8 The Coach sits at the designated pair seating areas and must remain seated during play, intervals between rallies except when switching courts, during set intervals and while instructing players during time outs. During court switches, the Coach switches with the pair. The Coach must not stand during play or talk to the pair members. Should either Referee have to remind the Coach of this fact, he/ she may be subject to the misconduct scale, just like the players.

4.3.9 An accredited coach may interact with his/her players only during warm-up, change of set, between rallies, at switch of the court (should not delay) and during time-out. The coach can freely give instructions during Time-outs, Technical Timeouts, Set intervals, and during exceptional game interruptions. The coach may also give instructions during court switches (while walking) – however, the match shall not be delayed by this. Existing rules concerning coaching players from outside the playing area still apply.



4.3.10 The coach (as well as the pair captain) may request a 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 pair has exhausted its time outs in that set, will be regarded as improper requests. Should resumption of the game be delayed by this, the pair will be sanctioned for delay.

4.3.11 During a medical time out, only players may warm up in the playing area.

4.4 Pairs will be sanctioned for delay when pair members (players) are judged to be attempting to delay the game in order to get assistance from the coach in violation of this specific regulation.

4.5 Misconduct and its sanctions apply to all pair members, including the coach if present. Summary of misconduct and cards used:

- Warning Stage 1: no sanction – Verbal warning through the pair captain
- Warning Stage 2: no sanction - symbol Yellow card to the individual pair member
- Penalty: sanction – symbol Red card
- Player: Loss of point and service
- Coach: Team loses point and service. Coach is required to leave match and to report to Tournament Director
- Expulsion: sanction – symbol Red+ Yellow cards jointly (loss of Set, maintaining points acquired)
- Disqualification: sanction – symbol Red + Yellow card separately (loss of Match, maintaining points acquired).

## **5. REMOVAL OF ATHLETE(S)**

5.1 Any athlete confirmed to compete in the USAV Men’s Collegiate Beach Challenge may be removed as a competitor for any of the following reasons, as determined by USAV:

5.1.1 Injury or illness as certified by a board licensed physician or medical staff approved by USAV. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician, or medical staff approved by USAV, his/her illness or injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.

5.1.2 Violation of USA Volleyball’s Code of Conduct

<http://www.pairusa.org/usa-volleyball/membership/forms-and-information>

5.1.3 An Anti-Doping violation as stipulated in 8.1

5.1.4 Any athlete removed from the pair pursuant to a provision above has the right to a hearing per USAV Bylaws (Article X & XIII) or USOC Bylaws, Section 9.

5.1.4 If a pair withdraws without a valid reason before a match (e.g. no show) or during a match (e.g. refusal to continue) they will lose by forfeit 0-2 (0:21, 0:21).

5.1.5 All discontinued matches or matches that have not started are to be assessed by the Technical Delegate to determine if the losing pair is marked as Disqualification (DSQ) or Disqualification by Injury (INJ/DSQ).

- If a pair is disqualified during pool play due to a positive doping test, it will lose all the matches in the pool (played or to be played) by forfeit (see above). It will receive no rank. All of the pair's matches in the Pool will be recorded as a forfeit for ranking purposes.
- If a pair is disqualified after the pool play (after the Drawing of Lots) of the tournament due to a positive doping test, it will lose the last pool matches played by forfeit (see above). If the single elimination phase has already started and if they have not played yet they forfeit their match and the opponent will be then moved to the next round. The final pool ranking will be maintained. If the pair already played its match and won the match, the match result will not be changed and this pair will forfeit the next round. However, if a pair is disqualified from the tournament due to a positive doping test after the conclusion of the drawing of lots but before the commencement of the first match of the single elimination phase, they will be replaced in the draw directly by the 4th ranked pair in its pool. And the final pool ranking will be maintained. The disqualified pair will receive no final ranking. It should be shown on the bottom of the final standing without rank and "DSQ".

## **6. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETE(S)**

6.1 In the event a confirmed pair loses one of its athletes, after the release of the Confirmed Entry List and prior to the technical meeting, due to reasons identified in Section 5 above, and/or to a withdrawal request a selection committee consisting of an NTDP representative, the Director of Beach Events, the Tournament Directors, and the University Coach in relation to the pair will select a replacement athlete from among those who are eligible for the University in question that have not already gained entry. The participating Pair/University may:

- Submit through a withdrawal request to USAV [bntdp@usav.org](mailto:bntdp@usav.org) to submit the withdrawal, disband or 'change of athlete' request.
- If the withdrawal, disband or 'change of athlete' request is for an athlete/pair in the Main Draw tournament, the new pair shall be approved by the Selection Committee per the requirements in Section 2.4 to maintain their Main Draw position, otherwise, the pair shall be placed in the Qualification tournament.
- If the withdrawal, disband or 'change of athlete' request is for an athlete/pair in the Qualification tournament, the new pair shall be approved by the Selection Committee per the requirements in Section 2.4 to maintain their Qualification position, otherwise, the pair shall be removed from the tournament.

- 6.6 After September 3, 2021, the participating Pair/University may:
  - Submit through a withdrawal request with the supporting medical certificate and travel proof (such as flight ticket issued with flight number, etc.) to USAV Beach Events (beachevents@usav.org and to bntdp@usav.org) to submit the withdrawal, disband or 'change of athlete' request.
  - Failure of the Pair/University to provide proof of a travel itinerary and medical certificate may result in the Pair/University forfeiting their registration fee.

6.7 Should a pair encounter an injury after the technical meeting has taken place, no replacement athlete can be used.

## **7. MEDALISTS**

- 7.1 All pairs that medal per gender will have an opportunity to be invited to participate in future Beach National Team Development Programs.
- 7.2 The ATHLETE will be present for the award ceremony at the event in which his pair finishes among the top 3 pairs, wearing their uniform for the photography and media session.

## **8. ANTI-DOPING & CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 8.1 Athletes must adhere to all World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) and US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) protocols, policies and procedures. This includes out-of-competition testing as required by WADA, FIVB and USADA.
- 8.2 Athletes must sign and adhere to the USAV Code of Conduct.  
<http://www.pairusa.org/usa-volleyball/membership/forms-and-information>

## **9. MEDIA**

- 9.1 USAV owns all media rights including photographs, video, digital television at the event.
- 9.2 The ATHLETE will do his/her utmost to be available for professional interviews by USAV or credentialed media immediately following matches and will use reasonable efforts to organize his/her schedule accordingly. USAV will respect the ATHLETE'S need to train, play, eat, sleep and prepare for coming games during the EVENT when requesting the ATHLETE'S participation in such activities.

## **10. DISCLAIMER**

- 10.1 If any force of nature or force majeure should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised pursuant to approval of the USA Volleyball Beach office.

## **11. ATHLETE INQUIRIES**

- 11.1 Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete should contact USAV: [bntdp@usav.org](mailto:bntdp@usav.org).

If you have further questions that the USAV staff were not able to answer, please contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman at 719-866-5000 or email:

[kacie.wallace@usoc.org](mailto:kacie.wallace@usoc.org) or [sara.clark@usoc.org](mailto:sara.clark@usoc.org).

**\*Information is subject to changes. Information current as of September 3, 2021.**