

NCAA Division II Sand Volleyball



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for Collegiate Sand Volleyball as an NCAA
sanctioned sport.**

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The following is a legislative recommendation for Collegiate Sand Volleyball as an NCAA sanctioned sport. The working definition of “Sand Volleyball” for this document is defined as two-person versus two-person competition in five-team match play format on the surface of sand. The field of play may be any facility arrangement which conforms to the regulations cited in “Rules for Competition” which includes, but is not limited to, on-campus, city/country recreation area, indoor, lake-side or coastal sand courts.

Playing and Practice Seasons

17.28.3 Volleyball, Sand - Women’s

17.28.3.1 Length of Playing Season - Championship and Non-championship Segments. The length of an institution’s playing season for both segments in women’s sand volleyball shall be limited by the dates and regulations set forth in the remainder of this section.

17.28.3.2 First Date of Practice-Championship Segment. A member institution shall not commence practice sessions in sand volleyball in the championship segment before January 10 or the first day of classes, whichever is earlier.

Rationale: Commensurate with DII spring sport start dates for practice

17.28.3.3 First Date of Competition-Championship Segment. A member institution shall not engage in its first date of competition with outside competition in the championship segment before February 1.

Rationale: Commensurate with DII spring sport start dates for competition

17.28.3.4 End Date of Practice and Competition-Championship Segment. A member institution shall conclude all practice and competition (games and scrimmages) in sand volleyball by the last date of final examinations for the regular academic year.

Rationale: Commensurate with emerging sport legislation for DII

17.28.3.5 First Date of Practice and Competition - Non-championship Segment. A member institution shall not commence practice sessions or engage in outside competition in the non-championship segment before September 7 or the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.

Rationale: Commensurate with spring sport non-championship start dates for DII

17.28.3.6 End Date of Practice and Competition – Non-championship Segment. A member institution shall conclude all practice and competition in the non-championship segment no later than November 15.

Rationale: Commensurate with spring sport non-championship start dates for DII

17.28.3.7 Number and Dates of Competition

17.28.3.7.1 Maximum Limitations – Institutional. A member institution shall limit its total playing schedule with outside competition in sand volleyball during the institution's sand volleyball playing season to sixteen (16) dates of competition during the segment in which the NCAA championship is conducted and four (4) dates of competition during the non-championship segment.

Rationale: Commensurate with DII legislation

17.28.3.7.2.1 Annual Exemptions. The maximum number of dates of competition in women's sand volleyball shall exclude the following:

- a) **Conference Championship.** Competition in one conference championship tournament or playoff;
- b) **Season-Ending Championship Tournament.** Competition in one of the recognized national intercollegiate championship events in sand volleyball (e.g., National Collegiate Sand Championships). A season-ending tournament involves competition after the end of the regular season between teams that are not identified until the close of the regular season;
- c) **Alumni Game.** One date of competition with an alumni team of the institution;
- d) **Foreign Team in U.S.** A date of competition against a foreign team in the United States played in the facility in which the member institution regularly plays its home dates of competition;
- e) **Hawaii, Alaska or Puerto Rico.** Any dates of competition played in Hawaii or Alaska, respectively, either against or under the sponsorship of an active member institution located in Hawaii or Alaska by a member institution located outside those locales;
- f) **Fund-Raising Activity.** Any activities in which student-athletes from more than one of the institution's athletics teams participate (or in individual sports per Bylaw 17.02.14.2, in which team members of that sport participate) with and against alumni and friends of the institution, the purpose of which is to raise funds to benefit the institution's athletics or other programs, provided the student-athletes do not miss class as a result of their participation (see Bylaw 12.5.1.1);
- g) **Celebrity Sports Activity.** Competition involving a maximum of two student-athletes from a member institution's team who participate in local celebrity activities in women's sand volleyball conducted for the purpose of raising funds for charitable organizations, provided:
 - 1) The student-athlete does not miss class as a result of the participation;
 - and

- 2) The involvement of the student-athletes has the approval of the institution's athletics director; and
- h) **U.S. National Team.** One date of competition against a U.S. national team as selected by the appropriate national governing body in that sport.

Rationale: Commensurate with DII legislation – (b) is based on legislation from the sport of Equestrian where recognized championship(s) may evolve in lieu of an NCAA sanctioned championship which will provide opportunities for student-athletes to garner post-season distinction

17.28.3.8 Out-of-Season and Non-championship Segment Athletically Related Activities. Student-athletes and members of the coaching staff shall not engage in countable athletically related activities outside the championship segment except for the following:

- a) **Conditioning, Weight-Training, and Skill Instruction.** Student-athletes may participate in conditioning, weight-training, and skill instruction in accordance with Bylaw 17.1.6.2; and
- b) **Non-championship Segment Activities.** During the segment in which the NCAA championship does not occur, student-athletes may participate in any practice or competition activity as permitted other legislation provided such activity is restricted to a maximum of 24 days that occur within a period of 45 consecutive calendar days, omitting vacation and examination days officially announced or on days that the institution is closed due to inclement weather, as long as no practice or competition occurs on such days. The 45 calendar days must be within the allowable first and end date of practice and competition in the non-championship segments set forth by the NCAA.

Rationale: Commensurate with DII legislation

17.28.3.8.1 Summer Practice. Sand volleyball practice that is organized or financially supported by a member institution shall be prohibited during the summer unless specifically authorized in the bylaws (e.g., foreign tour) or through official interpretations approved by the Management Council. An institution may pay fees associated with the use of institutional practice and competition facilities by student-athletes engaged in voluntary athletically related activities in his or her sport.

Rationale: Commensurate with DII legislation

17.28.3.9 Camps and Clinics. There are no limits on the number of student-athletes in sand volleyball who may be employed (e.g., as counselors) in camps and clinics (see Bylaw 13.12). Currently enrolled student-athletes may not participate as campers in their institution's camps or clinics.

Rationale: Commensurate with DII legislation

17.28.3.10 Other Restrictions.

17.28.3.10.1 Non-collegiate Amateur Competition

17.28.2.10.1.1 In Season. A student-athlete shall be denied eligibility for intercollegiate sand volleyball competition for the remainder of the season if, after enrollment in college and during any year in which the student-athlete is a member of an intercollegiate sand volleyball squad or team, she competes or has competed as a member of any outside sand volleyball team in any non-collegiate, amateur competition (e.g., tournament play, exhibition games or other activity) during the institution's intercollegiate sand volleyball season (see Bylaw 14.7.5 for exceptions and waivers).

Rationale: Commensurate with DII legislation

17.28.3.10.1.2 Out of Season.

17.28.3.10.1.2.1 Involvement of Coaching Staff. No member of the coaching staff of a member institution may be involved in any capacity (e.g., coach, official, player or league/team administrator) at any time (i.e., during the academic year, vacation periods and summer) with an outside team that involves any student-athlete with eligibility remaining from the institution's sand volleyball team except as provided under Bylaws 14.7.5, 16.8.1.3.1 and 17.32.

Rationale: Commensurate with DII legislation

17.28.3.10.1.2.2 Olympic and National Team Development Program. There are no limits on the number of student-athletes from the same institution who may participate in Olympic and national team development programs. Such programs may also include a coach and student-athlete from the same institution.

Rationale: Commensurate with DII legislation

Minimum Contests and Participants Requirements for Sports Sponsorship: In each sport, the institution's team shall engage in at least a minimum number of intercollegiate contests (against four-year, degree-granting collegiate institutions) each year. In the individual sports, the institution's team shall include a minimum number of participants in each contest that is counted toward meeting the minimum-contests requirement. The following minimums are applicable:

Sand Volleyball

Minimum Contests-8 competitions Minimum Participants-10 participants

NCAA Number of Contests

Sport	Maximum	Minimum	% of Min.
Baseball	56	27	48%
Basketball	29	25	86%

Field Hockey	20	11	55%
Football	12	9	75%
Men's Ice Hockey	34	25	74%
Women's Ice Hockey	34	20	59%
Lacrosse	17	10	59%
Sand Volleyball	16	8	50%
Women's Rowing	20	6	30%
Women's Rugby	11	9	82%
Soccer	20	11	55%
Softball	56	27	48%
Women's Synch Swim	15	8	53%
Women's Team Handball	20	10	50%
Men's Water Polo	21	15	71%
Women's Water Polo	21	10	48%
Women's Archery	15	5	33%
Women's Badminton	15	8	53%
Women's Bowling	26	8	31%
Cross Country	7	6	86%
Equestrian	15	6	40%
Men's Fencing	11	9	82%
Women's Fencing	11	9	82%
Golf	24	8	33%
Men's Gymnastics	13	9	69%
Women's Gymnastics	13	9	69%
Rifle	13	8	62%
Skiing	16	5	31%
Women's Squash	15	8*	53%
Swimming & Diving	20	10	50%
Tennis	25	12	48%
Track and Field Indoor	18	6	N/A
Track and Field Outdoor	18	6	N/A
Wrestling	16	13	81%

Minimum Participant Rationale: The participant numbers as well as financial aid limits are connected thought processes. The determination of five two-player units is a function of the following:

- Pair total must be an odd number to prevent ties
- Three pairs only involve six players which would not inspire additional participants and teams could mostly be filled by current rosters for indoor
- Seven pairs requires a minimum roster of 14 which eclipses the 'standard' roster size for indoor and seven matches presents logistical issues with competition which could make the events generally problematic to manage
- Five pairs (or ten active players) is a significant roster size and poses realistic options for competition in either dual, tri, quad, or tournament play

Competition Limit Rationale: Competition maximums and minimums are drawn from reasonable parallels related to other NCAA emerging sports. In averaging all emerging sports above, the maximum number of competitions was 15.14, rounded to 16. Also for the emerging sports above, the minimum limit for sports participation was averaged to be 50% of the maximum number, or 8 for sand. Given the fluctuating length of the season which is contingent upon academic calendar, institutions would see approximately 12 weeks at a minimum to compete. The scope of 16 dates of competition is reasonable to schedule as well as accommodating comfortable options for “fitting” in the minimum limit. It appears the example set forth with the listed emerging sports is to encourage participation by not stipulating unreasonable limits or commitment.

* The eight competitions qualifying for the minimum sport sponsorship parameter should conform to the following conditions:

- No less than three of the eight shall be dual, one-day competitions where all five, two-person teams are competing (institution vs. institution on a single day on which no other competition occurs)
- The remaining number of contests shall be achieved by the option above or multi-opponent competitions – for a tournament to qualify for sports sponsorship purposes, all five, two-person teams must be in competition with all other participating institutions AND one institution is crowned champion for the event based on the performance of its five, two-person teams
- All other competition formats engaged will constitute the use of a “date of competition” but not count towards the sport sponsorship minimum
- Contests against four-year, degree-granting institutions competing in sand competitions but not formally sponsoring a sand volleyball team will not be counted toward sports sponsorship except in the following conditions:
 - Not more than 1 competition in a dual, one-day contest against a “non-sponsored” team
 - In tournament situations, not more than 40% of the teams participating may be “non-sponsored” (3 and 4 team events – not more than 1; 5, 6, & 7 team events – not more than 2; etc)

Competition Qualification Rationale: The suggested definition of countable contests is provided to address anticipated scheduling culture adaptations. A minimum requirement for dual match competitions engenders the directive for institutional rivalries and a simplistic display of the mechanism of the sport. Qualifying the details of multi-institution competition provides a basis for a pragmatic and equitable manner supporting the spirit of genuine competition applied to all opponents. The issue of “non-sponsored” programs participating in sand competitions is anticipated to be probable in the early years, and the legislation should provide for opportunities to incorporate programs which may be “testing” the possibilities for eventually adding the sport. Also, these individuals are considered student-athletes by their respective institutions, therefore an option for scheduling these teams for sports sponsorship purposes should exist.

The minimum participant number is based on 5 units of 2 players. See rationale below under “Playing Rules.”

Financial Aid

DII Parameters

15.5.3 Multisport Participants – A counter who participates in two or more sports shall be counted in one or more sports as specified on the individual’s financial aid agreement

15.5.3.1 Multiple Sport Participant Receiving Athletically Related Institutional Aid – An institution shall divide countable athletically related aid equally among all sports in which the student-athlete participates in instances when the financial aid agreement does not specify how such aid should be counted toward institutional limits.

Assumptions: To evaluate options for scholarship numbers, the following analysis of non-specific financial aid distribution for indoor volleyball in relative comparison with respect to length of season of sand volleyball is provided.

- It is generally accepted that 12 student-athletes is an adequate roster size for indoor competition and the length of the indoor season is capped at 28 playing dates
- It is postulated that sand rosters will also be adequately fulfilled with 12 student-athletes (5 – two person units plus two alternates) and the proposed maximum length of the sand season is 16 playing dates
- All 12 student-athletes on either roster are receiving equitable amounts of athletics aid equivalencies from one discipline only
- 12 student-athletes divided into the maximum scholarship total of 8 for indoor yields an average of .66 scholarships per student-athlete
- The 28 playing date limit for indoor divided into the maximum playing date limit for sand 16 is approximately .57
- The maximum playing date adjustment of .57 multiplied by the average scholarship equivalency .66 provides for a weighted scholarship equivalency aver of .37 for each student-athlete

Option 1

Maximum Equivalency Limits

Sand Volleyball (w/o Indoor).....	4
Sand Volleyball (w Indoor).....	2

Rationale: For Sand without Indoor, the limit of 4 provides for 10.81 (rounded to 10) student-athletes to receive a .37 scholarship equivalency which means the team would not be fulfilled.

The increase of 2 scholarships for institutions supporting both indoor and sand provide for 5.4 student-athletes (rounded to 5) receiving a minimum .37 sand equivalency scholarship which indicates the remaining seven roster positions for sand would

purportedly be filled by 7 crossover indoor volleyball student-athletes. This scenario will pose challenges for broadening participation opportunities as the majority of the sand team will be composed of indoor crossover student-athletes

Option 2

Maximum Equivalency Limits

Sand Volleyball (w/o Indoor).....	5
Sand Volleyball (w Indoor).....	3

Rationale: For Sand without Indoor, the limit of 5 provides for 13.51 (rounded to 13) student-athletes to receive a .37 scholarship equivalency and would eclipse the limit of 12.

The increase of 3 scholarships for institutions supporting both indoor and sand provide for 8.1 student-athletes (rounded to 8) receiving the .37 sand equivalency scholarship which indicates the remaining 4 positions would be likely filled by crossover indoor student-athletes. The ratio of 2 to 1 sand/indoor student-athlete representation would be reasonable.

Option 3

Maximum Equivalency Limits

Sand Volleyball (w/o Indoor).....	6
Sand Volleyball (w Indoor).....	4

Rationale: For Sand without Indoor, the limit of 6 provides for 16.21 (rounded to 16) student-athletes to receive a .37 scholarship equivalency and would more than eclipse the limit of 12.

The increase of 4 scholarships for institutions supporting both indoor and sand provide for 10.81 student-athletes (rounded to 10) receiving the .37 sand equivalency scholarship which indicates the remaining 2 positions would be likely filled by crossover indoor student-athletes. The improved ratio 5 to 1 appears to be the most ideal for sand volleyball.

Recommended Hybrid (2010-11 Year of Implementation)

Maximum Equivalency Limits

Sand Volleyball (w/o Indoor).....	5	(Effective Immediately)
Sand Volleyball (w Indoor).....	2	(Effective Immediately)
Increased by 1.....	3	(Effective 2012-2013)

Increased by 1.....4 (Effective 2015-2016)

Rationale: For Sand without Indoor, the limit of 5 fits the needs of the sport most effectively in that it provides for more than a full roster given the assumed parameters.

It is expected that the sand discipline will evolve in the high schools and junior volleyball ranks with more players being interested and pursuing sand volleyball as a primary focus. However in the first years of inception, sand rosters will likely be fulfilled with indoor players for programs which have both sports. By starting with an additional 2 scholarship equivalencies for sand in the first year of sponsorship and staggering additional scholarships for the next five years to increase to the ideal number 4 (for augmented roster size and athlete independence from indoor), the financial commitment is eased at the onset and additional aid provided for when the pool of prospects for sand deepens. It is conceivable and expected that the rarity of the multisport athlete who plays both volleyball and basketball presently will be as rare as the multisport athlete who plays both indoor and sand in 5 to 10 years.

In critical review of this subject as well as in open discussion with current indoor volleyball coaches, there is intense concern about the legislation governing the counting of equivalencies regardless of the numbers of equivalencies added. Under the bylaw included above (15.5.3), indoor teams will effectively increase the available athletics financial aid for awarding scholarships with the understanding that only the indoor aid percentage stipulated on the financial grant-in-aid will count towards the current limit of 8. As long as accompanying sand money is designated specifically on the agreement, the increased aid received by the student-athlete will not violate the legislated manner for counting scholarships. A practical way to diffuse those concerns is to impose a hierarchy for sand and indoor. Specifically, athletics aid provided for sand volleyball counts towards the indoor limit of 8, but indoor athletics aid would not count towards the legislated limit for sand.

Playing Rules

Participants. A team is composed of five (5) two-player units who compete in a flighted draw. No substitutions are allowed once a two-player unit has started a match or a tournament. Player substitutions may occur between different competitions.

Rationale: See clarification under “Minimum Contests and Participants Requirements for Sports Sponsorship”

Uniform.1

- a) A uniform consists of two school-issued components - shorts or briefs, and a top. A one-piece body suit is acceptable as a combination of the two components. Any

¹ These regulations were taken from the NCAA Rulebook for Track & Field and therefore should provide functional and college-appropriate guidelines for attire.

- outer garment (e.g., sweat pants, tights) that is school-issued becomes the official uniform, when worn.
- b) The uniform must be of a material and design deemed to not be objectionable or offensive by the athletics department of the issuing institution.
 - c) The uniform top must, by design and size, cover the full length of the torso, meeting or hanging below the waistband of the bottoms, while the competitor is standing, and allow for competitors' numbers to be placed above the waist, front and back.
 - d) Additional visible clothing is an undergarment. It must be worn under the uniform and be of a solid color.

Rationale: In accordance with NCAA DII legislation for track as functional clothing definitions are reasonable and tasteful

Scoring System.

To Win a Doubles Match within a Competition. The winner of a doubles contest is the pair that wins two out of three games. The first two games are played by rally scoring to 21 points (with a minimum lead of two points), the deciding game, if necessary, is played by rally score to 15 points (with a minimum lead of two points.)

To Win a Dual Match. The match is won by the team that wins three of the five separate doubles competitions.

To win a Triangular or Quadrangular Competition. Each doubles unit will compete against all the other pairs in their flight (one through five). Each doubles contest win will be awarded one (1) point in the team score. The winner of the competition is the team that scores the highest number of points with other teams placing 2nd, 3rd and 4th based on their point totals. If two teams tie for first place, they will play a tie-breaker consisting of each doubles team competing in one 15-point game. If two or more teams tie for first place, the winner will be the team that scored the most total points during the competition.

Rationale: The ideas for competition organization are open to broad options. These summarize the probable more popular situations.

Facilities.

Playing Area: Each playing court is a rectangle measuring 52'6" surrounded by a free zone with a minimum of 9'10" wide and with a space free of any obstruction up to a height of a minimum of 23' from the playing surface.

Playing Surface: The terrain must be composed of leveled sand, as flat and uniform as possible, free of rocks, shells and anything else, which can represent risks of cuts or injuries to the players.

Lines on the Court: Two sidelines and two end lines mark the playing court (no center line and no 10 foot lines). The lines must be 2” wide ribbons anchored by a soft flexible material at the four corners and the net, and of a color which contrasts sharply with the color of the sand.

Net: The net is 27’10’ long and 39” wide when it is hung taut, placed vertically over the axis of the center of the court. At the top and the bottom there are two 3” wide horizontal bands made of two-fold canvas, preferably in dark or bright colors and sewn along its full length. The height of the net shall be 7’4 1/8” for women. Two side bands are fastened vertically to the net and placed above each sideline. Two antennae are fastened to the outer edge of each side band.

Ball: The ball is an outdoor ball with weight, circumference, pressure and color that meet FIVB standards.

Rationale: In accordance with sand volleyball rules as administrated by the National Governing Body – USA Volleyball