

NCAA Division I 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/county recreation areas, lake-side or coastal sand courts

Playing and Practice Seasons

Length of Playing Season. An institution that sponsors only indoor or sand volleyball (but not both) shall be limited to a 132-day season, which may consist of two segments (each consisting of consecutive days) and which may exclude only required days off and official vacation, holiday and final-examination periods during which no practice or competition shall occur.

Rationale: The 132-day calendar is the minimum limit for a sport activity under current NCAA rules. The playing season both championship and non-championship will fit reasonably within the confines of that parameter. It should be noted that sand volleyball’s calendar will be completely separate from the indoor volleyball playing and practice season for institutions sponsoring both sports.

Other calendar configurations have been modeled specifically looking at one declared calendar for institutions sponsoring both indoor and sand programs. Ultimately an increased but merged calendar (144 or 156) will lengthen the amount of time the roster stays in season. In other words, instead of a select number of players who may choose to participate in both disciplines having longer in-season training during the academic year, all student-athletes in either discipline will have longer in-season training during the academic year.

Indoor Volleyball Student-Athletes Participating in Sand Volleyball. Indoor volleyball student-athletes listed as participants for sand volleyball must participate fully in sand volleyball practices. If student-athletes are practicing indoor volleyball skills unrelated to sand volleyball, such practices must be counted in the institution’s established segment in indoor volleyball.

Rationale: Cross Country has the origin of this bylaw to prevent dedicated track and field student-athletes from utilizing an opportunity to train in-season at 20 hours per week when the differentiating discipline has no basis in distance training. In other words, this prevents sprinters from training to be better sprinters while listed on the cross country roster. As it applies to the sand/indoor concept, it is possible that clarifying language or possibly an education column may be needed to explain the intent of this legislation. For instance, it is reasonable that sand players may train indoors on a firm surface, so sand training is not exclusive to sand only activity. However training for participation in sand doubles should not employ combinations of activity that are commensurate with indoor,

six person volleyball – the majority of training would not have more than two persons on one side of the net at a time, the focus of activity would see the alternation of contacts between two players and not involve a third, etc.

Preseason Practice. A member institution's sand volleyball team shall not commence practice sessions in sand volleyball prior to September 7 or the institutions first day of classes for the fall term, whichever is earlier.

Rationale: The start date provides for programs to begin as early as the academic calendar allows in the fall to utilize as favorable weather conditions as possible especially for programs in northern climates. It is also commensurate with the men's volleyball indoor start date designation, and men's volleyball mirrors the fall non-championship segment/spring championship segment configuration just as sand volleyball will be oriented.

First Contest Date

- (a) **Nonchampionship Segment.** A member institution shall not engage in its first date of competition (game or scrimmage) in the nonchampionship segment with outside competition in sand volleyball prior to September 7 or the institutions first day of classes for the fall term, whichever is earlier.

Rationale: The start date provides for programs to begin as early as the academic calendar allows in the fall to utilize as favorable weather conditions as possible especially for programs in northern climates. It is also commensurate with the men's volleyball indoor start date designation, and men's volleyball mirrors the fall non-championship segment/spring championship segment configuration just as sand volleyball will be oriented.

- (b) **Championship Segment.** A member institution shall not engage in its first date of competition (game or scrimmage) in the championship segment with outside competition in sand volleyball prior to the first Thursday in March.

Rationale: Beginning the first Thursday in March allows for 10 weeks of competition concluding the 1st or 2nd week of May which should provide for ample opportunity to schedule the maximum dates of competition proposed for sand volleyball. There is also an interest to offer the programs in the northern climates the consideration to be outdoors as much as possible in respect to weather conditions while tempering the advantage that will be afforded sand programs in southern climates.

End of Regular Playing Season: 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 DI

Special Note: The future for sand volleyball appears to have enormous potential. Given the strong support the proposal received, a high percentage of institutions seem to have interest, motivation, and means to invest in this sport. Should the sport gain the institutional sponsorship to push it from “emerging” to fully sanctioned, serious consideration should be given to moving the championship segment playing season to begin in April and conclude by 4 July. This is a recommendation which would encourage better representation by northern climate schools who would arguably be more interested in sponsoring teams. Also, this sport has strong potential as evidenced by the professional version, that media and television exposure could be imminent.

Number and Dates of Competition

(a) **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 another segment.

Rationale: Commensurate with emerging sport legislation for DI. Further support for this limit is available in a later section.

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, Alaska or Puerto Rico 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 DI 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

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:

<u>Minimum Contests</u>	8 competitions
<u>Minimum Participants</u>	10 participants

NCAA Number of Contests/Dates of Competition

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 projected 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 competing players) provides for a roster size that presents 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. To avoid issues of “non-sponsored” programs participating in sand competitions in the early years of the sport, 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.”

Coaching Staff

SPORT	Head or Assistant Coach	Limit on Off-Campus Recruiters	Date of Implementation
Sand Volleyball (w/o Indoor)	2	2	Immediately
Indoor/Sand Volleyball	4	2	Immediately

Rationale: The Indoor/Sand Volleyball combination limit is an increase on the Indoor Volleyball countable coach regulation for the principle reason of overlapping championship/non-

championship segmented seasons. One of the unique challenges of this sport is the fact that a current model for a multi-discipline activity does not exist in the manner this cooperative will interact. In the fall, indoor will be in the championship segment, and sand will be in the non-championship segment. In the spring, indoor will be in the non-championship segment and sand will be in the championship segment. To provide opportunity for dedicated sand players to train in the fall and allow for work/life balance of the countable coaches, a fourth coach is necessary to work with the sand players. During the championship segment in the spring, it is expected that the additional coaching staff member will enable a healthier work/life balance for the coaching staff of both programs.

Recruiting

13.1.8.12 Evaluation Days – Women’s Volleyball

13.1.8.12.1 For institutions sponsoring indoor volleyball only, each institution is limited to 80 evaluation days (measured August 1 through July 31) per Bylaw 13.02.6.2. A coach's employment activities in instructional camps/clinics do not count toward the evaluation days limitation. A coach's involvement outside the contact/evaluation period with a local sports club per Bylaw 13.11.2.3 shall count toward the limit. *(Adopted: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, Revised: 1/8/07 effective 8/1/07)*

Rationale: Commensurate with current DI legislation – language added to specify indoor only

13.1.8.12.2 For institutions sponsoring indoor volleyball and sand volleyball, each institution is limited to 100 evaluation days (measured August 1 through July 31) per Bylaw 13.02.6.2. A coach's employment activities in instructional camps/clinics do not count toward the evaluation days limitation. A coach's involvement outside the contact/evaluation period with a local sports club per Bylaw 13.11.2.3 shall count toward the limit. *(Adopted: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, Revised: 1/8/07 effective 8/1/07)*

Rationale: It is understood that the number of volleyball players participating at an institution will have to increase to accommodate programs sponsoring both indoor and sand volleyball, and for an increase in participants, there should be an increase in opportunities to recruit more players. While it is difficult to quantify expectations at this level, it is expected that in the initial years of sponsorship, a predominant number of sand players will also be indoor players. Coupled with the issue that opportunities to evaluate prospects competing in sand volleyball events are not broadly available at this time, it is reasonable to expect that the search for sand volleyball student-athletes will be conducted during indoor volleyball events.

Therefore the limit of 100 evaluation days is recommended as it represents a 25% increase in the number of opportunities to evaluate prospects off-campus. It is estimated that the average indoor roster size is 13 players, which means during the initial years of sponsorship roster sizes could logistically be increasing by 4 or 5 student-athletes and by upwards of 8 to 10 in later years.

It is important to note that the number of evaluation days is a historically contested issue for the volleyball coaching community. An increase of more than 25% initially may produce sweeping unintended consequences affecting indoor volleyball.

13.1.8.12.3 For institutions sponsoring sand volleyball only, there is no limit on the number of days that may be spent off-campus participating in evaluation activities.

Rationale: Programs enlisting in the challenge of sponsoring sand volleyball with no other source of participants than the ones recruited to the institution should be afforded the option to recruit off-campus without limit.

Financial Aid

Operating Principle: In drafting financial aid guidelines for the sport of sand volleyball, it is a general directive to avoid radical changes in the current financial aid parameters for indoor volleyball.

15.5.3 Equivalency Sports

15.5.3.1 Maximum Equivalency Limits

15.5.3.1.3 Women's Sports

Sand Volleyball (w/o Indoor).....6 (Implemented Immediately)

Rationale: The average roster size of an indoor volleyball team is roughly 13.5 student-athletes. Divide 12 full scholarships among 13.5 student-athletes (understanding that indoor volleyball is a head count sport and scholarships are not administered in this manner), and it is .88 scholarships per student-athlete. With the average roster size for a sand volleyball team projected at 12, multiply 12 by .88, and the result is 10.6. Further multiplying 10.6 by the maximum playing date differential between indoor and sand (proposed) is 16/28 or .57, yielding 6.08.

Sand Volleyball (w Indoor).....1 (Effective Immediately)
 Increase by 1.....2 (Effective 2011-2012)
 Increase by 1.....3 (Effective 2012-2013)
 Increase by 1.....4 (Effective 2013-2014)

Rationale: Average roster size of an indoor volleyball team is roughly 13.5 student-athletes. Divide 12 full scholarships among 13.5 student-athletes (understanding that indoor volleyball is a head count sport and scholarships are not administered in this manner), and it is .88 scholarships per student-athlete. Using the maximum playing date differential between indoor 28 and sand 16 (proposed) or .57, the scholarship equivalency is reduced to approximately .50 per sand volleyball player. With 4 equivalency scholarships for sand applied to the .50 scholarship per sand volleyball student-athlete model, the yield is 8 sand volleyball players.

Increasing total volleyball roster sizes by arguably 8 additional student-athletes represents a material change in participation.

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 student-athletes for programs which have both sports. By starting with an one additional scholarship equivalency for sand in the first year of sponsorship and staggering additional scholarships for the next four 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.

Sand Volleyball: Minimum Equivalency Value. An institution shall provide each counter athletically related and other countable financial aid that is equal to or greater than 33 percent of a full grant-in-aid.

Rationale: This stipulation is recommended based on the fact that the player pool for sand volleyball – females under age 18 - is very large, over 200,000, and quite inexperienced, only 32,000 are frequent participants who only play sand not indoor volleyball. To avoid the pitfalls of coaches splitting one scholarship among 10-12 student-athletes, this caveat guarantees that the institution makes an investment and will assist with APR consistency, in the same manner that the minimum equivalency limit has been conceived for baseball.

There is also a concern in the volleyball community that programs will be able to stockpile talent with minimum offers of athletics aid. A minimum equivalency value will guarantee that programs will have a cap on the number of student-athletes who can receive athletics aid for sand volleyball, 18 for programs without indoor and 12 for programs with indoor and sand.

Indoor/Sand Volleyball, Women's: A student-athlete who receives a sand volleyball athletics grant-in-aid shall become a counter for indoor volleyball should she practice or compete for the indoor volleyball team.

Rationale: The implementation of a hierarchy for what program the student-athlete should count is a core issue with institutions currently sponsoring indoor volleyball. It is important the institutions sponsoring sand volleyball which also sponsor an indoor program not be allowed to use sand volleyball scholarships to fund a “farm” program of talent for their indoor program. Much in the way women's volleyball aid counts toward women's basketball, so should sand volleyball aid count towards indoor volleyball.

Offers of Financial Aid for Sand Volleyball: A student-athlete who signs an athletics grant-in-aid for sand volleyball upon first enrolling at the certifying institution shall not be eligible to participate in practices and/or competitions for indoor volleyball until the third year of consecutive enrollment.

Rationale: This regulation will assure indoor programs are not utilizing the extra financial aid afforded by the sponsorship of a sand program to create a “stable” of student-athletes from which they may pick to support their indoor program. While the counting hierarchy will achieve most of this intent, it is still possible if not probable that a coach could after one year re-evaluate his aid recipients to determine which combination would provide the best situation for his/her indoor program – essentially in the manner of a tryout.

The genesis of this idea was spawned by a former National Letter of Intent provision (now outdated) that prevented football programs from signing football prospects to track scholarships during the early period in order to capture the commitment for the football program prior to football’s signing period. While this parallel is not exact, the intent is to respect the spirit of sand volleyball team sponsorship and preclude the use of additional aid for bettering the indoor program.

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 “Rationale for Minimum Participant Requirements for Sports Sponsorship”

Uniform.

- 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 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 DI legislation for track as functional clothing definitions are reasonable and tasteful.

Scoring System.

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

To win a doubles contest. 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 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 administered by the National Governing Body – USA Volleyball

Current Facilities and Options



Jacksonville University 4-Court Complex



University of Wisconsin Warehouse Court



University of Nebraska Indoor Sand Court



U. of Utah



UMES, Delaware State, Salisbury State spring tourney
Baltimore, MD

Huntington Beach, Big West Tourney

