

## **Questions Asked by Attendees to DI Sand VB Web Seminar May 19, 2009**

**Q: In dual matches, is there a concern about "stacking the lineup" as happens in tennis?**

A: Yes, we would borrow the protocols that tennis has developed for dealing with this.

**Q: What do you estimate is the minimum number of courts needed for a dual match? What would the average length of the match be?**

A: 3 courts lends itself to a 2 hour event; the average match will last 35-50 minutes.

**Q: Do you expect to utilize playing rules similar to those used by the FIVB/AVP?**

A: Yes

**Q: Have conferences decided if/how to make use of the existing PAVO and conference assignor structures?**

A: No

**Q: How many courts is a school required to provide, in order to host an event?**

A: 3 are optimal, but 2 could work. One court will make for a very long event if the average match is 40 minutes and you are playing five in a row.

**Q: What are the officiating requirements for in-season events?**

A: This is still under debate.

**Q: My estimates of "from scratch" court construction with good sand can reach as high as \$10grand/court. That about what Sports Imports might suggest?**

A: For the net system, Sports Imports can provide an accurate cost. Each net system with an official stand would be close to \$4,000. For the actual court construction, we would recommend reading our "Guide to Equipment & Court Construction". The link to do so would be:  
<http://www.sportsimports.com/SandCourts/SandVolleyballCourtsFlyer.pdf>

**Q: I was just wondering if there is a good chance that a scholarship will be offered solely to beach players...and not ones that would play both for the indoor and the sand team?**

A: There can only be 12 student-athletes on scholarship on a DI indoor team. If an institution allocates extra scholarships for sand, the recipients would be "sand" only.

**Q: when will a list of schools be published that have agreed to create a sand volleyball team?**

A: San Diego State is the only institution that has publicly announced they will add a team. We will publicize the announcements as they are made.

**Q: Will Sand volleyball be allowed to start practice in the non championship segment - Fall of 2010?**

A: Yes

**Q: If a sand player is a counter in her first year, can she join the indoor team at the beginning of her 2nd year as long as she becomes a counter for them?**

A: No, a student-athlete that is on a sand scholarship cannot play on the indoor team for two years. This regulation is recommended to keep schools from recruiting indoor players and "redshirting" them for a year on their sand team.

**Q: Will Sand Volleyball seasons of play have any effect on the years of eligibility left for indoor?**

A: No, they are two separate sports

**Q: Could that one sand scholarship still be used for 3 people?**

A: Yes

**Q: How and who is going to monitor what we are practicing when?**

A: Compliance officers are charged with the principal role of educating coaches about the rules. While monitoring is a function of the on-campus compliance authority, obviously these individuals cannot be everywhere all the time. If a coach is going to “abuse” the arrangements provided by the addition of sand volleyball, it is likely he/she is already ethically compromised and operating his/her program without regard to the rules. Interestingly, most violations of practice time limitations and activities are reported by the student-athletes. And allegations of this impropriety are not taken lightly by athletics administrators.

**Q: How would semester schools and quarter schools work out competitions? Most semester schools are finished in early May, most quarter schools are finished towards the end of June.**

A: During the period of time when Sand is an emerging sport and before it is a championship sport, these institutions would be on different calendars. If Sand VB is a conference sport, hopefully the conference would work out the schedule. Once the NCAA adds a championship, the schedule will be more firmly set.

**Q: During the overlapping team practice segments, could an indoor player who is listed on the sand squad also practice with the indoor team as long as she stays within the 20 limit**

A: Yes

**Q: Are there minimum weather conditions required for outdoor competition? Temperature?**

A: The safety of the student-athletes would be the guiding principle – like baseball/softball, tennis, lacrosse – no lightning, playable surface, etc.

**Q: What do we do about officials? Special certifications necessary? (Obviously a different game)**

A: Officials would need to be trained also. The details of this are being worked on by the NCAA.

**Q: In Michigan, Florida, and California there are many summer beach tournaments and leagues that take place in June, July and August. Recruiting for beach/sand overlaps with indoor competitions in June and July. Why not allow 3 recruiters out at 1 time during these months to be able to see all the athletes and stimulate the outdoor play with recruiters be in attendance?**

A: It's a good suggestion, worth looking at. Cost ramifications would be the barrier.

**Q: Sand players should be allowed to practice indoor at all times. This will do a lot to eliminate Male practice players in the indoor game. It also allows Sand players to get the benefits of high level practice so that they will continue to develop as they do now. The good players will not accept Sand scholarships if they are not allow to practice with the indoor teams.**

A: They can practice with the indoor team during their non-traditional season in the fall.

**Q: The sand players historically have come from the indoor game. They are very disturbed that if they accept a SAND scholarship that they will not be able to play indoor for 2 years. What can be done to reduce this time period?**

A: Sand Volleyball is an emerging sport and the rules are written to encourage, over time, the development of a separate player pool.

**Q: One of the biggest problems is an uneven playing field between Quarter schools and Semester schools. Quarter schools are receiving tremendous advantages because in the indoor game they can practice for as long as 6 to 7 weeks without having to go to class. Their school usually begins around Sept. 25th. Then, on the other end, they can recruit during the second quarter, while semester schools are trying to recruit and train during the same time. The 3rd quarter is usually during May and June and while the semester schools are out of school, the quarter schools now train while we are in a quite period and are not allowed to do anything with our players or recruiting.**

A: Not sure what the question is, but know that Sand Volleyball cannot fix the differences in the calendar between semester and quarter schools.

**Q: With the Sand game coming we should not allow any additional advantage to the Quarter schools. Because quarter schools start so late, they will gain the advantage of playing in open summer tournaments until school begins on Sept. 25th. On the other end, it might be possible for quarter schools to train after the Sand Championships. This advantage has provided tremendous advantage to quarter schools in the indoor game. These schools should not get the same advantage with the Sand game. This needs to receive some serious consideration and needs to be dealt with equally for both indoor and outdoor.**

A: Please suggest legislation that would mitigate these differences and take to your conference. We will also address with the NCAA legislative services staff and see if they have suggestions.

**Q: Can indoor players who are also designated Sand players train indoor skills as a team during Sand segment. In other words can you train in both disciplines as long as you stay within the 20 hours?**

A: Yes, but with limits within the limits. An indoor player on the sand squad list is still provided the opportunity for two hours per week to train for indoor volleyball while indoor is out of season and all activity is countable to the 20 hour limit. When indoor is in-season – clearly the student-athlete can participate in practice for the indoor game more than the 2 hours per week, but the limitation on “indoor players participating in sand volleyball” require the indoor student-athlete to participate fully in sand volleyball practices. So if the sand team is practicing 17 hours/week and the indoor kids are giving only 7 hours for sand practices such that they have more time to work on their indoor game – the legislation is being violated. The regulations on multi-sport participation are thorough in deconstructing the arrangement for being involved with more than one sport, and that legislation would apply in this situation.

**Q: Is it my understanding that indoor players who are also designated Sand Players will be able to practice indoors as long as it counts for indoor practice days?**

A: Yes

**Q: Would the first season of Sand VB be Spring of 2010?**

A: Spring of 2011

**Q: Will coaching staff have to designate coaches who will coach Sand? Or, can any of the four coaches coach Sand and Indoor?**

A: As in track/field and swimming/diving, the head coach would divide the work load among the assistants. Any of the four coaches can coach sand and responsibilities can shift through the year.

**Q: If we choose to add Sand VB immediately when can we add a sand volleyball scholarship what year?**

A: You could add a scholarship for Sand VB after legislation has passed, so 2010-11 school year.

**Q: I have seen even lower rates for courts at 1200, are folks locked into Sports Imports?**

A: No, we recommend them due to their track record for safety and durability with FIVB and their partnership with the AVCA.

**Q: Why a limit of those teams? 40%??**

A: Emerging sport legislation does not provide for a program to compete against anyone (for sport sponsorship purposes) who is not sponsoring the sport in question. In fact, our request for 40% in this provision asks to open a transition period not needed by other emerging sports.

**Q: Can we get a copy of this proposal for us to look at closer and to share with our administrators?**

A: Yes, AVCA website under Education dropdowns.

**Q: If a player is in their fifth year but has completed four years of indoor eligibility, would they be able to receive a sand scholarship and not be a counter for the indoor game?**

A: Yes, if the player has a season of sand eligibility remaining, and there is room for her aid – very likely a full scholarship – within the Sand Volleyball equivalency limit.

**Q: If an indoor team trains on the beach as part of their conditioning does that count towards the training days for the sand team?**

A: Conditioning or strength/conditioning training is generally not sport specific nor is it skill instruction – so the surface on which it is conducted does not impact what sport towards which it is attributable. If the training in the sand is skill-specific to sand volleyball then it would be countable activity for that particular sport. This is only relevant if the institution has a sand VB team.

**Q: Has there been any interest from the high school associations, like CIF, to implement sand volleyball as a high school sport?**

A: High school sports are added by CIF and other state associations after a certain number of high schools have added the sport to their offerings.

**Q: Has any college coaches suggested how they would recruit for both or one or the other? If so what does that plan look like?**

A: I have not seen such a plan laid out at this point.

**Q: What would happen if a school could not field 5 teams? (Say only 3 Teams)**

A: The participation would not qualify the activity for sport sponsorship if a program does not have five pairs compete in the minimum qualifying events.

**Q: Why is the squad size set at 10? Do you think that hurts programs trying to start up a sand team?**

A: The goal of adding Sand Volleyball to the emerging sports list is to provide more participation opportunities for women in NCAA sports. If there are not enough women interested in participating in Sand VB to field teams then the sport will not develop. Initially cross-over student-athletes will populate Sand VB squads, just like swimmers initially populated water polo teams. Over time the pool of sand volleyball specialists will develop and the squad size was set to encourage that development.

**Q: Are we playing on the indoor sized court or the AVP/FIVB sized court?**

A: Smaller court, heavier ball

**Q: If after 2 years at an institution a sand counter can be on an indoor roster, wouldn't they become one of the 12 full scholarships for indoor?**

A: Yes, there must be room under the 12 counter cap on the indoor squad.

**Q: Will an initial sand player that eventually joins the indoor team in their 3rd year still have basically 3 yrs of indoor eligibility (to fit within the 5 yrs)?**

A: Yes

**Q: What is the first step for us, as an individual institution, to either begin the process of having sand volleyball sponsored or just what do we do now if we are an indoor program interested in this emerging sport?**

A: Take the proposal to your administrators and get their support.

**Q: Does a school with an indoor team still get the 6 sand scholarships, or is it limited to 4?**

A: Max of 4, if you have an indoor team.

**Q: So for an institution not adding the sport will play potentially against institutions that have more coaches on staff if that institution has sand volleyball?**

A: Yes, but they will have more players and issues with which to cope. For programs that are granted by their administration the resources to hire a fourth coach, it is understood that the program will be expected to have more student-athletes engaging in playing volleyball.

**Q: So basically, year 1 you can have a max of 3 athletes on sand scholarships (33%)?**

A: Yes, if the 33% limit passes

**Q: After the first 2 years and the sand player can go to indoor, is she a counter?**

A: Yes

**Q: Would the fourth coach (indoor/sand) be able to coach both disciplines?**

A: yes

**Q: How does weather and outdoor conditions factor into delays and cancellations?**

A: Same as current outdoor sports, institutions work out whether/how to reschedule.

**Q: Is there a minimum limit of teams that are necessary for an NCAA championship?**

A: 40 total in both Divisions I and II combined.

**Q: What problems do you foresee with making the Championship Season from Mid April to Mid August? If we want to embrace the "Culture" of Sand Volleyball we need to keep it in it's element - Summer**

A: Major barriers are financial, but certainly, like other spring sports, we would advocate the season ending as late as possible to encourage schools in colder climate to sponsor programs.

**Q: How and when will prospective student athletes find out which schools are sponsoring sand volleyball?**

A: When the schools announce they are adding the sport.

**Q: What is the plan for expanding the pool of officials? There are only 110 certified beach officials in the US?**

A: We are in conversation with NCAA and PAVO regarding this.

**Q: How do you see advantages for west coast and southern universities in "sand" volleyball?**

A: Certainly training opportunities are easier in warmer weather areas of the country. I would see what other spring sports are offered (baseball, softball, tennis, golf, etc.) and how practice and competition is accommodated and determine based on that whether Sand VB is pragmatic nor not.

**Q: Can your entire indoor team play sand if one additional sand scholarship per year is added?**

A: Your entire indoor roster can be on your sand roster if that is what you and your student-athletes choose. The addition of sand scholarships is a different issue and has no bearing on who is on your

sand roster. Those on sand scholarships cannot play on your indoor team w/o becoming one of your twelve counters.

**Q: Will you need multiple referees or will players call their own match like tennis?**

A: Self officiated play is where beach volleyball began and would certainly be a cost-containment measure. These and other options for expanding the number of qualified officials at the same time that we expand the sand volleyball player pool are under discussion at the NCAA.

**Q: So basically any school who supports sand volleyball can train year round including finals week if they register for one event past the end of the semester (20 hours a week), and if this is ok can a school who supports sand without financial aid can use the same dates for practices?**

A: NCAA rules regulate numbers of players, numbers of playing and practice dates and maximums in financial aid and coaching staffs in Division I. Each institution decides at what level they will support specific sports.

**Q: As we know, schools with the financial means will get huge edge with additional coach for indoor and recruiting dates by 20 when smaller schools can't go that many dates. Why not recruiting on the beach for sand volleyball?**

A: In discussions with the NCAA about specifying the recruiting days to be used for finding sand prospects, it was clear that stipulation was not going to be supported. In further review of the matter, it is somewhat evident (even though largely speculated) the most trained and dedicated prospective volleyball players are competing in juniors' events. That's not to say there are not some well trained and exceptional sand volleyball athletes who don't play indoors, but based on data out of USA Volleyball, the numbers of junior's indoor players is monumental in comparison to the juniors' participating in sand volleyball. Therefore it was agreed that sand players are probably more likely to be found in the short future playing in established recruiting venues for indoor.

**Q: What is the plan for 4th year or 5th year seniors from the indoor team? Will they be eligible for sand competition in the spring?**

A: Yes, if the fifth year student-athlete has a season of sand eligibility remaining during that fifth year and her aid – likely a full ride – can be handled under the sand VB equivalency limit.

**Q: Can the players not on teams 1 through 5 play an exhibition match vs. the other school with no determination on the outcome of the match?**

A: Yes

**Q: For universities without an indoor team, is there a proposal pack that we can present to the Athletic Director?**

A: The same package of legislative recommendations (AVCA Website under Sand Volleyball) serves to address those with and without indoor volleyball teams looking at adding sand volleyball. The differences are scholarship limits (6 equivalencies immediately available) and staff limit of two.

**Q: Do you have any firm indications of schools or conferences ready to commit to adding Sand Volleyball?**

A: No

**Q: Will athletes be able to red shirt in their first year of sand? If so, does this mean they can play on the indoor team in their third year (or their soph. year) and have three years to play indoor?**

A: Yes. The legislation proposed for sand financial aid does not attach relevance to actual competitions or season used, but it still doesn't change the limit of 12 counters for indoor.

**Q. Is there an estimated cost to build one sand court on a campus?**

A. Costs will vary depending on the amount of site preparation needed and the quality of the sand. Most estimates range between \$15,000 and \$25,000 not including lights, bleachers, cost of the land or extensive drainage work.