AVCA FALL MEN’S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

This document outlines the procedures for the AVCA Fall Collegiate Beach Championships for the men’s main draw. AVCA will host this event in collaboration with Rally Volleyball, the John Hunt Park, and the city of Huntsville, Alabama. This competition will be held November 5-6, 2022 in Huntsville, Alabama.

1. COMPETITION FORMAT

1.1 The competition will consist of a two-day, team Main Draw Tournament. The Main Draw will consist of round-robin pool play and a single elimination bracket. All competition will be played with the designated competition ball and will be provided on site. USA Volleyball and NCAA rules apply (https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2013/12/5/beach-volleyball-rules-of-the-game.aspx) and matches will be played out until first, second and third place is awarded. See Appendix A for the provisional match schedule. AVCA has the right to amend the format and rules.

Rally Point System 2 out of 3 sets as follows:

a) First and second sets
   • 21 Points
   • switch every 7 points
   • one technical time-out of 30" at third court switch (sum of 21 points)
   • one time-out of 30" per pair/set

b) Third eventual set
   • 15 points
   • switch every 5 points
   • one time-out per pair

All sets win by 2 points and intervals between sets to be of 1 minute.

1.2 The Main Draw Tournament preliminary inquiry and technical meeting will be held the evening of November 4, 2022, location is to be confirmed in Huntsville, Alabama. The athletes’ and coaches’ attendance are mandatory.

   • Preliminary Inquiry – 6:00-7:00 PM
   • Technical Meeting – 7:00-8:00 PM

This document is subject to change. Last edited on June 13, 2022.
1.2.1 All athletes of the team (five pairs) must be present at the Preliminary Inquiry and confirm their presence by signing the form provided. All athletes must present their uniforms (all tops and bottoms to be worn) which are required to comply with Section 1.3. All coaches (up to three) and medical (one representative) must also be present and receive their credentials.

1.2.2 The technical meeting is an opportunity for athletes and coaches to ask questions and acknowledge that the rules of the competition seeding have been followed.

1.2.3 If an athlete arrives late to the Preliminary Inquiry, a fine of $150.00 may be imposed on him/her. There is a risk of disqualification if the player/pair fails to attend the preliminary inquiry in due time and upon the decision of the Tournament Director, teams who fail to attend the preliminary inquiry will be excluded from the tournament.

1.2.4 The fine for late arrival only applies if the player/pair is witnessed and/or confirmed to be onsite by the Tournament Director but did not attend the Preliminary Inquiry in due time (e.g. witnessed to have been training at the venue (or nearby), or check in at the hotel or other reliable information confirming that the team is present at the event).

1.2.5 Special cases of late arrival may only be considered upon proof of ‘force majeure’, such as cancellation of the flight by the airline company, transportation failure, etc., and such proof must be communicated to the Tournament Director with a copy to AVCA (becca.just@avca.org) in due time before the start of the Preliminary Inquiry. No fine shall apply in cases of force majeure.

1.3 Male athletes must wear shorts that are a minimum of 10 inches in length and a top that identifies the university they are representing (numbers are highly recommended). The attire includes, at a minimum, shorts and tank tops that covers the midsection. 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 be dressed identically including matching tops and bottoms (including lengths). Cold weather clothing is permitted in conjunction with the uniform and should fit snugly under any uniform.

1.4 The Main Draw Tournament, including round robin pool play matches, will take place November 5-6, 2022. It will consist of four teams each consisting of five pairs.

1.4.1 The participating teams of the event must bear all costs related to their travel, board and lodging.

1.4.2 Pools will be one group of four pairs and matches will be best of three sets.

1.4.3 A drawing of lots will be conducted during the technical meeting to establish seeding for pool play. This will be held on November 4, 2022 for all teams.

1.4.4 The technical meeting is an opportunity for athletes and coaches to ask questions and acknowledge that the rules of the draw have been followed and that the bracket is correct.

1.4.5 Exact pool seeding will be posted online following the technical meeting in advance of the event on bracket pal under the designated event.

1.4.6 Round robin pool play will be used. Teams must win three of the five match-ups in order to win the match.

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<tr>
<th>Pool</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 v 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 v 4</td>
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This document is subject to change. Last edited on June 13, 2022.
1.4.5.2 Seeding for the bracket play will be based on pool finishes and points ratios.

1.5 All teams will advance automatically to the single elimination phase.

1.5.5 Teams must win three of the five match-ups in order to win the match.

1.5.6 Matches will be played out until first, second and third places are awarded.

1.6 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. Teams wanting to have a coach(es) must identify their coach(es) at the time of registration online. Late registration of coaches may not be accepted.

1.6.5 Coaches of teams must be a named beach or indoor volleyball coach of the university which the athletes represent and a current member of the AVCA and in good standing.

1.6.6 Teams are not required to have a coach.

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

1.6.8 The coach must wear a uniform which is different from the team (e.g. polo/track suit top, showing university name or logo).

1.6.9 The Coach sits at the designated pair seating areas, and must remain seated during the play and during 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.

1.6.10 An accredited coach may interact with his/her players only during warm-up, change of set, between rallies, at switch of the court 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.

1.6.11 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 2nd referee then the 1st referee should be contacted. Requests made after or at the same moment of the 1st Referee’s whistle for service, or requests made after the 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.

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

1.7 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 to this specific regulation.

1.7.5 Misconduct and its sanctions applies to all pair members, including the coach if present. Minor Misconduct Minor misconduct offences are not subject to sanctions. It is the first referee’s duty to prevent the pairs from approaching the sanctioning level. There are two stages to this:

- Stage 1 is done verbally through the pair captain.
- Stage 2 involves showing a yellow card official warning to the pair. This is done by issuing the warning to the offending pair member or to the pair through the game captain. Since the coach is to be regarded as a pair member, this would apply also to this individual. The pair captain would be requested to inform the coach of his/her offence. The FIRST referee would then show the yellow card to the coach, who would be expected to stand, and raise a hand to acknowledge the warning.
This warning is not a sanction but an indication that the sanctioning level for the match has been reached. It has no immediate consequences, but it is recorded on the score sheet. In the case of the warning being applied to the pair because of the Coach’s behavior, this is recorded in the remarks box, listing pair, set, coach and score, using the following shorthand: A 2/C/12-9, for example.

Misconduct leading to sanctions due to incorrect conduct by a pair member (remember: including the Coach) towards officials, opponents, pair-mates or spectators is classified in three categories according to the seriousness of the offence.

- Rude conduct: action contrary to good manners or moral principles,
- Offensive conduct: defamatory or insulting words or gestures or any action expressing contempt.
- Aggression: actual physical attack or aggressive or threatening behavior.

Sanction scale According to the judgment of the 1st referee and depending on the seriousness of the offence, the sanctions to be applied and recorded on the score sheet are: Penalty, Expulsion or Disqualification.

- **Penalty** - For rude conduct or for a single repetition of rude conduct in the same set by the same pair member. On each of the first two occasions, the pair is sanctioned with a point and service to the opponents. A third rude conduct by a pair member in the same set is sanctioned by expulsion. Rude conduct sanctions may, however, be given to the same pair member in subsequent sets.
- **Expulsion** - The first offensive conduct by a pair member is sanctioned by expulsion with no other consequences. The third rude conduct in the same set, by the same pair member is sanctioned by expulsion with no other consequences. (see “expulsion” above) The player who is sanctioned with expulsion must leave the playing area and his/her pair is declared incomplete for the set. An expelled coach loses his/her right to intervene in the set and must leave the playing area until the next set. In this case, the coach must leave his/her accreditation on the score table.
- **Disqualification** - The first physical attack or implied or threatened aggression is sanctioned by disqualification. The pair member must leave the playing area for the remainder of the match; if this pair member is a player his/her pair is declared incomplete for the match. A disqualified coach must leave the playing area and loses his/her right to intervene in the match. Misconduct is sanctioned as shown in the sanction scale. The second offensive conduct in the same match by the same pair member is sanctioned by disqualification with no other consequences.
- **Application of misconduct sanctions** - Expulsion or disqualification due to offensive conduct or aggression does not require a previous sanction.
- **Misconduct before and in between sets** - Any misconduct occurring before or between sets is sanctioned according to the rules above and sanctions apply in the following set.
- **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
  - Expulsion: sanction – symbol Red+ Yellow cards jointly
  - Disqualification: sanction – symbol Red + Yellow card separately.

**2. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

2.1 Male athletes on a team (all five pairs) must be from the same university.

2.2 Athletes must be currently officially registered as progressing towards a degree or diploma at a University or similar institute whose status is recognized by the appropriate national academic authority of the United States. Student athletes must have taken at least one 3-credit course towards a degree or diploma within the last year before the event. The standard is that the athlete must be ‘progressing’ towards a degree.
2.3 Former students of the institutions are not permitted to compete.

3. **ENTRY**

3.1 This event is open to any team (consisting of five pairs) that completes the Intent to Compete registration and is awarded a bid to the main draw event. Teams must meet the minimum requirements in SECTION 2 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS and are selected and approved by the Selection Committee.

3.2 Entry for the Main Draw Tournament is awarded to a maximum of four teams (consisting of five pairs). Entry to the Main Draw Tournament is awarded to one team from each zone (East, Central, West) and one at large bid.

3.2.3 Entry for the at large bid will be awarded by the Selection Committee to the best remaining team that registered their intent to compete. Any remaining unused places from 3.2 will be awarded entry by the Selection Committee.

3.4 The team Selection Committee shall be comprised of:

- Three (3) Men’s Collegiate Beach Volleyball Alliance (MCBVA) Representatives (One (1) coach per MCBVA zone awarded.
  - East Zone (1 member)
  - Central Zone (1 member)
  - West Zone (1 member)
- Two (2) AVCA Representatives
  - Kathy DeBoer
  - Megan Burgdorf – MCBVA Commissioner

3.5 Deadlines are at 2:00 PM, Eastern Time on the following dates (these are tentative and will be confirmed):

- June 15, 2022  Intent to Compete posted online and open
- July 1, 2022  Selection Committee confirmed
- July 1, 2022  Deadline for Intent to Compete
- August 1, 2022  Selection Committee finalizes entry process, notifications sent
- October 21, 2022  Pairs and coach registration due, including payment
- November 4, 2022  Arrival of teams and technical meeting
- November 5-6, 2022  AVCA Fall Collegiate Championships

3.6 Each team must register on the AVCA website.

3.7 There will be a registration fee per team entry (10 athletes) that includes up to two coaches.

4. **REMOVAL OF ATHLETE(S)**

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4.1 Any athlete confirmed to compete may be removed as a competitor for any of the following reasons:

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

4.1.2 If a team or pair of 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).

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

• If a pair is disqualified during the pool play, 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, 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. 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.

5. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETE(S)

5.1 In the event a confirmed team loses one of its athletes, prior to the technical meeting, due to reasons identified in Section 5 above, the University Coach in relation to the pair will select a replacement athlete from among those who competes for the University in question that has not already gained entry.

5.2 In the event a nominated pair of the team is unable to compete, then the university automatically loses that pair's matches. The team is still able to compete.

5.4 Should a pair encounter an injury after the technical meeting has taken place no replacement of athletes can be made.

5.5 Once the Confirmed Entry List is issued by AVCA, the participating University may:

• Submit a withdrawal request with the supporting evidence to AVCA to submit the withdrawal, disband or ‘change of athlete’ request.

6. MEDIA

6.1 AVCA owns all media rights including photographs, video, digital television at the event.

6.2 The ATHLETE will be present for the award ceremony at the event in which his team finishes among the top 3, wearing their uniform for the photography and media session.

6.3 The ATHLETE will do his/her utmost to be available for professional interviews by AVCA or credentialed media immediately following matches and will use reasonable efforts to organize his/her schedule accordingly. AVCA 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.

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7. DISCLAIMER

7.1 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 AVCA office.

8. ATHLETE INQUIRIES

8.1 Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete should contact our member of the AVCA staff listed below:

- Becca Just (becca.just@avca.org)

*Information is subject to changes.
APPENDIX A – DRAFT SCHEDULE OF MATCHES – TO BE CONFIRMED ON NIGHT OF TECHNICAL MEETING

To be updated.

APPENDIX B - EVENT SCHEDULE - TO BE CONFIRMED ON NIGHT OF TECHNICAL MEETING

November 4, 2022

- Latest arrival of the teams
- At 7:00 PM: QT Preliminary Inquiry (mandatory attendance)
- At 7:30 PM: QT Technical Meeting (mandatory attendance)

November 5, 2022

- Main Draw Pool Play

November 6, 2022

- Main Draw Single Elimination – First, second and third places matches played out

Training Courts

Onsite / Number of courts / availability (date/time) TBC