



CAROLINA REGION USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR BEACH TOUR GUIDELINES 2018

(Based on the USA Volleyball Junior Beach Tour Handbook with slight adaptations relevant to the region's tour)

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Carolina Region Jr Beach Volleyball Rules

Simple Beach Volleyball Scoresheet

General Beach Volleyball Pool Sheets

Mission

The mission of the Carolina Region Junior Beach Tour (CRJBT) is to establish the premier junior beach volleyball tour within North Carolina with the goal of well-run, consistently structured events that offer juniors the opportunity to strive for a Regional Championship title and bids to a USA Beach National Championships (BNC) event, while also earning national points in USA Beach's ranking system.

Getting on the Tour

From **October 15 to December 15** each year, the Carolina Region/USAV Beach Director – beachdirector@carolinaregionusav.org – will accept requests from all those looking to host an event as part of the upcoming year's Carolina Region Jr Beach Volleyball Tour. In general, the tour will accept most events for inclusion under the following guidelines:

- Established events and their hosts have first priority for hosting on the same weekend as in previous years
- As of 2014, the state is broken into 4 sub-regions (Charlotte/Western NC, Triad, Triangle, Eastern NC) with each region permitted to host up to 1 event each weekend on the tour from March to early August with any special exceptions having to be approved by the beach director with input from impacted hosts. If more than 1 host within a sub-region wishes to hold an event on the same weekend then the option to work together in co-hosting an event for that weekend is a possibility. This may mean that each host contests different age divisions for the event either on the same day or different days of the weekend. **2 or more hosts cannot hold separate/competing events on the CRJBT on the same weekend with one on Saturday and one on Sunday.**
- If an event has been designated as a Beach National Qualifier (BNQ) then that will be the only event on the CRJBT unless impacted hosts are agreeable to making exceptions.

Requests to host the CRJBT Championships will also be considered during this time period. The region does give preference towards central locations and sites that can support an event for teams that have earned bids from events all across North Carolina.

The decision to be considered for a BNQ is ultimately driven by USA Beach and Regional Volleyball Associations. Details may vary from year to year so if interested, inquire with the region early in the scheduling process.

From **January 1- January 30**, tour hosts should submit all sanctioning paperwork found on the www.carolinaregionvb.org website and fees to Carolina Region/USAV- P.O. Box 1757, Clemmons, NC 27012-1757. Region will provide updated tour guidelines and host agreement paperwork during this period as well. Hosts are expected to work together and, if requested, cross-promote events for each other.

The goal is to publicly release the upcoming year's tour schedule by **February 1**. Hosts should make every reasonable effort to get their website/registration processes either explained or open as soon after as possible so participants will know what to expect when looking to sign-up after the schedule is publicly announced.

Registration

1. It is the responsibility of each tournament host to provide a means for accepting registrations and to process registrations without direct involvement necessary from the Carolina Region.
2. Tournament directors can set their own pricing but it's recommended to keep it to \$30 or less per player (or \$60/team) per event unless special situations warrant otherwise or imposing late registration rates. Historically, the price per team has been in the \$40-60 range.
3. Handling large divisions:
 - a. **Preferred Option (Single Division with Multiple Playoff Brackets):** If more than 12 teams are signed up for an age group for an event, the tournament director should in most cases elect to keep everyone in a single large division but offer Open and AA playoffs (aka Gold and Silver playoffs). This option tends to be the most preferred unless holding a tournament where teams had to earn bids to play in the Open division. Everyone must earn their spot in playoffs through pool play then and it eliminates the tough decisions involved with who should play in one division vs. not if doing separate divisions from the start. Additionally, it gives everyone at least one playoff game after pool play. Keep in mind also that AA playoff participants are now competing for Carolina Region Jr Beach Tour Championship Bids in the AA divisions offered at this event. **If you elect not to hold an AA playoff due to space/time concerns, you must make this clear with all participants ahead of time and part of registration information!**
 - b. **Separate Open & AA Divisions:** If desiring to hold separate Open & AA divisions for an age group from the start, this should be clearly defined as part of registration with reference to how things may change based on registration numbers. For example, setting a minimum number for each division, which if not met, means the divisions will be combined to a single Open division is a good strategy to employ. Inevitably though, one has to be careful about teams either "sandbagging/playing down" or "playing up" when they shouldn't in this situation, in which case saying you will use the USA beach rankings to determine the cutoff between Open vs. AA should be a strong consideration. Points for finishes in each division will be based on the USA Beach Juniors ranking system (<http://nationalbeachranking.com>) with the points awarded based on the total of ALL teams participating within an age group. (Ex: 16 teams in Open + 20 teams in AA will mean 36 total teams). **Finishes in AA divisions will follow from the Open finishes. For example, if 10 teams played in Open then the winner of the AA division would finish 11th in the rankings system, the runner-up would be 12th and so on.**

4. Registrants must be checked as being USAV members. If they are not, they need to fill out a membership form as part of the check-in process. Any forms and membership fees collected at a tournament site must be sent to the following address in a timely matter after the event's conclusion:

Carolina Region/USAV- P.O. Box 1757, Clemmons, NC 27012-1757

The region will provide a list of current memberships to help facilitate this checking process. It is up to the host to determine how they want to facilitate this check, such as whether to require registrants to provide a USAV member number when registering, etc.

Awards

NCAA amateur status rules state that participants can win a prize up to the cost of attending the event, which typically means cost of registration. This means that items like a ball, t-shirt, tank, ball cap, and similar are OK. Medals, ribbons, trophies, plaques and similar are all OK too.

It is OK to have a raffle event, if desired, where all participants are eligible to win a prize of some kind with no cap on value of prize.

Tournament director can decide how many teams get awards but generally top 2 or 3 teams in the top division per age group should receive something. It is at the tournament director's discretion to decide the style and make of awards provided. Unless bids are on the line, typically no 3rd place matches need to be contested. However, if bids are on the line, then a 3rd place match should be contested.

Age Divisions

Tournament organizers must abide by the 2-year outdoor age cutoffs used for national USA Beach junior beach volleyball events. Divisions are for 2-person same gender teams! Refer to the <http://www.carolinaregionvb.org/beach/> site for the current year's age cutoffs. The player with the oldest birthdate dictates the age group the team falls into. Teams can "play up" if desiring tougher competition or if necessary in order to allow them to participate in the tournament. A team can "play down" only during pool play and if done to support a division that otherwise would not be participating. For example, if there are only a couple 18U teams, the tournament organizer can choose to have them participate in 16U during pool play but they must be pulled out for their own playoffs and not take a playoff spot away from a 16U team.

Similarly, if you have a couple boys'/coed teams, you can let them play in girls' pool play but they should not play in girls' playoffs nor take away a spot in any way for a girls' team in playoffs. Instead, pull the teams out for their own playoffs if 2 or more boys or coed teams exist. If only 1 team participated, then they are done after pool play or they can play "for fun" games/matches with other willing participants as space/time permits. Boys'/Coed teams should play in a division where the net height and skill level is appropriate for the boys that are participating. If that is not possible, then it is at the tournament director's discretion to determine if the teams can still play. In general, the tour is meant to lean on the side of inclusion when

possible but understanding specific situations can vary. **(Note: Coed teams are not eligible for awards or bids as part of same-gender divisions)**

These rules are necessary in order to provide valid results for the national USA Beach ranking system.

Exception: A host can hold a special season-ending event as part of the tour in late July/early August in which case a special format can be utilized. For example, a host can hold a King/Queen of the Beach event to cap off the season where divisions are not defined by age but skill level.

Regional Championships Bids

Bids to the Region Tour Championships are offered as follows. Only players who are current Carolina Region/USAV members can receive a bid. If a Carolina Region player receives a bid while playing with a partner from a different USAV region then he/she can pick-up a partner of his/her choosing for the CRJBT Championships but he/she must be a Carolina Region member:

- **Beach National Qualifier**
 - All players earning a bid to the national championships in either the National Open or Regional Open divisions will also receive a bid to the CRJBT championships.
- **Premier Event –**
 - Open Division Bids:
 - 1-3 teams: 1st Place
 - 4-7 teams: 1st and 2nd Place
 - 8+ teams: All Semi-finalists
 - AA Division Bids:
 - Bids are awarded based on the size of the AA division as mentioned next.
- **Standard Event –** Bids are awarded based on the size of each division (For example: Open may have 8 teams while AA has 6) for playoffs. **Minimum of 3 teams required:**
 - 3-7 teams: 1st place team. The bid can trickle down to 2nd place if 1st place team already has a bid.
 - 8-11 teams: 1st and 2nd place teams. No trickling down of bids.
 - 12+ teams: All Semi-finalists. No trickling down of bids.

Schedule

While not required, it is encouraged to notify teams before the event which pool they have been assigned to. If there is a policy of accepting payment at the event, then it's understood that assigning pools as part of pre-tournament activities on the day of the event will happen.

In creating pools, please make an effort to at least seed the top teams so they are equally distributed across pools. For example, if you have 6 pools for a division, please seed at least the top 6 overall teams, placing each team in a different pool. Use <http://nationalbeachranking.com> to help with seeding.

Tournament directors are free to set the time/schedule of their events. Some examples are as follows:

- **Preferred (Especially given the desire to offer Open and AA playoffs):** Single day session (Approximately 9AM-5PM).
- 2 Session Day (Recommended if holding smaller divisions or have a small site)
 - Morning Session from approx. 8:30AM to 2PM
 - Afternoon Session from approx. 2PM to 7:30PM

General beach rules, officiating responsibilities and coaching guidelines are provided in the attached “Carolina Region-USA Beach Volleyball Rules Summary” document.

Format

Note: The following are recommendations from USA Beach and Carolina Region. It is understood that specific site and weather situations can impact following these recommendations, but in an effort to offer a fairly consistent product, we ask that hosts adhere to them as closely as possible. If desiring to do something significantly different, please run it by the beach director first – beachdirector@carolinaregionvb.org .

The score sheets used can be anything from the fairly simple one mentioned as a supplemental doc at the beginning of this document to the more elaborate official scorecard of USA Beach located at https://www.volleyballreftraining.com/resources_beach.php , which is likely more involved than necessary for juniors tournaments.

Pool play:

Each team in pool play should play a minimum of 84 points. Tournament director can choose whether to cap or not.

- 3-team pools play minimum of 2 games to 21 (Extended Play Option is 3 games to 21)
- 4-team pools play a minimum of one game to 28 (Extended Play Option is 2 games to 21)
- 5-team pools play a minimum of one game to 21 (Extended Play Option is 2 games to 15 if spread over 2 courts)

Playoffs:

- A minimum of 2 teams should be taken out of each pool within an age division and placed in the “Open” playoff bracket. Depending on space/time restrictions, tournament director can elect to add more teams making it into the “Open” playoff (for example: 3 teams from any 5 team pools). Remaining teams should be put in an “AA” playoff unless it is clearly stated with your event that you do not intend to support it.
- After pool play teams advance into single elimination bracket. Teams should be seeded into the bracket as follows:
 1. Finish in pool followed by pool play set win/loss records followed by point differentials (difference between team’s score and opponent’s score for each set played). For example: First place teams from a 4 pool division (all 5 team pools) with the following records would be seeded in order #1-4. Repeat the

seeding process for #5-8 with the second place teams from each pool and so on:

- 4-0 (+44)
- 4-0 (+22)
- 3-1 (+35) <-Note: Even though the point differential is higher than the team above, the set win/loss record takes priority
- 3-1 (+15)

2. If there is a mix of pool sizes:

- Case 1: Teams still play the same number of points but different number of games (Example: 4-team pool plays games to 28 while 5 teams pool plays games to 21) then instead of doing the conventional method of point differentials, it is more appropriate to tally up points won for a team and divide by points lost. Then multiply by 100 to get a percentage. This will equalize the results between pools prior to seeding.
- Case 2: The number of points played is different between pools. In this case one can use the point differential method but will have to apply a point multiplier to equalize the results. For example, if say 120 points were played in a 5-team pool (2 games to 15 against everyone – total of 8 games for each team) and 126 in a 4 team pool (2 games to 21 – total of 6 games for each team) then the multiplier would be 1.05 (126/120) and applied to the point differentials for any team in a 5-team pool.

3. Straight seeding vs. Modified Seeding

- In an effort to avoid having teams from the same pool play each other in the first round of playoffs, the tournament director reserves the right to modify seeding to the minimum amount necessary to avoid this case. This is done by adjusting the 2nd place seeds from pools (for example: #5-8 in an 8 team playoff involving top 2 teams from 4 pools) as little as possible.
- Elimination bracket games are one game to 21, win by 2, no cap.
- Losing team will ref the subsequent game on the court they just lost. The only exceptions may be in first round matches where bye teams may be assigned to ref or in a final if a loser in the semi-finals is also playing a 3rd place match at the same time.
- **Semi-finals and Finals should be matches** unless dealing with weather or lighting issues that necessitate the need to finish sooner.
 1. Two sets to 21, win by 2, no cap
 2. In the case of a tie, third set to 15, win by 2, no cap
- A 3rd place match is required only at events where only a single 3rd place bid is on the line.

Pool Play Tie-Breaker Procedures

If there is a tie between two or more teams and it determines whether only one team is advancing to the highest – aka Open/Gold – playoffs, tie-breaker sets as described below should be utilized instead of basing it on points alone.

Scenario 1: Two teams tied and two teams advance:

- In priority order: head-to-head match or set result; point differential in head-to-head (if split sets); overall point differential in pool play; coin toss.

Scenario 2: Two teams tied and one team advances:

- Head-to-head match result (if pool used match play) or head-to-head sets (if pool did not use match play). If teams are tied head-to-head sets, then the two teams will play one 15-point rally-score set. The winning team will advance.

Scenario 3: Three teams tied and two teams advance:

- Seed the teams using, in priority order, overall set winning percentage; overall point differential.
- The top seed will advance. The teams seeded second and third will play one 15-point rally-score set, with the winner advancing. The top seed will officiate this tie-breaker set.

Scenario 4: Three teams tied and one team advances:

- Seed the teams using, in priority order, overall set winning percentage; overall point differential.
- There will be two tie-breaker sets (15 points, rally scoring). The teams seeded second and third will play the first set and the top seed will officiate.
- The winner of the first tie-breaker set will play the top seed and the losing team from the first set will officiate. The winner of this tie-breaker set advances.

Officiating Duties

Reasonable efforts should be made by host to publish officiating schedules for the teams. Teams should be reminded that during playoffs a team that loses is expected to officiate the next match on the same court unless told otherwise by tournament staff. A team that fails to have at least 1 player present to officiate their assignment at the time the court is ready to proceed will be penalized by losing points in the first set of its next match.

- For every minute an officiating team is late to fulfill its assignment, one point will be awarded to that team's next opponent in the first set of the next match, up to a maximum of either 21 or 28 points, whichever minimum is being used to win the next set.
- A team may forfeit its entire next match for failing, a second time, to have a first referee available on time for an officiating assignment.
- A team choosing not to play a match is still required to fulfill the officiating assignments that come from forfeiting/losing a match.

Results

Please provide results to the Carolina Region Beach Director (beachdirector@carolinaregionvb.org) within **48 hours** of your event. This is very important for recording in the USA Beach national database along with point assignments for players in earning their proper rankings plus notification of players about their bid to the tour championships. Results from one weekend can impact seeding for events on the following weekend as well.

The following format either in Excel or plain text is recommended. If easier for tournament director, the finishes do not have to be listed in order:

<Finish> <Player 1> <USAV#> <Player 2> <USAV #>

Ex:

1. Jane Smith 123456 Samatha Goodwell 987654
2. Zoe Jones Jordan Root

IMPORTANT: Please also include a contact email address for teams/players that won bids to the tour championships. For standard events, please include 1st and 2nd place since the bid could trickle down to 2nd place.

If you have collected all membership numbers, providing them in extra columns in Excel is beneficial but not necessary.

Alcohol Policy

USAV prohibits the use of alcohol beverages during all junior events. Even with this rule there are situations where alcohol might be present at a junior event due to the location where the event is being staged. Many facilities which have volleyball courts also have restaurants and bars located within or adjacent to the facility. When this occurs the event director should take special precautions to limit alcohol reaching the viewing area of the courts and to limit junior access to the area where liquor is being sold. Below are listed some recommendations for conducting a safe event for juniors where alcohol is present:

1. The viewing area where spectators are present should clearly denote alcohol is not permitted in the general viewing area.
2. Volunteers should be instructed to be on alert for patrons possessing alcoholic beverage and how to deal with the situation.
3. Ideally, there should be separate access for the juniors to get to their playing area, separate from the area where alcohol is served.
4. If this is not possible, the area where alcohol is served and consumed should be roped off and clearly indicated that no juniors are allowed.
5. No alcohol is permitted in the areas where the junior event is held.
6. The facility must have its own liquor license and insurance which should be properly posted.
7. Alcohol signage should be removed or covered whenever possible, especially from court signage (net tapes, ball stops, etc.)
8. The event, the event director, USAV and the club should be included as additional insured under the liquor license.

Safety Standards for Inclement Weather

Athletes and coaches will be expected to continue in wind or rain that does not prevent a threat of danger to the participants. Under no circumstances will athletes be allowed to participate when lightning, tornados or other dangerous weather is present in the area. The following criteria will result in a postponed event:

1. **Lightning:** The Head Coach or Event Coordinator must monitor the weather. When 30 seconds or fewer occur between seeing the lightning flash and hearing its associated thunder, all individuals should have left the athletics site and reached a safer structure or location. Before resuming athletics activities, 30 minutes must pass after both the last sound of thunder and the last flash of lightning. If lightning is seen without thunder being heard, it may be out of range and therefore less likely to be a significant threat. (Source: ncaa.org) Weather should be monitored at: www.weather.gov.
2. **Wind:** While all beach volleyball athletes must be prepared to contend with windy playing conditions, wind gusts of over 25 miles may result in postponement or cancellation at the event director's discretion.
3. **Heat:** In the case of excessive 90+ degree weather with high humidity extra caution should be made to ensure athletes have proper rest, shade, and fluids to make it through the event. **Modifications to length of timeouts and number of timeouts are acceptable.**
4. **Rain:** The Tournament Director is responsible to monitor rain to cancel or postpone a tournament, rainfall must be significant and pose a threat to the athletes by creating excessive puddles and hard divots in the sand.

Safety

A medical kit should be available for use at every event.