



# **CAROLINA REGION USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR BEACH TOUR GUIDELINES 2020**

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

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## Supplemental Documents:

**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 Beach Regional Championship title and bids to a USA Beach National Championships (BNC) event while also earning national points in the USAV Beach Ranking System.

## Getting on the Tour

From **October 15 to December 15** each year, the Carolina Region/USAV Beach Director – [beachdirector@carolinaregionusav.org](mailto: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 four sub-regions (Charlotte/Western NC, Triad, Triangle, Eastern NC) with each region permitted to host up to one 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 one 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. **Two 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 awarding of a BNQ event is ultimately decided by USAV 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 **December 15- January 15**, tour hosts should submit all sanctioning paperwork found on the [www.carolinaregionvb.org](http://www.carolinaregionvb.org) website and fees to Carolina Region/USAV- P.O. Box 1757, Clemmons, NC 27012-1757. The 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. **Introduced in 2019 and continuing for 2020:** All events that are part of the CRJBT must utilize BracketPal for tournament registration and management. This helps ensure a more consistent setup for participants. It also helps host ensure all necessary info for registration is collected (including valid USAV membership and payment) and easy utilization of the integrated seeding and results sheets generation needed for upload by the ranking system administration. The current cost of using BracketPal for CRJBT hosts is a Region-negotiated \$3/team. If a wifi network is not available at your tournament site, hosts must plan to setup a mobile hotspot. If you do not have an account setup with Bracketpal, please contact Jesse Gumm at [jesse.gumm@sportngin.com](mailto:jesse.gumm@sportngin.com). Hosts will be required to have their account setup prior to signing their host agreement for the upcoming season.
2. Tournament directors can set their own pricing. On average, most tournaments charge between \$50-70/team for a single day event.
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 should be part of the 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 11<sup>th</sup> in the rankings system, the runner-up would be 12<sup>th</sup> and so on.**

4. Registrants must be checked as being USAV members. This can be easily enforced through the registration process using BracketPal where a USAV membership # for each player must be provided, and it is crosschecked automatically with the USAV membership system. In the exceptional case where someone needs to apply for a membership in person at check-in, any forms and membership fees collected 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 any manual membership checks.

5. Within the event's published entry requirements and deadlines, no tournament host on the CRJBT may deny the registration or participation of any USA Volleyball member (player or coach) that is current and in good standing with their region.

## Officials/Trainers/Staffing

**Introduced in 2019 and continuing for 2020:** It is required that each Beach National Qualifier (BNQ), Beach Regional Qualifier (BRQ) and Championship event held on the CRJBT have at least one certified official present to serve as head official. While not required for all other CRJBT events, it is strongly recommended to have an official present. The current pay rates for beach refs are:

- \$135 per day (Local Official)
- \$150 per day (Zonal Official)

Inquiries on beach ref availability/scheduling can be made to the Region's Beach Ref Chair at [beachrefchair@carolinaregionvb.org](mailto:beachrefchair@carolinaregionvb.org)

While not required, it is strongly encouraged that a certified trainer, doctor, nurse or similar healthcare provider be onsite at each event to help attend to any medical situations that need attention. Per current U.S. Center for SafeSport requirements, any event workers you have for your event must have a current USAV membership, clear the USAV Background Screen, and complete the SafeSport course. The region has a reduced fee Event Worker membership available for trainers and will pay the background screen fee. Contact the Region office for more information.

## Player Uniforms

Players are not required to wear matching uniforms or have numbers on their back. **Starting in 2019** per National Beach Tour rules, any BNQ must enforce the national tour dress code which states: Beginning this season, all athletes (boys and girls) are **REQUIRED** to wear a top that must cover your midsection when standing, and bottoms such as spandex, shorts, boardshorts or leggings. **No bikinis will be permitted for any team.** All other events on the CR JBT are left to the host's discretion on whether any dress code is specifically enforced.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> place matches need to be contested. However, if bids are on the line, then a 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (Open and AA Divisions Offered):

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 (BNC)**
- All players earning a bid to the National Championships to the Open Division at a BNC (currently top 4 in Gold playoff bracket with no trickling down) will also receive a bid to the CRJBT Championships.
- **Beach Regional Qualifier (BRQ)**
  - Open Division Bids are allocated based on the National Championships bid structure:
    - **Girls:** 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Gold playoffs receive a bid to the **American Division** at National Championships while also receiving a bid to the CRJBT Championships. Bid can trickle down to 5<sup>th</sup> place team(s).
    - **Boys** 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> place receive a bid to the **National Division** at National Championships while also receiving a bid to the CRJBT Championships
  - 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 playoffs (For example: Open may have 8 teams while AA has 6). **Minimum of 3 teams required:**
  - 3-7 teams: 1<sup>st</sup> place team. The bid can trickle down to 2<sup>nd</sup> place if 1<sup>st</sup> place team already has a bid.
  - 8-11 teams: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams. No trickling down of bids.
  - 12+ teams: All Semi-finalists. No trickling down of bids.

## Schedule:

With the use of Bracketpal it should be straightforward to notify all teams before the event which pool they have been assigned to.

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. With Bracketpal, the seeding information can be pulled in automatically.

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](mailto: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](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. The Tournament Director can choose whether to cap or not.

- 3 teams 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 2<sup>nd</sup> place seeds from pools (for example: #5-8 in an 8 team playoff involving top 2 teams from 4 pools) as little as possible. Bracketpal offers both ways to automatically seed teams for playoffs.
  - 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> place match is required only at events where only a single 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, a points-based strategy is used now. If the tie can't be broken based on points, then use the seeding at beginning of the tournament as the final tie-breaker.

### **Scenario 1: Two teams tied:**

- 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

### **Scenario 2: Three teams tied:**

- Top team is determined by looking at the points ratio involving the matches between the three tied teams. The remaining two teams are ordered based on head-to-head. If a tie (ie: split sets), then head to head point ratio followed by overall point ratio is used.

### **Scenario 3: Four teams tied:**

- Top 2 teams are determined by looking at the points ratio involving the matches between the four tied teams. The remaining two teams are ordered based on head-to-head. If a tie (ie: split sets), then head to head point ratio followed by overall point ratio is used.

## **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](mailto:beachdirector@carolinaregionvb.org)) within **48 hours** of your event using the template for results or the results export feature provided by Bracketpal.

## Tournament Checklist:

As part of tournament setup, the following items should be diligently checked prior to the start of competition:

- Ensure nets are at proper height
- Lines are of proper length, tight and firmly attached into the sand/ground
- Antennas, if used, are setup properly
- Reasonable leveling of courts including the removal of any potential hazards (rocks, shells, glass, etc)
- Water and bathroom access is readily available. Hosts can elect to setup water coolers/stations or sell water at a reasonable price if water sources are not easily available nearby.

## 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](http://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.