



2020 Beach Nationals Age Categories

	Senior	20U	18U	17U*	16U	15U*	14U
Sept	OPEN	1999	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Oct		1999	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Nov		1999	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Dec		1999	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Jan		2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Feb		2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Mar		2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Apr		2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
May		2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
June		2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
July		2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Aug		2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Sept		2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Oct		2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Nov		2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Dec		2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006

Pilot Events for 2020

Beach Nationals will see three (3) new age-categories piloted at the 2020 event. These age categories are: 17U Boys, 17U Girls and 15U boys. Please note, Beach Nationals minimum registration requirements (8 teams) will apply for these pilot events. In the case minimum numbers are not met, events may be combined or cancelled, at the discretion of VC. All athletes would be provided the opportunity to withdraw, with a full refund, or play-up.

20U: Athletes born on September 1, 1999 or younger. (16 months)

18U: Athletes born on September 1, 2001 or younger. (16 months)

17U: Athletes born on September 1, 2002 or younger. (16 months)

16U: Athletes born on September 1, 2003 or younger. (16 months)

15U: Athletes born on September 1, 2004 or younger. (16 months)

14U: Athletes born on September 1, 2005 or younger. (16 months)

Rationale and recommendations:

Long Term Athlete Development research demonstrates the flaws of lumping athletes into their birth year for participation in sports. In short, the large physical discrepancies that can occur between youth within the same birth year create significant disadvantages for late developing male athletes and to a lesser degree, early developing females. Therefore, providing a range of months (16) within a competitive division gives athletes greater flexibility to choose a level that best suits their needs.

Some athletes born from Sept-Dec will benefit from choosing a younger division, while other athletes who play at an advanced level would benefit from the challenge of playing up an age category. Athletes, parents and coaches should consider the short term and long term benefits of playing up or down an age category. Volleyball Canada recommends that if playing up provides the needed challenge for improvement, and there exists no significant social/emotional drawbacks in the older age category, athletes should play up.