

# **2023 Volleyball Canada University & College Beach Nationals Competition Guide**



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# 2023 University & College Beach Nationals Overview

The Volleyball Canada University/College Beach National Championship is a Volleyball Canada (VC) sanctioned tournament to determine the national champions of collegiate men's and women's beach volleyball. It is open to teams from Canadian post-secondary institutions.

Tournament Dates	Check-In Opens	City	Age/Gender	Venue
September 2 – 3	September 2	Toronto	Open Men & Women	Ashbridges Bay

## COVID-19 Considerations

VC will continue to follow Governmental and Public Health guidelines regarding covid-19 precautions and mandates. Changes to event protocols may be required leading up to the 2023 Nationals to ensure the health and safety of all participants; any changes will be noted on the event webpage at that time.

## Eligibility & Registration

*This section deals with the registration, certification, and eligibility requirements for all Beach Nationals events. These requirements are in place to ensure an equal competitive structure.*

### 1.0

## Team Registration

### 1.1 General

- The University & College Beach National Championships are open to any teams who meet the minimum requirements in *Section 2.0 Eligibility*.
- There is no limit on the number of teams that may represent an institution.
- Participating pairs must bear all costs related to their travel, board, and lodging. Athletes should check with their institution regarding possible financial assistance.

### 1.2 Rosters/Team Personnel

- **Players:** A team must have two (2) players on the team roster.
- **Team Contact:** Each team must list a team contact during the registration process. This person will be responsible for ensuring communication between the team and VC.

**1.3 Annual Membership:** All participants (athletes and team personnel) must be registered members with Volleyball Canada. Complimentary VC memberships will be provided for any athletes participating that do not hold a current VC membership.

**1.4 Event Categories:** Beach Nationals features two event categories: Open Men and Open Women

**1.5 Registration Dates:** Registration is on a first come, first served basis.



Event		Registration Date	Registration Time
Toronto	Registration Opens	April 12 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 pm EST
	Registration Deadline	August 20 <sup>th</sup>	11:59 pm EST

### 1.6 Registration Fee

Registration fees are charged on a per team basis. Taxes are not charged on the registration fee.

Team Fee
\$175

Late Entries, received after the registration deadline, are subject to a \$50 late registration fee (per team). Volleyball Canada reserves the right to accept teams after the deadline if it benefits the tournament draws and/or refuse late entry to teams if it is to the detriment of the tournament draw.

**1.7 Minimum Entry Requirements:** VC reserves the right to combine or cancel any events with fewer than eight (8) teams registered. In these situations, players would be provided with the opportunity to withdraw with a full refund.

**1.8 Waitlist:** If an age/gender category for a Beach Nationals is full at the time of registration, it is strongly encouraged that you register your team onto the waitlist. If additional spots become available in that age/gender category or if a team cancels, waitlisted teams will be notified based on their position on the waitlist. Only those on the waitlist will have an opportunity to participate in the event.

There is no cost to register onto the waitlist for an event. You will only be charged once you accept your invitation to join the event.

### 1.9 Withdrawal Policy:

Teams who withdraw from Beach Nationals will be eligible for a refund as per the following timelines:

Date	Refund
Prior to registration closing date	Registration fee less \$50 admin fee
Post registration closing date – team is replaced by a waitlisted team	Registration fee less \$50 admin fee
Post registration closing date – team is NOT replaced by a waitlisted team	No refund

**1.10 Partner Changes:** Teams can request changes to their roster by completing the Roster Change Request form on the event webpage. Roster amendments will be allowed until the registration deadline for the event. After this date, changes will only be accepted under extraordinary circumstances.

**1.11 Participation Restrictions:** Only teams from Canadian post-secondary institutions are permitted to register.

**1.12 Unsanctioned Events:** Any teams who participate in an unsanctioned event outside of Canada could be deemed ineligible to compete at Nationals.



## 2.0

### Eligibility

2.1 **Team Eligibility:** A team must be made up of two (2) athletes from the same academic institution.

2.2 **Athlete Eligibility:** All athletes must meet the following minimum criteria to be eligible:

- Be a registered member, in good standing, with VC. Please refer to *Section 1.3 Annual Memberships* for further information.
- Must be a registered student at a Canadian post-secondary institution. Post secondary institutions include community colleges, professional schools, technical schools, CEGEP and universities. Each athlete is required to present proof of academic status. Please see *Section 1.19* for further details.
- Former students of the institutions who have obtained their academic degree or diploma in the six months preceding the event start date are permitted to compete.
- Meet all additional registration requirements of VC

2.3 **Submitting Proof of Academic Status:**

All registered athletes must submit proof of status electronically to Volleyball Canada via the online submission form located on the event webpage.

Proof presented must include the athlete's full name. Valid forms of student status are:

- Student ID Card
- Letter from Academic Advisor/Coach
- Official or Unofficial Transcript
- School Invoice
- Copy of Class Schedule

The deadline to submit is **August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00pm EST**. Any teams who have not submitted their proof of student status by this date, may be removed from the tournament. If you have any issues with the submission process, please contact the Nationals Inbox at [nationals@volleyball.ca](mailto:nationals@volleyball.ca)

## 3.0

### Coaching

3.1 Coaching is not allowed at Senior Nationals.

3.2 Volleyball Canada defines coaching as advice, instruction, or external assistance of any kind to a team/player.



# Competition Regulations & Participation Information

*This section outlines the rules and regulations which govern VC National Championships beyond the Rulebook. In addition, general information and guidelines for participants and spectators are covered here.*

## 4.0

### Rules of the Game

[FIVB Official Beach Volleyball Rules](#) will be used apart from the Volleyball Canada variations. A few notable variations for Youth are included below. Please refer to the Volleyball Canada website for a full description of all rule variations.

#### 4.1 Cameras and Tripods

Teams are permitted to record matches throughout the Beach Nationals tournament, however, please note:

- Tripods are not permitted on the court
- Cameras on tripods cannot be left unattended
- VC is not responsible for any damage to the camera or related equipment
- VC reserves the right to restrict/deny the filming of any matches for safety and/or other reasons

## 5.0

### Team Check-In

5.1. Team check-in will be held the morning of Day 1 of competition. Please refer to the event specific check-in dates/times below:

Check-In Date	Time
September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8:00AM – 8:30AM

5.2 All teams must check-in during the above-listed dates/times.

5.3 Only individuals listed on the official roster can check-in their team (athlete, Coach). If an official team member cannot attend, another representative may do so in their place, however written consent must be provided.

5.4 The team representative will be required to perform the following duties at team check-in:

- Provide written acknowledgement that the team understands and must compete at Beach Nationals as per the following:
  - 2023 Player Technical Sheet
  - 2023 VC University & College Beach Nationals Competition Guide
  - FIVB Official Beach Volleyball Rule Book & Volleyball Canada rule variations



- VC Code of Conduct
- VC Concussion Guidelines

## 6.0

# Practice Opportunity

Teams may take advantage of practice courts at the event facility which are available from 1:00PM to 5:00PM the day prior to Day 1 of competition. Courts are on a first come first served basis.

Teams are required to supply their own ball for practice. A limited quantity of balls will be available to rent. Please refer to the event webpage for details.

## 7.0

# Players Meeting

The players meeting for is **mandatory** and will occur the morning of the first day of play. It will begin shortly after check-in has closed.

At this meeting, the Tournament Director will debrief the participants with the day's schedule and any new or relevant information.

## 8.0

# Referees

### 8.1 Player Referees

All teams at Beach Nationals are required to score and officiate matches throughout the tournament. A schedule will be issued detailing when each team is expected to officiate each day. This may include referee duties for one (1) match after the match you are eliminated from the tournament.

Failure to show up to your refereeing assignment will result in a \$50 fine to the team. If a team is not able to complete their referee assignment, they must identify another representative to referee on their behalf and notify the VC Control Tent, as soon as possible, of the change.

### 8.2 VC Officials

Court Supervisors (official Volleyball Canada referees) will be monitoring play throughout the competition. If there is an issue on your court, please see a court supervisor immediately before resuming play. Further information on Court Supervisors will be provided during the players' meeting.

Playoff matches on Day 2 of competition will be officiated by a Volleyball Canada referee.

## 9.0

# Competition Ball & Uniforms

### 9.1 Official Game Ball

The official is the Mikasa VLS300.



Game balls will be supplied for all matches. Teams are required to provide their own warm up balls.

## 9.2 Net Heights

Women	Men
2.24m	2.43m

9.3 Line Width: For VC competitions width of lines is 2.5 - 8.0cm.

## 9.4 Competition Uniforms

- A player's equipment consists of a jersey and shorts/bottoms. Teams are not permitted to play shirtless.
- It is strongly recommended that team bottoms are of similar colour and style.

## 9.5 Cold Weather Uniforms:

In cold temperatures and wet conditions, athletes are permitted to wear additional compression-style clothing under their team uniforms. These items should be consistent in style, fabric and colour for both athletes.

Approval must be granted by the referees or by the VC Tournament Committee.

## 10.0

# Competition Management

All competition schedules and results will be available on the tournament results management portal. Please refer to the event webpage prior to the event for further details.

All matches will be scored via paper scoresheets.

## 11.0

# Schedules & Seeding

## 11.1 Draw

Each Beach Nationals varies based on location, age category, venues, and number of courts. These variables may affect how the tournament will be organized. VC has developed a set of principles for governing how the draws will be structured.

VC strives to provide a minimum of five (5) matches at University & College Beach Nationals. Due to unforeseen circumstances, VC may not always be able to provide five (5) matches per team.

- All matches are best-of-three.
- Maximum of four matches per day.
- Maximum of one back-to-back match per day.





## 11.2 Format

For both men and women, the competition format will consist of two stages: preliminary rounds and single elimination playoffs.

In the preliminary rounds, teams will be divided into pools and will follow a round robin format. All teams will then advance to a single elimination round.

\*VC reserves the right to change the format, depending on the number of teams registered. All teams are guaranteed their pool rounds and at least one playoff match.

## 11.3 Tie-Breaking Procedure

### End of Pool Play Ranking

Ties between teams within pool-play are broken by the following procedures in priority order. ONLY tied teams are taken into consideration.

Tie Between 2 teams:

- The team with higher rally points ratio in the matches between all teams in the pool;
- Result of head-to-head match

Tie Between 3 or more teams:

- The team with higher rally points ratio in the matches between the tied teams;
- The team with higher rally points ratio in the matches between all teams in the pool;
- If still tied, the ranking is determined by the tournament seeding.

## 11.4 Seeding

The following method of calculation is used to determine a team's seeding at University & College Beach Nationals.

- Individual Athlete Ranking Points are assigned for each registered athlete, using the Senior Points System.
- Team Ranking Points will then be calculated using the following formula:  
$$(\text{Athlete 1 Ranking Points} + \text{Athlete 2 Ranking Points}) / 2 = \text{Team Ranking Points}$$
- VC will then rank and seed in order of highest Team Ranking Points to lowest Team Ranking Points.

Athletes will have access to their individual ranking points on the event webpage no later than five (5) business days before the event. It is the responsibility of each individual athlete to verify their points totals.

To review the list of points accruing events, please refer to the Senior Points System document on the event webpage.

Volleyball Canada reserves the right to adjust the seeding in an effort to offer the best competition experience to participating teams.

## 11.5 Competition Schedule

VC strives to release draft schedules no later than the Monday prior to the event start date. Draft schedules are subject to change and are not final until check-in has closed. Once final schedules are released, no



changes will be made for withdrawals All final schedules will be posted on the tournament website and the tournament's results management system.

It is the athlete's responsibility to verify the final schedule to ensure they are on time for matches.

### 11.6 Scheduled Breaks

Volleyball Canada will attempt to schedule at least one break for all teams, each day of the tournament. If at any time, however, play should fall behind schedule, these breaks will be played through. It is each player's responsibility to ensure they are aware of the matches on court, and the order of play, to ensure they are ready for their match.

### 11.7 No-Show or Forfeit

Teams are expected to begin their match on time and in accordance with the schedule provided. If a team fails to show up within 10 minutes of start-time, their first set will be automatically forfeited. After a subsequent 10 minutes, the entire match will be forfeited.

## 12.0

# Medical

Medical services will be provided to all participating teams free of charge via certified athletic therapists. Services for athletes include first aid response, concussion management, as well as athletic taping.

### 12.1 Concussion Management

All teams participating in Beach Nationals are required to follow the VC Concussion Protocol. Further details on the protocol can be found in the [Policy section](#) of the VC website.

Any athlete who has a suspected concussion is strongly encouraged to visit the onsite medical team to complete a concussion assessment via the Sport Concussion Assessment Tool (SCAT 5). Should an athlete fail the assessment their team will be withdrawn from the tournament.

### 12.2 Medical Time-Outs

Teams are allowed one (1) medical time-out, per player, per tournament.

All medical time-outs must be supervised by one of the tournament athletic therapists. Players are not allowed to leave the playing area during a medical timeout. Players are permitted up to five (5) minutes total for a medical time-out, with the time starting from the moment the athletic therapist arrives on the court.

If an athlete becomes injured or ill during the tournament and as a result cannot continue to compete, no refund will be issued. Points will be awarded up to the point of withdrawal from the tournament. If the injury or illness occurs before the tournament you may be eligible for a refund of the tournament fee, please see *Section 1.14* regarding withdrawals for further details.

To view the Medical Time-Out Policy in its entirety, please refer to the Policy section on the VC website.

## 13.0

# Awards

13.1 All University & College Beach Nationals will distribute the following awards:

- Medals



- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place medals
- Championship Banners
  - Awarded to 1<sup>st</sup> place in both genders

#### 13.2 Awards Ceremony – Championship Tier:

Teams in the Championship Tier will be presented their medals, prizes, and any additional awards associated with the Championship Tier during the awards ceremony. Award ceremonies will be held on the last day of competition following the completion of the final match or shortly thereafter. Teams should refer to the event webpage for ceremony times and locations.

## 14.0

# Sanctions

14.1 A team or an individual may be sanctioned, including fines, if any of the following infractions occur while the team is participating at a Beach Nationals:

- The accommodation facilities or tournament facilities are deliberately damaged by a member of their team.
- The tournament equipment is deliberately damaged by any member of their team.
- The Volleyball Canada Code of Conduct is violated in any way.
- The FIVB Rulebook or Volleyball Canada Rule Variations are violated in any way.
- A team does not fulfill its competitive obligations to an event. If for some reason your team is unable to attend an event that they have registered for or is unable to attend a game that they are scheduled for, it is the team's responsibility to notify a VC representative as soon as possible.
- Any other infraction that the competition officials deem to be detrimental to the event and/or its participants.

14.2 In addition to performance bond related sanctions listed above, VC also has the following sanctions/payments in place for all Beach Nationals:

- \$50.00 for withdrawal prior to the registration deadline (see *Section 1.14* for a full list of withdrawal fees);
- \$50.00 cash for assembling the Competition Jury to assess an official protest;
- \$50.00 for missing a referee assignment;

14.3 A team or club that is sanctioned in any way because of an infraction related to Beach Nationals will be placed in bad standing with VC and their respective PTA. The team or club will remain in bad standing until the sanction has been removed or paid in full to VC. While a team or club is in bad standing they will not be able to register for any events sanctioned by their PTA or VC.

## 15.0

# Protest & Appeal Process

15.1 Any protest or appeal at Beach Nationals will be overseen by a Competition Jury, composed of the following:



- A member of the NBC or an approved designate.
- A representative of the Host Committee.
- A member of the Referee Development Team or approved designate.

A Competition Jury member or an approved designate will be present at all venues.

15.2 The Competition Jury has the highest level of authority at Beach Nationals and its decisions take precedence and cannot be appealed. They are in place to evaluate complaints and render decisions regarding issues that arise about the event organization and all technical matters. The Competition Jury may be called upon to make decisions on, but not limited to, any of the following matters:

- Competition Protests
- Player Eligibility
- Uniforms
- Spectators
- Playing surface/area
- Schedules and Draws

15.3 The following types of issues can be protested or appealed:

- An improper decision by the referee who did not apply the rules or regulations.
- An improper decision of the scorer who made a mistake on the rotational order or on the score.
- A technical aspect of the match conditions (weather, light etc).
- Please note that judgement calls cannot be protested. A referee's decision regarding a playing action (ie. ball handling or misconduct) cannot be protested.
- The protest will be accepted or rejected prior to the resumption of play by the tournament jury.

15.4 To officially protest or appeal a decision, the captain must launch the protest immediately to the first referee who will then indicate to the scorekeeper that a protest has been lodged.

A fee of \$50 must be provided in cash immediately in order to assemble the Competition Jury to assess the protest. The funds will be returned if the protest is upheld; however, if it is overturned, the funds will go towards referee development.

15.5 In case of an incident during a match, the protest has to be requested at the moment the incident occurs, before play resumes. To review the full Protest Policy, please refer to the Policies page on the VC website.

## 16.0

# Scouting & Recruiting

It is important to note that VC does not police recruiters onsite and that it is expected that recruiters will abide by the regulations set out by [USport](#), CCAA, or any other University or Collegiate organization. VC bears the right to ask a recruiter to leave the venue if the recruiting policies are not respected.



## 17.0

# Code of Conduct & Competition Policies

All participants at Beach Nationals are expected to adhere to the policies and guidelines as set out by Volleyball Canada. Any breach of these policies are subject to fines and/or sanctions as outlined on in the [Volleyball Canada's Discipline and Complaints Policy](#).

Below are some of the key competition related policies for Beach Nationals:

17.1 [Code of Conduct](#)

17.2 [Suspended Play](#)

17.3 [Extreme Heat](#)

17.4 [Anti-Doping Policy](#)

For a complete list of all of Volleyball Canada's policies, please visit the [VC website](#).

## 18.0

# Safe Sport

VC is committed to a sport environment free from abuse that is safe for all participants. For more information, our policies, and resources, [please click here](#).

### Safe Sport Reporting

VC has zero tolerance for any type of abuse. Individuals are required to report abuse or suspected abuse to VC or to a Provincial/Territorial Association so that those matters can be addressed in an expeditious manner.

For more information, please see the Safe Sport [Complaint Process Overview](#). Reports can be made to the Canadian Sport Helpline - 1-888-837-7678 or email [info@abuse-free-sport.ca](mailto:info@abuse-free-sport.ca) or electronically through: <https://sportintegritycommissioner.ca/report>

**Education** - As of April 1, 2020, anyone associated with a Sport Canada-funded organization must be trained on conduct to prevent and address maltreatment. This includes coaches, referees, parents of youth athletes, high-performance staff and contractors, officials; and all administrative staff and volunteers whether they may have direct contact with athletes or not.

VC requires that all individuals involved with the sport across the country take an approved safe sport e-learning module:

1. [Respect in sport for Activity leaders](#) – this course educates youth leaders, coaches, officials and participants to recognize, understand and respond to issues of bullying, abuse, harassment and discrimination.
2. [Coaching association of Canada's Safe Sport Training](#) – this eLearning module gives all participants the tools to recognize, address, and prevent maltreatment in sport. The module aligns with the principles of the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport.

**Background Screening** - All coaches, staff members, volunteers, referees, team staff members and Integrated Support Team (IST) members involved in VC domestic competitions are required to have



completed a criminal record/police check issued within 36 months of the activity being attended. These requirements apply to all disciplines.

Volleyball Canada has a partnership with Sterling Talent Solutions, who provide an online, Canada-wide criminal record check service. This is a more secure check and can be shared with other organizations. To get your check click here - [Backcheck Canada - Sterling Backcheck](#)

To provide further clarification, we have compiled the following [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

