

2024 Volleyball Canada Senior Beach Nationals Competition Guide



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2024 Beach Nationals Overview

Volleyball Canada (VC) will host Senior Beach Nationals, in conjunction with Youth Beach Nationals in 2024. Both events will be held at one venue in Toronto, ON.

Tournament Dates	Check-In Opens	City	Age/Gender	Venue
August 16 - 18	August 15th	Toronto	Open Men & Open Women	Ashbridges Bay

Health & Safety Considerations

In order to ensure the continued safety of participants, VC will follow Governmental and Public Health guidelines regarding current health precautions and mandates, including Covid-19 and smoke inhalation from forest fires. Changes to event protocols may be required leading up to Beach Nationals to ensure the health and safety of all participants; any changes will be noted on the event webpage and shared with all participating teams.

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.

01

Team Registration

1.1 Players: A team in any age category must have two (2) players on the team roster.

In order to be eligible to participate in Beach Nationals, each athlete on the official roster must be registered as a member with their respective Provincial/Territorial Association (PTA) and with VC. Players can only appear on one roster per event.

1.2 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. The Team Contact will not be listed on the Official Roster unless they have a dual role as a coach.

1.3 Membership: All participants (athletes and team personnel) must complete their membership registration process with their respective PTA. By registering with their PTA, these participants will automatically become registered members with VC. Only individuals that are properly registered and in good standing are eligible to take part in competitions sanctioned or hosted by a PTA or VC.

1.4 Province/Territory of Residence: A player/team must purchase their membership(s) within the province/territory in which they reside. No player/team is allowed to register with a PTA outside their province of residence without the prior approval of VC and the two (2) PTAs involved. In addition, no player/team is permitted to register with more than one PTA at the same time; players who wish to change PTAs mid-season must receive approval from VC and the PTAs involved.



1.5 Participating at Beach Nationals with an athlete from another PTA: If two athletes, from different PTAs, wish to register as a team together at Beach Nationals the process is as follows:

1. Submit Request to Play: Players must submit a Request to Play form to VC. VC will then follow up with the two (2) PTAs involved for approval. Team contacts will receive an email within five (5) to seven (7) business days, with the results of their request.

All forms are located on the Beach Nationals event page.

2. Register for Beach Nationals: Once approval has been received from VC, teams may register for Beach Nationals.

Note: Teams may register for Beach Nationals, prior to receiving final approval from Volleyball Canada. However, any teams who are denied, or fail to submit their request to VC, prior to the event withdrawal deadline, will be removed from the draw and their refund will be subject to an administration fee.

1.6 Provincial Championships: All athletes wishing to participate in Beach Nationals are required to participate in their respective Provincial and Territorial Association (PTA) Championship. Exemptions may be granted in the following cases:

If the team members are participating in a VC sanctioned event or program, which include:

- a. NORCECA or FIVB circuit
- b. Canada Cup
- c. Provincial Team programs
- d. Canada Games
- e. Member of the National Team
- f. Extenuating circumstances, which will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Any athlete wishing to request an exemption is required to submit an **Exemption Form** with their request by **Wednesday, August 9th**. The form can be found on the event webpage.

1.7 Minimum Age: All athletes, coaches and team personnel must be a minimum of 18 years of age to compete in the Senior event.

1.8 Registration Dates:

Registration is on a first come, first served basis. Teams may register for Beach Nationals prior to participating in their Provincial and Territorial Association (PTA) championship.

	Registration Date	Registration Time
Registration Opens	June 11 th	12:00pm EST
Early Bird Deadline	July 9 th	5:00pm EST
Registration Deadline	August 4 th	11:59pm EST

1.9 Registration Fee

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



	Team Fee
Early Bird Rate	\$267
Regular Rate	\$317

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.

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

1.11 Waitlist: If an event category for 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 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.

1.12 Withdrawal Policy:

Teams who withdraw from Beach Nationals must complete the withdrawal form found on the Beach Nationals webpage.

Registration fees will be refunded 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

1.13 Roster/Partner Changes: Teams can make roster changes directly within their Sportlomo account. Changes can be made up until the roster lock deadline. After this date, changes will only be accepted under extraordinary circumstances.

1.14 Participation Restrictions: For Beach Nationals, only Canadian teams are permitted to register. Foreign teams must be approved by the National Beach Committee to participate. Please refer to *Section 2.0, Foreign Participation*, for further details.

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

1.16 Participation Eligibility: All teams (including each individual on the official roster) must meet the following minimum criteria in order to be eligible to attend Beach Nationals:

- Be a registered member, and in good standing, with their respective PTA and with VC.
- Any foreign team looking to participate in an event must be registered and in good standing with their own National Federation (See Section 2).
- Participate in a Provincial/Territorial Championship (unless an exemption has been applied for and approved)



- Meet all additional registration requirements of their PTA and VC.

2.0

Foreign Participation

2.1 Participation Restrictions: A foreign team that wants to participate in Beach Nationals must receive approval from their National Federation in order to participate. Each foreign team must provide VC with an official letter from their National Federation that states that the team is registered and in good standing. Each Foreign Team's participants must purchase health and travel insurance and comply with VC's registration protocols.

2.2. Registration: Foreign teams will be required to register for the event in which they wish to participate via the VC website. The registration process will only be complete once VC provides final confirmation of the foreign team's acceptance into the event. Confirmation will be provided in writing within fourteen (14) days of registration.

**VC reserves the right to deny the registration of a foreign team based on the registration capacity of the competition.*

For further information regarding provincial registration for foreign teams please consult the [Foreign Team and Foreign Player guide](#).

2.3 Seeding: VC uses the Senior Points System to seed all teams for Beach Nationals. Please refer to *Section 13.4 Calculation of Points for Seeding* for further information.

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.

4.0

Age Categories

Senior Beach Nationals features two events in 2024: Open Men and Open Women. All participants in the open division must be at least 18 years of age as of December 31st, 2024. There is no maximum age.



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 is covered here.

5.0 Hosting Guidelines

5.1 For an event to be recognized as a Beach National Championship, VC requires the participation from a minimum of eight (8) teams from three (3) PTAs.

5.2 If an event does not meet the format event criteria listed above, VC reserves the right to cancel or alter the event.

6.0 Rules of the Game

[FIVB Official Beach Volleyball Rules](#) will be used for the 2024 Beach Volleyball Nationals with the exception of the Volleyball Canada variations.

6.1 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

7.0 Team Check-In

7.1. Team check-in will be held the day prior to Day 1 of competition and the morning of Day 1. For 2024, this will occur:

Dates	Times
Thursday, August 15th	1:00 PM – 6:00 PM EST
Friday, August 16th	8:00 AM – 8:45 AM EST

7.2 All teams must check-in during one of the above listed dates/times. If a team does not check-in before check-in closes, they will be removed from the tournament.



7.3 Athletes, or their designated team representative, will be required to perform the following duties at team check-in:

- Assume responsibility of player competition tops
- Provide written acknowledgement that the team understands and must compete at Beach Nationals as per the following:
 - 2024 VC Beach Nationals Competition Guide
 - FIVB Official Beach Volleyball Rule Book & Volleyball Canada rule variations
 - VC Code of Conduct
 - VC Concussion Guidelines

8.0

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 (the same day Check-in opens). 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.

9.0

Players Meeting

There will be no Players Meeting at Senior Beach Nationals. A Technical Guide will be circulated to all registered teams prior to competition.

10.0

Referees

10.1 VC Referees

All round robin matches will be officiated by one (1) referee. Playoff matches will be officiated by two (2).

10.2 Team Scorekeeping Duties

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

Failure to show up to your assignment will result in a **\$50 fine** to the team. If a team is not able to complete their scorekeeping duties, they must identify another representative to do so on their behalf and notify the Control Tent of the change.



11.0

Competition Ball & Uniforms

11.1 Official Game Ball

The official ball for Beach Nationals is the Mikasa BV550C.

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

11.2 Net Heights

	Women	Men
SR	2.24m	2.43m

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

11.4 Competition Uniforms

- A player's equipment consists of a jersey and shorts/bottoms.
- All teams registered for Beach Nationals will receive a competition top that must be worn for all matches. Sizing and style requests can be made during the registration process.
 - Women: players will be able to choose between a Left on Friday swim top or tank top.
 - Men: players will receive a Jumplete tank top.
- It is strongly recommended, that team bottoms are of similar colour and style.

Other Uniform Options: In addition to the competition tops provided by VC, teams are permitted to wear any Left On Friday (women) or Jumplete (men) apparel. These can be items purchased during the online presale or on-site at their sponsor booths. Additionally, LOF and Jumplete competition tops from the 2023 event are also permitted.

11.5 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.

12.0

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.



13.0

Schedules & Seeding

13.1 Draw

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

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

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.

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

13.2 Tie-Breaking Procedure

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.

13.3 Seeding

The following method of calculation is used to determine a team's seeding at Senior 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 three (3) 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.

13.4 Competition Schedule

VC strives to release draft schedules one week prior to the event start date, or within 48 hours of the last provincial championship. Draft schedules are subject to change and teams are required to verify the final schedule to ensure they are on time for matches. *Please note, schedules cannot be made until seeding has been completed which cannot be finalised until Provincial Championships are concluded.*

Final schedules will be posted after check-in, the evening prior to the competition start date. No changes will be made to final schedules once posted.

Schedules will be developed to best suit the needs of the age/gender category, venue and draw size. A division-based or tier-based schedule may be used. Full details regarding schedules will be posted on the event webpage.

13.5 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.

14.0

Medical

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

14.1 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.

14.2 Medical Time-Outs:

Senior athletes are allowed one (1) medical time-out per athlete, per tournament.

All medical time-outs must be supervised by one of the tournament athletic therapists. Players are not allowed to leave the court during a medical timeout. Players are allowed up to five (5) minutes total for the 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 Withdrawals* for further details.

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



14.3 Anti-Doping:

Following the guidelines of the Canadian Center for Ethics in Sport (CCES), and Canadian athletes competing at a National or International level can be tested for banned and/or illegal substances. It is the athlete's responsibility to be aware of and comply with CCES anti-doping policies. Please consult their website for more information: www.cces.ca

15.0

Awards

15.1 Senior Beach Nationals will distribute the following awards:

- Prize Money: total purse valued at \$25,000 (\$12,500/gender)
- Medals: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place medals for the Championship Tier

15.2 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 Beach Nationals webpage for ceremony times and locations.

16.0

Sanctions

16.1 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.

16.2 In addition to performance bond related sanctions listed above, VC also has the following sanctions/payments in place for all 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;



16.3 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.

17.0

Protest & Appeal Process

17.1 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.

17.2 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

17.3 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.

17.4 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.



17.5 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.

18.0

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.

19.0

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:

19.1 [Code of Conduct](#)

19.2 [Suspended Play](#)

19.3 [Extreme Heat](#)

19.4 [Anti-Doping Policy](#)

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

20.0

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 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 \(FAQs\)](#).

