

2026 Volleyball Canada Senior Beach Nationals Competition Guide



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2026 Beach Nationals Overview

Volleyball Canada will host Senior Beach Nationals, in conjunction with Youth Beach Nationals in 2026. Both events will be held at one venue in Toronto, ON.

Tournament Dates	Check-In	City	Age/Gender	Venue
August 14 - 16	August 13th	Toronto	Open Men & Open Women	Ashbridges Bay

Health & Safety Considerations

In order to ensure the continued safety of participants, Volleyball Canada 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: Each team must consist of two (2) players on the official team roster. Players can only appear on one (1) roster, per event.

1.2 Team Contact: Each team must designate a team contact during the registration process. The Team Contact is responsible for ensuring effective communication between the team and Volleyball Canada. The Team Contact will not appear on the Official Roster.

1.3 Annual Membership: All athletes must purchase a competitive membership with their respective Provincial/Territorial Association (PTA). By registering with their PTA, these participants will automatically become registered members with Volleyball Canada. Only individuals that are properly registered and in good standing are eligible to take part in competitions sanctioned or hosted by a PTA or Volleyball Canada.

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 Volleyball Canada 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 Volleyball Canada and the PTAs involved.



1.5 Participating at Beach Nationals with an athlete from another PTA: There are no restrictions on athletes from different PTAs competing together. Teams will be required to declare which province they will represent at the time of registration

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:

1. If the team members are participating in a Volleyball Canada sanctioned event or program, which include:
 - a. NORCECA or FIVB circuit
 - b. Canada Cup
 - c. Provincial Team programs
 - d. Canada Games
2. Member of the National Team
3. 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 July 20th. The form can be found on the event webpage.

1.7 Minimum Age: All athletes must be 16 years of age to compete in the Senior event. Age exemptions may be granted, under special circumstances.

1.8 Registration Dates:

Pre-registration

A pre-registration period will be offered to all 2025 Beach Nationals Championship Tier medalists (Gold, Silver, and Bronze) and 2025 Provincial/Territorial Champions (Gold Medalists).

General Registration

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.

Event		Registration Date	Registration Time
Toronto	Pre-Registration Opens	May 1 st	12:00 pm EST
	General Registration Opens	May 15 th	12:00 pm EST
	Early Bird Deadline	June 30 th	12:00 pm EST
	Registration Deadline	July 27 th	11:59 pm EST

1.9 Registration Fee: Registration fees are charged on a per team basis. Taxes are not charged on the registration fee. Fees may vary per event. Please review the Beach Nationals webpage for current fees.

1.10 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.



Athletes are not allowed to be listed on multiple teams, either on the waitlist or registered teams list.

1.11 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 & system fees
Post registration closing date – team is replaced by a waitlisted team and the request is more than 2 weeks from check-in	Registration fee less \$50 admin fee & system fees
Post registration closing date – team is NOT replaced by a waitlisted team and the request is more than 2 weeks from check-in	No refund
Within 2 weeks of check-in	No refund

Please see *Section 14 Sanctions* for sanction and fine implications for improper withdrawals.

1.12 Ownership of Registration Spot:

The listed purchaser is considered the registration owner, and any applicable refund will be issued to that individual in accordance with the refund policy.

If a team elects to separate, the non-purchasing athlete will be granted the right of first refusal to assume the registration spot before it is offered to teams on the waitlist.

1.13 Roster/Partner Changes: Teams can request a roster change by completing the applicable form on the event website. Changes can be made up until the registration deadline. After this date, changes will only be accepted under extraordinary circumstances.

1.14 Participation Restrictions: For Beach Nationals, only Canadian nationals are permitted to register.

1.15 Unsanctioned Events: Any teams who participate in an unsanctioned event outside of Canada could be deemed ineligible to compete at Beach 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 Volleyball Canada.
- Participate in a Provincial/Territorial Championship (unless an exemption has been applied for and approved)
- Meet all additional registration requirements of their PTA and Volleyball Canada.



2.0

Coaching

Coaching is not allowed at Senior Nationals. 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 Volleyball Canada National Championships beyond the Rulebook. In addition, general information and guidelines for participants and spectators are covered here.

3.0

Hosting Guidelines

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

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

4.0

Rules of the Game

[FIVB Official Beach Volleyball Rules](#) will be used with the exception of the Volleyball Canada 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 nor can they be placed in any team or player areas (team seating, serving zone)
- Tripods cannot be placed in areas not permitted for spectators
- Volleyball Canada is not responsible for any damage to the camera or related equipment
- Volleyball Canada reserves the right to restrict/deny the filming of any matches or to move/remove a camera

4.2 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:

- 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.

5.0

Team Check-In

5.1. Team Check-in

Team check-in will be held the day prior to Day 1 of competition. Please refer to the event webpage for your event's check-in date and time.

All teams are required to check-in during the check-in window. If a team does not check-in before check-in closes, they will be removed from the tournament and may face sanctions for an improper withdrawal.

5.2 Team Bag Pick-Up

Only individuals listed on the official roster can pick up their team bag. If an official team member cannot attend, another representative may do so in their place, however written consent must be provided.

The team representative will be required to perform the following duties at bag pick-up:

- Assume responsibility of player competition tops
- Confirm local contact information
- Provide written acknowledgement that the team understands and must compete at Beach Nationals as per the following:
 - 2026 Volleyball Canada Beach Nationals Competition Guide
 - FIVB Official Beach Volleyball Rule Book & Volleyball Canada rule variations
 - Volleyball Canada Code of Conduct
 - Volleyball Canada 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 (the same day check-in). 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

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



8.0

Referees

8.1 Volleyball Canada Referees

All matches will be officiated by one (1) Volleyball Canada referee. Teams may be required to assist with scorekeeping duties.

8.2 Team Scorekeeping Duties

Teams at Beach Nationals may be required to help score matches throughout the tournament. If applicable, 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 teams are eliminated from the tournament.

Failure to show up to your assignment will result in a **\$100 fine** for 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.

9.0

Competition Equipment & Uniforms

9.1 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.

9.2 Net Heights

	Women	Men
SR	2.24m	2.43m

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

9.4 Competition Uniforms

- A player's equipment consists of a top 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 swim/bra top or tank top.
 - Men: players will receive a 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 Volleyball Canada, teams are permitted to wear any Left On Friday or Jumplete apparel. These can be items purchased during the online presale or on-site at their sponsor booths. Additionally, Left On Friday and Jumplete competition tops from previous Beach Nationals are also permitted.



If athletes are wearing uniforms that do not meet these requirements, they will be asked to change into the competition tops provided.

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 Volleyball Canada 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 paperless through the scheduling/results system.

11.0

Schedules & Seeding

11.1 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.

Depending on the size of the draw, playoffs might be split into 2 divisions.

Each Beach Nationals varies based on location, age category, venues, and number of courts. These variables may affect how the tournament will be organized. Volleyball Canada 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.

Full details on the format will be released on the event webpage, once confirmed.

11.2 Seeding

The seeding for Senior Beach Nationals is based on a points system. Please see the Volleyball Canada Senior Beach National Seeding Guidelines for full details regarding seeding rules.

Seeding will only be completed once all Provincial Championships have been completed.

11.3 Competition Schedule



Volleyball Canada aims to release draft schedules by the Wednesday prior to the event start date. *Please note, draft schedules cannot be made until seeding has been completed which cannot be finalised until all Provincial Championships have concluded.* Draft schedules are subject to change.

Schedules will be considered final the evening prior to the competition start date, after check-in concludes. No changes will be made to final schedules once posted on Volleyball Life.

Schedules will be developed to best suit the needs of the 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.

Volleyball Canada reserves the right to move a match to a different court at their discretion. Teams must abide by these changes or will be subject to the forfeit procedures. A match may start early with agreement from both teams, the competition staff and the referees.

11.4 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 Volleyball Canada Concussion Protocol. Further details on the protocol can be found in the [Policy section](#) of the Volleyball Canada 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 removed from play. Any subsequent matches for the team will be recorded as a forfeit.

Athletes are permitted to follow-up their initial assessment. If there isn't a designated medical practitioner on site, the athlete may seek an assessment from one of the approved medical practitioners provided by Volleyball Canada. Once the athlete is deemed safe to return to immediate sport participation, they may do so with submission of the Medical Assessment Letter to the on-site medical team and/or competition staff. An athlete cannot submit a Medical Assessment Letter clearing them for immediate sport participation after the first round of play-offs.

If there is a medical professional on site designated to manage concussion assessments, athletes are not permitted to seek an assessment from an off-site medical professional.

12.2 Medical Time-Outs:

Medical time-outs will be administered in accordance with the Medical Time-Outs Policy available on the event webpage. Teams are expected to review this policy in advance of the competition.

The following medical time-outs may be applied during match play:



- Blood Timeout (BTO): used exclusively for significant blood-related injuries
- Recovery Interruption Timeout (RIT): used for non-blood injuries, illness related to officially declared severe weather, or urgent toilet use outside of regular game interruptions

All medical time-outs:

- Must be supervised by a tournament athletic therapist
- Are limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes, starting from the arrival of the therapist on court
- Do not permit players to leave the playing area

Additional conditions, including usage limits and procedures, are outlined in the Medical Time Outs policy.

If an athlete is unable to continue competing due to injury or illness, no registration refund will be issued.

12.3 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

13.0

Awards

Senior Beach Nationals will distribute the following awards:

- Prize Money: total purse valued at \$27,000 (\$13,500/gender)
- Medals: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place medals for the Championship Tier

13.1 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 the competition following the completion of the 3rd and 1st place matches or shortly thereafter. Teams should refer to the Beach Nationals webpage for ceremony times and locations.

14.0

Sanctions

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 Volleyball Canada representative as soon as possible.

- Any other infraction that the competition officials deem to be detrimental to the event and/or its participants.

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

- Fees:
 - Withdrawal Admin Fee - \$50.00 administrative fee for a withdrawal prior to the registration deadline (see *Section 1.14* for a full list of withdrawal fees);
 - Official Protest Fee - \$100.00 fee for assembling the Competition Jury to assess an official protest.
- Sanctions:
 - Missed Referee Assignment – A team who misses their scheduled referee assignment will be subject to a \$100 fine per missed assignment.
 - Failure to Notify of Withdrawal – A team who withdraws without notification directly to Volleyball Canada will be subject to any or all the following penalties:
 - No refund for registration fees
 - A fine in the amount of \$332.00

14.2 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 Volleyball Canada and their respective PTA. The team or club will remain in bad standing until the sanction has been removed or paid in full to Volleyball Canada. While a team or club is in bad standing, they will not be able to register for any events sanctioned by their PTA or Volleyball Canada

15.0

Protest & Appeal Process

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

- A Volleyball Canada Representative, member of the National Beach Committee or an approved designate.
- A member of the Senior Competition Staff, notably the Competition Director
- A member of the Referee Development Team or approved designate.

A Competition Jury member or an approved designate will be present at all venues. Members of the competition jury will be established pre-event and will be chaired by the Competition Director. The members of the competition jury may vary throughout the day depending on the event schedule.

15.1 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

15.2 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.

15.3 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 \$100 must be provided 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.

15.4 In case of an incident during a match, the protest has to be requested at the moment the incident occurs, before play resumes. Please remember that NO match will be replayed, as protests must be placed at the moment of the incident.

In the event of a protest, the following will occur:

- The referee will notify both teams that there is protest.
- The protesting team will be asked to pay the \$100 protest fee and to record the protest.
- Both teams will be asked to stay on the court until the final decision is rendered.
- The chairperson of the jury will convene the jury.
- The jury will interview the captain of the protesting team and any/all parties, as they see fit. Video will not be permitted to support a protest.
- The jury will deliberate and render a decision.
- The chairperson of the jury will inform all parties involved of the decision made.



16.0

Scouting & Recruiting

It is important to note that Volleyball Canada 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. Volleyball Canada 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 [Volleyball Canada website](#).

18.0

Zero Tolerance Protocol

Volleyball Canada aims to ensure a SAFE and POSITIVE environment for all participants, spectators, referees and staff at all National Championships. Rude, profane, disrespectful, aggressive, and disruptive behaviour will not be tolerated from any individuals. All event attendees are encouraged to communicate in an appropriate manner at all times.

Volleyball Canada will be enforcing a zero-tolerance approach in all incidences of inappropriate conduct, which may include but is not limited to:

- Any comment(s) or action(s) deemed rude, profane, disrespectful, disruptive, or aggressive, exhibited while on-site at Volleyball Canada Nationals.
- Any actions or behaviour that contravene Volleyball Canada's Code of Conduct.
- Any actions contrary to policies that impede or disrupt the safe and effective operation of a Volleyball Canada National Championship.

Please review the [Zero Tolerance Protocol](#) for full details.



19.0

Safe Sport

Volleyball Canada 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](#).

19.1 Safe Sport Reporting

VC maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward any form of abuse. If you witness or suspect abuse or maltreatment, it is your responsibility to report it promptly to the appropriate organization, so action can be taken.

To file a safe sport complaint, please visit the [Reporting Super Highway](#). This platform is designed to assist athletes, coaches, parents, officials, and others in the volleyball community by helping them identify the correct third party/organization to report concerns related to maltreatment or inappropriate conduct in sport. Based on your location and the nature of the concern, the Super Highway will guide you to the appropriate organization with jurisdiction to handle your complaint.

19.2 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.

19.3 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](#)