



USAVolleyball.

USAVolleyball.org

20501 Earl Street, Suite 3 | Torrance, CA 90503 | 310 975 3930

March 23, 2023

USA VOLLEYBALL NORCECA NOMINATIONS

USA Volleyball (USAV) will conduct playoffs as outlined below to decide which teams to nominate to NORCECA Beach Volleyball Tour events.

1. PLAYOFF LOCATION

- 1.1 The playoff location will be listed on the respective playoff registration page at [Event Registration - USA Volleyball](#) as soon as reasonably possible once the information becomes available from NORCECA. Published Playoff locations are subject to change based on NORCECA calendar changes and force majeure reasons. Any changes will be updated online ASAP.

2. PLAYOFF DATES

- 2.1 Playoff dates will be posted at [Event Registration - USA Volleyball](#) as soon as reasonably possible once the information becomes available from NORCECA. Published Playoff dates are subject to change based on NORCECA calendar changes and force majeure reasons. Any changes will be updated online ASAP.

3. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 Be a national of the United States.
- 3.2 Hold a valid U.S. passport.
- 3.3 Be eligible to compete for the United States per USAV, NORCECA, FIVB and IOC regulations/requirements - [Tools \(fivb.com\)](#)
- 3.4 Be a currently registered member of USA Volleyball (that includes a signed Registration Form and Code of Conduct).
- 3.5 Pay a \$75 per athlete registration fee (BNT athletes as defined in the current BNP Handbook will be reimbursed after the USAV Playoff. All athletes must pay the fee upfront to register.).

- OR

For a 16 team, 2-day playoff, pay a \$125 registration fee per athlete. (BNT athletes as defined in the current BNP Handbook will be reimbursed after the USAV playoff. All athletes must pay the fee upfront to register.).

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4. PLAYOFF ENTRY

- 4.1 Teams must register with USAV by completing the online registration form by the specified deadline. Links to the online registration forms and registration deadlines will be posted at [Event Registration - USA Volleyball](#) as soon as reasonably possible once the information becomes available from NORCECA. Published Playoff dates and locations are subject to change based on NORCECA calendar changes and force majeure reasons. Any changes will be updated online ASAP.
- 4.2 Teams that fail to register by the specified entry deadline can apply for late entry up to -7 days before the playoff at 5 pm Pacific by emailing sean.scott@usav.org. Late registering athletes will be charged \$100 additional per athlete for entry and entry is at the discretion of USAV.
- 4.3 Both athletes on a team must register separately and will receive a confirmation email upon completing the registration process.
- 4.4 Twelve Team Playoff:
 - 4.6.1 The top eight (8) teams per USA Beach Ranking (<http://usav.seedingpal.com/home>) plus four (4) wild cards will gain entry to the playoff. Any unused wild cards will be allotted to the next highest ranked team. Teams will be ranked per the sum of the individual USA Beach Ranking points of both partners.
- 4.5 Sixteen Team Playoff:
 - 4.7.1 Top eight (8) teams plus eight (8) wild cards. Any unused wild card spots will be allotted to the next highest ranked team. Teams will be ranked per the sum of the individual USA Beach Ranking points of both partners.
- 4.6 If enough teams do not sign up to fill the Draw, USA Volleyball reserves the right to enter teams at its discretion to complete the Draw.

5. COMPETITION FORMAT

- 5.1 NORCECA Playoffs will be played as either a 12 or 16 team playoff as outlined below:
 - 5.1.1 Twelve Team Playoff - Single elimination with a playoff for 3rd place (see attachment A for further details).
 - 5.1.2 Sixteen Team Playoff - Played in two (2) phases consisting of a Pool Phase and Elimination Phase (see attachment B for further details).

6. COMPETITION RULES

- 6.1 Please refer to the FIVB Official Beach Volleyball Rules 2021-2024 ([FIVB-Beach Volleyball Rules 2021 2024-EN.pdf](#))

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7. NORCECA EVENT NOMINATIONS & WITHDRAWALS

- 7.1 The team that wins the playoff will be entered as the #1 U.S. team for the assigned NORCECA tournaments. USAV will cover the NORCECA \$500 entry fee for the #1 team per gender.
- 7.2 Should USAV get a 2nd spot, the 2nd place team in that gender will be entered as the #2 U.S. team for the assigned NORCECA tournaments. **USAV will NOT cover the \$500 entry fee for the 2nd U.S. team in a gender.** The team will be responsible for the NORCECA \$500 entry fee, which must be paid to USAV before the NORCECA event. Failure to do so will result in that team being withdrawn from the event.
- 7.3 If a team accepts a bid to a NORCECA event and then withdraws for a non-force majeure reason, each athlete may be fined \$250 for every offence.
- 7.4 Teams who withdraw due to a force majeure reason who participate in another event during the same timeframe as the NORCECA event may be fined per the scale in 7.3.
- 7.5 Players must compete in the NORCECA events they qualify for with the same partner they participate with in the corresponding NORCECA Playoff except in the following circumstance:
 - 7.5.1 In case of injury, an athlete can change partners and maintain their spot in a NORCECA event once per calendar year. Athletes must submit a medical certificate from a certified medical doctor and see the Beach National Team Athletic Trainer. No other medical certificates will be accepted.
- 7.6 If a team pulls out of the assigned NORCECA event or declines the nomination, the next highest finishing team in the corresponding NORCECA Playoff will be offered their spot. This will continue on a "trickle down" basis until a team accepts the nomination and all spots are filled. If none of the teams that participated in the playoff accept the spot, then USAV can fill the spot at its discretion.
- 7.7 Teams that qualify for a NORCECA event through the Playoff will not be given a nomination to another NORCECA event should the NORCECA event they qualified for be cancelled.

8. PLAYOFF WITHDRAWALS

- 8.1 Should a team withdraw after the NORCECA Playoff registration deadline up to -7 days before the playoff at 5 pm Pacific, USAV will replace the team with the highest seeded team from the reserve list and reseed the playoff accordingly. If there are no reserve teams, then USAV reserves the right to replace the team with a team of its choosing and will reseed the playoff accordingly.
- 8.2 Should a team withdrawal happen after 5 pm Pacific -7 days before the playoff until 5 pm Pacific the day before the playoff, USAV will replace the team with the highest

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seeded team from the reserve list and reseed the playoff accordingly. If there are no reserve teams, then USAV reserves the right to replace the team with a team of its choosing and will reseed the playoff accordingly. The withdrawing team will forfeit any entry fee and be charged \$100 per athlete.

- 8.3 Should the withdrawal happen after 5 pm the day before the playoff USAV will NOT replace the team with a team from the reserve list and the team that was supposed to play the withdrawing team will get a bye. The withdrawing team will forfeit their entry fee and be charged \$200 per athlete.
- 8.4 Should an athlete withdrawal, or a change of athlete request, occur at any time before 5pm Pacific the day before the playoff, for a team in the tournament, the new team shall have enough USAV Ranking Points to maintain their position in the tournament draw. Otherwise, the team will be removed, and USAV will enter the highest seeded team from the reserve list and reseed the playoff accordingly. The withdrawing athlete shall supply a medical certificate from a certified medical doctor, otherwise the athlete will forfeit their entry fee and be charged \$100.

9. REMOVAL OF ATHLETE(S)

- 9.1 Any athlete confirmed to compete in a NORCECA Playoff or NORCECA Beach Tour Event may be removed as a competitor for any of the following reasons, as determined by USAV:
 - 9.1.1 Injury or illness as certified by a board licensed physician or medical staff approved by USAV Beach. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician, or medical staff approved by USAV Beach, his/her illness or injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
 - 9.1.2 Violation of USA Volleyball's Code of Conduct
 - 9.1.3 An Anti-Doping violation
- 9.2 Any athlete removed from the team pursuant to a provision above has the right to a hearing per USAV Bylaws (Article X & XIII) or USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

10. FUNDING

- 10.1 USAV will cover the \$500 NORCECA entry fee for the #1 USA team per gender. Should a 2nd USA team in a gender gain entry, they will be responsible for their \$500 NORCECA entry fee. The fee must be paid to USAV before the respective NORCECA event or USAV will remove the team from the event.
- 10.2 The promoter is responsible for covering the hotel and meals for the #1 USA team per gender from the Thursday night before the tournament to the Monday morning following the tournament. #2 USA teams may have to pay for their own accommodations and meals.

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10.3 USAV will provide an \$800 per athlete travel stipend to the highest finishing USA teams per gender at the designated NORCECA beach volleyball event provided the athlete meets the following standard:

- Finishes 5th or better
- If a tie in finish occurs, the highest finishing team from the designated NORCECA playoff will receive the stipend. If a tie still exists, the team with the highest NORCECA playoff entry seeding will receive the stipend.

10.3.1 USAV reserves the right to fund 2 teams per gender at its discretion.

11. DISCLAIMER

11.1 If any force of nature or force majeure should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised by USA Volleyball.

11.2 If a NORCECA Beach Volleyball Tour Event is cancelled, USAV is not responsible for airline or other fees.

12. ATHLETE INQUIRIES

12.1 Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete should contact Sean Scott (sean.scott@usav.org).

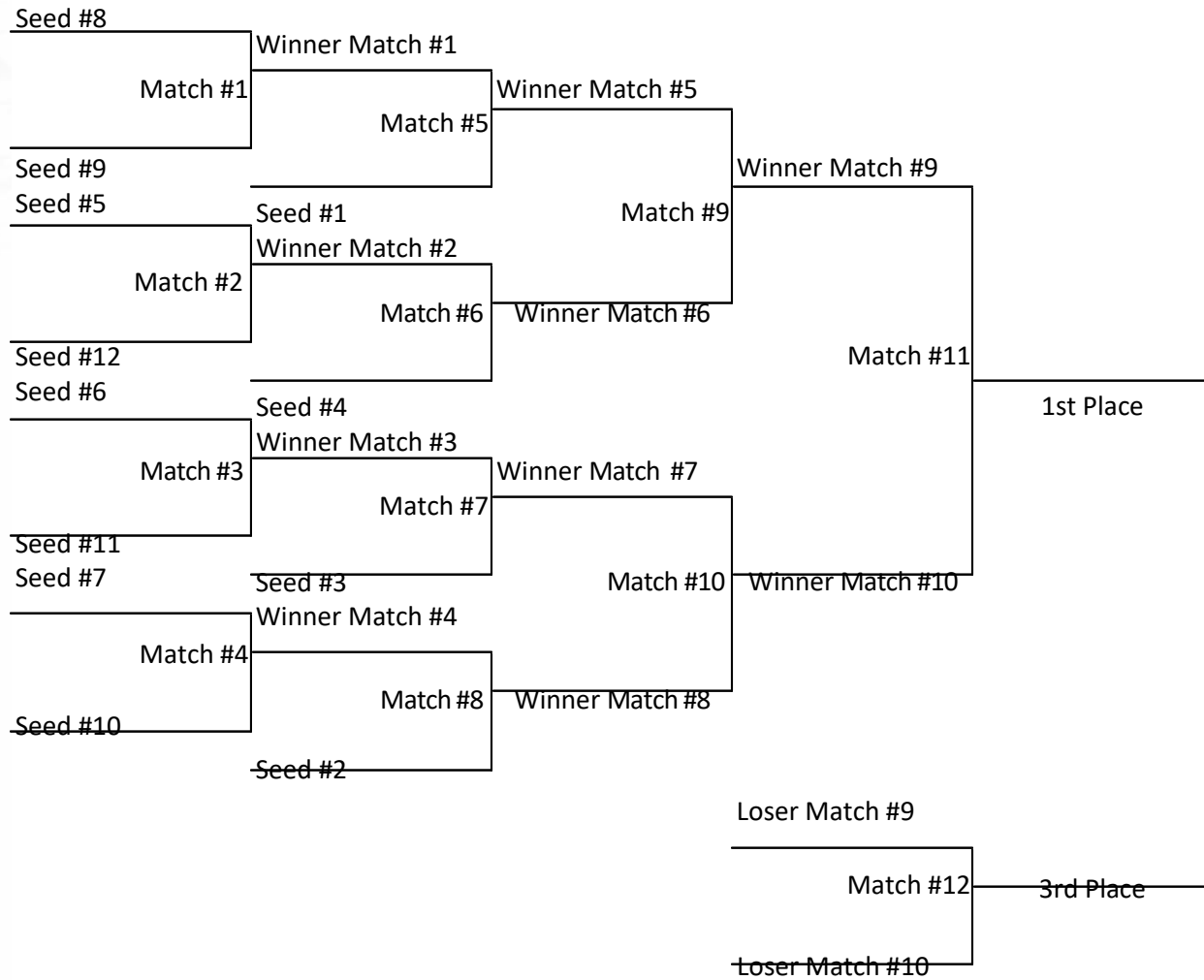
12.2 If you have further questions that the USAV Beach staff were not able to answer, please contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman at ombudsman@usathlete.org.

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ATTACHMENT A – 12 Team Playoff



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ATTACHMENT B – 16 Team Playoff

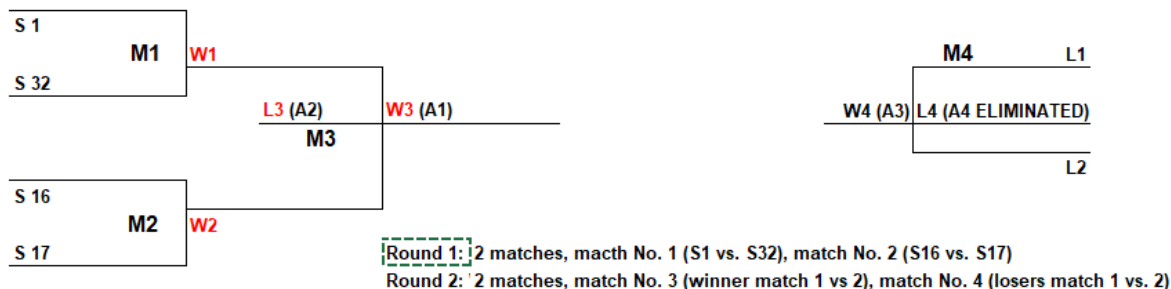
Pool Phase:

- 16 teams per gender will be placed into four (4) pools with four (4) teams each based on their seeding and will be placed per the serpentine principle.

Women's Teams and Men's Teams			
Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D
Seed #1	Seed #2	Seed #3	Seed #4
Seed #8	Seed #7	Seed #6	Seed #5
Seed #9	Seed #10	Seed #11	Seed #12
Seed #16	Seed #15	Seed #14	Seed #13

- Pool Phase is played through four (4) pools of four (4) teams each in a modified pool play where the highest seeded team will play the lowest seeded team in the same pool, while the 2nd highest seeded team will play the 3rd highest seeded team in the same pool. The winners of the above two matches will play each other, with the winner to top the pool and the loser as 2nd ranked team from the pool phase. The losers of the above two matches will play each other, with the winner as the 3rd ranked team from the pool phase and the loser eliminated from the Pool Phase.

GROUP



- The 1st, 2nd and 3rd ranked teams of each pool after the completion of the 1st phase advance to the 2nd phase of 12-teams bracket in single elimination format.

Single Elimination Phase:

- Matches will be played in the single elimination format by the teams qualified from the Pool Phase, until the semi-finals. The winners of semifinals will play each other for 1st place while the losers of semi-finals will play each other for 2nd place.

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