



BEACH VOLLEYBALL

***2026 RULES
MODIFICATIONS***

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Rules Overview



The NCAA competes using the **USA Volleyball Beach Rules** as the standard playing rules for the sport of NCAA Beach Volleyball. Teams shall abide by all USA Volleyball Beach Rules and these modifications for NCAA Beach Volleyball.

Any questions concerning rules and interpretations should be directed to:

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NCAA BEACH VOLLEYBALL RULES MODIFICATIONS

SIGNIFICANT RULE CHANGES AND CLARIFICATIONS (2025-2027 Beach Rules Book as Presented by USA Volleyball)

Please refer to page 12 of the 2025-2027 USA Volleyball Beach Rules Book for the full list of changes and clarifications.

NCAA DEFINITIONS

Team (overall):

- a. All players, coaches, trainers, managers and any other individuals who formally represent a single institution; and
- b. Is composed of five pairs (two-players) who represent a single institution in an event.

Event:

- a. A tournament that includes bracket play is an event in its entirety (i.e., conference tournament, NCAA tournament, etc.).
- b. A dual in which two teams, represented by five pairs, play each other is an event in its entirety.
 - (1) Officially recognized as an NCAA Beach Volleyball match.
 - (2) An event in which each pairs match result counts toward points to determine the result of the dual (a team win or a team loss).

Pairs:

- a. A two-player team representing a single institution.
- b. Identified on the team's **NCAA Beach Volleyball Dual Match Lineup Form**, in order of ability.

NOTE: For regulations governing Pairs, reference section 4.1, **Composition and Registration**.

Original Player:

- a. A player whose initial entry to the team lineup is as one of the ten (10) players comprising the official team lineup (pairs 1-5) for the team's first countable contest of the season.

Alternate Player:

- a. A player not having entered the team lineup as an original player.
 - (1) Alternate player names must be submitted on the team's **NCAA Dual Match Lineup Form**, in the lower left section titled *Alternates*.
 - (2) May compete in an exhibition match, which does not count for team's overall score and without losing their alternate player status.

NOTE: For regulations governing team lineups and player(s) movement(s), reference the *Team Lineups and Player Movement Regulations* section.

Removed Player:

- a. An original player who is removed from the team lineup, for any reason; and/or,
- b. An alternate player who initially enters the team lineup in position 1-5, is then moved up one position or down one position and is subsequently removed from the team lineup for any reason (reference **Player Movement Regulations** section, 2.a. EXCEPTION).

Thus, an alternate player COULD become a removed player. Only under specific conditions can a removed player become an alternate player.

NOTE: For regulations governing team lineups and player(s) movement(s), reference the *Team Lineups and Player Movement Regulations* section.

Prohibit the Use of Tobacco Products

The use of tobacco by student-athletes, or team or game personnel (e.g., coaches, athletic trainers, managers and game officials), is prohibited during competition.

Any student-athlete, or team or game personnel, who uses tobacco during competition shall be disqualified for the remainder of that competition.

RULES & MODIFICATIONS**1.2 Playing Surface**

If the beach courts are man-made, it is recommended that the sand be washed, screened and clean, round, sub-round or sub-angular in shape, and intermediate in sizing, at least 18 inches deep on the court and at least 12 inches deep in the free space. The sand should drain adequately for the site, a general guideline being 30 minutes from weather incident. If the courts are outdoors, the whiter the sand the more it will reduce relative heat gain. It is recommended that institutions allow beach volleyball athletes to evaluate the sand prior to purchase.

1.2.4 Grass courts are prohibited in NCAA competition.

1.2.6 Number of Courts: Two courts are required; however, three are recommended to conduct an NCAA Event. If an Event or Pairs match needs to be moved indoors to accommodate inclement weather, it may be played on one court, if there is only one court available (reference **Modification 1.5**, below).

1.2.7 Adjacent Courts: When building courts side by side, it is recommended that the free space be six meters. If adjacent courts are situated end line to end line, the recommendation is 9 meters of free space.

1.2.8 Net System: In permanent court setups, it is recommended that the posts anchoring the nets be fixed to the ground without wires, and that the posts be padded.

Note: Many Beach Volleyball courts will be built to accommodate both doubles play (16m x 8 m court) and fours or sixes (18m x 9 m court). Buried line anchors for two sets of lines can be placed at the corners of the court, but only one set of lines should be visible during play.

1.5 Weather

The weather must not present any danger of injury to the players.

Inclement weather. Collegiate beach volleyball is an outdoor sport. Events shall be played outdoors unless weather or court conditions threaten the health and safety of student-athletes. In the event of inclement weather, a Pairs match or Event shall be conducted indoors provided a regulation beach volleyball court(s) is available (reference Modification 1.2.6, above).

1.5.1 Determining playable outdoor weather conditions.

When on site within one hour before game time, the coaches of both teams and/or the on-site administrator shall decide whether a game shall not be started because of unsatisfactory conditions of weather or competition court.

Note: Guidelines for inclement weather conditions are outlined in the **NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook** under Section 2, Environmental Considerations.

1.5.2 Decision to suspend play.

Should inclement weather or unfit conditions exist during a match, the referee, in conjunction with the on-site administrator, shall be the final judge as to the suspension, resumption or termination of play.

If play is suspended due to weather conditions, it is suggested that play resume as soon as conditions allow.

Note: Guidelines for decision to suspend play are outlined in the **NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook** under Section 2B, Guideline 2B, Lightning Safety.

If a postponed Pairs match or Event can be scheduled within a 48-hour period, it shall resume at the point of suspension. Otherwise, the Pairs match or Event is not replayed or continued at a later date unless both coaches agree to do so or unless conference rules dictate otherwise.

2.2 Structure

Note to Rule 2.2: At the prerogative of the host institution, advertising (print or decal) may be placed on the top tape, top net sleeve, bottom tape and/or side bands.

Institutional logos and NCAA logo are also permitted. During NCAA championship events, commercial advertising is prohibited.

2.3 Side Bands

Note to Rule 2.3: At the prerogative of the host institution, advertising (print or decal) may be placed on the top tape, top net sleeve, bottom tape and/or side bands. Institutional logos and NCAA logo are also permitted. During NCAA championship events, commercial advertising is prohibited.

2.5 Posts

The posts supporting the net may be placed at an upright spread of 36'-37' to accommodate both collegiate beach Events and recreational play. If courts are built only to accommodate collegiate beach Events, the posts supporting the net should be placed at a distance of 0.70-1.00 m (27½" – 39") outside each side line to the post padding.

2.6 Additional Equipment

A referee stand with platform, a podium ladder, or a platform workstation for each competition court is mandatory in order for a contest to be countable. The platform may be either attached (to a permanently installed net standard) or may be free-standing. The platform should be adjustable in height, such that the referee's eye position shall be approximately 50 cm (19") above the top of the net. The platform should be constructed, positioned and padded such that it presents the least potential hazard for players while retaining maximal stability for the referee. Step ladders, jump boxes, and other devices not specifically designed as referee platforms shall not be used. The front and sides of the referee's platform shall be padded to a minimum height of 1.7 m (5'6") with at least 1.25 cm (1/2") thick, resilient, shock-absorbing material.

4.1 Team Composition And Registration

4.1.1 A team is composed of five pairs (two-players) who represent a single institution in an Event.

4.1.1.1 In sports other than football, an individual who coaches and either is uncompensated or receives compensation or remuneration of any sort from the institution, even if such compensation or remuneration is not designated for coaching, shall be designated as a head coach, assistant coach, or student assistant coach by certification of the institution. (per NCAA Bylaw 11.7.1).

4.1.1.2 In sports other than men's basketball and football, a non-coaching staff member with sport specific responsibilities (e.g., director of operations, administrative assistant) may participate in limited on-court or on-field activities (e.g., assist with drills, throw batting practice) during practice and competition involving student-athletes on a regular basis. A noncoaching staff member with sport-specific responsibilities is prohibited from participating with or observing student athletes in the staff member's sport who are engaged in nonorganized voluntary athletically related activities

(e.g., pick-up games) and is prohibited from signaling plays during practice and competition... (NCAA Bylaw 11.7.3).

- 4.1.1.3 There shall be a limit on the number of coaches (other than student assistant coaches per Bylaw 11.02.4) who may be employed by an institution and who may contact or evaluate prospective student-athletes off campus in each sport. (NCAA Bylaw 11.7.5).
- 4.1.1.4 In sports other than football, no individual other than coaches designated to fill the coaching limits set forth in Bylaw 11.7.5 may participate in any manner in the coaching of the intercollegiate team of a member institution during any game, practice or other organized activity... (NCAA Bylaw 11.7.5.4).

Only five (5) Pairs teams count in the scoring of an Event, either a dual or a tournament. Other Pairs may participate in exhibition matches or brackets, but their points do not count toward the team score for determining the winner of an Event.

Only the two players recorded on the score sheet (as listed on the **NCAA Beach Volleyball Dual Match Lineup Form**) have the right to participate in that Pairs match.

4.1.4 NCAA Match Standards

Coaching is permitted under the following guidelines. Coaches:

- 4.1.4.1 must be identified on the **NCAA Beach Volleyball Dual Match Lineup Form** as a coach, assistant coach, and/or volunteer coach and dress professionally, in shirt and shorts as a minimum requirement;
- 4.1.4.2 may not address the officials or attempt to influence their decisions at any time;
- 4.1.4.3 may perform drills with their team, on the playing court, until the conclusion of The Toss;
- 4.1.4.4 must leave the playing court at the conclusion of The Toss and may only instruct from the sideline during the shared, official warm up;
- 4.1.4.5 may not give instructions during play; may give instruction between rallies, during time outs, technical time-outs, court switches, and between sets;
- 4.1.4.6 while coaching a specific pairs match, must remain in the team area, and will switch sides with their team;
- 4.1.4.7 may suggest to the team captain, in a non-disruptive manner, the request for time-out;
- 4.1.4.8 are subject to sanction (individual misconduct or delay) for inappropriate behavior, for delay of the match, and/or for giving instruction(s) during play.

4.2 Location Of The Team

Team Areas and Location of Participants

The team areas must be at least 3 meters (9'10") from the sideline. If two courts are side-by-side, the team areas shall be placed on the outside of each court. If multiple courts are placed side-by-side, the team areas shall be placed in the end zone free space unless there is at least 6 meters of free space between the courts. Participant chairs may be removed during play and only used during breaks if necessitated by space constraints.

- 4.2.1 Only the players recorded on the scoresheet for the current match, along with their coaches, are allowed in the playable area and in the team areas. All other members of a team must remain outside of the playable area. In venues comprised of adjacent courts, only when play concludes on an adjacent court and is no longer active, other members of a team are permitted to occupy that court for purposes of cheering for and supporting their competing teammates. These other members of a team will switch sides of the adjacent court at the same time as their competing teammates. No replays will be granted due to interference by one's own teammates.

SPECIAL NOTE: USA Volleyball 2025-2027 Beach Rules Book Rule 1 defines playing area.

4.3 Equipment

- 4.3 A player's equipment consists of uniform bottoms with at least a one-inch inseam. A jersey or "tank-top" is required (Reference 4.3.d. and 4.3.3.). Players may wear a hat or sunglasses at their own discretion (or risk).

NCAA: When engaged in competition, each competitor must wear an official team uniform with components governed by these modifications or be subject to sanction. Wearing any part of the official team uniform illegally (i.e., top off or intentionally shortened, shoulder straps lowered) while in the area of competition shall lead to a warning by the official that, repeated violations may result in disciplinary action.

- a. A uniform consists of two school-issued components – uniform bottoms and a top. A one-piece body suit is acceptable as a combination of the two components. Any outerwear (i.e. sweatshirt, sweatpants, jacket, etc.) that is school-issued becomes the official uniform, when worn. Outerwear may vary in style across the venue, but must in all cases fit within the institution's color scheme. If worn during play, outerwear should display the player's unique uniform number. Common example: Institutional track suit with player number on jacket top and pant.
- b. The uniform must be of a material and design deemed to not be objectionable or offensive by the athletics department of the issuing institution.

- c. The uniform top (jersey or “tank-top”) must, by design and size, cover the full length of the torso, meeting or hanging below the waistband of the bottoms, while the competitor is standing.
- d. All players representing an institution should be dressed in similar school uniforms so that they are readily recognizable across the venue. All players should be in matching uniform tops. Sleeve length may vary, but color must be the same. Uniform bottoms may differ in style and cut, provided the color and trim is identical (i.e., players could wear shorts, spandex of varying length, pants and/or skirts). Manufacturers’ logos and lettering on uniforms are not required to be identical.
 - Players’ uniform tops must be numbered from 0 through 99 inclusively. Duplicate numbers may not be worn. (Reference 4.3.3.2).

Penalty: Players are required to be in official team uniform at the start of the official warm-up (Reference **GUIDELINES FOR WARM-UP PROCEDURES (PRE-MATCH)** presented at the end of this document). Failure to adhere to this requirement is grounds for sanction, including match forfeiture.

- e. Other than the approved uniform above, players may wear cold weather gear. Cold weather gear must fit within the institution’s color scheme on site.
 - Cold weather gear is worn under the uniform and must be form fitting. These items must be of solid color. Common example: long-sleeved black compression shirt or blue compression pant.
- f. Personal Items:
 - Hats, visors, sunglasses and sand-socks are considered optional personal items. Hats or visors should be of school issue and color.
 - No display of any advertisement, slogan, etc. is allowed on any personal item at any time.

Logo Policy

An institution’s official team uniform and all other items of apparel (e.g., socks, headbands, t-shirts, wristbands, visors or hats, swim caps and towels) that are worn by student-athletes in competition, practice, and official championship functions may bear a single manufacturer’s or distributor’s normal trademark, not to exceed 2¼ square inches, including any additional material (e.g., patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo. The logo or trademark must be contained within a four-sided geometrical figure (i.e., rectangle, square, parallelogram).

In addition, an institution’s official uniform cannot bear a design element similar to the manufacturer’s that is in addition to another logo or that is contrary to the size restriction. These restrictions apply to all apparel worn by student-athletes during the conduct of competition, which includes any practice, pregame or postgame activities.

The logo restrictions on student-athletes' apparel set forth in Bylaw 22.4 shall apply during NCAA championships to all personnel (e.g., coaches, trainers, managers) who are on the team bench for practices and games or who participate in NCAA news conferences. Please note that contracts between institutions and apparel manufacturers or distributors that include logo specifications may be honored, provided such contracts were in effect before August 11, 1998. The logo restrictions on student-athletes' apparel set forth in 22.4 shall apply to commercial logos on uniforms worn by band members, cheerleaders, dance team members and the institution's mascot during NCAA championship events.

Playing Rules Changes Related to Commemorative/Memorial Uniform Patches

In an effort to allow student-athletes the opportunity to use the uniform to voice their opinions and/or express support of racial and social justice, PROP reviewed the current uniform rules across all sports. Although the rules currently vary from sport-to-sport, PROP voted to direct all playing rules committees to implement the following policies for all sports effective with the 2020-21 seasons:

As authorized by the institution or conference, allow a commemorative/memorial patch (e.g., names, mascots, nicknames, logos, and marks intended to celebrate or memorialize persons, events, or other causes).

- The patch must not exceed 2¼-square inches and must be placed on the front or sleeve of the uniform and may not interfere with any required markings.
- While not all team members are required to wear the patch, the patch must be identical for those who choose to wear the patch.

As authorized by the institution or conference, allow other names/words intended to celebrate or memorialize persons, events, or other causes on the back of the jersey/uniform where the player name is traditionally located. The names/words may vary by team member.

4.3.3

4.3.3.1 Player's uniform top must be uniquely numbered **on the front and back of the jersey.**

4.3.3.2 A player number with Arabic numerals.

- a. Each team member's game jersey shall be numbered on the front and back. The number shall be centered on the back of the jersey. In the front, the number must be either centered or placed on one shoulder with the top of the number no more than 5 inches down from the shoulder seam.
- b. Player's game jerseys may be numbered from 0 through 99 inclusively. Duplicate numbers may not be worn.
- c. The number shall be at least 6 inches high on the back and at least 4 inches high on the front and not less than 1-inch wide.

The number shall be one single solid color that contrasts the jersey color and may be bordered by no more than a ½-inch border of any color(s).

4.4 Change Of Equipment

It is required that the visiting team ensure its uniform top is of a contrasting color to that selected by the home team. **Exception:** *Tournament brackets may designate uniform color. When competing team's uniforms do not contrast, the visiting team must change uniforms. Note: For NCAA championship play, the respective NCAA Beach Volleyball Committee may elect to create a different method to select contrasting uniform colors, provided it is formally declared before the start of the championship round.*

5.1 Captain

Note to Rule 5.1: There shall be a captain designated for each Pairs team.

6.3 To Win The Match

- 6.3.1 A pairs match is won by the pairs team that wins two sets.
- 6.3.2 In case of a 1-1 tie, the deciding (3rd) set is played to 15 points with a minimum lead of 2 points.
- 6.3.3 A Dual. The format is five best-of-three set, pairs matches. Each pairs match is worth one point. The dual is won by the team that wins the majority of pairs matches (i.e. best 3 of 5 pairs matches). Three or more points are required to win a team match.
 - 6.3.3.1 All pairs matches should be played to completion, unless there are extenuating circumstances.
 - 6.3.3.2 An unfinished pairs match will be treated as a default by the withdrawing team, unless the decision not to finish is mutually made by both coaches.

For a tournament to count toward the sport sponsorship minimum, an institution must field five pairs' teams. All institutions competing in the tournament do not need to field five pairs' teams, but only those institutions fielding five pairs' teams may count the dates toward minimum requirements. Those institutions fielding less than five pairs teams must still count all dates of the tournament toward the maximum requirement. (NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3.9).

7.4 Positions

- 7.4.1.1 The server shall be on the playing surface to receive authorization for service.
- 7.4.1.2 Service must be initiated within the playing area and from a legal playing surface.

SPECIAL NOTE: USA Volleyball 2025-2027 Beach Rules Book Rule 1 defines playing area, while Rule 1.2 defines playing surface.

15.4 Time-Outs And Technical Time-Outs

- 15.4.1 Time-out requests must be made by showing the corresponding hand signal, when the ball is out of play and before the whistle for service. All requested time-outs last for 60 seconds.

15.4.2 In sets 1 and 2, one additional 60-second “Technical Time-Out” is applied automatically when the sum of the points scored by the teams equals 21 points.

15.4.3 In the deciding (3rd) set, there are no “Technical Time-Outs”; only one time-out of 60 seconds duration may be requested by each pairs team.

19.1 Sportsmanlike Conduct: Both Players and Coaches

19.1.1 Participants must know the “Official Beach Volleyball Rules” and these *NCAA Beach Volleyball Rules Modifications* and abide by them.

19.1.2 Participants must accept referees’ decision with respectful conduct, without disputing them. In case of doubt, clarification may be requested.

19.1.2.1 Either player may make this request.

20 MISCONDUCT AND ITS SANCTIONS

Coaching

- a. *When coaching is allowed.* Coaches shall be designated before the pairs matches and listed on the **NCAA Beach Volleyball Dual Match Lineup Form**. lineup sheet. A coach may not interfere with play or coach verbally or by signaling during other times than specified in **Modification 4.1.4.5**. Use of electronic communication devices (e.g. walkie-talkies and cell phones) is prohibited.
- b. **Penalties for inappropriate coaching.**
 - (1) Language during a rally that offers instructional content or that might affect the rally in play is immediately sanctioned (First instance = Yellow; Second instance = Red).
 - (2) Coaches are NOT allowed to interact directly with the officials during a match (First instance = Yellow; Second instance = Red).
 - (3) Captains should know that they have the right to occasionally ask referees for explanations of decisions, or clarifications of rules.
- c. *Who may coach?* **Refer to Rule Modification 4.1 TEAM COMPOSITION AND REGISTRATION.**
- d. *Conversations of coach with opposing player banned.* A coach shall not initiate a conversation with the opposing player or in any way get involved with an on-court problem, except at the request of the referee, or the player or the coach of the player involved. At no time should a player initiate a conversation with an opposing coach. Violations of these provisions by the coach are subject to misconduct.

TEAM LINEUPS AND PLAYER MOVEMENT REGULATIONS

Team Lineups

A completed **NCAA Beach Volleyball - Regular Season Dual Match Lineup Form** (team lineup) is required for each event. The team lineup must be submitted to the

Head/Lead Referee one hour before the start of play, or 15 minutes before the start time of the next dual, if playing back-to-back duals, at which time, the lineup is official.

Coaches are responsible to position their pairs (positions 1-5) in order of ability for ALL matches from the first match of the season to the last match of the season. Within this guideline:

- a. Player movement within the team lineup is restricted to one position up or down from one event to another.

Examples:

- (1) *A player currently listed in a 3 position may be moved up one position in the lineup to a 2 position, or may be moved down one position in the lineup to a 4 position.*
 - (2) *A player currently listed in a 1 position may be moved down one position in the lineup to a 2 position.*
- b. Changes to the official lineup must be reported immediately to the Head/Lead Referee. The Head/Lead Referee will share the lineup changes with the opponent's head coach as soon as possible.
 - (1) For purposes of lineup changes, a dual, a tournament that includes bracket play, and a bracketed pair's tournament are different events, even if played on the same day or at the same site on simultaneous days.
 - (2) A coach may make lineup changes from one event to another as long as they stay within the one position parameter for moving players.
 - (3) Lineup changes resulting from Player injury or illness are allowed and subject to the Lineup Adjustments detailed on page 14.

Player Movement Regulations:

A player may initially enter the team lineup in one of two (2) ways:

1. **As an original player.**

Furthermore, an original player who is removed from the team lineup:

- a. Is immediately added to the Removed Players section located on the bottom right of the team's *NCAA Dual Match Lineup Form*, and
- b. May ONLY re-enter the team lineup into the position which the student-athlete last played. The student-athlete may be moved from there in **subsequent** matches (see a. in *Team Lineups* section above).

2. **From the alternate player list.**

An alternate may initially enter the lineup in any position, 1-5.

Furthermore, an alternate player who is removed from the team lineup:

- a. Is returned to the Alternate Players list, thus retaining the status of alternate player.
EXCEPTION: an alternate player who initially enters the team lineup in position 1-5, is then;
 - (1) *moved up one position, in the case of initial entry into positions 2-5, or*
 - (2) *moved down one position, in the case of initial entry into positions 1-4, and is subsequently removed from the team lineup. In these cases, if/when this player is removed from the team lineup, the student-athlete loses their alternate player status, is now considered a Removed Player, and is subject to the re-entry guidelines in 1.b immediately above.*
- b. Is then limited to returning to the team lineup in either of the following two scenarios:
 - (1) The student-athlete may return to the position into which they last played, and may be moved from there in subsequent matches (see EXCEPTION above); or
 - (2) The student-athlete may return in the five (5) position, and may be moved from there in subsequent matches (see EXCEPTION above).
- c. The one-up/one-down regulation applies to pair's events also (i.e., a No. 1 team cannot play in the No. 3 spot or vice-versa).

Lineup Adjustments.

- a. A Player may be removed from the official team lineup in the event of injury or illness and until The Toss (as defined by Rule 7.1 in the USA Volleyball 2025-2027 Beach Rules Book) for the affected Pairs match. It is the responsibility of the team's Head Coach to timely report Player replacement details to the Head/Lead Referee and without delay to the resumption of the Official Warm-Up. When a Player is removed:
 - (1) A direct position replacement by an eligible Alternate Player or an eligible Removed Player is allowed.
 - (i) Absent an eligible replacement player, the affected Pairs team is declared INCOMPLETE for that match, and that Pairs match will be recorded as a forfeit.
 - (2) The Player's name is immediately added to the Removed Players section located on the bottom right of the team's official lineup.

- (3) The Player is ineligible to return to competition for the dual from which the student-athlete was removed.
- (4) The Player is eligible to return to the team's official lineup in a subsequent dual as defined in
 - (i) Player Movement Regulations section, 1.b, and
 - (ii) Lineup Adjustments section, b.

Note: Within the above parameters, and for purposes of accurate recording of Match Last Played, the Player who is removed is NOT considered to have played in that match.

b. If a student-athlete is out of the lineup for a significant amount of time due to injury, academics, etc., the NCAA Women's Beach Volleyball Committee has adopted a protocol to adjust a student-athlete's returning spot. If a student-athlete is out:

- (1) 12 full duals – the student-athlete may return two spots lower in the lineup than where they went out.
- (2) 16 full duals – the student-athlete may return three spots lower in the lineup than where they went out.
- (3) 20 full duals – the student-athlete's status may reset to full alternate status.

Transfers at quarter break or student-athletes joining the beach team from the court team after the beach season has started should be placed in the lineup by ability.

Team that has an insufficient number of players. A team appearing with an insufficient number of players shall default matches at the bottom of the lineup. If the No. 1 doubles team is not available to compete, all doubles teams must move up one position. The No. 1 doubles match cannot be forfeited. The minimum number of players for a dual-meet match is six physically able players. A team that does not meet this minimum must forfeit the match.

21.1 Composition

One referee required.

Players from non-competing teams may keep score, serve as a line judge, or serve as the second referee.

24 Scorer

- 24.1.1 It is acceptable that the First Referee (R1) or the Second Referee (R2) fill the role of official scorer in collegiate volleyball. This requisite act may be performed by either, from their designated location.

SPECIAL NOTE: The use and completion of an NCAA Beach Volleyball Scoresheet is required.

GUIDELINES FOR WARM-UP PROCEDURES (PRE-MATCH)

For NCAA Collegiate Beach competition: Ten minutes are allowed for warm-up. Formally, this period includes one minute to conduct the coin toss with a player

representative from each competing pairs team and eight minutes of formal timed warm-up. Pairs teams share the entire court throughout the 10-minute period. One coach (identified on the NCAA Beach Volleyball Dual Match Lineup Form as coach, assistant coach, and/or volunteer coach) from each institution may remain on the playing court until the conclusion of the coin toss. Players are required to be in and remain in uniform at this time.

Formal Warm-Up Protocol

- 10 The toss
- 9 Start eight-minute formal timed warm-up (coaches must leave the playing court)
- 1 End warm-up, teams to pre-determined team area, referee(s) to designated location
- Final court grooming procedures
- 0 Teams to end-lines (respective to team area)
- First Referee (R1) whistles and signals to invite teams to the net to shake hands with opponent
- First Referee (R1) starts the match

SPECIAL NOTE: In certain circumstances (i.e., broadcast or court maintenance demands), the warm-up protocol may be modified. Below is an example of the modified warm-up procedure used at previous NCAA DI National Championships

- 11 The toss
- 10 Start eight-minute formal timed warm-up (coaches must leave the playing court)
- 2 End warm-up, teams to pre-determined team area, referee(s) to designated location
- Final court grooming procedures
- 0 Same as above

Appendix A

Rules of the Game and their NCAA Modifications: Interpretations

SITUATION: If there is a debate on the score in the score book, it's my understanding that officials can reference the SID/live stats available of that match.

RULING: Across the board, any scoring discrepancies at a collegiate beach event are managed by the match official (and/or the head referee, when one is identified) and resolved, immediately, and without consultation of video, live stats, and/or input from the 'benches'. That said, and in the absence of a written policy as part of the USA Volleyball Rule Book and the NCAA NC Beach Volleyball Rules Modifications, I believe that the conference would be empowered to establish a written policy. (3/24/24)

SITUATION: Is there an official NCAA order of match play for beach volleyball duals when there are fewer than 5 courts?

RULING: The NCAA does not have an official order of play/competition for pairs matches in a dual match-up. There are several variations of order of play and various factors that get considered when making a determination.

CHAPTER 1: FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

RULE 1

SITUATION: Is there a last dual must start by time? (E.g., Softball has no game can start after 11 pm.)

RULING: There is no such specific time restriction in the existing NCAA NC Beach Volleyball Rules of the Game Modifications. (3/21/24)

RULE 2

SITUATION: Is there a penalty on the home team if ref stands are not available for duals?

RULING: NCAA Rules Modifications state that a compliant referee stand is required in order for the contest to be countable. (1/19/24)

CHAPTER 2: PARTICIPANTS

RULE 4.1 AND 4.2

SITUATION: During our match today we had a question about coaches coaching between points (not TO's or side switches). The official told us that coaches are allowed to briefly coach between points, like "don't hit that drop shot," and that this has been in effect for two years. Can you help clarify?

RULING: This is an incorrect interpretation/application of the guidelines governing permissible collegiate beach coaching. The current USA Volleyball Rules (Rule 4.1.4.5) and NCAA NC Beach Volleyball Rules Modifications (Section 4.1.4 NCAA MATCH STANDARDS) speak to this matter. Coaches "...may not give instructions during play, may give instruction only during time outs, technical time-outs, side changes, and between sets..." (4.1.4.5, pg. 3).

What has been interpreted as allowable between rallies ("between points") is that coaches, when present, may cheer the exceptional play, but may only instruct during timeouts, side-changes, and between sets. (3/24/24)

SITUATION: How many coaches are allowed in the box?

RULING: Modification 4.2.1 (pg. 4) states, in part: ... Only the players recorded on the scoresheet for the current match, along with their coaches, are allowed in the playable area and in the team areas...

Modification 4.2.1, SPECIAL NOTE (pg. 4) states: USA Volleyball 2025-2027 Beach Rules Book Rule 1 defines playing area.

Modification 4.1.1.3 (pg. 3) states: There shall be a limit on the number of coaches (other than graduate student coaches per Bylaw 11.02.3 and student assistant coaches per Bylaw 11.02.4) who may be employed by an institution and who may contact or evaluate prospective student-athletes off campus in each sport. For the sport of Women's Beach Volleyball that number is three (3) (NCAA Bylaw 11.7.5). (3/11/23, modified 3/24/24)

RULE 4.3

SITUATION: Jerseys to be SAME COLOR across the venue (and rounds) but sleeve length may vary? To confirm that TANKS may be interspersed along with Short-sleeve and long-sleeve?

RULING: Yes. Color must be the same, but sleeve length may vary. This is to say that tanks may be interspersed along with short-sleeve and long-sleeve. (2/26/24)

SITUATION: Is this a legal pairs uniform combination?



RULING: Yes. The current rules modifications on this subject are clear. Modification 4.3.d. (pg. 4) states, in part: ... Uniform bottoms may differ in style and cut, provided the color and trim is identical (i.e., players could wear shorts, spandex of varying length, pants and/or skirts). (3/17/23)

SITUATION: While in the area of competition (i.e., court(s) being utilized for individual pairs or team warm-up or cool-down activities, area(s) surrounding the playing area), a team's coach allows one or more members of the team to wear part of the official team uniform illegally (i.e. top off or intentionally shortened, shoulder strap(s) lowered). The official notifies the coach that this is in violation of NCAA Rules Modifications. Is the official correct or incorrect?

RULING: The official is correct. NCAA Rules Modification 4.3 states, "...Wearing any part of the official team uniform illegally (i.e., top off or intentionally shortened, shoulder straps lowered) while in the area of competition shall lead to a warning by the official that, repeated violations may result in disciplinary action."

SITUATION: I want to confirm that the shorts/bottoms or other allowed options do NOT have to be numbered.

RULING: NCAA Rules Modifications requires that player's game jerseys must be uniquely numbered on the front and back of the jersey. No such requirement exists regarding a player's competition uniform bottoms and aligns with the USAV Rules Book which states that players' shorts do not require numbers (Rule 4.3.3, pg. 22).

However, Rule 4.3.3.1 specifies that a uniform number, when included on a uniform bottom, must be placed on the front of the shorts (pg. 22). (1/25/23, modified 3/24/24)

RULE 4.3.2

SITUATION: Are shoes allowed to be worn during competition?

RULING: Upon a more thorough examination of the USAV Rules Book, the FIVB Beach Volleyball Rules' Casebook, the FIVB Referee Guidelines and Instructions document, and the NCAA Rules Modifications document, my short answer is YES, the athlete is allowed to wear shoes. Here's why:

- The 2025-2027 USAV Rules Book states (Rule 4.3.2, pg. 24): Players must play barefoot except when authorized by the 1st referee.
- The 2024 NCAA Beach Volleyball Rules Modifications states (Modification 4.3.f., page 4): Personal Items: Hats, visors, sunglasses and sand-socks are considered optional personal items...
- The 2022 FIVB Beach Volleyball Rules' Casebook states (Part II, Chapter 2-Participants, Players Equipment, 2.2.6, page 7): Can a player play with sand socks? Ruling Yes, upon request to the 1st Referee the players are allowed to wear footwear various types including socks, rubber booties or shoes.
- The 2021-2022 FIVB Beach Volleyball Refereeing Guidelines and Instructions state (Section 4. Teams, item 7., page 4): 7. The FIRST REFEREE may authorize players to wear footwear (socks/shoes). Note: Use of footwear may be appropriate because of sand conditions or possible injury, but players must receive the authorization of the FIRST REFEREE before using socks/shoes.

Finally, I don't know that leaving the decision in the hands of the first referee, solely, is completely appropriate. I think that at the college level, the athlete's or on-site medical or athletic training staff must have a voice. (3/14/23, modified 3/24/24)

RULE 4.3.3.2

SITUATION: Are these uniform numbers legal?



RULING: Rule Modification 4.3.3 states that the number shall be one single solid color that contrasts the jersey color. These jerseys are black and purple. The numbers are black. By definition, “contrast” is the state of being strikingly different from something else in juxtaposition or close association. On this basis and accepting this definition, these uniforms are not legal. (3/19/23)

TEAM LINEUPS AND TEAM MOVEMENT REGULATIONS

SITUATION: Can you send me the rule as it is written on spirit of the lineup?

RULING: Both the NCAA BEACH VOLLEYBALL RULES MODIFICATIONS and the EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT: Team Lineups and Player Movement Regulation documents address lineup regulations. As it relates to your request, I would direct you to the Team Lineups section on page 7 in the former document and on the latter document, to page 1 in the Lineup Regulations Made Simple(r) section. (3/21/24)