2026
Beach Volleyball Competition Guide

Volleyball Nova Scotia offers beach volleyball competitions for registered adult and youth players.

ELIGIBILITY

Any person with a Recreational Player membership or above with any Provincial Volleyball Association in Canada will be eligible to play upon confirmation from the host province.

AGE CATEGORIES

- Senior Men's
- Senior Women's
- 18U Boys: Athletes born after September 1, 2007
- 16U Boys: Athletes born after September 1, 2009
- 14U Boys: Athletes born after September 1, 2011
- 18U Girls: Athletes born after September 1, 2007
- 16U Girls: Athletes born after September 1, 2009
- 14U Girls: Athletes born after September 1, 2011

Youth players are permitted to play in the Senior division provided all registration regulations are met.

TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES

Senior - $75
Youth - $75

PRIZES

The following guidelines will be followed when issuing prizing unless otherwise indicated by the tournament hosts.

Adult - prize pots are doubled for NS Championships

# of Teams	Prize
5 teams or less	1st: $100
6 to 10 teams	1st: $200 2nd: $100
11 to 15 teams	1st: $400 2nd: $150
16 to 20 teams	1st: $600 2nd: $200
More than 20 teams	1st: $800 2nd: $250

Youth

Various Prizes for 1st and 2nd place

BEACH TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

- Official Volleyball - Mikasa VLS300
- We will strive for Youth & Adult events to be one day, with the exception of NS Championships which will be spread out over 2 days.
- Teams will play a maximum of 6 matches in one day
- Teams will sit a maximum of 3 matches (rounds) in a row
- Volleyball Canada and Volleyball Nova Scotia rules (within this document) will apply including rules of play and tie-breaking procedures.
- Age categories may be combined should less than 6 teams register in any one age category.
- For player safety, if a thunderstorm is imminent, all play will stop to protect the athletes. Play will resume once there has been 30 minutes with no lightning strike in the area.
- Even in the presence of rain, play will continue, unless the conditions create adverse court conditions which affect play.
- After the first round is done, the next set of teams will have 10 minutes of warm-up before their game. To ensure that the flow of the tournament continues, please make sure to abide by this guideline.
- Most VNS events will be self-refereed, with the playing teams responsible for refereeing and scorekeeping their own match. On occasion, teams may be assigned officiating duties throughout tournaments. If a team misses an assignment, they will be fined $50/match that must be paid before the team can play in the next tournament. If these fines are not paid, they will carry over into the following year.
- 1-2 Referee Supervisors for the tournament will be assigned, they will guide play during the tournament, and referee the tournament finals if possible.
    - If there is a discrepancy in a call, the Tournament Referee Supervisor shall mediate and decide the course of action.

Medical (VC Medical Policy)

- **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 HERE.
- **Medical Time-Outs**
    - Medical time-outs will be administered in accordance with the Medical Time -Outs Policy. Teams are expected to review this policy in advance of a 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 director/referee
    - Are limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes, starting from the arrival of the staff/referee on court
    - Do not permit players to leave the playing area other than to retrieve something from a bag/etc.
    - 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 and the remaining set(s)/match will be forfeited (see forfeiture/disqualification details on pg. 6)

NET HEIGHTS

Age Category	Girls	Boys
14U	2.15m	2.20m
16U	2.24m	2.35m
18U & Senior	2.24m	2.43m

AGE SPECIFIC RULES

First Contact Rule (Volleyball Canada, 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U)

- Receiving serve or first contact with an overhand motion using the fingers (volleying/setting) is not permitted, regardless of the quality of the contact.
- The first referee will use the "double contact" signal to indicate this infraction.
- Exception: Hard driven ball.

Second Contact Rule (Volleyball Canada 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U)

- On a team's second hit, contacting the ball more than once with fingers (double contact) in a single attempt to play the ball is not a fault if the ball is next legally contacted by a teammate.

Serve Receive Rule (Volleyball Canada 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U)

- In sets 1 and 2 of a match, up until the technical timeout, the last player to serve for their team (at the moment of service hit by the opposing team) must be positioned closer to the right sideline than their teammate. These court positions must be maintained (for service reception) until the team regains the right to serve.

Coaching Guidelines (Volleyball Canada 12U-18U)

- Volleyball Nova Scotia defines coaching as advice, instruction, or external assistance of any kind to a team/player.
- Coaches must self-identify to staff at the VNS Beach Hut and get a COACH lanyard which is to be worn at all times during a match in which your team is participating. Coaches must also self-identify to the opposing team prior to the beginning of the match.
- Coaching during breaks in play is permissible (timeouts, between sets).
- Coaching during play is not permitted.

TOURNAMENT SEEDING

Teams will be seeded in the event based on the following:

1. Current standing in Volleyball Nova Scotia Leagues
2. At the discretion of Volleyball Nova Scotia Staff

SCORING & TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURES

How to break a tie after pool play

Between two (2) teams:

- The winner of head-to-head match is ranked higher.
- If still tied, the ranking is determined by the set win-loss ratio in all pool play matches, the team with the highest ratio is ranked higher;
- If still tied, the team with higher rally point ratio in the matches between all teams in the pool, is ranked higher;

Between three (3) teams:

- The ranking is determined by the set win-loss ratios in matches between the (3) tied teams, the team with the highest ratio is ranked higher;
- The ranking is determined by the rally point ratio in the matches between the

three (3) tied teams;
- If still tied, then the teams still tied are ranked by the set win-loss ratios in matches between all teams in the pool;
- If still tied, then the teams still tied are ranked by the rally point ratios between all teams in the pool;
- If still tied, then the ranking of teams still tied is determined by the tournament seeding established after the Main Draw Preliminary Inquiry and the better seed of the tied teams will be higher ranked (for example, seed #15 is ranked higher than seed #18, while seed #18 is ranked higher than seed #31).

Points in case of Forfeit/Disqualification

- If a team withdraws due to an injury before or during a match or gets disqualified during a match it will keep the sets and points earned up to that moment, but the remaining sets and points against will be the maximum.
    - For example, if a team wins the first set 21:19 and is injured and forfeits the match when they are winning the second set 6:4, this injured team would lose the match 1-2 with rally points of 21:19, 6:21 and 0:15. In this example, the winning team would get the match win 2-1, and rally points of 19:21, 21:6, 15:0. In addition, the match result will be marked with "INJ/DSQ".
- If the injury occurs before the match begins, the match will be marked "INJ/DSQ" and the losing team will have a match loss of 0-2, and rally points of 0:21, 0:21. In this case, the winning team will be awarded a match win with a set win of 2-0 and rally points of 21:0, 21:0.

Note: The tie-breaker to break ties amongst pools is different (e.g. if you need to determine who is the best 2nd place team). In this case, the tie would be broken by the match points, then set ratio, then rally point ratio, then finally if still tied, a draw.

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