

OKRVA Beach Regional Qualifier (BRQ) Event Requirement Guide

Approved by OKRVA Beach Committee on April 21, 2025.

Approved changes for the 2025 season highlighted in red.

NOTICE: OKRVA has the right to adjust/change/update any content of this document at any time.

Beach Regional Qualifier events are solely run and operated by the Regional Volleyball Associations and all OKRVA registered beach clubs must comply with the parameters set forth by USAV and in the latest USA National Beach Tour Qualifier and Championship Manual.

The requirements and guidance within this document are intended to be a resource to those hosting and attending BRQs sanctioned by the Oklahoma Region.

Please also review the full USAV Beach Tour Qualifier manual. **Be sure to note which requirements are for National Qualifiers (BNQ) as compared to Regional Qualifiers (BRQ).**

OVERVIEW:

The primary purpose of the BRQs is to select, through tournament competition, teams in various age divisions to compete at the National Beach Tour Junior Championships (NBTJC).

There are several secondary purposes for the BRQs, including:

- Provide a high level of competition for teams at different levels within each age division.
- Showcase junior talent for college recruiters and National Team programs.
- Promote the growth and development of volleyball in a geographic area.
- Provide a training ground for officials.

Up to the top three (3) finishing teams in the Gold playoff bracket per gender and age group will receive bids into the National Beach Tour Junior Championships (see additional bid distribution requirements in the section below “BRQ BID BREAKDOWN”).

- Girls will receive bids and bid certificates to the American/BRQ Division.
- Boys will receive bids and bid certificates to the Open/BNQ Division.

EVENT FORMAT:

Teams are comprised of two (2) male or two (2) female players. Coed teams are not allowed. The USA National Beach Ranking System will be used to seed teams in all BRQs.

BRQ events shall plan for no more than 6 teams per available court in any given wave. Bracket play is expected to follow pool play within a reasonable amount of time unless specified at the time of registration.

All Gold playoff brackets are to have match play (2 games/sets to 21 points, tie breaker to 15 points) for final, and 3rd place games, unless ALL players unanimously agree to other parameters. Match play also encouraged for semi-final rounds if circumstances allow. A team cannot be eliminated from Gold Bracket play due to a tie unless there is a clear head-to-head tie-break or set record winner.

- If ALL players make the decision to do set play instead of full match play, set play must be no less than one set to 21 points/win by two points/no cap.

Pool play is to have a minimum of one (1) set to 21 points/win by two points. Pool play may be capped.

In efforts to increase BOYS participation, if there are two (2) or less boys teams per division, then the following adjustments in format are permitted:

1. Combining boys' division age groups (12U & 14U, 14U & 16U, 16U & 18U) to create a minimum of 3-team pools.
2. Combine the boys teams with the girls teams in the age group deemed appropriate by the tournament director.
 - a. This should NOT prevent girls teams from making the playoffs or affect their seeding out of pool play.
 - b. Boys teams will NOT advance to a bracket that will compete for eligible girls BRQ bids, but may be placed in a "non-bid" girls bracket as appropriate.
3. The above mentioned adjustments are NOT rules but rather guidelines. If the host/director elects to follow these guidelines, they need to assess the ability of the boys to determine which girls age/division would be most appropriate for the boys to compete in as eligible.

Time outs: Both team timeouts and technical timeouts may be extended to a maximum duration of sixty (60) seconds, EXCLUDING time to/from a player box (or other area within reasonable proximity if no player box is provided).

Tournament Directors are allowed to adjust game play (for safety concerns) before either pool play or before bracket play begins. Once play has started either for pool play or bracket play, the game format cannot change. If needed, for weather or other factors, events may opt to

adjust start waves at any time during the day. All events being played in the evening must ensure adequate lighting is provided.

The Event Host is responsible for determining exact start times and notifying participants of any weather-related delays.

REPORTING SERVICES:

BRQ event hosts shall utilize their own VolleyballLife.com account or other software/internet reporting services that have the capability of **seeding AND reporting** results to USAV. BRQ event hosts are also responsible for submitting results for inclusion in the USAV Ranking System.

All BRQ events shall be seeded utilizing the USA National Beach Ranking. After players with seeding points in the system are seeded, players without points in the system should be seeded by random seeding.

VolleyballLife.com should include all of the above requirements and options as part of their account services. If using an alternate account service, all of the requirements must still be followed.

For those hosting a dual-affiliated tournament (i.e., USAV and AVP America), you MUST get current USAV membership #s and date of birth from ALL participants, as required by USAV tournament sanctioning. You will also be unable to enter results properly for the event.

LEAD TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:

All BRQs must have a **Lead** Tournament Director facilitating the event. The **Lead** Tournament Director may NOT be an active coach for the event, but may be the Head Official (all Officials must be USAV Certified Officials). **An Alternate Tournament Director may be temporarily put in place in exceptional circumstances where the Lead Tournament Director is temporarily unavailable. NOTE - The Alternate Tournament Director may not coach while temporarily serving in the lead role.** A Tournament Director must be in place during the duration of the event, with the exception of any needed **complete** break in activity (i.e., event-wide break for lunch, rest, etc.).

HEAD OFFICIAL:

OKRVA prefers that all BRQ tournaments provide a Head Beach Certified Official for the event. The Head Certified Beach Official will ensure all teams are following the rules of play. It is recommended that the Head Beach Official also act as the first referee for the final championship matches of each Gold Division playoff bracket.

Tournament hosts are responsible for working out agreements/payments with Officials to cover their event(s). There are several certified Beach Officials in our region. These two Officials are available and provided as a starting point:

- OKC Area: Phil Ledbetter (pledbetter@orangeconnection.org)
- Tulsa Area: Toni Slagle (toni.slagle@gmail.com)

Tournament hosts are not obligated to use Phil and/or Toni as their Officials. Phil and Toni will provide contact information for alternative Beach Officials as needed.

BRQ SCHEDULE:

BRQ Tournaments must be listed on the OKRVA Beach Schedule. You should submit your beach tournament sanctioning request on the OKRVA.com website (in the Beach menu), 1 submission per event. OKRVA prefers BRQ Tournaments also be listed in the National Beach Tour Schedule, which will be done by the Region unless assigned back to the tournament director.

COURT REQUIREMENTS:

The Molten Elite Beach Volleyball BV5000 is the official beach volleyball of USAV and will be used at all BRQs (unless dual sanctioned w/another approved organization, in which case their official beach volleyball for events may be used). No replica balls allowed. A minimum of two (2) balls must be provided per court.

1. The playing court is a rectangle measuring 52'6" x 26'3", surrounded by a free zone, which is a minimum of 5' wide on all sides.
2. Free space for courts that are side by side is 9' from playing line to playing line.
3. Free space for courts that are end to end is 9' from end line to end line.
4. The free playing space is the space above the playing area, which is free from all obstructions.
5. The free playing space shall measure a minimum of 23' in height from the playing surface.
6. 2" court lines
7. 2" net tape
8. 2 antennas
9. Pole pads for standards
10. Minimum of 10" of sand depth

Any facilities unable to provide the above must contact the OKRVA Region office for approval of any exceptions to these requirements.

AWARDS & BID CERTIFICATES:

Bid certificates must be given to both members of a team. You may contact the OKRVA Region office for assistance with obtaining the bid certificates.

Awards must also be given to both members of the top finishing teams in their respective age and gender division. The # of awards should be no less than the number of bids available at the event for the respective age and gender. The tournament host is responsible for providing the awards. The Bid certificates are not considered an award.

Results for BRQ events shall be submitted as designated on the USAV Ranking System website within 3-5 days of the event. Directors for the Central Region having difficulty submitting results should contact Bertil Wamelink (bertil@hoavb.org) for assistance. Details of any approved manual format can be found online with the USAV Junior National Beach Tour Manual.

BRQ BID BREAKDOWN:

- A Player is eligible to earn multiple bids in different age divisions but can accept only ONE (1) bid for each age division.
- Bids are individual and are awarded to each player on a team that earned them.
- Up to the top three (3) finishing teams in the Gold playoff bracket, per gender and age group, will receive bids to the USA National Beach Tour Junior Championships. Bids may trickle down to 5th place teams.

OKRVA will provide bid certificates to tournament hosts upon request. The tournament host must award bids to participants as follows:

- Minimum of 5 teams for girls/2 teams for boys = top finishing team (1st place) in the Gold playoff bracket, per gender and age group, will receive bids to the USA National Beach Tour Junior Championships. Bid may trickle down to the 2nd place team.
- Minimum of 7 teams for girls/4 teams for boys = top two (2) finishing teams (1st, 2nd) in the Gold playoff bracket, per gender and age group, will receive bids to the USA National Beach Tour Junior Championships. Bids may trickle down to 3rd place, but must have a 3rd place match.
- Minimum of 10 teams for girls/6 teams for boys = top three (3) finishing teams (1st, 2nd, 3rd) in the Gold playoff bracket, per gender and age group, will receive bids to the USA National Beach Tour Junior Championships. Bids may trickle down to 5th place[^] teams. Must have a 3rd place playoff match.

[^]Trickle down will go in order of initial seed at the beginning of the event. [Ex: Of the final four 5th place teams, the bid will first trickle-down to the team that was

seeded highest at the start of the event. If this team declines the bid, the offer would go to the next highest seeded team prior to the event and so on.]

Bids trickle down only when a "Team", not individual player of a team, either declines the bid or has already earned a bid. If one of the players of the team accepts the bid, the remaining individual bid does not trickle down. Bids may only trickle down for the current event taking place and may not be used at other BRQ events.

Any eligible players that do NOT earn a bid to USAV Junior Beach Nationals, but are interested in participating, should contact the Region office for additional information. There *ARE* opportunities for interested players to attend USAV Junior Beach Nationals to participate, even if they are unsuccessful in winning a bid.

COACHING RULES:

Per Section 4.1.4 of the USAV rule book, COACHING is permitted under the following guidelines.

- must be identified as a coach and dress professionally (at minimum, in shirt and shorts);
- may not address the officials or attempt to influence their decisions at any time;
- may perform drills with their team on court until the conclusion of the coin toss (may instruct from the sidelines for remainder of warmup);
- during the official timed warm-up may only instruct their players from the sideline;
- during the match may give instruction only during time-outs, court switches and between sets;
- must remain in their team's area (switching sides with their team) when actively coaching;
- may suggest to the team captain in a non-disruptive manner, the request for time-out or request time-out (all competition U-19 and below)

Coaches are subject to sanction (individual misconduct, delay, penalty, or expulsion) for inappropriate behavior.

SPECTATOR RULES:

- Spectators are encouraged to cheer and support their teams with positive encouragement.
- Spectators should not attempt to assist players, such as "calling shots" or providing instructions during play.
- Spectators, including parents and teammates, are NOT allowed to coach players during the game (coaches allowed to instruct only as stated above).
- Spectators are not allowed to enter the court during any part of a match.

Spectators are also subject to sanction (individual misconduct, delay, penalty, or expulsion) for inappropriate behavior.

FACILITY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Must provide adequate restrooms
2. Must provide water for competitors, official(s), and staff

Any facilities unable to provide the above must contact the OKRVA Region office for approval of any exceptions to these requirements.

DRESS CODE/ATTIRE:

Uniforms are not required. However, matching color bottoms and tops are encouraged. All athletes are REQUIRED to wear a top, for girls it must cover the entire midsection when standing, and bottoms such as spandex, shorts or leggings. No bikinis will be permitted for any team. Boys must wear tank tops or tshirts that cover the entire midsection when standing and bottoms such as swim trunks, surf shorts, or volleyball shorts. No brief type swim trunks.

Coaches must be in proper coaching attire throughout the tournament – polo shirt, long sleeve shirt, t-shirt, tank top, jacket, long pants, leggings, shorts and hat if desired. Mid sections should be covered at all times and no brief type of swim trunks.

EVENT MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

All adults (18 and above) contracted to be present during the event must be verified as having a current USAV membership, current SafeSport-Trained, and cleared USAV background check. This includes, but is not limited to, all event staff, medical personnel, photographers, officials, and arbiters.

All participants that are 18 years of age on the day of the event or turn 18 during the competition must complete the SafeSport Training course.

For those using VolleyballLife.com for their events, it is also recommended to have coaches complete registration for your event. There is a way to do this without any additional costs to the host or the coaches. Please contact the Region office for more information or additional help.

SAFETY STANDARDS FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Please refer to the latest USA National Beach Tour Qualifier and Championship Manual for safety standards for inclement weather, and for additional guidance.

OTHER HELPFUL LINKS/SITES:

- USAV Manual (2025): <https://usavolleyball.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2024-25-USA-Volleyball-Beach-National-Tour-Manual.pdf>
- USAV Rules Book: https://usavolleyball.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-2025-USAV-Beach-Rules-Book_Web.pdf
- USAV JBNT: <https://usavolleyball.org/compete/usavolleyball-beach-tour/>
- OKRVA: <https://okrva.com> (see Beach menu)
- VolleyballLife: <https://www.volleyballlife.com>

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