



Stonewall Sports National Tournament Official Rulebook: SAND VOLLEYBALL

(Last Updated: March 31, 2025)

Stonewall Sports is For All

Stonewall Sports is dedicated to creating a community of diverse participants via organized sports and activities that take place in inclusive spaces. We are founded on the pillars of respect, holistic wellness, open-mindedness and the appreciation of diverse backgrounds.

Our shared responsibility is to bring our community together, empower individuals, and provide a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment to learn and grow, thus uplifting those who are part of the Stonewall community and beyond.

We believe in uplifting and celebrating all individuals within the LGBTQIA+ community — including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, Two-Spirit and queer people, among others — and we welcome friends and allies into these spaces with open arms.

In pursuit of these values, we encourage each of our participating teams to embrace these principles with representation from members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Our Sports Operations team is empowered and encouraged to open a dialogue with teams when they see an opportunity to promote diversity and inclusivity within our spaces.

Please review and abide to the following throughout the tournament:

- [Stonewall Sports Player Code of Conduct](#)
- [Stonewall Sports National Tournament Uniform Policy](#)

Tournament Details

Format

Matches. Each team is guaranteed at least four (4) matches: Three (3) on Day 1 (Saturday) and at least one (1) on Day 2 (Sunday).

Schedules. Matches will tentatively be held between 8:30 am to 5:30 pm on Saturday and between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm on Sunday. Team schedules for Saturday will be announced in advance of the Tournament. Sunday schedules will be available following Saturday play.

Tournament Details

Day 1. Saturday

Teams will be randomly assigned three matches against an opponent.

Matches will be played best of three sets, time permitting, with 40 minutes scheduled for play. Allocating 5 minutes for transition between games

Scoring will be to 21 points (win by two), with a cap at 23. If a third set is needed, it will be played to 15 points (win by two), with a cap at 17. If a set reaches the time cap, the team with the highest score will be declared the winner of that set.

Based on the results of the Day 1 matches, teams will be ranked to determine seeding for the Day 2 Bracket. Ranking will be determined as follows:

1. Ranking Points will be awarded based on the results of Day 1 matches.

Match Result	Points Awarded
2-0	2.0
2-1	1.5
1-1	1.0
1-2	0.5
0-2	0.0

2. A Total Points scored (PS) will be calculated using Total Points scored For (PF) minus the total points scored against (PA) across all three (3) matches on day 1.
3. Teams will be ranked first by the highest Ranking Points, followed by the highest Total Points Score (PS). If a tie persists, it will be broken by the highest Total Points Scored For (PF).
4. If a tie remains after all three (3) ranking systems have been applied, the tournament staff will have the discretion to determine the tiebreaker..

Day 2. Sunday, July 21

Based on the seeding from Day 1 matches, each team will be placed into the Elimination Bracket for Day 2. Winning teams will advance through the bracket while losing teams will be eliminated (single elimination). Deciding matches will be played to determine 1st, 2nd, 3rd placed teams.

Matches will be played best of three sets, with 50 minutes scheduled for play. A 5-minute transition period is allotted between each match

Scoring will be to 21 (win by two), with a cap at 23 points. If needed, third sets will be played to 15 (win by two) with a cap at 17.

Rules

Game Rules

The rules listed below are specific to the Stonewall Sports Sand Volleyball National Tournament and supersede the rules in the USA Volleyball Rule Book.

1. **Net Height.**
 - a. The net height for matches will be 7'9 5/8", or as close to this height as possible based on venue capacity.
2. **Team Composition.**
 - a. Matches will play with four players on the court at a time (4 vs 4).
 - b. Teams may have up to 8 registered players.
3. **Attire.**
 - a. Players are expected to follow the Tournament Uniform Policy, as stated online. One of the two days, players will be instructed to wear their official Stonewall Sports National Tournament shirts. The other day, teams are expected to have a coordinating uniform. On both days, your uniform must be visible during all game play (i.e., worn, tucked into waistband, etc.).
 - b. Knee pads and other protective equipment are not required but can be worn.
4. **Schedule.**
 - a. Teams must be present 15 minutes prior to their scheduled match time, and Captains must check in with tournament staff.
 - b. Matches are limited to 40 minutes of playing time for Saturday and 50 minutes during tournament
 - c. If a match reaches the time limit before the completion of the deciding set, the set/match win will go to the team with the higher score at the point time is called.

- d. A new set may not begin at or after the expiration of the allotted time; if teams are tied 1-1 at/after the scheduled conclusion, the match ends in a tie.

5. Warm Up.

- a. Teams will have 5 minutes of warm up time, if time permitting, on their court prior to the scheduled match time.

6. Starting the Game:

- a. Captains are responsible for conducting a single game of Rock, Paper, Scissors. The winner has the choice of service or side of the court. The opposing team makes the remaining decision.
- b. In **Tournament Games**, the higher seed has the choice of service or side.
- c. The team not serving first in the first game shall serve first in the second game.
- d. If a third set is necessary, it will be played to 15 utilizing rally scoring. The team that lost the second set will serve while the winning team will choose the side of the court.

7. Rotations.

- a. All registered team players present at the Tournament must rotate in to play **each set**. Captains are responsible for ensuring that rotations are fair and consistent.

8. Service:

- a. The server must serve from anywhere behind the end line (within the service zone).
- b. The ball can touch the net during a serve, as long as it goes over.

9. Hits per team:

- a. Each team is allowed a maximum of three contacts to return the ball.

10. Hands setting:

- a. Hand sets must be clean — minimal spin on the ball.
- b. Double contact is allowed on a hard-driven ball (like a spike), but not on a set.

11. Attacks:

- a. Open-hand tips (dinking with fingers) are not allowed — the ball must be hit cleanly with knuckles, fists, or a firm hand.

12. Blocking:

- a. A block at the net counts as a team contact (so only two more hits are allowed afterward).
- b. The blocker can redirect the ball but can't hold or carry it.

13. Faults:

- a.** Touches the net during play (except when the ball pushes the net into them).
- b.** Crosses the centerline under the net and interferes with the opponent's play.
- c.** Uses an open-handed tip or carry.

For any rules not mentioned here, we will refer to the official [USA Volleyball Beach Rules Book \(2023–2025\)](#) to ensure accuracy and fair play.

Officiating

All teams will be required to provide a four-person (4) work crew for assigned matches consisting of one head referee, two line judges, and one score and time keeper.

Ref assignments will be posted along with the schedules for each day of the tournament.

Captains are the only members of a team that may discuss a play with the referee for the purpose of clarification or explanation. Captains may not approach the line judges.

No player may argue with or berate any referee, official, or opponent. Violations will result in verbal warnings and/or removal from the match.

If there is a dispute on the court, the referee may stop play and confer with tournament staff to make the final determination.

Conduct

If a player exhibits any behavior that deliberately subverts league rules or the mission of Stonewall Sports, verbal warnings and/or removal from the match can be issued by tournament staff.