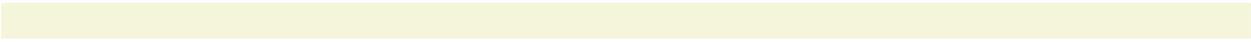


NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL SAND VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION (NCHSSVA)

Season Registration Information

(Note: FAQs have been added at the end of this document)

- **COMPETITION SEASON – Around March 1 to Tuesday prior to State Playoffs which is typically on the Friday/Saturday of the first weekend in May.** It is during this time period that clubs are free to schedule competitions following any local/district guidelines. Otherwise, scheduling competitions on any day of the week is fine. **For playoff eligibility, school clubs must be represented in at least 4 competitions.** It is up to each club if they want to hold practices/training sessions before this competition season period. However, all participants involved in a pre-season practice must have a current USAV membership prior to practicing. If any certificate of insurance is required by facility owner(s), please contact the NCHSSVA.
- **NCHSSVA CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEES - \$15/player by registration deadline (\$20/player for late registrations).** This amount goes to the NCHSSVA to cover any fees associated with holding state playoffs along with helping fund a facility grant program which helps build/maintain sand volleyball courts around the region and helping fund conference budgets to covers costs of securing sites for practices/competitions, awards, etc. Each club is free to charge its participants an amount over this to help cover club-specific costs such as uniforms (see Uniforms below for more details).
- **USAV MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED:** In order to cover the insurance side of things, all participants (players and supervisors) should have a current USAV membership. For those that are involved in USAV club ball, simply provide your USAV # as part of joining your school club. For those that are not members, there is an inexpensive **Outdoor Membership (\$22)** option which is effective from the time of purchase to the end of the current USAV membership year (Aug 31). This option is available for purchase online through Carolina Region USAV's online membership application portal at <https://memberships.sportsengine.com/org/84881/>. After completing your application and receiving your membership #, please provide it to your school club organizer. Adult club supervisors are also required to have a USAV membership and a current background check/safesport certification. Possible reimbursement of supervisor membership fees is subject to the policy in place within their conference.
- **REGISTRATION DEADLINE – Monday, FEBRUARY 26:** Reserves a spot for the high school club for the upcoming season. It is required that the club organizer submit the following:
 - Registration Form
 - Initial Roster of Players (names, contact info, and USAV membership numbers)
 - NCHSSVA membership dues (\$15/player) from all committed players thus far (**minimum of 2 players initially needed**). **Non-refundable**
 - **New Clubs** – Your club will be entered in a raffle for a **\$200 club stipend** to help with any club start-up costs. 2 stipends will be awarded if more than 8 new clubs join, 3 stipends will be awarded if more than 16 new clubs join, and so on.

- This will demonstrate the club's commitment to the upcoming season. Invoices can be provided upon request. **Online payment available via venmo @nchssva** Checks are to be made to **NCHSSVA** and sent to **105 New Boca Way, Cary, NC 27518**.
 - **SCHEDULING PERIOD –Done Mid/Late Feb.** After the club registration period has ended, the NCHSSVA board will look to group schools into conferences with each conference offered a TBD number of playoff bids based on the overall club numbers. It is up to club organizers within a conference to agree to a competition schedule with someone appointed as the primary overseer of the process. Member clubs of each conference are free to determine how teams will be selected for state playoffs. For example, conferences are free to base it off of regular season records or hold a state playoff qualification event in the week or two prior to state playoffs or a combination of the two.
 - **ROSTER DEADLINE – DUE BEFORE FIRST COMPETITION.** Club organizers will be responsible for filling out their club's roster for the season just prior to the start of the competition season.
 - **UNIFORMS**
 - Following the NCAA sand volleyball rules, players must wear a top that covers the trunk area. It can be sleeveless and should convey which school the club is associated with. Uniform numbers are not required. Volleyball shorts or other types of gym shorts are allowed.
 - **QUESTIONS/CONTACT** Email NCHSSVA board president Mark Nalevanko at mark.nalevanko@gmail.com. Or contact your regional rep – see current list at bottom of <https://www.nchsbeach.org/about-us/>:
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Adding Sand Volleyball At Your North Carolina High School?

More info including contacts at North Carolina High School Sand Volleyball Association's website www.nchsbeach.org

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the NCHSAA think of this? While sand volleyball is not sanctioned by NCHSAA (and won't be considered for sanctioning until around 25% of member schools show interest in the sport through participation in sand volleyball activities), it is not blocking schools from starting sand volleyball programs. The NCHSAA views sand volleyball as a **separate** sport from indoor volleyball and therefore is not applying any rules regarding when and how many players an indoor volleyball coach can supervise during sand volleyball activities. The same participation eligibility rules that apply to students when competing in sanctioned sports should also apply to participation in sand volleyball clubs. The NCHSAA is NOT permitting any "beach" practices on an indoor hard court.

How is sand volleyball currently designated at high schools? Until the sport is sanctioned by the NCHSAA, sand volleyball is considered a **club** activity and should adhere to any school-specific rules regarding the formation of a club or club sport. This can vary from school to school but typically involves a school staff/faculty member serving as a "sponsor" for the club and perhaps some documentation being filed such as a purpose statement and/or by-laws statement. In many cases, Athletic Directors do not even play a role because sand volleyball is considered a club activity. **Some schools require the formation of all clubs be at the start of the academic year so please take into consideration in planning for the Spring!**

Who can play? How many participants do you need? This is open to boys and girls (with or without volleyball experience). If you can form a club with at least 3 same-gender 2 person teams (ie: 6 players although around 10 players is recommended to account for scheduling conflicts) then you can compete in head-to-head competitions with other schools similar to how tennis competitions are run and be eligible to play in state playoffs. Clubs wishing to combine with nearby clubs in order to field a complete team is permitted subject to approval by the NCHSSVA board. However, for regular

season competitions, clubs are free to employ more open-style events involving individual teams assigned to pools and playing in round-robin fashion. So, essentially a club with only 2 or 4 players available can still participate during the regular season but won't be able to field a club for state playoffs. An example of this competition format is found in the document titled 'Sample HS Beach Individual Regular Season Competition Format'. All participants that form a club must be from the **same school**. Participation typically entails 9th-12th graders but if you're at a private/independent school that permits 8th graders to compete on high school level sports teams, then you are allowed to do the same in fielding a sand volleyball club. Homeschool associations can also organize in forming a club with only homeschool members.

How are competitions structured? The following is just one example. Refer to the document 'Sample HS Beach Individual Regular Season Competition Format' for a more open-style structure that is more flexible based on how many teams from participating clubs can show for a specific competition.

The original intent and eventual goal is to hold all school vs. school competitions similar to how tennis is contested in high schools. Each school will seed 3 girls doubles team with the #1 seeds playing each other a full match (2 games to 21, 3rd game if necessary to 15), the #2 seeds playing each other a full match and so on. Depending on court space, typically all three matches occur at the same time. Each match counts as a win/loss with the school club getting the majority of wins earning the victory. If a team must forfeit due to lack of players, then teams move up. For example, if #1 team isn't participating, then the #2 team becomes the #1 team for the impacted competition and so on. If there is a player injury just prior to competition starting, then a forfeit will be applied for the seeded team that is impacted by the player injury. If both schools have boys teams then they can play separately based on the available numbers plus extra players can play exhibition matches if time/space permits. With the expectation that most, if not all, schools will not have full boys squads of 3 teams, the competition will likely be structured so it's individual team based. In Spring 2013 and 2014 the majority of competitions were setup as tri or quad meets which allowed schools over a 3-4 hr block get in 2 or 3 competitions by playing each other in a round-robin fashion. This structure seemed like the most economical way to do things and well-liked. Clubs are free to organize open-style tournaments where a minimum of 3 teams is not required.

Is there a playoffs? Yes, playoffs will be contested using a tournament format during the early/mid part of May each year. A Club Championship involving 3 girls doubles teams from each club playing each other and a Best

Individual Team Championship for both Girls and Boys whereby select doubles teams compete for individual team honors. Districts/Conferences can hold regional playoffs within the state as qualification for state playoffs and employ whatever agreed upon process in selecting teams for the best team competitions.

Where to practice/compete? This is ultimately up to each club to figure out. Some schools have built their own sand courts in demonstrating a long term commitment to sand volleyball. Other clubs have utilized public and/or private facilities.

When did this all start? 2013 marked the inaugural season with 9 schools (primarily Triangle area) participating. The 2014 season saw 31 schools participate from across the state with the 2015 featuring 46 schools. This is meant to be a state-wide initiative and the expectation is that the participation numbers will continue to grow.

What do I need to do to get things setup?

1. Find a coach/faculty member at your school that would be interested in sponsoring the club.
2. Hold an interest meeting at your school to see how many participants you might get
3. If you have solid interest, officially form the club at your school and submit a club membership form to the North Carolina High School Sand Volleyball Association along with a roster of participants and their dues (visit www.nchsbeach.org for forms).