

Sunshine State Athletic Conference

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Administrators, Athletic Directors and Coaches,

I wanted to introduce myself and answer some initial questions that Coaches and Athletic Directors may have as they consider joining us for our inaugural season. New ventures are challenging and the unknown is always the biggest fear.

The main benefits I bring to the program are experience, contacts and a sincere dedication to the sport of volleyball. I don't know all the answers but have such a strong support team with USA Volleyball's Florida Region and the SSAC that we should be able to resolve any concerns and address any issues.

I have been playing competitive volleyball for almost 50 years including over 30 in the sand. Competing in USA Volleyball National Tournaments and the Huntsman World Games have allowed me to travel throughout the country and become friends with a multitude of players who do this for the enjoyment of the sport, not for the results of the events.

Coaching at the Elementary, Middle and High School levels plus several years with Club Volleyball and as a Junior College Volleyball Coach has confirmed my skill is more as a teacher of the sport than a hard core coach. Programs who join us will find I am what you would consider "Old School" where the emphasis is on the players learning all aspects of the game including rules and officiating.

We are loosely basing the 2017 season on the format used at the Collegiate level. My daughter played for a Division 1 program for two years and was the captain in her senior year. Those experiences along with participation in Beach Tournaments will help us create a great environment for the players.

Schools will be asked to choose four teams of two players each to participate in the matches. They will be ranked by skill level as 1, 2, 3 and 4. The top teams from each program will play against the top team of the other program, second teams against each other, etc. The winner of the event will be the program that wins at least two of the top three matches. The fourth teams will be playing a demonstration match allowing a program to have players who can replace an injured participant or teams learning the game who may challenge and even move up in their positions during the season.

The matches will be played as two out of three sets to 21, win by two points and no cap. Our players will be asked to self-referee with no interference from Coaches or spectators. Coaches will only be allowed to talk with their players during the two time outs per set.

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We anticipate having at least one or two matches every Monday during March and early April within one hour of the programs facilities. The Championships will then be held at the end of April at the USAV Hickory Point Complex in Tavares, Florida. Tryouts will be at the beginning of February.

We know there will be a lot of programs where Coaches may be new to Beach Volleyball which is why we have championed with USAV to secure Beach Impact, Safe Sport, Official and Beach Cap 1 training. We will also work with all of the programs as questions arise.

Finally, one of the concerns of a new program are the benefits to the school's sports environment. Beach Volleyball is the fastest growing sport right now with the involvement of the NCAA making it an official sport, the excitement around the Summer Olympic Games in Brazil and the number of events available around the state year around. Technically, the sport is a positive exposure to anyone playing the sport indoor or on the beach as it requires both players to learn all the offensive and defensive skills, as there are only two players who have to depend on each other. Conditioning is a large part of the sport considering the players are running, jumping and diving to cover a court nearly the size of the indoor court where six players are involved.

Beach Volleyball is a great spectator sport, a healthy way to spend a few hours a day and a thrill to participate in at all levels. We encourage your program to join us for this experience and help us find ways to improve as we move forward. Please contact me with any questions at ssacgbvb@gmail.com as we "Play it Forward" to continue to grow the sport. See you on the Beach!