



Teams and Format Released for 2nd AVCA Small College Beach Championships

April 16, 2019, Lexington, KY – The AVCA, in partnership with the Florida Region of USA Volleyball, are poised to host the second annual AVCA Small College Beach Championships on April 19-21, 2019. Following the success of the inaugural event in 2018, the event is back with an expanded field of participants and a format that will utilize all 21 of the professional-grade courts available at the complex.

The inaugural event generated increased interest from college beach teams and the experience all but ensured a return visit to the sunny sands of Tavares, FL, bolstered by a newly constructed beach volleyball complex at Hickory Point Beach. The new facilities are state-of-the-art, featuring a 4,000-square-foot Athletics Center, allowing athletes access to locker rooms, a training room, clubhouse, officials room, covered pavilion, concession stand and new public restrooms.

“The growth of college beach volleyball from zero to 120 teams in just eight years has made for a rich environment for cities and organizations interested in new events,” said AVCA Executive Director, **Kathy DeBoer**. “We are grateful for our partners in the Florida Region, the city of Tavares and for Baden Sports, all of whom are helping create a championship experience for these teams.”

The 2019 edition of the Small College Beach Championships will feature teams from NCAA Divisions II and III competing for a championship, as well as an 8-team division comprised of teams that compete in the NAIA. The full schedule and format can be seen at <https://www.avca.org/events/small-college-beach-champ.html>.

DII-III: Lincoln Memorial, Saint Leo, Tampa, Florida Southern, Texas A&M Kingsville, Spring Hill College, Colorado Mesa, Carson Newman, Tusculum, Eckerd

NAIA: Southeastern, Webber International, Missouri Baptist, Ottawa (AZ), Warner, William Carey, Ottawa (KS), Vanguard

In addition to championships for both divisions, the AVCA will host a “best-of-the-rest” pairs tournament on Friday, April 19, which will be open to all athletes travelling with their teams but not competing in flights 1-5.

“Partnering with the AVCA to host the 2nd annual Small College Beach Championships at Hickory Point Beach in Central Florida is an honor. We specifically designed and built this 21-court championship caliber complex for events like this one,” remarked **Steve Bishop**, President of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball. “The recent addition of the Athletics Center will make the experience even more enjoyable for teams and spectators. It is exciting to see the college beach game continue to grow., and my hope is that an event such as this one will serve as a catalyst for continued growth in colleges and high schools across the country. We look forward to hosting the 20 colleges that will descend on Hickory Point and we invite beach volleyball fans of all ages to come and enjoy the weekend.”

The \$1.8 million dollars invested in renovations are part of an ongoing effort by Lake County officials to drive tourism, encouraging overnight visitors to spend time in Tavares – particularly for beach volleyball events. Hickory Point has hosted more than 54 volleyball events since opening in 2014, and is poised to see that number increase as players and coaches get a chance to see the facilities for themselves.

The first AVCA Small College Beach Championships took place over April 7-8, 2018 and featured 14 schools from around the country. Representatives from NCAA Division II and III, as well as the NAIA and the CCCAA, competed for titles in two divisions. Texas A&M Kingsville claimed the DII-III Championship, defeating Eckerd College for the title.

Webber International emerged victoriously from the NAIA/CCCAA division, defeating Stevenson in their championship match. Both champions are returning to Tavares to compete in the 2019 event.

The AVCA Small College Beach Championships offer an exciting, fan-friendly atmosphere throughout the weekend. There is no cost for admission and ample free on-site parking. Matches will be running continuously throughout all three days of the event, beginning at 9AM on Friday morning. There will be vendors on site, including ball sponsor, Baden, a variety of food trucks as well as a concession stand, some bleacher seating, and renovated bathroom facilities. Spectators are encouraged to bring their own chairs or towels.

The AVCA will be covering the event on social media (@AVCAvolleyball) and posting results online at www.avca.org throughout the weekend.

When: April 19-21, 2019

Where: Hickory Point Beach – Tavares, FL

Admission: Free (on-site parking)

Info: <https://www.avca.org/events/small-college-beach-champ.html>

About AVCA

The AVCA, with its headquarters in Lexington, Ky., is managed by Associations International. The mission of the AVCA is to advance the sport of volleyball with AVCA coaches at the epicenter of leadership, advocacy and professional development. With a membership of over 7,200 and counting, the AVCA provides a professional network for those individuals and companies dedicated to enhancing and promoting the sport. Members include collegiate, high school, club, youth and Olympic coaches, as well as volleyball club directors. The AVCA provides education to volleyball coaches, recognition of elite players and coaches, promotion of volleyball competitions throughout the world, and networking opportunities for volleyball products and services providers. Further information is available at www.avca.org.

About Florida Region of USA Volleyball:

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is a 501c3 non-profit that began operations in the 1960's and was officially incorporated in 1982 to promote the sport of volleyball and to create competitive playing opportunities for volleyball enthusiasts of all ages throughout the State of Florida. The Florida Region is one of the 40 regional volleyball associations under the umbrella of USA Volleyball and currently serves 14,000 members. Indoor and outdoor programming is available for adults, juniors, coaches and officials.

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is headquartered in Eustis, FL and manages the 21-court Hickory Point Beach Sand Volleyball Complex in Tavares, FL. Additional information on the Florida Region can be found at: www.FloridaVolleyball.org.