



**PRESS RELEASE**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**FLORIDA REGION TO HOST GRAND OPENING OF HICKORY POINT BEACH SAND VOLLEYBALL COMPLEX JULY 5<sup>th</sup>.**

The festivities for the grand opening of the Hickory Point Beach sand volleyball complex will include adult & junior tournaments, competitive & recreational teams, food trucks & music, family entertainment and much more!

**Tavares, FL – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014** – The Grand Opening Ceremony for the Hickory Point Beach sand volleyball complex is set for July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The address is 27341 State Road 19, Tavares, FL, 32778. This event will include a stop on the NVL & ROX Beach Series Tour, including adult & junior tournaments as well as competitive & recreational teams. To find out more information and to register, please visit [www.floridavolleyball.org](http://www.floridavolleyball.org).

Volleyball enthusiasts as well as members of the general public are invited to attend this grand opening event. There will be plenty of activities and entertainment for the entire family. Some of the amenities available at the complex include free parking onsite, permanent restrooms, beautiful views of Lake Harris, children's playground, outdoor showers near courts, nature trail, swimming area, BBQ grills with picnic table, free boat ramp with dock access and much more. There is also a full service resort within 6 miles. The Tavares waterfront restaurant district is only 5 miles away.

This will be a great event to tie in with the Downtown Tavares Independence Day Celebration. Families are encouraged to enjoy the highly-anticipated Tavares fireworks display on Friday night, then attend a fun Saturday-in-the-sun at the new Hickory Point Beach sand volleyball complex; making for an amazing 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend experience!

Divisions offered will include:

- Adults
  - Recreational Sixes (6 Players Per Team)
  - Competitive Doubles (AA, A, BB)
- Juniors
  - Boys & Girls Doubles (12U, 14U, 16U & 18U)

**Steve Bishop**, Executive Director for the Florida Region of USA Volleyball commented, "We want to extend a personal invitation to everyone that has helped us make this happen along the way. We especially need to hear from our competitive volleyball enthusiasts across the State of Florida and also from any recreational volleyball players that would like to form a team and enjoy some friendly competition at our new complex as we celebrate the grand opening. There will be competitive and recreational playing divisions for adults and juniors. Additionally, we will have music, food, lots of volleyball, and prizes for the winning teams. The highlight of the day will be the ribbon cutting ceremony at 9am right before the first volleyball is served by the project stakeholders. We hope to fill up the courts and kick off the Hickory Point Beach sand volleyball complex in style. Please make plans to join us as we introduce Florida's newest beach volleyball destination!"

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In April, the Florida Region of USA Volleyball announced their comprehensive plans to partner with Lake County, Florida and Lake County Water Authority to jointly build Hickory Point Beach, a 20-court sand volleyball complex located on Lake Harris at the Hickory Point Recreational Complex in Tavares, FL. The Lake County Board of County Commissioners approved the \$400,000 plan with a 5-0 vote and praised the project as a win/win for all parties involved. The Hickory Point Beach sand volleyball complex will reside at the 68 acre Hickory Point Recreational Complex that currently has five soccer fields operated by Lake County Soccer. The sand volleyball complex will have professional level net systems, stadium quality lighting, professional speaker/intercom system, antennas & pads on every court, short court lines, 24 inches of top quality washed white sand, 20 feet minimum between courts (side-to-side) and 35 feet minimum between courts (end-to-end.)

Construction plans have been finalized between Florida Region, Lake County, Lake County Water Authority and local general contractor, Butch Hendrick. Construction is currently in progress for the July 5<sup>th</sup> opening.

Future events at Hickory Point Beach will include tournaments, leagues, camps, clinics and family activities. The plan is to open a beach volleyball academy with an educational component similar to the Club Med Academies program in Port St. Lucie, FL. Additionally, a local beach volleyball league will be scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday nights beginning in July.

There are also plans to use the complex for non-volleyball related activities, such as sand soccer competitions and outdoor movie nights.

More information about Hickory Point Beach is available on the Florida Region website.

**About Florida Region of USA Volleyball:**

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is a 501 c3 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 approximately 12,500 members. Indoor and outdoor programming is available for adults, juniors, coaches and officials. The Florida Region of USA Volleyball headquarters is located in Eustis, FL. Additional information on the Florida Region can be found at: [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org).

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