

# Florida Region of USA Volleyball



Presented by the Norelli Family Foundation

## Event Handbook

### Florida Pro Best of the Beach Tournament

November 6-8, 2020 – Hickory Point Beach, Tavares, FL



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## **EVENT OVERVIEW**

- This 2020 Florida Pro Best of the Beach event is a USA Volleyball event sanctioned and produced by the Florida Region of USA Volleyball. It is presented by the Norelli Family Foundation and includes generous financial support from Lake County, FL and the Miami Volleyball Academy. Other key event partners are listed below. Please remember to follow all safety guidelines while attending this event. We welcome you to Hickory Point Beach in the 67-acre Hickory Point Park, located in beautiful Lake County, FL.

## **VENUE INFORMATION:**

- Hickory Point Beach Sand Volleyball Complex is located at 27345 FL 19, Tavares, FL 32778.
- The complex includes 21 competition sand courts and was opened in 2014.
- In 2019 the 4,000 sf Athletics Center was opened.
- Since opening, the venue has hosted over 70 regional, national and international events.

***IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING PETS AT HICKORY POINT PARK – Pets are allowed in the park but are not allowed on the sand in the venue. Pets in the park must be on a leash!***

## **KEY EVENT STAFF:**

- Event Director – **Steve Bishop**
- Competition Director – **Brooke Sweat**
- Event Coordinator – **Kristin Stanley**
- Marketing Coordinator – **Ashlie Fox**
- Medical Director – **Dr. Ron Torrance, D.O.**
- Lead LMT – **Ben Keyes**
- Lead ATC – **Zach Bunting**
- Head Officials – **John King & James Phillips**

## **EVENT OVERSIGHT:**

- The Event Director has absolute authority to make all necessary event related decisions regarding any unique circumstance or anyone at the Event. This includes punitive actions (up to removal) for violations of the USAV Code of Conduct Guidelines, the Event Safety Guidelines, Hickory Point Park rules or any instructions provided by the Event Director or their designee.
- The Medical Director has complete authority to make necessary medical decisions regarding anyone in attendance at the Event. This includes removal of athletes, staff or spectators for medical reasons.
- The Officials have authority to sanction athletes for violations of the USAV beach rules or the USAV Code of Conduct Guidelines while competing in the Event.

**EVENT PARTNERS:**

- The Norelli Family Foundation
- Visit Lake & Lake County, FL
- Miami Volleyball Academy
- Molten USA
- Smack Sportswear
- Regenexx (Tampa Bay & Miami)
- SpikeNet
- BallerTV
- Rx Massage Therapy
- BracketPal
- Mission Inn Resort & Club
- Tim Britt Photography (TechandPhoto Images)
- Lake County Water Authority & Hickory Point Park
- Chick-Fil-A
- Downtown Tavares Restaurants:
  - Kalua Beach Bar
  - Puddle Jumpers Lakeside Grill & Bar
  - Ruby Street Grille
  - Shiners
  - Tiki West

**ATHLETE PARTICIPATION:**

- Total 56 Athletes
  - 28 Male Athletes
  - 28 Female Athletes
- Main Draw 24 Athletes
  - 12 Male Athletes
  - 12 Female Athletes
- Qualifier 32 Athletes
  - 16 Male Athletes
  - 16 Female Athletes

**RANKING POINTS:**

- The USAV beach rankings at [NationalBeachRanking.com](http://NationalBeachRanking.com) as of September 15, 2020 will be used to seed this event. The system uses points for the top 5 results from the past 365 days. For athletes that did not earn points in 2020, this Event will use the top 5 results from 2019 for seeding into the qualifier.

**PRIZE PURSE PAYOUT:**

- Total of \$60,000 (\$30,000 per gender)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – \$7,000 (Winner of Finals, Pool Winner)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – \$2,400 (Winner of Finals, Partner)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – \$4,400 (Loser of Finals, Pool Winner)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – \$1,800 (Loser of Finals, Partner)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – \$3,000 (Loser of Semi-Final 1, Pool Winner)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – \$3,000 (Loser of Semi-Final 2, Pool Winner)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – \$1,200 (Loser of Semi-Final 1, Partner)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – \$1,200 (Loser of Semi-Final 2, Partner)
  - 5<sup>th</sup> – \$750 (Did not advance from Saturday – x8)
- See Awards & Payouts section in this handbook for additional information on when payments will be made.

**DAILY SCHEDULE:**

- **Thu – Nov 5, 2020 (Final Setup)**
  - 9:00am – Final Setup Begins
  - 1:00pm – Practice Courts Open
  - 4:00pm – Final Setup Concludes
  - 5:00pm – Practice Courts Close
  - 6:00pm – Athlete COVID Testing for Qualifier Group 1 (Until 9:00pm)
- **Fri – Nov 6, 2020 (Qualifier Pool Play)**
  - 7:00am – Athlete COVID Testing for Qualifier Group 2 (Until 10:00am)
  - 7:30am – Main Gate Opens for Spectators
  - 8:00am – Athlete Check-In Begins & Concessions Open
  - 8:45am – Welcome Announcements & National Anthem
  - 9:00am – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Cts 1-4)
  - 10:30am – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Cts 1-4)
  - 12:00pm – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Cts 1-4)
  - 1:30pm – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Cts 1-4)
  - 2:00pm – Athlete COVID Testing for Main Draw Group 1 (Until 5:00pm)
  - 3:00pm – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Cts 1-4)
  - 4:30pm – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Cts 1-4)
  - 5:00pm – Concessions Close
- **Sat – Nov 7, 2020 (Main Draw Pool Play)**
  - 7:00am – Athlete COVID Testing for Main Draw Group 2 (Until 10:00am)
  - 7:30am – Main Gate Opens for Spectators
  - 8:00am – Athlete Check-In Begins & Concessions Open
  - 8:45am – Welcome Announcements & National Anthem
  - 9:00am – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Cts 1-4)

- 10:30am – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Cts 1-4)
- 12:00pm – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Cts 1-4)
- 1:30pm – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Cts 1-4)
- 3:00pm – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Cts 1-4)
- 4:30pm – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Cts 1-4)
- 5:00pm – Concessions Close
- 8:00pm – Player’s Party & Partner Selection Announcement in Downtown Tavares
- **Sun – Nov 8, 2020 (Main Draw Bracket Play)**
  - 7:30am – Main Gate Opens
  - 8:00am – Athlete Check-In Begins & Concessions Open
  - 8:45am – Welcome Announcements & National Anthem
  - 9:00am – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Ct 2)
  - 10:30am – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Ct 1)
  - 12:00pm – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Ct 2)
  - 1:30pm – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Ct 1)
  - 3:00pm – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Ct 2)
  - 4:30pm – Athlete Introductions & Matches Begin (Ct 1)
  - 5:00pm – Concessions Close

**LIVESTREAMING:**

- BallerTV is the exclusive livestreaming partner and no other external livestreams will be permitted during the Event.
- The livestreaming fee for viewers is \$25 per day and can be found at: <https://www.floridavolleyball.org/florida-pro-best-of-the-beach.html>

**EVENT AMENITIES:**

- Athletes (FOR COMPETING ATHLETES ONLY)
  - Medical director overseeing all health & safety guidelines.
  - COVID rapid test provided by the Event.
  - Licensed massage therapy (LMT) services.
  - Athletic trainer certified (ATC) services.
  - Air-conditioned athlete lounge, medical room and showers/lockers rooms.
  - Professional grade net systems and top-quality sand.
  - Snacks and water available in the athlete lounge.
  - A covered athlete viewing area with seating on the sand.
  - Sanitized volleyballs during each match.
  - Livestreaming of the four competition courts.
  - Paid officials for all matches.

- Athlete parking at no charge for day of competition. (Athlete must be in the vehicle to get free parking.)
- Competition Director (Brooke Sweat) to assist with any athlete concerns during the Event.
- Player's party in downtown Tavares at five local restaurants/bars on Saturday night. (Note: All food & drink expenses are the responsibility of each individual attending.)
- Spectators
  - Ample parking area adjacent to the venue at \$10 per automobile per day. Re-entry privileges for the same day only.
  - VIP Area - \$50 per day per person, includes the following:
    - Prime covered seating with a direct view of all four competition courts.
    - Parking pass for the date purchased (VIP ticket holder must arrive in the vehicle that is redeeming the parking pass).
    - Two drink tickets to be redeemed at the concession stand up to a \$4 value each.
    - Tournament t-shirt (sizes based on availability)
    - Hickory Point Beach koozie
    - VIP Credential
  - Air-conditioned restrooms
  - Concession stand with food & drinks
  - Spectators can bring tents/umbrellas & chairs
  - Player's party in downtown Tavares at five local restaurants/bars on Saturday night. (Note: All food & drink expenses are the responsibility of each individual attending.)

#### **TOURNAMENT FORMAT:**

- This Event will be a king/queen format. Each athlete will register individually and will be placed in a pool based on their USAV beach ranking points located at [www.NationalBeachRanking.com](http://www.NationalBeachRanking.com).
- Day 1 – Qualifier Pool Play
  - 4 pools of 4 (16 athletes per gender), snake seeded
    - Pool A/1 – 1, 8, 9, 16
    - Pool B/2 – 2, 7, 10, 15
    - Pool C/3 – 3, 6, 11, 14
    - Pool D/4 – 4, 5, 12, 13
  - Each athlete will play 3 matches
  - Winner of each pool will advance to the main draw on day 2 in positions 13-16
    - Winner of Pool A/1 will advance as the #13 seed
    - Winner of Pool B/2 will advance as the #14 seed

- Winner of Pool C/3 will advance as the #15 seed
  - Winner of Pool D/4 will advance as the #16 seed
- Day 2 – Main Draw Pool Play
  - 4 pool of 4 (16 athletes per gender), snake seeded
    - Pool A/1 – 1, 8, 9, 16
    - Pool B/2 – 2, 7, 10, 15
    - Pool C/3 – 3, 6, 11, 14
    - Pool D/4 – 4, 5, 12, 13
  - Each athlete will play 3 matches
  - Winner of each pool will advance to the bracket on day 3
    - Winner of Pool A/1 will advance as the #1 seed
    - Winner of Pool B/2 will advance as the #2 seed
    - Winner of Pool C/3 will advance as the #3 seed
    - Winner of Pool D/4 will advance as the #4 seed
- Day 3 – Main Draw Bracket Play
  - Top athlete from each pool on day 2 will choose a partner from the other 12 athletes that played on day 2 and did not win their respective pool.
  - The order that day 2 winners will choose a partner will be as follows:
    - Choosing 1<sup>st</sup> - Pool A/1 Winner
    - Choosing 2<sup>nd</sup> - Pool B/2 Winner
    - Choosing 3<sup>rd</sup> - Pool C/3 Winner
    - Choosing 4<sup>th</sup> - Pool D/4 Winner
  - The playoff bracket will use the following format:
    - Semifinal #1 - #1 seed (winner Pool A/1) vs. #4 seed (winner Pool D/4)
    - Semifinal #2 - #2 seed (winner of Pool B/2) vs. #3 seed (winner of Pool C/3)
    - Final – Winner of semifinal #1 vs. winner of semifinal #2
- Match Play defined:
  - Best 2 out of 3 sets
  - Sets 1 & 2 will play to 21 points, switching sides every 7 points
  - If needed, set 3 will play to 15 points, switching sides every 5 points
  - There is no cap on any set
  - Each team may request one time-out per set, a timeout is one minute
  - A technical time-out will be awarded during sets 1 & 2 when the sum of the points scored is 21 points. (No technical time-out will be allowed if a 3<sup>rd</sup> set is played.)

#### **COMPETITION RULES:**

- The most current USA Volleyball beach rules will govern this event unless a specific rule is outlined in this Handbook. A digital copy of the rules can be found here:



<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-volleyball/officials/rulebooks>. A printed copy will be available at the main event HQ tent.

- The official volleyball of the event is the Molten FIVB Approved V5B5000.
- The play schedule in each pool will be as follows:
  - Set 1 – Seed 1/Seed 2 vs. Seed 3/Seed 4
  - Set 2 – Seed 1/Seed 3 vs. Seed 2/Seed 4
  - Set 3 – Seed 1/Seed 4 vs. Seed 2/Seed 3
- Athletes are not required to officiate. A paid R1 official will be provided for by the Event every match on day 1 & day 2. A paid R1 & R2 official will be provided by the Event for every match on day 3.
- Tie breakers – Tie breakers within a pool (two teams with 1 advancing or three teams with 1 advancing) will be broken using the results recorded in BracketPal:
  - Match win %
  - Game/Set win %
  - Point Ratio (Points Earned divided by Points Against)
  - If two teams are still tied after Point Ratio, entry seeding will be used to break the tie. No playoff sets will take place.
- Uniforms are not required. Male athletes are not required to wear a jersey/shirt during competition.
- For clarification, USAV rules will be in play and the score will not freeze when either team reaches match point.
- The Event will use the following rules for inclement weather & lightning:
  - For light rain/wind, the competition will continue without delay.
  - For moderate rain/wind, the Event Director will decide on the continuation of the competition.
  - For heavy rain/wind, the competition will be paused, and the Event Director will decide when the event will resume.
  - For lightning that is between 10-15 miles, the Event Director & the Medical Director will monitor the radar and caution everyone of the pending situation.
  - For lightning that is within 6-10 miles, the competition will be paused, and all activities will be suspended for a 30-minute period. If a subsequent lightning strike occurs within the 6-10 mile radius, an additional 30 minutes will be added to the restart clock. This process will continue until there has been no lightning within 6-10 miles for 30 continuous minutes.
  - If play is suspended due to lightning, the sand area will need to be vacated to ensure the safety of all in attendance.
- A protest committee will be available and will include any 2 of the following individuals:
  - Event Director
  - Competition Director
  - Event Coordinator

- Head Official
- Note: The decision of the protest committee is final and not subject to any further appeals.
- Matches will not begin after their scheduled time unless there is an extenuating circumstance that has been approved by the Event Director.
- After the first match of the day, any subsequent match may begin up to 15 minutes early if all competing athletes agree and communicate that decision to the court official.
- The final match of each day may begin up to 30 minutes early if all competing athletes agree and communicate that decision to the court official.
- Since this is an individual king/queen format, coaches will not be allowed.
- For medical situations, USAV rules will be followed. The Event Director or the Medical Director may extend the medical timeout period based on each situation. The goal will be to return the athlete to play as quickly as possible.
- If an athlete is unable to continue and must withdraw during pool play, a standby athlete may be substituted by the Event Director to allow play to continue. Any standby athlete inserted into the event will come from the original pool of eligible athletes. They will have successfully passed a COVID rapid test and will have met all other Safety Guidelines.
- The standby athlete will assume the spot of the injured athlete they are replacing along with their current record for the day.

#### **ONLINE EVENT SCHEDULE**

- The official event schedule will be available on BracketPal.com. The link is: <https://floridaregion.bracketpal.com/tournament/38>.

#### **ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Athletes are expected to follow all event rules and guidelines while in attendance along with any USAV competition rules, all USAV code of conduct rules and all Event rules.
- The Event will provide water and snacks for the competing athletes in the Athlete Lounge area. The Event will not provide food for the athlete's friends and/or family members. Once an athlete is no longer in the Event, they will not be granted access to the Athlete Lounge or the Athlete Viewing Area.
- The Event is not responsible for the specific nutritional needs of the athletes. It is the responsibility of each athlete to ensure that their individual nutritional needs are met during the Event.
- Winning athletes from each day of competition will be expected to provide a brief Q&A session/interview with SpikeNet for the daily highlight video, while following all Safety Guidelines.

### **AWARDS & PAYOUTS:**

- A trophy will be presented to the winning athlete for each gender by the Event Director at the conclusion of both championships matches on Sunday.
- Prize money checks will be made available after the conclusion of the last match of the day on Saturday and Sunday. Checks will only be available to those athletes that have a signed W-9 on file with the Event.
- Athletes are independent contractors and will be responsible for any personal tax obligations for prize money received from the Event, as required by the Internal Revenue Service. The Event will report to the IRS all amounts awarded greater than \$600.

### **SAFETY PLAN:**

- General Guidelines
  - All attendees should wear masks (covering the nose & mouth) when not social distanced (a minimum of 6 feet apart), when in any common area of the venue or when cheering. (Masks are available for purchase at the Concession Area.)
  - Hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout the venue.
  - All guest tents must be spaced at least 6 feet apart (measuring from pole to pole).
  - All water fountains will be turned off during the Event.
  - Livestreaming will be available for a fee for those that do not wish to attend in person.
  - Volleyballs will be continually sanitized during each match and again at the end of each day of competition.
  - All common surfaces will be sanitized regularly throughout the day.
  - Regular announcements will be made throughout the day reminding all attendees about the safety guidelines.
  - Any individual that refuses to comply with the Safety Guidelines will be warned and then asked to depart the venue if the warning is not heeded. Law enforcement will be onsite to address any unique situations that warrant their involvement.
- Spectators
  - All spectators will be required to pass a temperature check of less than 100 degrees upon arrival and before parking. Anyone above 100 degrees will not be allowed inside the park/venue.
- Athletes
  - All athletes will be required to pass a COVID rapid test prior to their first match of the Event. Any athlete that cannot pass the rapid test will be dismissed from the Event.

- All athletes will be required to check-in with the medical team to have their temperatures taken and recorded each morning upon arrival.
- All athletes will be required to complete the pre-event COVID questionnaire prior to arriving at the venue.
- The Event recommends that athletes avoid any unnecessary contact with other athletes (high fives/handshakes/etc.) prior to and during competition.
- All athletes will be required to wear their assigned armband while in the venue once they have passed their temperature check. (They may wear it on their ankle if they prefer.)
- Athletes competing in the Event will be provided several safe zones during the Event:
  - Athletics Center – This building will have the following rooms available with the listed occupancy densities:
    - Showers/Locker/Restrooms – 12 people max
    - Medical Room – 6 people max
    - Athlete Lounge – 12 people max
  - Courtside Viewing Area – A viewing tent (measuring 20'x40') will be available for athletes in between courts 1-2 and 3-4 for viewing matches.
- Athletes are not allowed in the VIP spectator tent while competing in the Event.
- Officials will use hand whistles or a mouth whistle covered by a face mask.
- Staff/Volunteers/Officials
  - All staff/volunteers/officials will be required to clear a temperature check & medical screen each day upon arrival.
  - All staff/volunteers/officials will be required to wear their assigned armband while in the venue once they have passed their temperature check.

**HOST CONTACT INFO:**

Florida Region of USA Volleyball

T: (352) 742-0080

E: [office@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:office@FloridaVolleyball.org)

W: [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)

**PLAYER'S PARTY INFO:**

- On Saturday night, November 7<sup>th</sup> you are invited to downtown Tavares on Lake Dora, beginning at 8pm for a player's party. Five local restaurants/bars on Ruby Street will be expecting volleyball athletes and guests from our Event. We've selected five establishments in the downtown entertainment district so that everyone can spread out and enjoy the food, drinks and live music while enjoying a beautiful Florida night. Make plans to visit them all! Be sure to show your event credential/armband and let your server know that you are attending the beach volleyball event at Hickory Point Beach.
- Participating restaurants are:

- Kalua Hale Beach Bar
- Puddle Jumpers
- Ruby Street Grille
- Shiners
- Tiki West Raw Bar & Grill
- Here is a map of downtown Tavares and the participating restaurants.



The top local bars & restaurants that Tavares has to offer are just 5 miles away from Hickory Point Beach!

**Join us on Saturday night for the players party in downtown Tavares!**



**Puddle Jumpers Lakeside Grill & Bar**  
111 W Ruby St, Tavares, FL 32778  
**Tiki West Raw Bar and Grill**  
118 W Ruby St, Tavares, FL 32778  
**Ruby Street Grille**  
221 E Ruby St, Tavares, FL 32778

**Shiner's**  
134 W Ruby St, Tavares, FL 32778  
**Kalua Beach Bar**  
181 S Joanna Ave, Tavares, FL 32778