



PRESS RELEASE

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## 2015 FLORIDA USAV BEACH SERIES SCHEDULE RELEASED

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball reconnects with national entity, USA Volleyball, to oversee the largest regional beach tour in the US this year. The dates and locations of the tour stops have officially been released.

**Eustis, FL – February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015** – The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is honored to manage the new Florida USAV Beach Series, set to kick off for the 2015 season. This series will replace the NVL & ROX Beach Series from the previous year and will offer playing divisions for both adults and juniors. Adults will be able to qualify for the ROX Volleyball Series Nationals and juniors will be able to earn bids for the USA Jr. Beach Tour (JBT), the ROX East Coast All-Star Championships, and the ROX Volleyball Series Nationals.

The series of events hosted by the Florida Region will kick off on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Hickory Point Beach ([www.HickoryPointBeach.com](http://www.HickoryPointBeach.com)), the largest sand volleyball complex in Florida. A list of the initial event dates to be produced by Florida Region can be found at [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org). Additional dates may be added to the Florida USAV Beach Series master schedule once they are finalized with participating affiliate tours.

**Chris Hamilton**, Outdoor Events Manager for the Florida Region of USA Volleyball, said that the release of the 2015 Florida USAV Beach Series Schedule is an exciting opportunity for Hickory Point Beach and the growth of beach volleyball. “We have added several events this year to give our athletes more opportunities to participate and compete, including three national events,” said Hamilton. “With the adoption of beach volleyball in D1, D2, and D3 colleges, we know this is going to be a great year for sand volleyball at Hickory Point Beach!”

Some of the features that the Florida USAV Beach Series offers their participants include:

- USAV members will be able to continue using their USAV memberships while playing on this tour. NO NEW BEACH MEMBERSHIPS WILL BE REQUIRED! This is a cost savings of \$20 per person for current USAV members.
- All USAV coaches and officials will have a USAV approved background screen, eliminating risk for promoters & tour directors. This is important as part of the USOC mandated SafeSport program.
- All USAV coaches will have Beach IMPACT training opportunities along with a verification list provided to affiliate tour directors by the Florida Region.

Local and national businesses have joined with the Florida Region as tour partners for the Florida USAV Beach Series. These partners include ROX Volleyball, ROX VB Series, Lake County, FL, Molten, Sarasota Convention & Visitors Bureau, David Jester Photography and Rx Massage Therapy.

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“I am proud to announce that the Florida USAV Beach Series will be the only beach tour in Florida sanctioned by USA Volleyball and which offers bids to the USA Jr. Beach Tour Championships,” said **Steve Bishop**, Executive Director of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball. “Additionally, we are honored to offer bids to several other national and notable beach events for adults and juniors that desire to compete at the national level. With over 30 tour stops in Florida, the Florida USAV Beach Series will be the largest regional beach tour in the US and all results will be posted on the USA National Beach Ranking system. All of our coaches will be certified and background screened by USA Volleyball, adding extra safeguards for participating junior families. This is all part of the SafeSport initiative put in place by the US Olympic Committee that is exclusive to events sanctioned by USA Volleyball. In addition to these tested safeguards, the Florida Region of USA Volleyball has a long track record of producing outstanding indoor and outdoor events since 1982. I invite all beach athletes in Florida, and across the USA, to sign up for a Florida USAV Beach Series event and support our national governing body as we all gear up for the 2016 Rio Olympics.”

By participating in the Florida USAV Beach Series, affiliate tour directors in Florida will be able to offer their participants industry leading general liability and participant accident insurance coverage, the highest level of safeguards under the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) SafeSport program, regular promotion of tour events during the outdoor season and an opportunity to combine forces with select tours to create the largest beach tour in Florida.

#### **About USA Volleyball:**

USA Volleyball is the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of volleyball in the United States and is recognized by the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) and the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). Additional information on USA Volleyball can be found at: [www.USAVolleyball.org](http://www.USAVolleyball.org).

#### **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 over 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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