

UniSport Australia Guideline

Beach Volleyball

Men, Women and Mixed

UniSport Australia (UniSport) beach volleyball competitions are conducted in accordance with the rules of the [Federation Internationale de Volleyball \(FIVB\)](#) and [FIVB Official Beach Volleyball Rules \(Version 4 vs 4\)](#) except where these differ from UniSport competition guidelines; in which case the latter shall take precedence. Reference should also be made to the UniSport *Breach of Competition Requirements* guideline for penalties related to breaches.

1. Team/squad size

1.1. Men and women's pairs competitions:

- Minimum registered players – 2
- Maximum registered players – 2
- Maximum cross registrations – 1
- Minimum number of players that can take the court without incurring a forfeit – 2

1.2. Mixed fours competition:

- Minimum registered players – 4
- Maximum registered players – 6
- Maximum cross registrations – 3
- Minimum number of players that can take the court without incurring a forfeit – 4
- Minimum number of women on the court at any one time – 2

1.3. Players who register in a mixed team will only be permitted to cross register into a pairs team should a player sustain a competition-ending injury or family emergency. Reference should be made to the UniSport *Replacement Player* guideline and *Cross Registration* guideline for further information and processes.

1.4. Players who are registered in a pairs team are are ineligible to cross register into a mixed team.

2. Substitutes

2.1. Mixed fours may utilise unlimited substitutions.

2.2. Competition management reserves the right to limit substitutions in any mixed fours match where they believe the substitutions are being used to delay the game.

3. Competition format

3.1. In fours competition, if a team has more than one contact on their side of the net, one of those contacts must be by the opposing gender. Therefore, it is a fault if both genders do not touch the ball when two or three hits are used by a team to return the ball to the opposing side of court.

- a) The gender rule does not apply in the action of blocking.

4. Match time/duration

4.1. All matches will be the best of three sets, rally point.

4.2. The first two sets will be the first to 21 points with a minimum of two points lead.

4.3. The final set will be the first to 15 points with a minimum of two points lead.

5. Net height

5.1. Placed vertically over the middle of the court there is a net whose top is set at the height of 2.43m for men, 2.35m for mixed and 2.24m for women's competitions.

6. Ladder Points

6.1. Points for each match shall be awarded as follows:

- Winning team: 3 points
- Losing team: 1 point
- Forfeited team: 0 points

6.2. In the event that two or more teams have the same number of ladder points at the completion of the preliminary rounds, the higher placed team(s) will be decided when the first of the following criteria in order, favours the team:

- a) With the higher percentage of sets won divided by total sets played during the competition;
- b) With the higher percentage of points won divided by total points played during the competition;
- c) If two teams are tied, the winner of the match played between the relevant teams during the preliminary competition;
- d) If more than two teams are tied after the application of the above criteria then the higher placed team shall be decided upon by:
 - The higher percentage of sets won divided by total sets played in matches only between the tied teams;
 - The higher percentage of points won divided by total points played in matches only between the tied teams.

7. Forfeits

7.1. Any team not ready to start at the official match time, forfeits the first set. If the team is still not ready to play 10 minutes after the official match time, the match is forfeited.

7.2. A forfeit set score is 21 points to nil (0).

7.3. A forfeit match is two sets to nil (0) with each set recorded as 21 points to nil (0).

7.4. When neither team is ready to commence at the advised starting time, both teams forfeit the first set. If neither team is ready to start after 10 minutes, the result is a double match forfeit.

7.5. Where both teams have forfeited the first set but are then ready to play within 10 minutes, the match shall be played as one set to 21 with a minimum of two points lead.

8. Uniform requirements

The specific uniform requirements for beach volleyball are as per FIVB standard with the following UniSport uniform requirements:

- Matching shorts or bathers and jersey (singlet, crop top, tank top).
- All jerseys to be clearly numbered on the front and back, with numbers a minimum of 10cm high and 1.5 cm wide. Jerseys must be numbered 1-2 only for doubles and numbered 1-6 for mixed.
- Numbering must be clearly visible and in a contrasting colour to the dominant colour of the jersey.
- Jersey number to remain the same for each player for the entire tournament.
- Wearing a hat is highly recommended and glasses can be worn at the players own risk.
- Players must play barefoot unless authorised by the referees or competition manager.

9. Competitor welfare

9.1. All team members and support staff are encouraged to follow the highest level of personal safety in preparing their attendance at the event in respect of hydration, sustenance, sunscreen and shade.

9.2. All team members and support staff who avail themselves of the beach environment are requested to swim between the flags and within their own capabilities.

10. Team duties

10.1. Team duty requirements for beach volleyball are:

- Each team will be rostered to provide a duty team for a number of matches over the duration of the competition.
 - Each team will be required to provide two people to fill the roles of first referee, and combine the role of second referee and scorer.
- 10.2. The person fulfilling the team duty requirements can be any competent person associated with that team or university and does not necessarily have to be a player e.g. team manager.
- 10.3. Teams that do not fulfil team duties will be fined as per the UniSport guideline *Breach of Competition Requirements*.

Previous amendments

November 2004 | August 2005 | April 2008 | February 2009 | April 2011 | May 2014 | February 2015 | April 2017 | October 2017 | February 2018 | March 2018 | August 2018 | March 2019 | May 2023 | February 2024 | February 2025

*All competitions will be held in accordance with the UniSport competition guidelines.

