



FIVB™



BEACH VOLLEYBALL
U18 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS, 2026
08 - 12 JULY

The central graphic features the FIVB logo at the top, followed by a stylized orange beach ball with the number '18' in white. Below this is the text 'BEACH VOLLEYBALL' in a smaller, bold, black font, followed by 'U18 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS' in a large, bold, black font. Underneath that is 'THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS, 2026' in a smaller, orange font, and finally '08 - 12 JULY' in a black font at the bottom of the central section.

**Qualification System
&
Seeding Criteria**

QUALIFICATION PROCESS



- Continental Confederations are recommended to sanction Continental Age Group events (U18 Continental Championships or U18 Continental Tour, etc.) to select the teams participating in a FIVB Junior World Championship.
- Continental Confederations are required to select the best ranked teams based on the ranking of the relevant Continental Age Group events.
- If a Continental Confederation is unable to organize such events in 2026, it may use the rankings from events organized during the 2025 season.
- Should no ranking be available from the 2025 season, the Confederation may apply the FIVB selection criteria outlined in points A to F below.

The FIVB reserves the right to request, at any time, full details of the criteria applied by Continental Confederations for team selection, including the results of events used for ranking purposes.

Priority Selection Criteria

Teams will be selected in priority based on:

1. U18 Continental Championships or U18 Continental Tour rankings, issued prior to the publication of the confirmed entry list for the FIVB Beach Volleyball U18 World Championships.
2. Unfulfilled quota: If a Continental Confederation does not use its full quota (5 teams per gender in the Main Draw and 4 teams per gender in the Qualification), the FIVB may complete the roster using qualification or reserve teams, or host country reserve teams, in the following order of priority:

A. Sporting Performance at Junior World Championships

Unfulfilled quotas may first be allocated based on sporting performance at most recent FIVB Junior World Championships in the same age category.

- 2025 Beach Volleyball U18 World Championships Doha, QAT

B. Contribution to Age Group Event Development

If quotas remain unfilled, allocation may consider the contribution of National Federations to the development of age group competitions, assessed over the current and previous seasons, in priority order as follows:

- i. **Current season (2026):**
 - Organization of FIVB Junior World Championships (excluding host country of the relevant World Championships)
 - Organization of Continental Age Group events (Continental Championship, Continental Cup, Continental Tour)
 - Organization of Zonal Age Group events
 - Organization of National Age Group events
- ii. **Previous season (2025)**, applying the same order of priority.

C. National Federations hosting Beach Pro Tour tournaments

If quotas remain unfulfilled, priority may be given to National Federations hosting **Beach Pro Tour tournaments**, assessed in the following order of priority:

- i. The 2026 season, Beach Pro Tour Elite, then Challenge, and then Futures organized in the same season;
- ii. The 2025 seasons, Beach Pro Tour Finals, then Elite, then Challenge, and then Futures organized in the same season.
- In case of a tie between two or several teams, number of events organized in the respective seasons would break the tie.

D. National Federations hosting other FIVB homologated events

If quotas remain unfulfilled, priority may be given to National Federations hosting **other FIVB-homologated events**, assessed in the following order of priority:

2026 season:

1. Continental Championships;
2. Continental Tours;
3. Continental Olympic Qualification – 1st and 2nd phases;
4. Zonal Tours;
5. Other FIVB-homologated events.

2025 season:

Applying the same order of priority as listed above.

E. National Federations with the best players featured in the FIVB World Ranking as of -46 days before the start of the tournament.

F. National Federations promoting continental events at grass roots activities (in priority National Tour, other grass roots activities).

The Continental Confederation must inform its National Federations of the qualification process in due course.

ATHLETE'S ELIGIBILITY



Age limit for FIVB 2026 Beach Volleyball U18 World Championships:

Must be born on January 1st, 2009 and thereafter

The athletes are required to:

- Complete the on-line Anti-Doping Educational program
- Complete the manipulation prevention course
- Complete the Safe Guarding course
- Have a valid passport
- Complete the Player Participation Agreement
- Complete the BVB-10 Athletes' Health Certificate
- Other relevant documents required by the FIVB, such as the Gender and Age Verification following the FIVB guidelines.

→ the above documents should be uploaded by the respective National Federation on the VIS no later than 46 days before the start of the tournament.

QUALIFICATION TIMELINE



**-60
DAYS**

09 MAY 2026

- **Continental Confederations** to send the dedicated forms listing the Main Draw, Qualification and Reserve teams with each player's FIVB number. In case of delay, the FIVB may reallocate the vacancy(ies) concerned to teams from other Confederation.
- **Invitation Letter** (Visa purpose): Participating NFs can already request from the Hosting NF an invitation letter for visa purposes. FIVB strongly recommends to do this as early as possible.
- **Wild Cards**: Deadline for NFs to submit the wild card application forms to FIVB.

If the names of the players are not confirmed yet, the Confederations can list the country instead and confirm the players' names at a later stage.

**-59 TO -46
DAYS**

10-23 MAY 2026

- FIVB to enter respective names of the players in the VIS. However, it is still the NFs' responsibility to create the players' profile and FIVB number in the VIS.
- Teams without FIVB players' number will be removed.
- NF to upload all necessary documents for athlete's eligibility and compliance in the VIS.

**-45
DAYS**

24 MAY 2026

- FIVB issues **the tentative team entry list** (team roster with all teams in the Main Draw, Qualification tournament and reserve list, with teams' names). Should a team fail to comply, the respective place will be granted to the next eligible team as of -46 days before the start of the tournament.
- If -45 days will be weekend or holiday, the team entry list will be issued the first next working day.

**-31
DAYS**

7 JUNE 2026

- Teams featured in the tentative team entry list must provide to the organizer their **confirmed travel arrangements and a valid entry visa** (or visa application in progress) at least 31 days before the event.
- The organizer will inform the FIVB of the participating teams that have not sent their confirmed travel arrangements. The FIVB will then inform those NFs and give them 24 hours to send the confirmations. Should a team fail to comply, the respective place will be granted to the next eligible team as of -46 days before the start of the tournament.
- If -31 days will be weekend or holiday, the confirmed entry list will be issued the first next working day.

**-30
DAYS**

8 JUNE 2026

- FIVB to send out the **Confirmed Entry List & Events Regulations** to all participating NF's / Confederations and Officials.

COMPETITION FORMAT

The competition format is based on a Qualification tournament and a Main Draw.

Qualification tournament

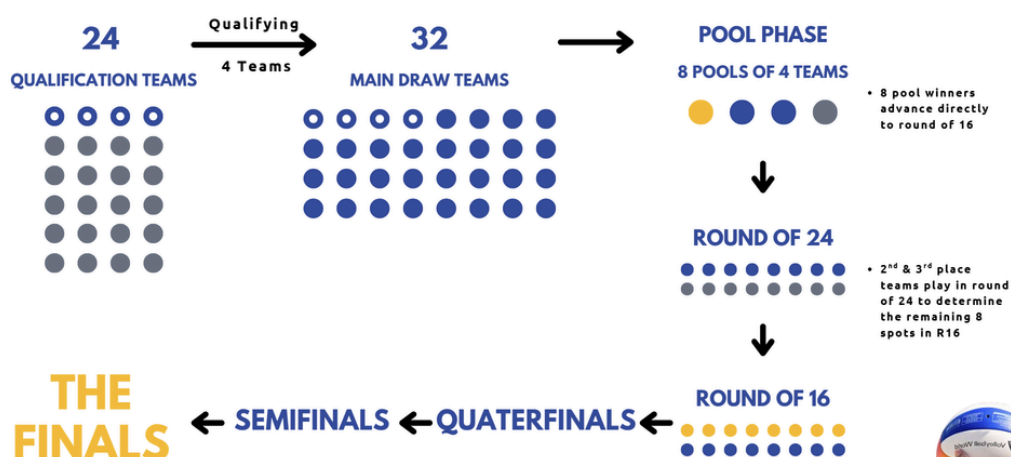
One (1) day played in single elimination with a maximum of 24 teams to qualify 4 teams and to fill any vacancy(ies) in the Main Draw due to withdrawals of Main Draw teams;

The participating teams of the qualification tournament must bear all costs related to their international travel, board and lodging.

Main Draw

Thirty-two (32) teams – Main Draw playing in 8 pools of 4 teams in each pool (standard Round Robin system). The best 3 ranked teams in each pool (a total of 24 teams) will advance to the next phase of Single Elimination

Twenty-four (24) teams will proceed to the single elimination phase which will be played until the bronze and gold medal matches.



Main Draw Quota Allocation



Continental Quota

- In the main draw 5 teams per gender per Continental Confederation, in the qualification 4 teams per gender per Continental Confederation and as reserve 4 teams per gender per Continental Confederations;
- 2 teams per gender for the host country will not count towards the continental quota.

Note: FIVB will follow its selection criteria (Points A-F above on page 1) to pick up reserve teams to fill the Qualification tournament roster prioritizing NFs not yet qualified in the Main Draw or Qualification Tournament;

Country Quota

- 1 team per gender's event per country is accepted (except host country); However, a 2nd team from the same country may be selected if needed to fill the roster of the Qualification Tournament (maximum 2 teams per country per gender can be eventually accepted with FIVB approval)
- 2 host country teams per gender's event. 2 additional host country teams may be entered in the reserve to fill in the qualification tournament if necessary.
- Wild card is granted outside of the Country Quota (host and foreign) set for FIVB Age Group World Championships and must be submitted to FIVB through application form no later than -60 days before the start of the tournament.

Seeding

The seeding regulations will be featured in the Specific Competition Regulations. (See Below "Seeding Criteria")

Rules of the Game

FIVB Official Beach Volleyball Rules (effective at the times of competition) will be applied for the Age Group World Championships.

Coaching

Accredited coaches must remain seated in the designated team seating area during play. Coaches may interact with and instruct players during **official warm-up, time-outs, technical time-outs, set intervals, court switches, intervals between rallies, and exceptional game interruptions**, provided that match flow is not delayed.

Coaches must be present with their team for the **entire duration of the match**, unless prevented by force majeure (e.g. illness or injury). In such cases, the coach's accreditation remains at the score table, and the coach must be accompanied by an official.

All other applicable FIVB regulations regarding coaching from outside the playing area remain in force.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION



- A head of delegation must be appointed to travel with athletes who have not yet reached legal age;
- The organizer will bear the costs of board & lodging for all the athletes in the Main Draw;
- The participating teams of the qualification tournament (or entered to fill the roster or as reserve teams) should bear all the costs related to board & lodging;
- Each NF is responsible for the international travel of their teams and delegation;
- The participating teams are requested to start well in advance the visa procedures (if any) and travel arrangements to avoid any inconvenience and to inform the FIVB in case of difficulties.
- Coach accreditation shall be granted only if the coach is duly registered in the VIS for the relevant tournament and the dedicated form is submitted by the participating National Federation within the prescribed deadline.

Note: The FIVB and the organizers reserve the rights to amend the information featured in this document when issuing the Handbook and the Event's Regulations and confirmed teams' list (-30 days prior the event).

SEEDING CRITERIA



A. Purpose of Seeding

The seeding procedure governs the placement of teams in the Qualification Tournament and Main Draw in accordance with FIVB regulations, predefined allocations, and applicable results from previous FIVB Beach Volleyball Junior World Championships.

B. Host Country Seeding

- The first host country team (as confirmed by the Host National Federation as Team 1) is assigned **Seed #1**.
- The second host country team (as confirmed by the Host National Federation as Team 2), if applicable, is assigned **Seed #8**.

C. Seeding Points Allocation

Seeding points are allocated based on final rankings at the most recent FIVB Junior World Championships, in the same age group. In this case, this refers to the 2025 FIVB Beach Volleyball U18 World Championships Doha, Qatar.

- Only the **best result per National Federation** is taken into account.
- Only the **first team** confirmed by the National Federation (Team 1) is eligible to receive seeding points. (This applies to both Main Draw and Qualification Tournament teams)
- Any additional teams from the same National Federation receive **zero (0) seeding points**.

Seeding Points Table

| Final Ranking | Points |
|---------------|--------|
| 1st | 45 |
| 2nd | 44 |
| 3rd | 43 |
| 4th | 42 |
| 5th | 41 |
| 9th | 37 |
| 17th | 29 |
| 25th | 21 |
| 33rd | 13 |
| 37th | 9 |
| 45th | 1 |

D. Tie-Breaking Criteria

In the event that two or more teams have the same number of seeding points, ties are broken in the following order of priority:

1. Team's participation (the team participated in the previous edition will rank higher)
2. Team final ranking (the team with a better finish in the previous edition will rank higher);
3. Individual player participation (the team with one player participate the previous edition will rank higher)
4. Individual player final ranking (the team with the player that obtained a better finish in the previous edition will ranker higher)
5. Drawing of lots

Note: For the purpose of seeding tie-breaking only, the “previous edition” refers to the most recent FIVB Junior World Championships of the same age group.

E. Seeding of the Qualification Tournament

The seeding of teams participating in the Qualification Tournament is determined based on the same seeding points criteria outlined above.

- Only the first team confirmed by each National Federation (Team 1) may receive seeding points (Including both Main Draw and Qualification Tournament teams)
- If two or more teams have equal seeding points, the tie-breaking criteria defined above shall apply.
- In the event that all teams have zero (0) seeding points, the seeding of the Qualification Tournament shall be determined by drawing of lots.

F. Seeding of the Main Draw

The 28 teams including 2 host country teams, 1 wild card and 25 teams nominated by the Confederations will be seeded from 1-28 as per the below criteria, while the seeds for the teams qualified from the Qualification tournament will be determined by drawing of lots for position 29-32.

PART 1 Seed #1-28

Seed #1: 1st host country team

Seed #2-7: as per their seeding in priority based on points earned at previous edition events

Seed #8: 2nd host country team

Seed #9-28: as per their seeding in priority based on points earned at previous edition events.

Teams from the same countries will not be placed in the same pool. The 2nd team shall have their seed increased (for example from Seed #10 to seed #11) until the team is in a different pool than the 1st team of the same country. Should increasing the seed not work (or not be possible), then the seed is reduced (for example from Seed #28 reduced to Seed #27) until the teams from the same countries are placed in different pools.

In case there is '0' point, the following drawing of lots will be conducted to determine the seeding of the teams:

Draw 1: Among the 1st teams of the countries in the Main Draw tournament nominated by the National Federations.

Draw 2: Among the 2nd teams of the countries nominated by the National Federations.

| Women's Teams and Men's Teams | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Pool A | Pool B | Pool C | Pool D | Pool E | Pool F | Pool G | Pool H |
| Seed #1 | Seed #2 | Seed #3 | Seed #4 | Seed #5 | Seed #6 | Seed #7 | Seed #8 |
| Seed #16 | Seed #15 | Seed #14 | Seed #13 | Seed #12 | Seed #11 | Seed #10 | Seed #9 |
| Seed #17 | Seed #18 | Seed #19 | Seed #20 | Seed #21 | Seed #22 | Seed #23 | Seed #24 |
| Seed #32 | Seed #31 | Seed #30 | Seed #29 | Seed #28 | Seed #27 | Seed #26 | Seed #25 |

PART 2 Seed #29-32

Draw: among all the teams qualified to the Main Draw from the Qualification tournament.

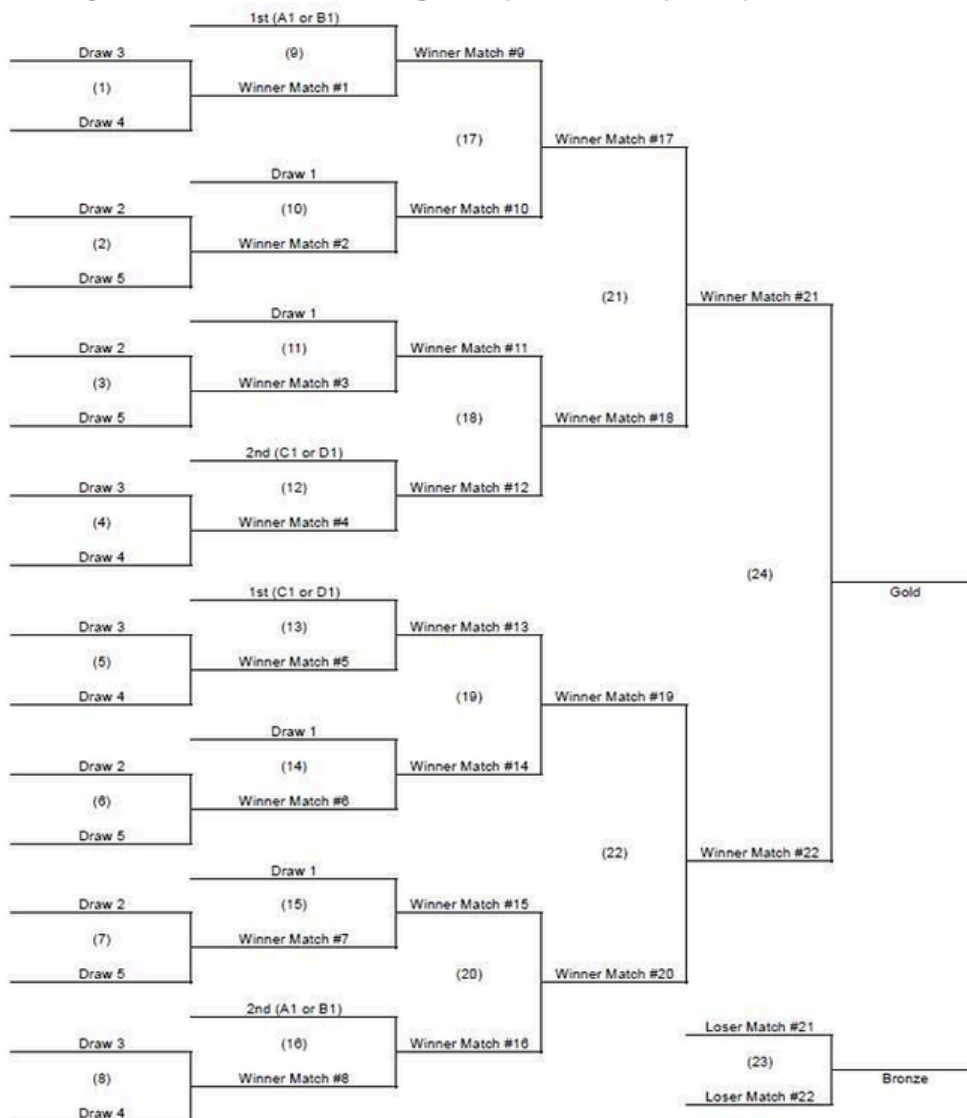
G. Seeding of Lucky Loser Draw

In case additional spots become available in the Main Draw due to last-minute withdrawals after the start of the Qualification Tournament Preliminary Inquiry, the lucky loser teams drawn from the Qualification Tournament shall always be placed at the bottom of the seeding.

The sequence they are picked up in the lucky loser draw will determine their seeds in the Main Draw, i.e. the last one to be drawn will be seed #32, the second to the last one to be drawn will be seed #31, the third to the last one to be drawn will be seed #30, etc.

Teams from the same countries will not be placed in the same pool. The 2nd team shall always have their seed increased (example from Seed #30 to Seed #31) until the team is a different pool than the 1st team of the same country. Should increasing the seed not work (or not possible), then the seed is reduced (for example from Seed #32 reduced to Seed #31) until they are placed in different pools.

H. Seeding of Main Draw Single Elimination Phase



A1 or B1 are decided by best ratio (wins, sets, points) – highest ratio match #9, lowest ratio match #16

C1 or D1 are decided by best ratio (wins, sets, points) – highest ratio match #13, lowest ratio match #12

Draw 1 = E1 + F1 + G1 + H1

Draw 2 = 4 x 2nd place teams from pool play with best ratio (match points, set ratio, rally point ratio, and if a tie still exists in rally point ratio, a draw will be conducted to break the tie)

Draw 3 = 4 x 2nd place teams from pool play with worst ratio (match points, set ratio, rally point ratio, and if a tie still exists in rally point ratio, a draw will be conducted to break the tie)

Draw 4 = 4 x 3rd place teams from pool play with best ratio (match points, set ratio, rally point ratio, and if a tie still exists in rally point ratio, a draw will be conducted to break the tie)

Draw 5 = 4 x 3rd place teams from pool play with worst ratio (match points, set ratio, rally point ratio, and if a tie still exists in rally point ratio, a draw will be conducted to break the tie)

- In the first two rounds teams from the same pool can't meet
e.g. If Match #9 = B1 vs Winner of Match #1 then Match #1 can't have a team from Pool B
- Points earned from a forfeit don't count in this ratio (The matches won and sets won do count)