

How to Become A Beach Official

Welcome to Beach Officiating!

We're delighted that you're interested in joining us! We're the Beach Official's Commission of USA Volleyball. We train, evaluate and certify referees for all types of outdoor volleyball, including doubles, triples, fours and sixes, played on both grass and sand surfaces. We support junior, collegiate and professional play.

It's important to note that we are beach *officials*, not beach *referees*. To certify for beach officiating, you have to train in all of the officiating roles: lines-judge and scorer, as well as first and second referee!

The following pages will thoroughly describe the requirements for becoming a beach official, and for maintaining your rating. But first, let's take a moment to look at the big picture:

How do you get started?

- Get off to a great start by making use of our online-tools: Go to VolleyballRefTraining.com and look at the Training Materials, Rules & Interpretations, Certifications, and Resource for beach officiating. You'll find presentations, rules comparisons, scoring instruction, and other tools, all online for your at-home convenience!
- Your experience, and your first certification, begin with your home [Region](#). Contact your beach official's chair. (If your region doesn't have a beach-ref-chair, then contact your referee chair, or your regional commissioner.) They will help you find your way to the beach events and local certification clinics in your area.
- If your region doesn't have a program that meets your needs, feel free to contact the national office of Beach Officials Training and Certification: info@beachcommission.org
- The Beach Commission hosts BEACH OFFICIATING TRAINING CAMPS each summer. For more news about our CAMP opportunities, see our articles at [VRT](#) and the [Official Word](#). Successful CAMPERS earn Local or Zonal certifications, as appropriate.
- If you're already an experienced beach official, you can certify directly at one of our ZONAL CERTIFICATION CLINICS. Look for announcements posted every April in the [Official Word](#), at [VRT](#) or at [USA Volleyball](#).
- To apply for a Certification Clinic or a camp, please use the application form found at [VRT](#)

In Review:

Use each of these tools in the order that best suits you

- Online Study
- Regional events and LOCAL Certification
- Training CAMP
- ZONAL and NATIONAL Certification Clinics

Any questions (or your candidate application) may be addressed to info@beachcommission.org

See you on the sand!

The following describes the basic requirements of earning and maintaining each of the Beach certifications:

Becoming a Beach Volleyball Official at the Local Level:

The entry level Beach Volleyball Official certification that is awarded by a Region is a Local Beach Official. Certification and recertification requirements are to be administered by the individual Region. The **suggested** criteria used for a Local Beach Official are as follows:

I. To obtain certification as a USAV Local Beach Official:

- a. The official must be a regular member of USAV.
- b. The official must successfully pass and maintain USAV background screening if they will be officiating juniors competition.
- c. The official will need to attend a Beach officiating clinic either in person or online every season.
- d. The official will need to take the current Beach officials exam either online or hardcopy. (all exams must be corrected to 100% with rule references).
- e. The official will need to prove proficiency in all portions of Beach officiating (i.e. R1, R2, Scorekeeping, and Line Judge). This proficiency will be measured by practical ratings and observation. These ratings will be conducted at USAV events either in region or nationally. Ratings should be conducted by Beach Officials who hold a Zonal rating or higher.
 - i. Receive one (1) passing rating as an R1.
 - ii. Receive one (1) passing rating as an R2.
 - iii. Receive one (1) passing rating as a Scorer. This requirement can be met by successful use of the USAV Beach score sheet while performing their duties as an R1 or R2.
 - iv. The Official will need to be observed as a Line Judge with feedback provided to ensure that they understand the correct technique.

II. To retain certification as a USAV Local Beach Official:

- a. The official must be a regular member of the RVA or USAV.
- b. The official will need to have successfully passed a background check if they will be officiating Juniors competition.
- c. The official will need to attend a Beach officiating clinic either in person or online.
- d. The official will need to take the current Beach officials exam either online or hardcopy. (all exams must be corrected to 100% with rule references).
- e. Receive a passing rating in the R1, R2 and Scorer positions. These ratings can be obtained at USAV events either in Region or Nationally. The ratings should be provided by Beach Officials who hold a Zonal rating or higher.

Becoming a Beach Volleyball Official at the Zonal Beach Level

The Director for National Beach Officials Evaluation & Certification, upon the recommendation of the National Beach Officials Commission, certifies USAV Zonal Beach & USAV National Beach Officials. In accordance with Article 8, Section B 1 of the Operating Code, all Officials must be a regular member, registered with USA Volleyball for the current season.

USAV Zonal Beach Official

- I. To become certified as a USAV Zonal Beach Official a candidate must:**
 - a. Must be a current regular member in good standing with USAV.
 - b. The official must successfully pass and maintain USAV background screening and SafeSport certification.
 - c. File the official application with the Director for National Beach Officials Evaluation & Certification. An application fee payable to USAV Beach must accompany the application. The mailing address is found within the instructions on the application.
 - d. Perform required beach officiating services within their region.
 - e. Take the current version of the approved USAV Beach rules examination for Officials in accordance to the testing guidelines.
 - f. Attend the designated Beach/Outdoor Volleyball event and successfully complete all requirements at that tournament. The event requirements include (but are not limited to):
 - i. Attendance at the pre-tournament Officials' Clinics and Candidates' Meetings that are scheduled the day/night prior to the first day of competition, and remain
 - ii. Available to work at the event until the completion of the tournament or session in which the ratings occur.
 - iii. Successful completion of the evaluation session(s).
 - iv. Forfeiture of all match fees to the Beach Officials' Commission of USA Volleyball for matches worked during the rating process. Candidates must plan to be available for assignment until the end of the tournament or session in which the ratings occur.
- II. Responsibilities and entitlements of a USAV Zonal Beach Official:**
 - a. Successful completion of certification as a USAV Zonal Beach Official confers eligibility to be considered for events such as USAV Adult and Junior Beach, Collegiate Beach, FIVB beach (on US soil), and various Professional Beach Tours.
 - b. Certification as a USAV Zonal Beach Official is valid for a period of five (5) years. To maintain certification, the Official must referee a minimum of one (1) event in three (3) of the five (5) years from the following list. A record of this officiating activity must be submitted electronically to the National Beach Commission.
 - i. USAV sanctioned Beach events
 - ii. Collegiate Beach
 - iii. Professional Beach Tour events.
 - c. Submit to re-evaluation by the National Beach Commission at any time while officiating.
 - d. Each year, score a minimum of 80% on the current approved USAV Beach rules examination for Officials, using the closed-book method. All exams must be corrected to 100% with rules references. USAV Zonal Beach Official must submit a copy of their answer sheet or have their results sent electronically (if the test was taken on-line).
 - e. Register annually as a regular member of a USA Volleyball region and remain an active Official in good standing with his/her RVA.
 - f. A USAV Zonal Beach Official may be absent from all events two (2) years out of each five (5) year certification period.
 - g. A USAV Zonal Beach Official encountering unusual difficulty in meeting the attendance
 - h. Requirements may request, in writing, a one-year extension of certification. The request must be submitted to the Director for National Beach Officials Evaluation & Certification.

III. Repercussions for not fulfilling the requirements of a USAV Zonal Beach Official:

- a.** A USAV Zonal Beach Official who does not attend the required tournaments during the five(5) year certification period, and does not ask for the one-year extension of certification, will be placed on a one-year probation period.
 - i.** In the year following probation, if the Official does not attend a required tournament, the USAV Zonal Beach certification will be rescinded.
 - ii.** In the year following probation, if the Official attends a required tournament, a one-year certification extension will be granted. If the Official attends a required tournament in the second year following the probation, a new five (5) year certification period is awarded.
- b.** A USAV Zonal Beach Official who allows that certification to expire will have their USAV Zonal Beach rating rescinded. To recertify as a Zonal Beach Official they must follow the procedures as noted in Section I including the full candidate fee.

Becoming a Beach Volleyball Official at the National Beach Level

The Chair for the National Beach Officials Commission, certifies USAV National Beach Officials. In accordance with Article 8, Section B 1 of the Operating Code, all Officials must be a regular member, registered with USA Volleyball for the current season.

USAV National Beach Official

I. To become certified as a USAV National Beach Official, a candidate must:

- a. Must be a current regular member in good standing with USAV.
- b. The official must successfully pass and maintain USAV background screening and SafeSport certification.
- c. Have served as a certified USAV Zonal Beach Official for at least one (1) full year. (*similar or greater experience may be considered on a case by case basis*)
- d. File the official application with the Director for National Beach Official Certification & Evaluation. An application fee payable to USAV Beach must accompany the application. The mailing address is found within the instructions on the application.
- e. Perform required beach officiating services within their region.
- f. Attain a score of 90 on the approved USAV Beach rules examination for Officials and have the score submitted to the Director for National Beach Official Certification & Evaluation by the deadline. This test must be taken without the use of the rulebook or other resources (i.e., closed-book).
- g. Have demonstrated a prior record of officiating high level Beach volleyball.
- h. Attend the designated USA Beach/Outdoor Volleyball event and successfully complete all requirements at that tournament. The requirements to be completed at the event include:
 - i. Attendance at the pre-tournament Official's Clinic and Candidates' Meeting which take place the day/night prior to the first day of competition, and remain available to work at the event until the completion of the tournament or session in which the ratings occur.
 - ii. Successful completion of the evaluation sessions.
 - iii. Forfeiture of all match fees to the Officials' Division of USA Volleyball for matches worked during the rating process. Candidates must plan to be available for assignment until the end of the tournament or session in which the ratings occur.

II. Responsibilities and entitlements of a USA Volleyball National Beach Official:

- a. Successful completion of certification as a USAV National Beach Official confers eligibility to be considered for events such as USAV Adult and Junior Beach, Collegiate Beach, FIVB beach (on US soil), and various Professional Beach Tours.
- b. Certification as a USAV National Beach Official is valid for a period of five (5) years. To maintain certification, the Official must referee a minimum of two (2) events in three (3) of the five (5) years from the following list. A record of this officiating activity must be submitted electronically to the National Beach Commission.
 - i. USAV sanctioned Beach events
 - ii. Collegiate Beach
 - iii. Professional Beach Tour events
- c. Submit to re-evaluation by the National Beach Commission at any time while officiating.
- d. Each year, score a minimum of 90% on the current approved USAV Beach rules examination for Officials, using the closed-book method. All exams must be corrected to 100% with rules references. USAV National Beach Official must submit a copy of their answer sheet or have their results sent electronically (if the test was taken on-line).
- e. Register annually as a regular member of a USA Volleyball region and remain an active Official in good standing with his/her RVA.
- f. A USAV National Beach Official may be absent from all events two years out of each five-year certification period.
- g. A USAV National Beach Official encountering unusual difficulty in meeting the attendance requirements may request, in writing, a one-year extension of certification. The request must be submitted to the Director for National Beach Officials Evaluation & Certification.

III. Repercussions for not fulfilling the requirements of a USA Volleyball National Beach Official:

- a.** A USAV National Beach Official who does not attend the required tournaments during the five (5) year certification period, and does not ask for the one-year extension of certification, will be placed on a one-year probation period.
 - i.** In the year following probation, if the Official does not attend a required tournament, the USAV National Beach certification will be rescinded.
 - ii.** In the year following probation, if the Official attends the required tournaments (2), a one-year certification extension will be granted. If the Official attends the required tournaments (2) in the second year following the probation, a new five (5) year certification period is awarded.
- b.** A USAV National Beach Official who allows that certification to expire will have their USAV National Beach rating rescinded. To recertify as a National Beach Official they must follow the procedures as noted in Section II including the full candidate fee.

USA Volleyball National Beach Official (Retired)

- I.** Any USAV National Beach Official in good standing, with at least six (6) years of service as a USAV National Beach Official, may apply to the Chair, National Beach Official Commission for voluntary retired status.
 - a.** To continue working as an Official with USAV, a USAV National Beach Official (Retired) must register annually with USA Volleyball and the appropriate RVA and remain an active Official in good standing within his/her RVA. Remaining in good standing within the RVA includes, but is not limited to, satisfying all requirements for recertification as a Regional Official within that RVA.
 - b.** If a USAV National Beach Official (Retired) does not wish to work as an Official with USAV, they are not required to remain in good standing within the RVA. The Official will not be allowed to officiate at any USAV event, but they will retain their National Beach Official (Retired) status.
- II.** A USAV National Beach Official (Retired) is authorized to officiate all USA Volleyball-sanctioned regional competition.
 - a.** A USAV National Beach Official (Retired) may also remain qualified to officiate at any USA Junior Beach Volleyball Championships by officiating at those tournaments at least once every three years and submitting to re-evaluation by the National Beach Commission for Junior National Beach Certification and Evaluation at any time while officiating at any USA Junior Beach Volleyball Championships.
- III.** A USAV National Beach Official (Retired) may apply for recertification as a USA National Beach Official by following the procedures set forth above. The USAV National Beach Official (Retired) will not be required to pay the full candidate fee.
 - a.** Application for retired status must occur either during or immediately after a year in which the National Beach Official is in good standing with the Officials' Division. This includes being certified as a USAV National Beach Official and paying dues for that year by the prescribed deadline.