



Club Directors and Coaches:

The Ninth Annual Mizuno Beast of the Southeast Tournament of Champions is upon us. The tournament is fully subscribed with the biggest and best field of Beasts yet. 220 of the top teams from the Southeast and beyond will be participating, including multiple nationally ranked teams in all age brackets. This Coaches Packet and any future communication will be posted on the tournament's website

<http://southernvolleyball.com/southern-volleyballs-upcoming-tournaments/club-tournaments/beast/> **It is important that every participating coach read this Packet in its entirety, as this will take the place of a coaches' meeting. It does NOT, however, take the place of checking your team in to the Tournament Desk upon your arrival at the Venue.**

The fact that Beast is a National Qualifier in the 18's Divisions makes it relatively unique. The U18's Divisions will check in on Thursday evening, commencing their three-day tournament on Friday, February 24. U17's will check in on Friday evening in preparation for their two-day event commencing on Saturday, February 25. Play will conclude in all divisions on Sunday, 2/26.

Several teams have not yet uploaded their rosters on AES. We have extended the late roster deadline to Wednesday, 2/22. We ask that the offending teams take care of that right away so that we can have hard copies waiting for you at check-in.

COACH CHECK-IN

If you are playing at GICC we ask that you check your team in the evening prior to commencing competition if possible. We will be at the venue from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. for that purpose. If travel schedules or other issues preclude this, please so advise us and arrive on the early side on the morning of your competition. It is not necessary – nor will be able – to check 12's and 13's in the night prior to the tourney.

VENUE

The tournament has grown quite a bit, necessitating our expansion to a second venue. 12's and 13's will be competing at Southern Volleyball Center, while 14's and older will be at the Georgia International Convention Center, connected by skytrain to Atlanta's airport. We're taking the entire facility– Halls A through D. Check-in and entrance will be in front of Hall C. Further information about the venue is available at GICC.com

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

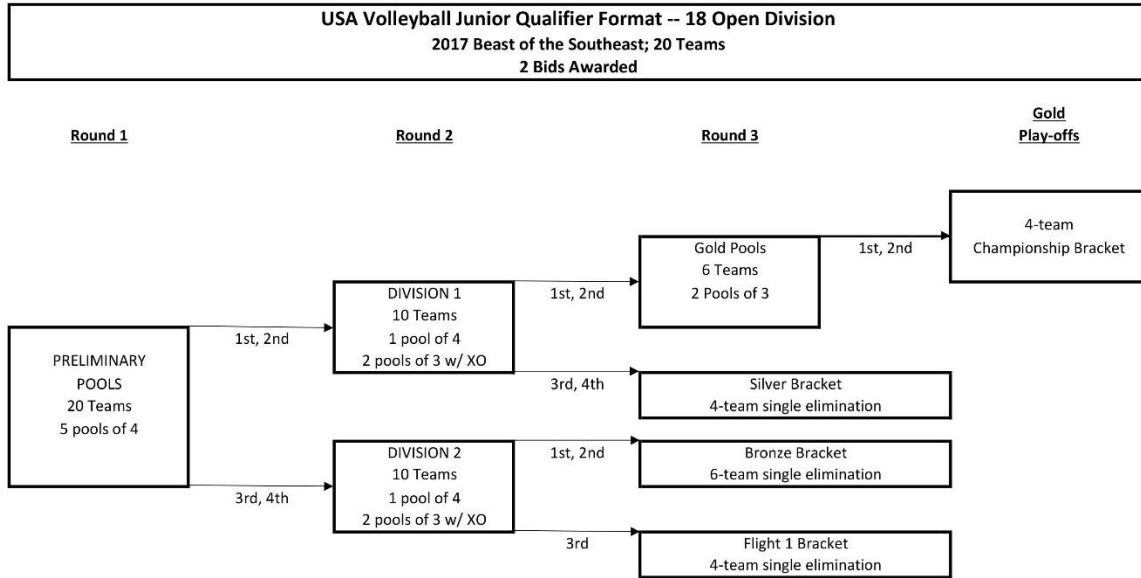
All Teams:

- Unless specifically stated to the contrary, all matches will be best two of three sets, with the first two sets being to 25 points, and the deciding set—if necessary—to 15. Tiebreaking protocol is per USAV format, more particularly described below.
- The warm-up protocol will be 2-4-4 for all matches—i.e., 2 minutes of shared court time for warm-up on your side only; 4 minutes for serving team to hit and/or serve; 4 minutes for receiving team to hit and/or serve. To enable the playing of matches to 25 without the tournament falling behind, officials will call for the Captain's Meeting of the subsequent match immediately upon completion of the previous match, and the 10-minute warm-up will commence at that time.
- Doors to both venues will open at 7:00 a.m. The first matches on all three days will commence at 8:00 a.m.; subsequent matches will commence immediately upon completion of the previous match. Friday's and Saturday's afternoon pools will commence at 3:00 p.m., with subsequent matches starting as soon as they are able.
- During bracket play and/or once pool play is complete on Sunday, the loser on a given court is obligated to officiate the match immediately following unless specifically noted otherwise on the schedule.

18 Open National Qualifier – Courts 2 – 6, a.m. wave on Friday

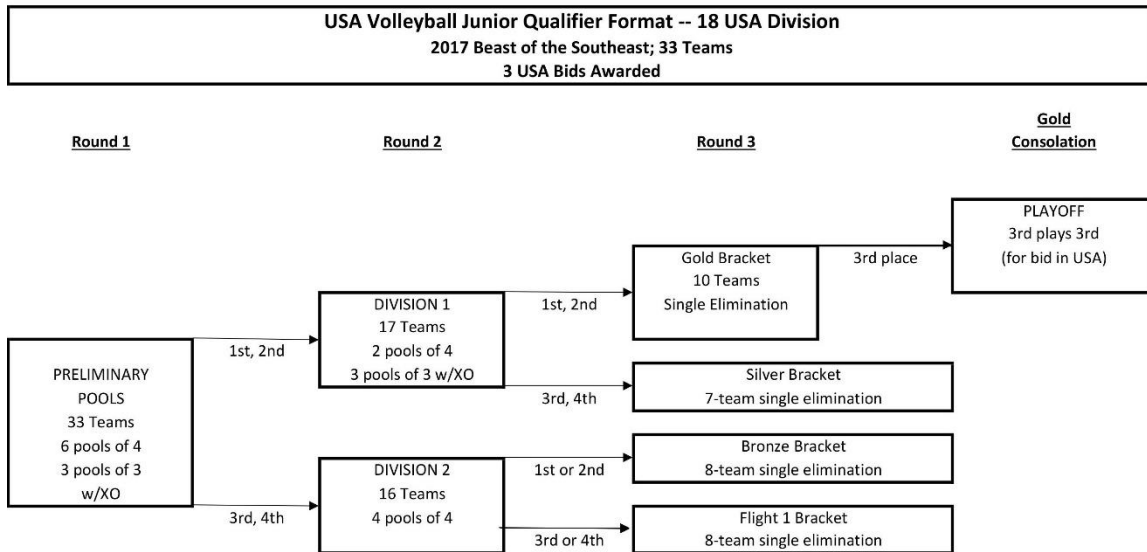
20 teams are entered in this division. Two bids will be awarded. In the event bids are won by previously qualified teams or teams that decline the bid, the bids will trickle down, which may necessitate playoff matches to determine 5th and 6th place finishers.

In no event will any bid trickle lower than 6th place. The flow chart following provides a pictorial representation of the 18 Open Format:



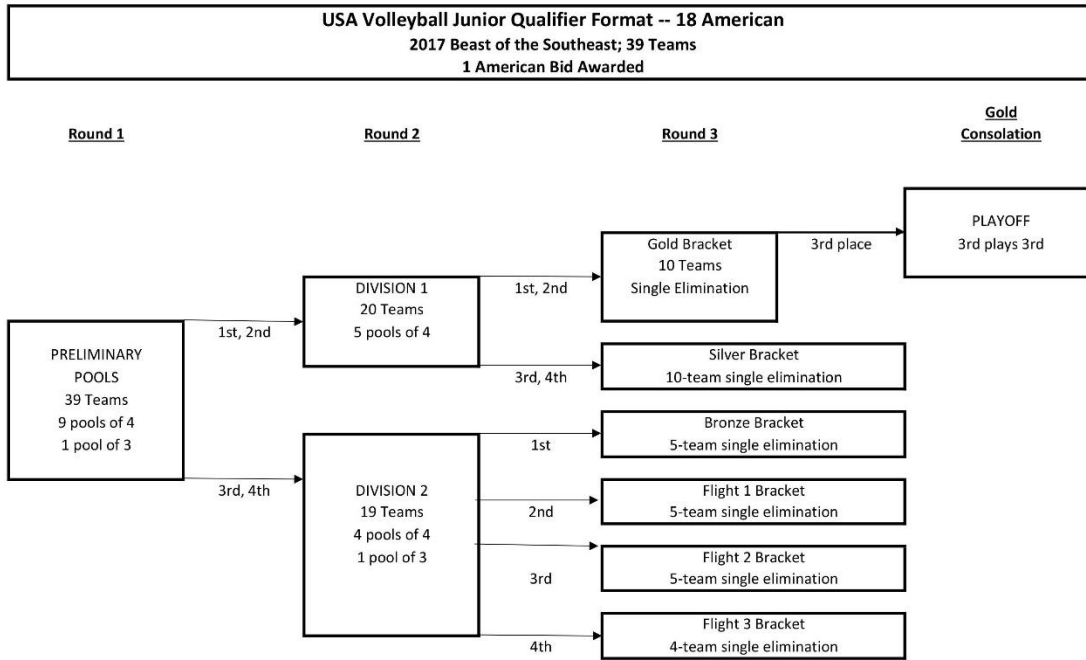
18 USA National Qualifier – Courts 7 – 13, a.m. wave; Courts 2 & 3, p.m. wave on Friday;

33 teams are entered in this division. Three bids will be awarded. In the event bids are won by previously qualified teams or teams that decline the bid, the bids will trickle down, which may necessitate playoff matches to determine 5th and 6th place finishers. In no event will any bid trickle lower than 6th place. The flow chart following provides a pictorial representation of the 18 USA Format:



18 American Qualifier –Courts 4 – 13; p.m. wave on Friday

39 teams are entered in this division. One bid will be awarded. The flow chart following provides a pictorial representation of the 18 American Format:



17 Open – Courts 1 – 7; a.m. wave

28 teams are entered in this division. They will be organized into seven pools of four teams each. The top two finishers in each pool will remain in contention for the Championship, while 3rd and 4th-place finishers will fall to Division 2.

Several teams will play challenge matches on Saturday to reduce the Championship bracket to 8 teams. Those remaining in contention for the Championship will be organized into an 8-team, single elimination bracket. First-round losers will play a consolation match.

Losers of cross-over matches will play in the Silver division on Sunday. 3rd-place finishers in Round 1 Pool play will be organized into a Bronze Division bracket, with first-round losers playing a consolation match. 4th-place finishers will play in Flight 2, again with first-round losers playing a consolation match.

16 Open – Courts 1 – 7; p.m. wave

26 teams are entered in this division. They will be organized into five pools of four teams and two pools of three, with members of the three-team pools playing cross-over matches upon the conclusion of pool play. The top two finishers in each pool will remain in contention for the Championship, while 3rd and 4th-place finishers will fall to Division 2.

Those remaining in contention for the Championship will be organized into a 14-team, single elimination bracket. First-round losers will play a consolation match.

3rd-place finishers in Round 1 Pool play will be organized into a Silver Division bracket, with first-round losers playing a consolation match. 4th-place finishers will play in the Bronze Division, again with first-round losers playing a consolation match.

15 Open – Courts 8 - 13; a.m. wave

24 teams are entered in this division. They will be organized into six pools of four teams each. The top two finishers in each pool will remain in contention for the Championship, while 3rd and 4th-place finishers will fall to Division 2.

Several teams may play challenge matches on Saturday to reduce the Championship bracket to 8 teams. Those remaining in contention for the Championship will be organized into an 8-team, single elimination bracket. First-round losers will play a consolation match.

Losers of challenge matches will play in the Silver division on Sunday. 3rd-place finishers in Round 1 Pool play will be organized into a Bronze Division bracket, with first-round losers playing a consolation match. 4th-place finishers will play in Flight 2, again with first-round losers playing a consolation match.

14 Open – Courts 8 - 13; p.m. wave

24 teams are entered in this division. They will be organized into six pools of four teams each. The top two finishers in each pool will remain in contention for the Championship, while 3rd and 4th-place finishers will fall to Division 2.

Those remaining in contention for the Championship will be organized into a 12 -team, single elimination bracket. First-round losers will play a consolation match.

3rd-place finishers in Round 1 Pool play will be organized into a Silver Division bracket, with first-round losers playing a consolation match. 4th-place finishers will play in the Bronze Division, again with first-round losers playing a consolation match.

13 Open – SVC Court 5, a.m. wave; Courts 1, 3 & 4, p.m. wave

16 teams are entered in this division. They will be organized into four pools of four teams each, with one pool playing in the a.m. wave on Saturday and three playing in the p.m. The first and second-place finishers in pool play shall advance to a single elimination Championship Bracket, while 3rd-place finishers will play in the silver division and 4th-place finishers in bronze. First-round losers will play a consolation match.

12 Open – SVC Courts 1, 3 & 4; a.m. wave

9 teams are entered in this division. They will be organized into three pools of three teams each. Upon completion of Round 1 they will be re-pooled such that the first-place teams are pooled together and the 2nd and 3rd-place teams are likewise pooled together. This is for the purpose of seeding Sunday's Championship Bracket, to which all teams advance. First-round losers in Bracket play will play a consolation match.

TIEBREAKERS

Ties in pool play will be resolved per USAV Protocol, an excerpt of which is provided below for your convenience:

At the conclusion of a pool, the pool finish positions of the teams are determined by their pool match records.

- If there is a tie in match record among 2 or more teams in the pool, tie(s) will be resolved using the GJNC National Tie Break Rules.
- Even in 3 team pools where all 3 sets are required to be played, match record - not set record - will determine a team's finish in the pool.

TWO-WAY TIES: 2 teams tied in match record

There will be no tie breaker sets.

- The first place team will be the team that won the pool play match between the 2 tied teams (head-to-head). This is the procedure for all two-way ties, even when one team might still win a bid; the tied teams have already determined the better team through head-to-head competition.

THREE-WAY TIES: Where no team can advance to win a bid

There will be no tie breaker sets. Ties among teams will be resolved as follows:

- If 3 or more teams are tied in match record, the ties are broken by applying the following steps, in order, without repeating any step. Head-to-Head results will not be used at any time in breaking a three-way tie:
 - Determine each team's set percentage (divide each team's total sets won in the pool by the total sets played). The team with the highest set percentage is first.

- If some or all of the teams have the same set percentage, then determine the point percentage of the teams that are still tied (divide each team's total points scored by the total points scored by all the team's opponents in that pool).
- If the teams still tied, the team with the highest point percentage has the next highest finish in the pool (finishes either first or second, depending on the outcome of the set percentage).
- If two or more teams are still tied: Coin toss.

NON-ELIMINATION SCENARIOS

If no team is eliminated from an opportunity to win a bid, there will be no tie-breaking sets.

- In three-way ties, ties will be broken, without repetition, in this order:
 - Pool match record.
 - Head-to-head results (applicable for pools with 5 or more teams).
 - Set percentage (sets won divided by total sets played).
 - Point percentage (each team's total points scored divided by the total points scored by the team's opponents in that pool).
 - Coin toss.

THREE-WAY TIES: Where 1 or more teams may advance to win a bid

There are several scenarios in which three-way ties can occur. The resolution for each tie breaker scenario depends on both the number of teams that can advance to win a bid from the pool, AND which pool finish position is at stake for the tied teams.

SEEDING TIE BREAKER SETS

The seeds for teams tied in match record involved in the tie breaker sets are determined by:

- Set percentage: The total number of sets played in the pool (sets won divided by total sets played). The team with the highest set percentage is seeded first.
- If the teams are still tied:
 - Point percentage: Each team's total points scored divided by the total points scored by the team's opponents in that pool. The team with the highest point percentage is seeded first.
 - If the teams are still tied: Coin toss.

NOTE: It is each team's coach's responsibility to remain cognizant of the possibility of a tiebreaker. If a team involved in a tiebreaking match—whether reffing or playing—has left the building for any reason they will automatically forfeit their position.

For further information:

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=usa+volleyball+national+championship+manual&form=EDGNTC&q=PF&cvid=075e350d3c6f4cb0bc952bfb08b45477&pg=usa%20volleyball%20national%20championship%20manual>

PARKING

We have negotiated a \$5/day rate with GICC for volleyball spectators. This rate does not include in/out privileges, but those are available at a \$10/day rate. Parking at SVC is free. SVC will have a parking attendant on duty to direct you to neighboring lots in the event that parking at SVC fills.

SEEDING

Seeding for the 18 Open Qualifier was conducted with the participation of USAV.

For the other divisions, seeding this year relies heavily—but not exclusively—on the AES national rankings recently posted. That said, the seeding committee has made every effort to initially pool teams from different regions and different cities together, as we know that one of the reasons for the popularity of Beast is diversity of play.

VOLLEYBALLS

In previous years, we have furnished warm-up volleyballs to all teams, but this has become a hassle as the tournament has grown, in that not all teams have been respectful about shagging balls or using just the number furnished. Accordingly, **you will need to bring your own warm-up volleyballs to the venue.** If your team is traveling by air and this policy presents a hardship and/or expense for you, please contact [Kurt Matthews](#) and we will arrange to have balls for you to sign out at the beginning of the event and sign back in upon its conclusion.

TRAINERS/FIRST AID

We will have trainers available beginning at 7:15 a.m. for the duration of the competition. If you want your ankles taped, you must supply your own tape.

GATE

There is a **gate of \$10/day; \$25 for the (3 – day) weekend; \$18 for Saturday and Sunday only.** College Coaches will be given a wrist band in exchange for their business card. Coaches, players and children 10 and under are admitted free.

FOOD TABLES, CONCESSIONS

Sorry, but GICC does not permit food tables, coolers and the like in the facility. Players may bring something to eat and drink in their backpacks, and GICC will have plenty of healthy concession options available on site. SVC does permit food tables, but space is constrained and we ask that teams limit themselves to ½ table/team. We will furnish the tables. SVC has no on-site concessions.

RECRUITING

This is A5's signature tournament; the one that we **proactively market to college coaches**. Each year we have 120 - 130 in attendance. We've marketed the tournament to college coaches throughout the country. The next step in ensuring a good turn-out of college coaches is for **each of your prospective student athletes to call or email the top ten coaches on their wish list**; tell them that they will be playing at Beast and ask them to come watch their team. ***We can't over-emphasize the importance of this!*** We have already gotten several calls from college coaches who are going to attend the tournament solely because they were contacted by athletes interested in their school.

Please feel free to call or email either of the undersigned with questions. Emergency/last-minute contacts and phone numbers are included below. We look forward to seeing you at the Mizuno Beast of the Southeast on February 24th or 25th as the case may be.

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