



Club Directors and Coaches:

The inaugural **Sweet Tea Showdown** is upon us and we are excited to have assembled a very strong field of **69 teams** for this first-year event. We've combined a few of the age divisions to ensure diversity of play and to minimize intraclub matchups. Additionally, we are utilizing a power-pool format to minimize blow-outs and to help ensure quality matches for all entrants.

This Coaches Packet and any future communication will be posted on the [tournament website](#).

TEAM COACHES – please read this packet in its entirety, as it will take the place of a coaches' meeting (you will still be required to check in your team upon arrival at A-Game on Saturday). Share relevant information with your athletes and spectators.

TEAM CHECK-IN

We will not be open for check-in the night prior to the tournament; we simply ask that teams check in immediately upon their arrival at A-Game on Saturday.

VENUE/GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION - All matches are held at [A-Game Sportsplex](#), 215 Gothic Court, Franklin, TN 37067; 615-771-2444.

- **Doors open at 7:00 a.m.**
- **Warm Up Volleyballs** – A-Game will provide all 16 warm up balls and one cart per court for this event so there is no need and it is preferred that teams not bring their own volleyballs. Teams will be responsible to ensure the correct number of balls are back in the cart after warmups have concluded for each match.
- **Athletic Trainer/First Aid** - certified athletic trainers will be available beginning at 7:30 a.m. for each day of competition. Basic first aid, injury evaluation and ice will be provided free of charge. Athletes who require regular, preventative taping must supply their own tape. Due to federal laws for minors, no medications will be available for distribution.
- **Tournament Insurance/Sanction** – if your athlete is injured please secure an incident report prior to leaving the venue to assist with any related medical claims.
- **Parking** – ample FREE parking is available.
- **Prohibited Items**
 - Coolers, food tables, stadium chairs, large baggage, animals [service animals allowed], weapons, tobacco and e-cigarette products are not allowed inside the facility.
 - No 'boom boxes' or portable speakers are allowed to be used inside the facility. 'Warm up music' broadcasted from a speaker or sound system is not allowed.
- **Concessions** – A-Game has on-site concessions, and a variety of dining alternatives within close proximity.
- **Spectator Admission** - **\$10/day; \$15 for the weekend; Cash preferred.** College and Team Coaches, participants, and children 10 and under are admitted free.

RECRUITING

We are already getting interest from numerous college coaches and anticipate drawing a significant number as the event approaches. To help ensure a good turn-out of college coaches, team coaches can encourage **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 Sweet Tea Showdown and that they hope they can attend.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

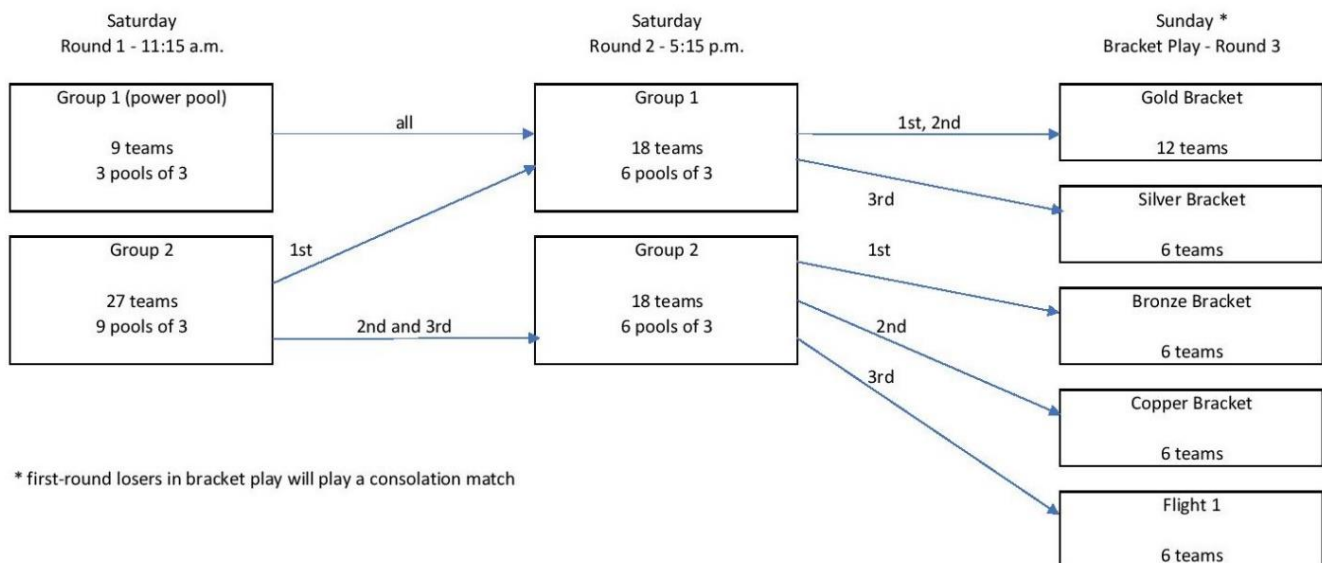
All Teams/Divisions:

- 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.
- All teams will play in two, three-team pools on Saturday.
- Tie-breaking rules: since teams will be playing four (4) matches during pool play on Saturday, tie-breaker matches will NOT be played. In the event of a 3-way tie (all teams 1–1) in pool play, we will utilize the USAV tie-breaking protocol (match %, set %, point %, coin flip).
- 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.
- The first matches will commence at 8:00 a.m.; round 2 commences at 11:15. Subsequent matches will commence immediately upon completion of the previous match.
- 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.

16/17/18 Open - 36 teams are entered in this combined division.

Teams will be organized into 12 pools of three teams each, with three of the pools being designated power pools, or “Group 1” pools, and the other nine pools being designated “Group 2”. Members of Group 1 will automatically stay in contention for the Tournament Championship as they advance to the second round, and they will be joined by the nine winners of the pools in Group 2.

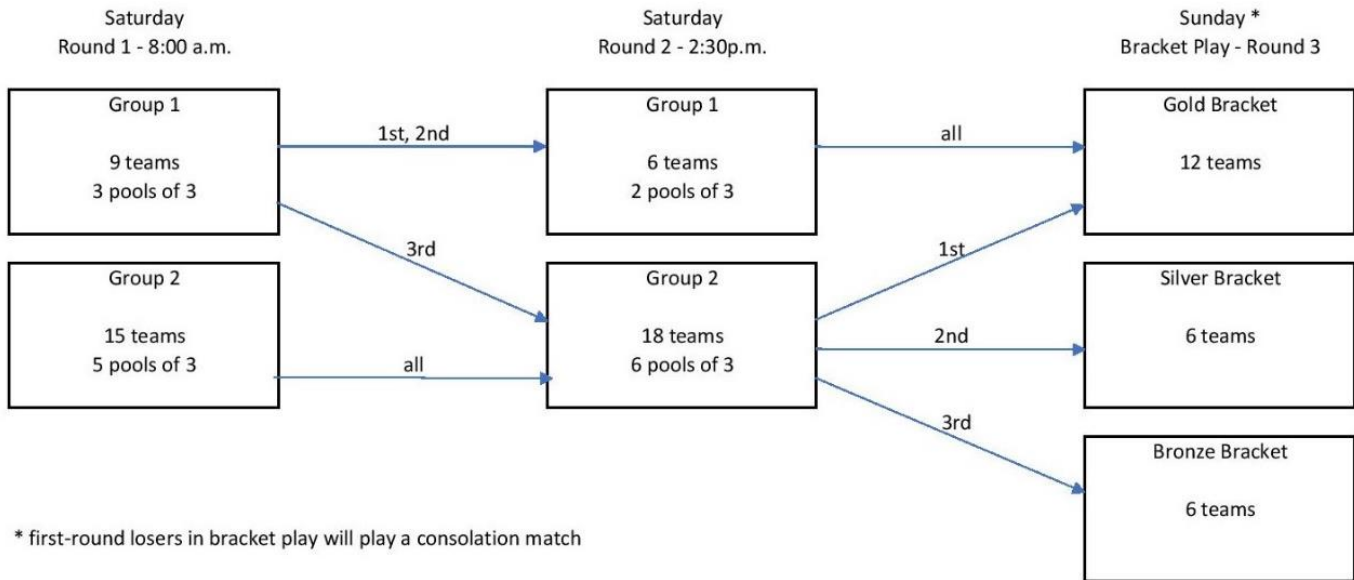
First and second-place finishers in Group 1/Round 2 will advance to a 12-team Championship Bracket. All other teams will advance to bracket play as indicated on the Flow Chart following:



14/15 Open - 24 teams are entered in this division.

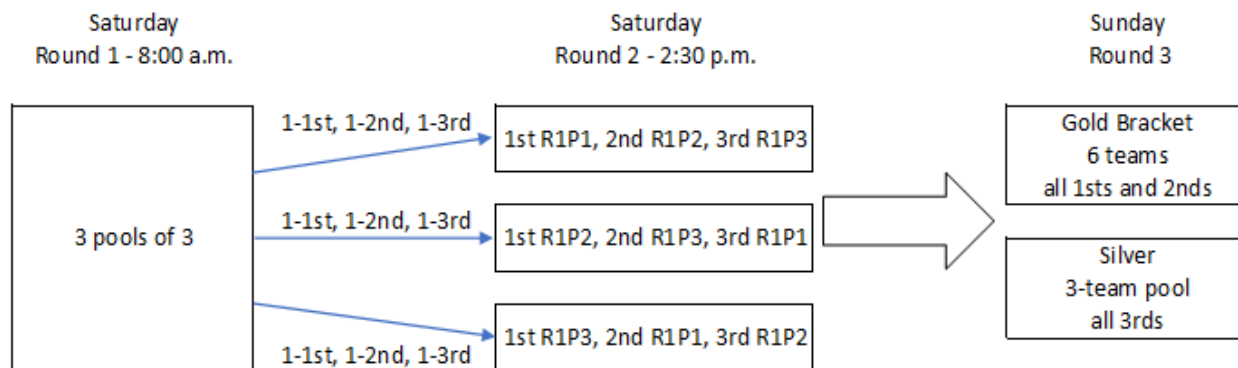
Teams will be organized initially into eight pools of three teams each, with 9 pools designated Group 1 and the remaining pools, Group 2. First and second place finishers in Group 1 will remain in Group 1 for Round 2; 3rd place finishers will drop

to Group 2. Upon the conclusion of Round 2, all members of Group 1 will advance to the Championship Bracket, as will first place finishers in Group 2. All other teams will advance to bracket play as indicated on the following flow chart:



12/13 Open - 9 teams are entered in this combined division.

Teams will play all matches on a women’s regulation net using a women’s regulation volleyball. Teams be organized into three pools of three teams each. They will be re-pooled upon the completion of Round 1, playing again in three-team pools to offer different opponents than Round 1. The top two finishers in each of the Round 2 Pools will advance to the 6-team Championship Bracket on Sunday. The three third-place finishing teams will compete in the Silver bracket.



* first-round losers in bracket play will play a consolation match

QUESTIONS? Please feel free to contact any of the undersigned with questions. Emergency/last-minute contacts and phone numbers are included below.

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Thank you for including Sweet Tea Showdown on your team’s competition schedule. We look forward to seeing you in Nashville on June 2nd.