



PRESS RELEASE

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Florida Region of USA Volleyball announces a prize money increase and several new partners for the 2020 Florida Pro Best of The Beach Volleyball Tournament

Hickory Point Beach in Tavares, FL will host top beach volleyball pros during the first weekend of November.

Eustis, FL – September 17, 2020 – The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is proud to provide this follow up announcement on the 2020 Florida Pro Best of The Beach Tournament, now presented by the Norelli Family Foundation. The event will be held on November 6-8, 2020 at Hickory Point Beach in Tavares, FL and will feature some of the top beach volleyball athletes in the US.

Due to the generous support of the Norelli Family Foundation, the prize money purse will increase to \$50K (or \$25K per gender). The event will still payout to 16th place and all athletes competing in the main draw on Saturday will receive a payout for participating. **Joe Norelli**, the Foundation President stated, "We are honored to support this great event at Hickory Point Beach in November. We've been a scholarship supporter of the Florida Region for many years and we are proud to support such a great organization as they fill a void with this much needed professional beach volleyball event. It will be great to have a live event in Central Florida and to showcase this great sport with such talented athletes."

Additionally, BallerTV has been confirmed as the official livestream partner. Beach volleyball fans will be able to purchase a daily pass and watch all of the matches from the comfort of their homes, regardless of their location. **Sandeep Hingorani**, BallerTV Executive Vice President stated, "BallerTV is proud to join the Florida Best of the Beach pro volleyball event as the official livestream partner. This partnership delivers on our goal to become the destination for the industry's premier volleyball competitions. We are excited to make every match of this year's event available to fans of Best of the Beach as well as our growing BallerTV volleyball community."

The schedule of events is as follows:

Friday, November 6th - Qualifier (Pool Play)

Saturday, November 7th - Main Draw Day 1 (Pool Play)

Saturday, November 7th (Night) - Partner selection for the Main Draw brackets will be announced!

Sunday, November 8th - Main Draw Day 2 (Bracket Play)

Also joining the event is Smack Sportswear. They will serve as the official apparel provider and will outfit the staff and officials during the event. Smack is the official beach apparel partner for the Florida Region of USA Volleyball and has expanded their partnership to include the 2020 Florida Pro Best of the Beach Event. Smack Sportswear President **Bill Sigler** commented, "Smack Sportswear has been a longtime supporter of beach volleyball and we look forward to supporting the Florida Region for this great event. Adding our brand and outfitting the staff and officials allows us to give back to the sport in a meaningful way. We appreciate the opportunity to share the Smack brand and we are excited to see events taking place again."

As reported previously, the event will be open to spectators and will follow CDC & State guidelines regarding event safety protocols. Temperature checks will be conducted for everyone upon arrival each day, hand sanitation stations will be readily available around the complex, all tents will be spaced six feet apart and attendees will be required to wear a face mask when cheering or not socially distanced to ensure everyone's safety. Participating athletes will complete a daily medical questionnaire and complete a daily screening process with the medical team before competing. Safety guidelines will be strictly enforced during the event.

The event will offer general admission and a VIP seating area over the weekend. Additional information on the limited VIP seating will be posted on the official event website in early October. Some of the top beach volleyball pros that have expressed interest in participating as of September 17th are: **Taylor Crabb, Jake Gibb, Trevor Crabb, Phil Dalhausser, Miles Evans, Chaim Shalk, John Hyden, Theo Brunner, Billy Kolinske, Ricardo Santos, Kelly Claes, Sarah Sponcil, Kelly Kolinske, Emily Stockman, Emily Day, Traci Callahan, Corrinne Quiggle, Allie Wheeler, Sarah Schermerhorn and Kim Hildreth.**

Steve Bishop, the Executive Director and President of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball and the Beach Development Board Rep for USA Volleyball, who will also serve as the event director commented, "The support and encouragement that we have received since announcing this event last week has been nothing short of amazing. Our original idea was to create a unique old-school, ground-level beach volleyball event with a handful of the top pro beach athletes in the US so that our Florida fans would have something to watch and something to inspire them during this difficult time. It has certainly become more than that at this point and I am humbled by the support. We hope that this endeavor serves as a turning point and a sign of encouragement for event promoters and volleyball fans everywhere."

The official volleyball for the event will now be the FIVB approved Molten V5B5000. Additional information on the event and a full list of the pro athletes that have accepted the initial invitation can be found here: www.floridavolleyball.org/florida-pro-best-of-the-beach.

About Florida Region of USA Volleyball:

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is a 501c3 non-profit that began operations in the 1960's and was officially incorporated in 1982 to promote the sport of volleyball and to create competitive playing opportunities for volleyball enthusiasts of all ages throughout the State of Florida. The Florida Region is one of the 40 regional volleyball associations under the umbrella of USA Volleyball and currently serves 14,500 members. Indoor, outdoor and ParaVolley programming is available for adults, juniors, coaches and officials. The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is headquartered in Eustis, FL and manages the 21-court Hickory Point Beach Sand Volleyball Complex in Tavares, FL. Additional information on the Florida Region can be found at: www.FloridaVolleyball.org.

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