

**PRESS RELEASE**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**JUNIOR ATHLETES PLACE IN ELITE ALL-STAR BEACH VOLLEYBALL SHOWCASE**

Top teams from across the US competed in the 3-day tournament, hosted by the Florida Region of USA Volleyball.

**Tavares, FL – August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014** – The 2014 ROX East Coast Beach All-Star Championships took place at Hickory Point Beach sand volleyball complex July 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> in Tavares, FL. Forty three teams took the courts as they battled it out in their age divisions. Both girls and boys teams competed, ranging from 12 and under to 18 and under.

This event was also a college scouting combine, as college sand coaches were invited to attend from across the US. The first two days of the event, the athletes played with their partner to determine the best team on the beach. On day three, all athletes played in a junior King/Queen format to determine the best athlete on the beach. The results of the tournament are as follows:

**Girls 12U**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Brianna Diaz & Isabella Lizaso (Sunrise, FL/Plantation, FL)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Jordan Benoit & Carly Richards (Naples, FL)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Jenna McNamara & Jessica Buis (Orlando, FL/Oviedo, FL)

**Girls 14 U**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Aly Freeland & Madi Daum (Tallahassee, FL)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Paige Canevari & Mariah Walker (Venice, FL/Sarasota, FL)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Shae Henson & Maylin Bouffard (Cocoa, FL/Deerfield Beach, FL)

**Girls 16U**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Tessa Colden & Carlee Baxter (Deland, FL/Daytona Beach, FL)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Casey Justice & Sarah Eaton (Panama City Beach, FL/Merritt Island, FL)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Layne Thompson & Mackenzie Walker (Bradenton, FL/Sarasota, FL)

**Girls 18U**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Ashley Allmer & Nicole Grant (Sarasota, FL/Lakewood Ranch, FL)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Nicole Mejias & Macallen Kennedy (Jupiter, FL/Boca Raton, FL)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Ashlan Cunningham & Paige Panter (Grapevine, TX/Southlake, TX)

**Boys 18U**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Parsa Rezvani & Joel Kitchen (Los Altos, CA/Sunnyvale, CA)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Hector de Castro & Ryan Dunnington (Fort Myers, FL/Alva, FL)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Noah Beane & Clay Messenger (Jacksonville Beach, FL/St. Augustine, FL)

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**Junior Queen of the Beach – 12U**

Jenna McNamara (Orlando, FL)

**Junior Queen of the Beach – 14U**

Aly Freeland (Tallahassee, FL)

**Junior Queen of the Beach – 16U**

Carlee Baxter (Daytona Beach, FL)

**Junior Queen of the Beach – 18U**

Julia Lewkowicz (Coral Springs, FL)

**Junior King of the Beach – 18U**

Clay Messenger (St. Augustine, FL)

Florida teams qualified for the all-star event based on their NVL/ROX Beach Series rankings, a national grassroots beach volleyball tournament series and affiliate membership program that supports existing beach volleyball club directors, tournament directors and facility owners nationwide. This series provides a national ranking system for players competing in these sanctioned tournaments. Athletes who placed in this tournament won a bid to the NVL/ROX Jr. Beach Global Challenge, which took place August 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> in Port St. Lucie, FL.

“We were honored to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ROX East Coast Beach All-Star event at our new Hickory Point Beach sand volleyball complex,” said Steve Bishop, Executive Director and President of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball. “The level of talent at the event was very impressive as some of the top junior beach teams from across the US took to the sand for bragging rights. This year we had teams attend from Florida, Texas, and California...all hotbeds for the growing sport of junior beach volleyball. After two days of intense team competition, the best athletes rose to the top on day three and took home their respective king and queen crowns in our junior king/queen competition. They were a bit tired, but seem to enjoy every minute of the competition. We expect to hear great things about the athletes that participated this year and we hope to have many of them back next year for an even bigger event.”

The Florida Region proudly partnered with ROX Volleyball, the official sponsor of the event. ROX provided the athletes and officials with equipment bags, championship shirts and game volleyballs.

**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 approximately 12,500 members. Indoor and outdoor programming is available for adults, juniors, coaches and officials. The Florida Region of USA Volleyball headquarters is located in Eustis, FL. Additional information on the Florida Region can be found at: [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org).

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