



PRESS RELEASE

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Florida Region of USA Volleyball announces VIP tickets and several new event team members for the 2020 Florida Pro Best of The Beach Event.

The field has been finalized and the news keeps getting better for beach volleyball fans in the US!

Eustis, FL – October 15, 2020 – The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is proud to provide this follow up announcement on the 2020 Florida Pro Best of The Beach Volleyball 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 offer \$50,000 in prize money (or \$25,000 per gender). VIP tickets for the weekend are now available on the event website. There will only be 50 tickets available per day to sit in the covered tent area with direct line-of-sight to all four of the competition courts. VIP ticket holders will also be provided with several other amenities during their visit.

With health and safety on everyone's mind, the Florida Pro Best of The Beach event is proud to announce the addition of **Dr. Ron Torrance, DO** as the medical director for the event. Dr. Torrance is a sports medicine physician and practices with Regenexx Tampa Bay (Tampa, FL) and Regenexx at Gold Coast Orthopedics (Miami, FL). He will oversee all health and safety aspects during the event and will work with the event staff to make sure that all safety protocols are followed by the athletes, staff and spectators. Dr. Torrance commented, "I am excited about this new business relationship with the Florida Region of USA Volleyball. As tournaments begin to reappear on the schedule, my goal is to assist with creating a safe environment for the athletes and fans at each event. We are ready to get started this Fall."

Joining the event in the role of Competition Director is **Brooke Sweat** (Estero, FL). Brooke is a graduate of Florida Gulf Coast University and has competed as a professional beach volleyball athlete since 2007. Brooke competed in the 2016 Olympics with partner Lauren Fendrick. During her career she has achieved numerous podium finishes and has been recognized with several defensive awards. Brooke paired up with 4-time Olympian Kerri Walsh-Jennings in 2019 and they are currently ranked in the #7 spot in the world FIVB beach rankings. Brooke's role in the Florida Pro Best of the Beach event will be to serve as a competition liaison with the athletes and assist staff with producing the 3-day event. When asked to comment, Brooke said, "Being a Floridian and representing my home state all across the world in the sport, it makes me very proud that the Florida Region is providing players with the opportunity to compete and earn some money during these difficult & unprecedented times."

Also joining the team as the official announcer and voice of the event will be **Dave Shaw** (Rochester, NY). He is known as "The Voice of Reason" and has been part of the volleyball community evolving tournament events into experiences for over a decade. Dave was the voice of the PVL indoor pro league between 2012-2016. He brings a unique blend of humor and volleyball acumen to every event he helps produce. Dave regularly integrates athlete interaction and crowd involvement to expand the sport well beyond the court. Dave stated, "With the athletes that are competing and the venue location, this will be a great beach event. I look forward to helping the event staff take this to another level over the 3-day weekend!"

In addition to highlighting some of the best US beach volleyball talent, the Florida Pro Best of the Beach event will also serve as a domestic debut of Beach ParaVolley for USAV. Beach ParaVolley teams are made up of three players, working within the Paralympic classification system that promotes inclusivity of the sport, otherwise largely following the standard FIVB Beach Volleyball rules. USA Volleyball is the national governing body for Beach ParaVolley in the US and will have USAV staff onsite at the event over the weekend conducting training and overseeing the Beach ParaVolley exhibition matches. **Bill Hamiter**, the Women's Sitting Head Coach & Program Director for the USAV Sitting National Team shared his thoughts on the Beach ParaVolley activities scheduled for Nov 7-8 at Hickory Point Beach, "It is fantastic to have the Florida Region of USA Volleyball host a professional beach volleyball tournament this year and see the level it is being run--this is going to be an outstanding event! I am pleased that the Florida Region pushed to have a Beach ParaVolley event at the tournament and is once again showing their support for athletes with physical disabilities. Events such as this will help Beach ParaVolley emerge and develop as the sport pushes to be included in the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games. It is vitally important to USA Volleyball that tournaments such as this support the discipline. I look forward to seeing the great event Steve and the Florida Region will host in November."

The schedule of events for the weekend is as follows:

Friday, November 6th - Qualifier (Pool Play)

Saturday, November 7th - Main Draw Day 1 (Pool Play) & Beach ParaVolley Day 1 (Training)

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

Sunday, November 8th - Main Draw Day 2 (Bracket Play) & Beach ParaVolley Day 2 (Exhibition Matches)

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 playing field has been finalized and our event team is coming together nicely. With the addition of Dr. Torrance, Brooke Sweat, and Dave Shaw, joining the others that have been previously announced, we'll have all of the key positions covered with some of the best talent available. Their expertise and experience will make this an event to remember here in Florida. Additionally, we are honored to add Beach ParaVolley activities to the event. I've come to admire and appreciate this group and their dedication since we first added a regional all-star sitting team in 2015. We look forward to hosting the volleyball community at Hickory Point Beach in Lake County, Florida"

Additional information on the event and a full list of the pro athletes that are participating 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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