



Official Handbook

Updated: 17th April 2024

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1. Aims of the Tour

The UK Beach Tour (also referred to as “UKBT”) has been established with the following goals:

- To provide top-level national competition for UK’s elite and developing players.
- To showcase beach volleyball to audiences across the UK.
- To attract new players to the sport and encourage them to develop their skills.
- To provide an important stage in the progression of athletes to ‘higher level’ tours such as the European and World Tours.
- To engage new, existing and previous tournament promoters across the UK.
- To provide exposure and marketing opportunities for the sport’s commercial partners.
- To provide a wide range of events to support all levels of beach players by implementing the 5 tier system.

The purpose of this Handbook is to:

- Guarantee the integrity of beach volleyball and the UKBT;
- Ensure that the interests of all players, spectators, promoters, officials and commercial partners are afforded maximum levels of protection.
- Provide all involved parties with the opportunity to reap the benefits of a successful Tour.

2. Tour Promoter & Organisers

2.1 The UKBT is promoted and managed by UK Beach Tour Ltd.

UK Beach tour Ltd approves and oversees the calendar of tournaments, the rules and regulations of the UKBT, the publicity and promotion of the tour and overall administration of the UKBT ranking and membership system.

2.2 Delivery of events is undertaken by independent event organisers. UKBT has no responsibility for the delivery of events.

2.3 All correspondence relating to the UKBT should be sent to: info@ukbeachtour.com

3. UKBT Officials

UKBT Director: Jake Sheaf

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UKBT Director: Andy Jones

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4. Tour Calendar

4.1 The Tour Calendar can be found on the UKBT website (www.ukbeachtour.com). The UKBT Calendar may be amended during the season at the discretion of the UKBT Directors. A season runs from 31st October – 31st October the following year.

5. Tour Structure

5.1 The tour will follow a tier system:

Junior Beach Grand Prix	<p>The Junior Tour will be split into 2 categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U15: 2 a-side (single gender) • U19: 2 a-side (single gender) <p>Each region will be able to host a maximum of 5 Grand Prix in each age group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotland • Northern England • London • Southern England • Wales • Northern Ireland <p>Hosting will be subject to a bidding process and the decision will be at the discretion of the UKBT.</p> <p>The UKBT Junior Championships will be a one off annual event that hosts the following age groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U13: 4 a-side (mixed) • U15: Division 1: 2 a-side / Division 2: 4 a-side (mixed) • U17: Division 1 & 2: Entry based on ranking points • U19: Division 1 & 2: Entry based on ranking points
1 – 3 Star	<p>1 day events to engage local beach volleyball communities. Mixed and single gender.</p>
Open (4*)	<p>Each region will be able to host a maximum of 1 Open*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotland • Northern England • London • Southern England • Wales • Northern Ireland <p>Hosting will be subject to a bidding process and the decision will be at the discretion of the UKBT.</p> <p>* The UKBT may decide to permit more than one Open in a region if it is deemed there are not enough Grand Slams for the season or to create a fairer disparity of high level events through the UK.</p>
Grand Slam Series (5*)	<p>Major events for the country's top level players in iconic/high footfall locations. Limited to 5 per season.</p> <p>Subject to local authority and commercial partnerships.</p>
The Club Championships	<p>A single tournament where players will compete as a club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Championships • Trophy (single gender & mixed pairs) <p>At the end of the tournament a single Club Champion will be crowned.</p>

6. Event Criteria

6.1 Event criteria is decided upon by the UK Beach Tour Committee. It is aimed to ensure that all events are accessible for all levels of players and sustainable for tournament organisers. Please see appendix C for the event criteria table.

7. Event Application Process

7.1 It is mandatory for all event organisers planning to host a UKBT event to register their event via the official application process by no later than the date communicated by the UKBT (historically around the end of January). The confirmed calendar will then be released towards the end of February.

7.2 UKBT 1, 2 & 3 Star events can be submitted via the spreadsheet application form. UKBT has the right to work with the event organiser to find a suitable alternative date if the original date is deemed to not be suitable.

7.3 Event Organisers who wish to host a UKBT Open/Junior Grand Prix event must submit the appropriate form to show their interest in hosting. The formal bidding process as outlined below:

1. Organiser submits entry via bidding form
2. Bidding form is review by UKBT Committee
3. Organiser is notified about result of there bid

7.4 Event organisers who wish to host a Grand Slam Series, Junior Championships or Club Championships must contact UKBT to open up formal discussions.

Event Applications After Deadline

7.4 Junior Tour & 1 - 3* event applications may be submitted after the deadline and the decision to include them in the calendar will be solely down to the UKBT Committee.

7.5 All Open and Grand Slam Series event applications must be submitted before the communicated deadline. The UKBT Committee will acknowledge only extenuating circumstances or high profile opportunities after this date.

8. Rules & Regulations

8.1 All UKBT players agree to abide by the UKBT Handbook, the UKBT Players Code of Conduct, and individual tournament rules and regulations.

8.2 All UKBT 2v2 competitive gameplay is expected to follow the official rules of the game, as outlined by the FIVB, and is to be implemented at the discretion of the event organiser.

8.3 Specific rules of the game relating to Junior Grand Prix U15 Tier 2 fall under the complete discretion of the event organiser.

9. Dispute Resolution

9.1 At all UKBT events, it is the responsibility of the event organiser/technical supervisor to deal with all disputes or protests arising during the tournament, which are related and not related to play.

9.2 If a player is deemed to be bringing the game into disrepute, the event organiser/technical supervisor has the right to report the individual and his/her behaviour to the UKBT. Together with the event organiser/technical supervisor the UKBT may wish to

proceed to issuing the player a sanction (section 36) and furthermore a disciplinary hearing.

9.3 Should the UKBT wish to penalise the player. The UKBT will assemble a panel that the player can plead their case and ultimately a final decision will be made.

10. Player Eligibility

10.1 To be eligible for entry into a UKBT event, players must meet the following conditions:

Players MUST hold a valid UKBT membership (see below). Memberships can only be obtained on the UKBT website. Memberships are only valid for the current season. Further info can be found on the Membership page of the website.

Full Membership	£25	This membership is applicable to all ages.
Under 19 Membership	£15	The player must be born January 1st 2005 and thereafter to be eligible for this membership.
Under 15 Membership	£5	The player must be born January 1st 2009 and thereafter to be eligible for his membership.

11. Tournament Entry

11.1 Entry to all tournaments, including payment of the tournament entry fee, must be completed via the event organisers website. Links to these can be found in the Calendar section of the UKBT website (www.ukbeachtour.com/tournaments).

11.2 Entry Deadlines

Junior Tour	Tournament organiser discretion
1 – 3 Star	Tournament organiser discretion.
4 Star	Monday prior to the event start date.
Grand Slam Series	Monday 4 weeks prior to the event date.

* Event Organisers in conjunction with the UKBT Committee may provide exceptions for players on international duty in FIVB sanctioned events.

11.3 Confirmed Entry Lists

Junior Tour	Tournament organiser discretion.
1 – 3 Star	Tournament organiser discretion.
4 Star	Tuesday prior to the event start date. Entry based on seeding points on this date.
Grand Slam Series	Tuesday 2-weeks prior to the event. Entry based on seeding points on this date.

11.4 The entry fee for each event is down to the discretion of the event organiser, suggested amounts below:

Junior Tour	£10 - £30 per team
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1 – 3 Star	£10 - £35 per team
4 Star	£40 - £50 per team
Grand Slam Series	£60 - £75 per team

11.5 Number of Entries per event (according to event criteria – appendix B)

Junior Tour	Minimum 4 teams and no maximum amount of teams per gender
1-Star	Minimum 4 teams and no maximum amount of teams per gender
2-Star	Minimum 4 teams and no maximum amount of teams per gender
3-Star	Minimum 6 teams and no maximum amount of teams per gender
4-Star	Minimum 12 teams and maximum 32 teams per gender
Grand Slam Series	Minimum 8 teams and maximum 16 teams per gender in the main draw. Teams ranked outside of this on the date of confirmed entry list will be placed in the qualification tournament.

12. Wildcards

12.1 The following awarding of wildcards apply, decision to use these will be at the discretion of the event organiser and UKBT Committee:

Junior Tour	Wildcards not applicable, entry is based on first come first served
1 – 3 Star	Wildcards not applicable, entry is based on first come first served
4 Star	Up to 2 wildcards per gender. Decided upon by the event organiser.
Grand Slam Series	Up to 2 wildcards per gender. 1 wildcard will be decided by the event organiser, the 2nd wildcard will be decided by the UKBT. In special cases a maximum of 4 wildcards may be awarded, however this must be agreed by the UKBT Directors and UKBT Committee. No wildcards available for UKBT Grand Slam Championships

12.2 All wildcards must be applied for through the UKBT wildcard application form in the Tools section of the website.

12.3 Should a team reach the top 4 of a tournament where they have been given a wildcard, they may be awarded consecutive wildcards if they continue to demonstrate a high level of play. This will ultimately be at the discretion of UKBT and the event organiser.

12.4 Should a player withdraw from a tournament and be replaced by another player, the UKBT may award a wildcard should that team's new seeding points take them out of the tournament draw. This wildcard does not need to be applied for and will be at the full discretion of the UKBT in collaboration with the event organiser.

13. Withdrawals/changes to playing partners

13.1 All tournament organisers must have a reserve list for every event.

13.2 The following rules shall apply when a team withdraws from a tournament:

Junior Tour	The next entered team on the reserve list will be offered the position. If they do not accept then the team below will be offered
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	<p>and so on. Tournament seeding does not apply, it will be the team who entered first.</p> <p>Refund policy is at the discretion of the tournament organiser.</p>
1 – 3 Star	<p>The next entered team on the reserve list will be offered the position. If they do not accept then the team below will be offered and so on. Tournament seeding does not apply, it will be the team who entered first.</p> <p>Refund policy is at the discretion of the tournament organiser.</p>
4-Star	<p>The highest seeded team on the reserve list will be offered the position. If they do not accept then the team below will be offered and so on.</p> <p>Refund policy is at the discretion of the tournament organiser.</p>
Grand Slam Series	<p>The highest seeded team on the reserve list will be offered the position. If they do not accept then the team below will be offered and so on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teams who withdraw prior to the entry list being confirmed will be entitled to a full refund. ● Teams who withdraw after the entry list has been confirmed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Main Draw : No refund unless replaced by another team ○ Qualification : Full refund if cancellation made more than 7 days prior to official tournament start date. ○ Qualification : No refund if cancellation made within 7 days to official tournament start date unless replaced by another team ● Teams who withdraw within 48 hours of the official tournament start date will not be entitled to a refund in any circumstance. ● Refunds will only amount to that of the tournament the team withdraws from.

13.3 Last minute change of partner: If a player decides to change their partner within 14 days of the event, the following rules shall apply:

Junior Tour	The player will be replaced with no consequences.
1 – 3 Star	The player will be replaced with no consequences.
4-Star & Grand Slam Series	<p>Main Draw - The team will be ranked on their new seeding. If there is a team on the reserve list who have a higher ranking then they will be replaced. If there is no reserve list or the reserve team/s can no longer attend then the original team will stay in the event.</p> <p>Reserve List - If a player changes partner whilst on the reserve list then the team will be reseeded according to the new teams' points. However, that team cannot go into the main draw if their points are higher than that of the lowest main draw team. They will stay on the reserve list until a team from the main draw has pulled out. Then the highest ranked team on the reserve list will go into the draw.</p> <p>International Teams</p>

	<p>If a team is representing a home nation's country internationally, sanctioned by their national federation, they may withdraw within 48 hours from any UKBT event which coincides with an FIVB Beach Pro Tour/CEV Event event they are competing in, without sanction (excluding national tours).</p> <p>The team must notify the event organiser a minimum 48 hours before the UKBT event in order to implement this policy, and provide sufficient proof of participation.</p>
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13.4 The UKBT or event organiser may request supporting evidence for the withdrawal of the player. (Medical certificate etc).

13.5 Event organisers have the right to report any suspicious behaviour to the UKBT committee. Penalties will be put in place should their suspicions be proven true.

14. Venues

14.1 In all instances, the tournament site will be under the control of the Event Organiser. Players and their associated coaches, team officials and spectators are expected to treat each venue with respect and in accordance with any host venue guidelines or regulations that may be in place.

14.2 If deemed necessary and appropriate, the event organiser may impose sanctions against players for any contraventions of host venue guidelines or regulations by players or their associated coaches, team officials or spectators.

14.3 While every effort is made to ensure the suitability of each playing venue, they are independently managed. UK Beach Tour cannot be held responsible for an injury caused as a result of any type of debris on the playing surface.

14.4 Event organisers are responsible for the insurance of their event/venue.

15. Organiser Expectations

15.1 Event organisers must agree to the event organiser agreement sent out by the UKBT prior to the start of the new season.

15.2 Event organisers must follow the official event application procedure.

15.3 It is the responsibility of the event organiser to provide their own event insurance.

15.4 Organisers are responsible for meeting and delivering the criteria for the tier of event they are organising. Event criteria can be found in appendix B.

15.5 Should any of the above not be met, the UKBT Directors reserves the right to withdraw an event from the calendar, even after the event has taken place.

16. Registration and the Technical Meeting

16.1 The following technical meeting rules apply:

Junior Tour	The event organiser can choose to hold a technical meeting on the morning of the event or publish the draw and rules via email or social media in the days prior.
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1 – 4 Star	The event organiser can choose to hold a technical meeting on the morning of the event or publish the draw and rules via email or social media in the days prior.
Grand Slam Series	There will be no technical meeting on the morning of the first day of play. The schedule will be published the day before the event. Players are expected to be on time for both playing and officiating duties. Sanctions will apply to absences or lateness (see 36.)

16.2 Should a technical meeting take place, players must be in attendance.

16.3 In cases where exceptional circumstances prevent a team from registering or a player from attending the Technical Meeting, it will be the team's or the player's responsibility to notify the event organiser in advance of the inability to register or attend and to demonstrate the existence of such exceptional circumstances.

16.4 The event organiser may impose sanctions for teams failing to register or for players failing to attend the Technical Meeting.

17. Competition Format

17.1 For 1 - 4 star events, it is at the event organiser's discretion as to which format they decide upon, Grand Slam Series must follow the official format:

Junior Tour	Pool play or double elimination (minimum 3 games per team)
1 – 3 Star	Pool play or double elimination (minimum 3 games per team)
4-Star	Pool play or double elimination (minimum 3 games per team)
Grand Slam Series	Modified pool play followed by single elimination.

Double Elimination

- All teams commence the competition in the “winners’ bracket” (WB) where they remain until registering a loss.
- A team losing a match in the WB will move into the “contenders’ bracket” (CB) where they remain until registering a second loss, at which time they are eliminated from the competition.
- This format continues until 4 teams remain in the competition: 2 teams in each of the WB and CB. At this point, teams will compete in the semi-finals where each WB team will play a CB team. Winners of these matches will progress to the final.
- Due to the nature of the elimination process, multiple teams are eliminated from the competition at the same time. These teams will be awarded the same final ranking for the event.

Pool Play for Junior Tour and 1 – 4 Star Events

- Teams are divided into pools of 3, 4 or 5, tournament seeding will snake throughout the pools according to current seeding points.
- Each team plays one match against each of the other teams in the pool
- Within each pool teams are ranked by:
 1. Matches won
 2. Points for / against ratio
 3. Winner of the match between otherwise equally ranked teams.
- It is the responsibility of the tournament organiser to decide how crossovers proceed.

- The final four teams will compete in the semi finals. Winners of these matches will progress to the gold medal match.

Pool Play for Grand Slam Series Events

- Teams are divided into pools of 4. The pools will take the following format:

Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D
Seed 1	Seed 2	Seed 9	Seed 10
Seed 4	Seed 3	Seed 12	Seed 11
Seed 5	Seed 6	Seed 13	Seed 14
Seed 8	Seed 7	Seed 16	Seed 15

- Each team plays one match against each of the other teams in the pool
- Within each pool teams are ranked by:
 1. Matches won
 2. Points for / against ratio
 3. Winner of the match between otherwise equally ranked teams.
- The top 2 teams from Pool A & B will advance directly to the quarter finals (to be played on Sunday morning). The bottom 2 teams from pool A & B will play-off against the top 2 teams from pool C & D in a single elimination play-off match (to be played on Saturday evening).
- The winners of the play-off games will advance directly to the quarter finals to meet the top 2 teams from Pool A & B.
- The draw will continue to be single elimination with a 3rd/4th place play-off.

18. UKBT Grand Slam Finals

Eligibility

18.1 To be eligible to enter and compete in the UKBT Grand Slam Finals, a team must consist of players who have both competed in a minimum of 1 UKBT Grand Slam/4-Star tournament prior to the confirmed entry list being released.

Entry

18.2 The UKBT Grand Slam Finals will consist of 8-16 teams per gender (Location dependant). Teams will qualify through the following:

- Standard Entry Process: Spaces in the Finals will be awarded to the highest ranked teams entered into the event.
- A minimum of 1 team will qualify through the qualification tournament (2 if no wildcard is awarded)

Wildcards and Seeding

18.3 For UKBT Grand Slam Finals, 1 wildcard may be awarded.

18.4 The basis of seeding for this tournament will be as for all other events (see Tournament Seeding Policy).

19. Match Timing and Scoring

Intervals Between Matches

19.1 A maximum 5-minute interval between matches, unless otherwise indicated, is to be strictly enforced.

19.2 For teams required to complete back-to-back games or teams playing straight after refereeing, a minimum 5-minute interval will be permitted. A maximum period will be determined by the Event organiser and applied where required.

Variation of Match Format

19.3 In conjunction with the UK Beach Tour, the Event Manager may decide to use a reduced scoring format in some or all matches of a tournament.

19.4 At the discretion of the event organiser, matches may be played without the inclusion of a technical time-out.

19.5 Any variations to the standard match format as provided for in the FIVB Beach Volleyball Official Rules will be announced at the Technical Meeting or in prior communication.

Alterations to Match or Tournament Format during an Event

19.6 Where necessary, the event organiser may alter the match format or the tournament format during an event in order to ensure player safety and/or the completion of the event.

19.7 Any match or tournament format changes will be announced immediately upon such decision being made.

19.8 Any matches that are still incomplete at the time of such decision being announced will be played under the originally advertised match and tournament format.

20. Playing Under Lights/Lighting

20.1 Where lights are unavailable, no matches will commence after 30 minutes prior to sunset time unless directed by the Tournament Director.

20.2 Where suitable court lighting is available, it may be used to assist in the completion of the competition draw.

Light Disputes

20.3 In the event that the level of lighting may interfere with the completion of a match, the following steps will be taken:

The event organiser will be called to review the situation and may choose to either instruct the match to continue or reschedule the match.

20.4 In the case of the match being rescheduled, it will commence at the next suitable match time prior to the next advertised match for the tournament.

20.5 If the decision to reschedule the match is made during an incomplete set or at the completion of a set, then FIVB regulations will apply, specifically:

- Should one or several interruptions occur not exceeding 4 hours in total, the match is resumed with the score acquired, regardless of whether it continues on the same court or another court. The sets already played will keep their scores.

- Should one or several interruptions occur, exceeding 4 hours in total, the whole match shall be replayed.

21. Incomplete or Cancelled Events

21.1 The event organiser has the right to stop or cancel play, as it deems necessary for player safety.

21.2 If a tournament is not started or the first round is incomplete and the event cannot be resumed with adequate time to complete the event, the tournament will be declared “cancelled”.

21.3 Where possible a “cancelled” tournament will be rescheduled to another date. Teams will be notified as soon as possible where a cancellation occurs.

21.4 Teams may need to re-enter for any rescheduled tournaments. Those teams that do not re-enter will have their entry fee refunded.

21.5 If a tournament is “cancelled” after the first round but before all subsequent rounds are completed, then the number of rounds played will determine the ratings, points and prize money made available. These will be allocated in proportion to the number of completed rounds. For example, if half the scheduled matches are played before the tournament is “cancelled” then 50% of ratings, points and prize money will be made available.

21.6 In the event of a “cancelled” tournament, UKBT will not be responsible for any loss incurred by a player due to the cancellation.

22. Official Competition Ball

22.1 The UKBT has an official partnership with Wilson.

22.2 The official ball for the entire UK Beach Tour is the Wilson Official Game Ball. This ball must be used as the match ball for all UKBT events (see appendix B).

Failure to do so may result in the event being removed from the UKBT calendar.

23. Official Competition Uniforms

23.1 The following rules shall apply:

Junior Tour	Players are free to wear any uniform they like.
1 – 4 Star	Players are free to wear any uniform they like.
Grand Slam Series	<p>Competition Playing Top Regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a player competes in their first Grand Slam Series event, they will be given 1 playing top (sports bra or vest) prior to their first game. Teams who reach the semi-finals of a Grand Slam will be given an additional playing top at their first appearance in a semi-final. • Players will need to bring their playing top/s to every Grand Slam they compete in that season. Should a player fail to bring their playing top to an event, they will be required to purchase another top at £30 per top. • Failure to wear the official playing top during games will result in expulsion from the event.

Players are permitted to wear a top underneath their Grand Slam playing top should they feel it necessary. The following types of tops are allowed:

- Vest
- Short sleeve t-shirt or compression top
- Long sleeve t-shirt or compression top
- Hooded tops and jackets are strictly NOT permitted

If teams wear the same type of top underneath their Grand Slam playing top, they must be the exact same in colour and design. If a team decides that each player will wear different types of top underneath their Grand Slam playing top, they must be the exact same in design and colour. For example:

- Player 1 wears a short sleeve tight white top with no patterns underneath their Grand Slam playing top and Player 2 wears a long sleeve baggy white top with no patterns underneath their Grand Slam playing top. This would be ALLOWED due to the same colour and design.
- Player 1 wears a navy blue t-shirt underneath their Grand Slam playing top and Player 2 wears a navy blue t-shirt with a red collar underneath their Grand Slam playing top. This would NOT BE ALLOWED as the colour is the same but the design is not.

The only detail that may be different on players tops underneath their Grand Slam Series tops will be:

- Sponsors logos

Female Competition Bottoms Regulations

Players may choose to wear any of the following types of bottoms:

- Bikini bottoms
- Shorts – compression or loose
- Leggings

If teams wear the same type of bottoms, they must be the exact same in colour and design. If a team decides to wear different types of bottoms for each player, they must be the exact same in design and colour. For example:

- Player 1 wears plain black bikini bottoms with no additional patterns and Player 2 wears plain black leggings with no additional pattern. This would be ALLOWED due to the same colour and same design.
- Player 1 wears grey loose fitting shorts and Player 2 wears grey bikini bottoms with a white stripe. This would NOT BE ALLOWED as the colour is the same but the design is not.

The only details that may be different on players bottoms will be:

- Sponsors logos

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Athlete names <p>Male Competition Bottoms Regulations</p> <p>Players may wear the following type of bottoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shorts <p>Team shorts must be the exact same in colour and design. The only details that may be different on players bottoms will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sponsors logos ● Athlete names <p>Players are permitted to wear bottoms underneath their competition bottoms should they feel it necessary. The following types of bottoms are allowed to be worn underneath competition bottoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Full length leggings ● ¾ length leggings <p>If teams wear the same type of bottoms underneath their competition bottoms, they must be the exact same in colour and design. If a team decides that each player will wear different types of bottoms underneath their competition bottoms, they must be the exact same in design and colour. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Player 1 wears full length red leggings with a white pattern on the knees and Player 2 wears ¾ length leggings with a white pattern on the knees. This would be ALLOWED as the colour and design are the same. ● Player 1 wears full length plain black leggings and Player 2 wears black ¾ length leggings with a red stripe going down the side. This would NOT BE ALLOWED as the colour is the same but the design is not. <p>The only detail that may be different on players tops underneath their Grand Slam Series tops will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sponsors logos <p>Failure to abide by the uniform regulations will result in disciplinary action taken by the UK Beach Tour. This may result in but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expulsion from event ● Deduction of points ● Fine ● Suspension or expulsion from the UKBT
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24. UKBT Ranking System

24.1 The Ranking Points support an overall ranking of beach volleyball players in the UK.

24.2 The UKBT use 3 ranking systems:

- Champions Race: See section 25
- National Ranking: See section 26
- Club Ranking: See section 27

24.3 Ranking Points will be awarded according to the Ranking Points Schedule (see Appendix A).

24.4 All teams / individuals eliminated at the same point in a tournament will be allocated the same points. For example, in a double elimination draw 7th & 8th are eliminated together so both teams will be allocated the points for 7th place.

25. UKBT Champions Race

25.1 Only Ranking Points earned in UKBT events apply to the UKBT Champions Race.

25.2 The UKBT Champions Race Points start from zero at the beginning of each season and accumulate at each event in which a player competes. The season will run from 31st October – 31st October.

26. UKBT National Ranking

26.1 A player's National Ranking will consist of their top 8 results over a 365 day period. Only a maximum of 6 FIVB results are taken into account.*

26.2 International ranking points acquired from competing on the FIVB Beach Pro Tour, FIVB World Championships (senior), CEV European Championships (senior) and CEV Nations Cup (senior) will receive a 4x multiplier. To reflect an equivalent to UKBT ranking points. International ranking points acquired from competing on CEV/SCA Zonal Tours will receive a 2x multiplier. Junior FIVB/CEV events will also receive a 2x multiplier.

26.3 Only players who compete for Home Nations Countries (England, Scotland, Wales, N.Ireland & Ireland) are eligible for international points.

26.4 A player who does not represent a home nation's country may apply for their international points to contribute to their National Ranking if they meet the following criteria:

- a) Has competed in 3 or more events per year, over 2 consecutive years
- b) Resides permanently in the UK and be able to provide proof of address

Any application will be reviewed by the UKBT Advisory Board on a case-by-case basis.

26.5 The UKBT National Ranking is calculated on a rolling 365 day basis. The Points are not reset at the start of the season, but reflect every event from the last 365 days.

27. UKBT Club Ranking

27.1 When a player registers for a UKBT membership, they will have the option of affiliating themselves with an official UKBT Club. If a player is not affiliated to a club then they will choose no club and their ranking points will not be included in the club rankings.

27.2 Throughout a season, all players who are affiliated to a club will have their ranking points contribute to their clubs ranking. Only UKBT event ranking points will be included in the club ranking.

27.3 All of a player's points earned at UKBT events only in the current season will count towards club ranking. A winner will be announced at the end of the season.

28. Tournament Entry & Seeding Policy

Tournament entry points are only applicable to 4-star and Grand Slam Series events. All events will use seeding points to determine the draw of the event.

28.1 Players entry & seeding points will consist of their top 4 results from their National Ranking.**

28.2 A team's points will be the combined total of points gained by both team members.

28.3 Should two or more teams points be tied they will be separated according to the lowest amount of points of a player in either team.

28.4 Should two or more teams still remain tied following point 28.3, they will be separated according to the lowest individual result of a player in either team. Should this still not separate teams, the decision will lie with the event organiser in consultation with UKBT.

28.5 Teams receiving a wildcard may be seeded at the discretion of the Event Organiser, in consultation with UK Beach Tour.

28.6 For the Grand Slam Series, a team's points may change from when the confirmed entry list is issued to when the tournament begins. In this instance, the team will be seeded according to their new seeding points on the day before the competition.

28.7 Player points can be found under the RANKINGS section of the UKBT website.

** Please see point 26.1

29. Calculating ranking points due to maternity leave

29.1 To benefit from maternity leave, the player must return to competition within 2 years from the birth date of their child.

29.2 To apply for a maternity leave exception, the athlete must submit an application form to UKBT via info@ukbeachtour.com alongside their child's birth certificate (this form can be found in the Tools section on the UKBT website).

29.3 Upon approval of the application, the player's entry points will be frozen until the return to competition, from which regular entry point calculations will continue.

29.4 If an athlete returns to play within 2 years from the birth of their child, they will retain 100% of their entry points obtained 18 months prior to the birth of their child.

30. Tournament Prize Money and Trophy Presentation

30.1 According to the UKBT Event Criteria (Appendix B):

Junior Tour	1st & 2nd place teams receive a minimum of a medal (UKBT Medal) per player. 3rd place optional.
1 & 2 Star	1st & 2nd place teams receive a minimum of a medal (UKBT Medal) per player. 3rd place optional.
3-Star	1st & 2nd place teams receive a minimum of a medal (UKBT Medal) per player and prize. 3rd place optional.

4-Star	1st & 2nd place teams receive a minimum of a medal (UKBT Medal) per player and a minimum of £400 prize money per gender to be split as follows: 1st - £250 2nd - £100 3rd - £50
Grand Slam Series	1st, 2nd & 3rd place teams receive a minimum of a medal (UKBT Medal) per player and a minimum of £1,000 prize money per gender to be split as follows: 1st - £500 2nd - £300 3rd - £200

30.2 The following rules apply to the trophy presentation:

Junior Tour	The top 2 ranked teams are expected to stay for the prize ceremony. If a player/team fails to attend the prize ceremony, the event organiser may impose sanctions including but are not limited to, the withholding of prize money, medals/trophies and any other prizes.
1 - 4 Star	The top 2 ranked teams are expected to stay for the prize ceremony. If a player/team fails to attend the prize ceremony, the event organiser may impose sanctions including but are not limited to, the withholding of prize money, medals/trophies and any other prizes.
Grand Slam Series	The top 3 ranked teams are expected to stay for the prize ceremony, which will take place following the last match of the day. If a player/team fails to show or is not wearing official regulation uniform, the team's prize money will be reduced by 100% and trophies/prizes will be withheld.

31. Match Officiating

31.1 In all matches where tournament appointed referees are not supplied, teams will be expected to referee and score (i.e. do "duty").

31.2 In double elimination format, "loser-duty" will generally apply. This means that the team that lost the previous match on that court must referee the next match. In pool play format, "duty" teams will be pre-allocated.

31.3 Players doing "duty" shall be situated on opposite sides of the court (1st referee and scorer), 1st referee shall always be standing.

31.4 In the case of tournament appointed referees being present, the "duty" team may still be expected to be the second referee and/or score.

32. Player Obligations

32.1 By registering as a beach volleyball player with UK Beach Tour, all players agree to the following Player Obligations:

32.2 The player ensures that they are in good health to participate in beach volleyball competitions and hereby assumes total responsibility for any health problems that may occur.

32.3 The player agrees to take out their own insurance in relation to all and any matters arising from participation in the UKBT.

32.4 The player agrees to be bound by the WADA (World Anti-Drug Agency) and UK Sport anti-doping policies, to be regulated by the sport's National Governing Bodies.

32.5 The player agrees to keep UK Beach Tour indemnified from any claims, actions, suits and proceedings whatsoever arising out of the actions or omissions of the player.

32.6 The player acknowledges that the UK Beach Tour is not responsible for the safety of the player or his / her property during a tournament or at any other time.

32.7 The player acknowledges that nothing in this Player Handbook or the UKBT Regulations constitutes an agency or employer-employee relationship.

32.8 The player, team manager, team coach/es, team representative/s, parent/s or guardian/s hereby authorise/s and grants UK Beach Tour and its appointed agent/s the full right/s to use their name, voice, likeness, images and biographical material for the purposes of publicising, promoting and advertising any sanctioned UK Beach Tour events, competitions or any other activity. Use/s will include marketing, filming, televising, broadcasting, webcasting, internet streaming, online including social media and other related presentations or uses as described above in perpetuity in any territory. All parties as described above agree that all rights are granted without compensation and hereby waive/s any right to such compensation. UK Beach Tour will retain all rights and ownership of all material on any medium obtained by any method.

32.9 The player agrees that all rights granted under paragraph 31.8 above are granted without compensation and hereby waives any right to such compensation.

32.10 By registering as a UKBT player and entering a UKBT event, the player indicates that they have read, understood and agreed to the contents and terms and conditions of the UKBT Handbook and the UKBT Code of Conduct.

32.11 UK Beach Tour accepts no responsibility for any injury caused to players at UKBT events.

32.12 The player understands that they must be registered to the UKBT membership scheme in order to play in any UKBT event.

33. Club Affiliation

33.1 Clubs can apply to be affiliated to the UKBT. Applications will be accepted based on the club meeting the UKBT criteria. Ultimately the decision will be decided by the UKBT board.

33.2 Club Affiliation criteria is based on (but not limited to):

- Regular club training sessions taking place
- Home venue
- Host UKBT events
- Actively developing beach volleyball in their community
- Affiliated to NGB

34. Safeguarding

34.1 Tournament organisers agree to uphold the level of safeguarding set out by their respective National Governing Body during Junior Tour events and when young people are present. This includes but not limited to:

- Having a trained safeguarding officer present at all events where under 18s are attending
- For all under 18s participating in the event to have completed a parental consent form
- Informing players clearly who that safeguarding officer is
- The safeguarding officer to be vigilant throughout the event
- Deal with any safeguarding issues in the correct way according to NGB guidance

34.2 Supporting material for tournament organisers:

- [Safeguarding & Protecting Children Workshop \(Online Classroom\)](#)
- [Child Protection in Sport Unit – Example form](#)
- Suggesting posters around the venue and pre event emails
- Here is a [guide to running safe sport events](#) from Child Protection in Sport Unit
- Here is the link to [Volleyball England's Safeguarding Policy](#)

35. Sanctions Related To Players

36.1 Players who are deemed to be in breach of the UKBT Code of Conduct (judged by an event organiser, referee delegate or the UKBT board) may be subject to sanctions, rationalised by the nature and scale of the offence.

Junior Tour and 1,2 & 3 Star Events

35.2 The following sanctions will apply to all Junior Tour to 3 star events, and will be imposed at the discretion of the event organiser, who may implement any of the sanctions below in conjunction with the presented scale:

Nature of Offence	Junior Tour 1-3 Star
Abuse of Balls, Equipment and Venues. Abuse of officials and organisers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal Warning• Withholding of Ranking points• Disqualification from event.• Suspension/Expulsion of Membership• Replacement of damaged equipment
On-court coaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal Warning• Withholding of Ranking points• Eviction of person from competition venue• Suspension/Expulsion of Membership
Abuse of uniform regulations	N/A
Late withdrawals	Event organisers discretion subject to organiser Terms & conditions

Open & Grand Slams

35.3 The following sanctions will refer to all Open and Grand Slam events and will be imposed at the discretion of the technical supervisor and the UKBT Board, who will implement the sanctions below:

a) Abuse/Verbal abuse of officials, organiser, players and spectators

	Abuse/Verbal abuse of officials, organisers, players and spectators
1st time offence	Official warning
2nd time offence	Expulsion from the event, withholding of prize money and ranking points.
3rd time offence.	Suspension of UKBT membership

Depending on the severity of the action, the UKBT reserves the right to implement any of the above at any time, regardless of whether it is 1st, 2nd or 3rd offence.

b) On-Court Coaching

A sanction will be imposed at the discretion UKBT for any offence that falls under the guidelines of the rules of the game, in relation to 'coaching':

	On-Court Coaching
1st time offence	Official warning.
2nd time offence	Expulsion of a person from the event venue

c) Late Withdrawals:

Time Frame	Late Withdrawals
within 24 hours	<p>Qualification - Team will be replaced by next available team. Team will not received their entry fee back</p> <p>Main Draw</p> <p>Open - Team will be required to pay a £30 fine to UKBT. Memberships will be frozen until a fine has been paid. Entry fee is also non refundable.</p> <p>Grand Slam - Team will be required to pay a £100 fine to UKBT. Memberships will be frozen until a fine has been paid. Entry fee is also non refundable.</p>
within 48 hours	<p>Qualification - Team will be replaced by next available team. Team will not received their entry fee back</p> <p>Main Draw</p> <p>Open - Team will not received their entry fee back</p>

	Grand Slam - Team will be required to pay a £50 fine to UKBT. Memberships will be frozen until a fine has been paid. Entry fee is also non refundable.
within 72 hours	Qualification - Team will be replaced by next available team. Team will receive their entry fee back if replaced. Main Draw Open - Team will received their entry fee back if replaced Grand Slam - Team will not received their entry fee back

In certain circumstances, the UKBT may wish to override the above sanctions should an emergency situation occur for the team. This will be subject to evidence being submitted and ultimately a decision will be made by the UKBT Committee.

d) Abuse of Uniform regulations

Failure to abide by the uniform regulations will result in the following sanctions implemented by the UKBT.

Time Frame	Abuse of Uniform Regulations
Player identified breaching the Uniform Regulations	Player will be asked to dress correctly, in accordance to the Uniform Regulations, by the referee or Technical Supervisor. Matches will not be delayed and if a player delays a game, the late arrival sanction will be implemented.
Player refuses to abide by Uniform Regulations	Player will be excluded from the tournament.

e) Balls, Equipment and Venue

	Simple offence with no further consequence	Match Delay or equipment lost/replaced	Match Delay or equipment lost/replaced on Centre courts
Abuse of Balls, Athlete Areas and Uniforms	Player will be cautioned	Player will be fined a minimum of £50 or the cost of replacing/fixing the equipment or venue. Membership will be frozen until fine has been paid	Player will be fined a minimum of £1000 or the cost of replacing/fixing the equipment or venue. Membership will be frozen until fine has been paid
Abuse of Net Systems, Lines, Referee Stand, Advertising boards and similar	Player will be cautioned	Player will be fined a minimum of £50 or the cost of replacing/fixing the equipment or	Player will be fined a minimum of £1000 or the cost of replacing/fixing the equipment or

		venue. Membership will be frozen until fine has been paid	venue. Membership will be frozen until fine has been paid
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f) Scheduling & Punctuality

Time Frame	Scheduling & Punctuality
Team not ready to compete at official start time or when referee signals to start	Team will forfeit 1 point for every minute they are absent
Team not ready to compete 5 minutes after official start time or when referee signals to start	Team will forfeit the first set
Team not ready to compete following the 2 above sanctions being implemented	The same process outlined above will be implemented for the second set.

35.4 In extreme cases, the UKBT board reserves the right to implement any sanction they see as appropriate.

Appeals

35.5

The UKBT must inform a player about the nature/reasoning of their sanction. If a sanction affects the result of a match, this issue must be dealt with directly by the official and technical supervisor.

Appeals must be submitted within 48 hours of the sanction being received; this will be reviewed by the UKBT appeal panel.

36. The Club Championships

Introduction

36.1 The UKBT Club Championships will bring together all levels of players competing on behalf of their club. Every result counts as the Club Championships will aim to boost the beach volleyball club structure within the UK.

Club Championships Format

36.2 The Championships (Division 1) will be an elite level competition where the clubs will select their teams.

- 2-day event - Saturday & Sunday
- 2 teams of each gender per club
- Entry via club selection process

36.3 The Trophy (Division 2) will be a tournament for all other teams from the club.

- Male & Female pairs: Saturday
- Mixed pairs: Sunday
- Club eligibility will be checked with the club before competition

Team Entry Process

36.4 The Championships entry will be the responsibility of the club leadership, and selection criteria for the teams will be the sole responsibility of the club:

- Entry Deadline set by the organiser (around 2-3 weeks before the event)
- The club will nominate 2 teams per gender (8 athletes total).
- Entry = £120 - £160 per gender (2 teams)
- The club may replace players should an injury or an athlete become unavailable prior to the tournament. No replacements may be made after the tournament has begun.
- No players competing in the Championship division will be eligible to compete in the Trophy division

36.5 The Trophy division entry will be made directly through the Deep Dish website:

- Entry Deadline set by the organiser (around 1 week before the tournament)
- Entry = £30 - £45 per team per tournament
- Each team will have to state the club they wish to represent on the entry form
- All teams will be checked with club leadership prior to the tournament start

Tournament Format

36.6 In the Championships Tournament:

- Clubs will be placed in pools of 3, 4 or 5 (dependant on number of entries)
- Clubs will compete as a squad of 2 teams and the club will be seeded in accordance with their UKBT points. The highest ranked team will be Team 1 & the lowest ranked team will be Team 2.
- Overall club seeding will be based on the total amount of UKBT points of both teams
- Teams must stay in their original pairings throughout the tournament (excluding golden sets)
- During a match the following format will be used:
 - Club A - Team 1 vs Club B - Team 2
 - Club A - Team 2 vs Club B - Team 1
 - Full FIVB scoring - 21, 21, 15 (2 clear)
- Should it be a tie then a golden set will be played immediately following the match to 21 points (2 clear)
 - The team will be decided by the club and may consist of a mixture of players from Team 1 & 2

36.7 In the Trophy Tournament:

- Teams will be placed in pools of 3, 4 or 5 (dependant on number of entries)
- Pools will be seeded in accordance with UKBT seeding points - However the UKBT may alter seedings should a pool be made up of more than 2 teams from a single club
- Reduced scoring will be used
- Clubs may compete against fellow club teams throughout the tournament

Club Eligibility

36.8 Clubs must organise at least one UKBT event in the current season to be eligible to compete at the UKBT Club Championships.

36.9 In order to qualify to compete for a club. The player must:

- Hold a valid UKBT membership
- Chosen their affiliated club on their UKBT profile
- Attend regular training sessions at the club
- Be cleared by the club to compete when UKBT checks entry

Uniform

36.10

- Championships: Teams will be required to wear club uniform
- Trophy: Teams aren't required to wear club uniform but it would be nice if they did

UKBT Ranking Points

36.11 For UKBT ranking points, events will be classed as the following:

- Championships: 4-Star/Open
- Trophy Single Gender: 3-Star
- Trophy Mixed: 2-Star

Club Championships Results

36.12 The overall Club Champions will be decided on points, calculated by adding the below together (see example below):

- Total points from the teams representing the club in the Championships
- The points from the highest ranked team in each Trophy tournament per club
- The points from the lowest ranked team in each Trophy tournament per club
- An average of the remaining results from the teams in each Trophy tournament per club

Ranking Point Example

Club A Results

Result	Total Points
1st Championships Men's	144
5th Championships Women's	96
Highest ranked team Trophy Men's (2nd)	54
Lowest ranked team Trophy Men's (15th)	8
Average of remainder of results from Trophy Men's (4th = 42, 7th = 30, 10th = 18)	30

Highest ranked team Trophy Women's (3rd)	48
Lowest ranked team Trophy Women's (17th)	4
Average of remainder of results from Trophy Women's (5th = 38, 9th = 22,)	30
Highest ranked team Trophy Mixed (5th)	38
Lowest ranked team Trophy Mixed (25th)	1
Average of remainder of results from Trophy Mixed (7th = 30, 9th = 22, 11th = 16, 13th = 12, 15th = 8)	17.6
Total Points for Club A	470.6

These points are only relevant to deciding who the overall Club Champion is. UKBT ranking points will be awarded separately according to point 37.11

Position	Championships Points Per Club per gender	Trophy Points Per Team
1	144	60
2	120	54
3	108	48
4	102	42
5	96	38
6	90	34
7	84	30
8	78	26
9	72	22
10	66	18
11	60	16
12	54	14
13	48	12
14	42	10
15	36	8
16	30	6
17=	24	4
19=	12	2
25=	10	1

Appendix

Appendix A: Player Ranking Points (per player)

Position	Grand Slam	4 Star	3 Star	2 Star	1 Star / U19	U15
1	240	144	96	60	24	16
2	192	120	84	48	20	14
3=	168	108	72	36	18	12
4	156	102	66	30	17	10
5=	144	96	60	24	16	9
7=	120	84	48	20	14	8
9=	108	72	36	18	12	7
11=	96	60	24	16	10	6
13=	84	48	20	14	8	5
15=	72	36	18	12	6	4
17=	N/A	24	10	6	4	3
19=	N/A	12	6	4	2	2
25=	N/A	10	4	2	1	1

See 26.2 for International Event Multipliers

Appendix B: Official Game Ball



Appendix C: Event Criteria Table

	Junior Tour	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	UKBT Open (4 Star)	UKBT Grand Slam (5 Star)
Gender	Single or double gender	Mixed pairs or single or double gender	Mixed pairs or Single or double gender	Single or double gender	2 day event Double gender	2 day event in iconic/high footfall location
Age	U15 – 2 a-side U19 – 2 a-side	All	All	All	All	All
Prize	Medal for 1 st & 2 nd place	Medal for 1 st & 2 nd place	Medal for 1 st & 2 nd place	Medal and prize provided for 1 st & 2 nd place	Medal, trophy & prize money 1 st - £250 2 nd - £100 3 rd - £50	Medal, trophy & prize money 1 st - £500 2 nd - £300 3 rd - £200
Scoring	Reduced scoring allowed	Reduced scoring allowed	Reduced scoring allowed	Reduced scoring allowed	Full FIVB scoring	Full FIVB scoring
Number Of Teams	Minimum 4 teams per gender/division	Minimum 4 teams per gender	Minimum 6 teams per gender	Minimum 6 teams per gender	Minimum 12 teams & maximum 32 teams per gender	Minimum 8 teams & maximum 16 teams per gender
Format	Pool play or double elimination tournament format	Pool play or double elimination tournament format	Pool play or double elimination tournament format	Pool play or double elimination tournament format	Pool play or double elimination tournament format	Grand Slam Series pool play
Officials	Make referee commission aware of event for any referee training opportunities	Make referee commission aware of event for any referee training opportunities	Make referee commission aware of event for any referee training opportunities	Make referee commission aware of event for any referee training opportunities	Minimum 2 referees to officiate event	Officials to cover all courts Volunteers to manage/score all courts
Seating	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Create seating area around centre court	150 or more seat grandstand around centre court
Entertainment	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Music	Announcer & music
Centre Court	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50% centre court branding coverage	100% centre court branding coverage
Undercover Area	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Organiser & players marquee/building	Organiser & players marquee/building
Additional Events	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Option to run a 1-2 star event alongside	Option to run a 1-3 star event alongside
Marketing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Marketing plan alongside UKBT
Uniform	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Players must wear Grand Slam Series uniform