



## VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND – SENIOR BEACH VOLLEYBALL ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY POLICY

### **Preamble:**

This Eligibility Policy applies to all senior athletes wishing to compete for England in international beach volleyball tournaments. All Volleyball England Eligibility Criteria listed in Section A, and any additional Tournament Eligibility Criteria, must be met before the Selection Criteria for each tournament becomes applicable.

Please note that this policy covers eligibility to compete in tournaments on foreign domestic national tours, NEVZA, CEV and FIVB World Tour events. It also includes any invitational events. Major games and multi-event games will have their own specific policies and criteria.

### **A. Volleyball England Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible to receive sanction from Volleyball England to compete for England in international events (including international events held in England) each athlete must:

- A. Have a current and valid British Passport;
- B. Be a registered member of Volleyball England;
- C. Be compliant with all applicable Volleyball England policies;
- D. Be free of any injury or illness which will or has the potential to impair, inhibit or prevent the athlete from performing at the requisite level. Confirmation by a medical professional will be required;
- E. Be compliant with any eligibility guidelines published by the FIVB or the CEV, including rules and guidelines which apply to eligibility to compete for England in the sport of beach volleyball;
- F. Be in good standing with Volleyball England with regards financial contributions to the programme;
- G. Be in good standing with Volleyball England and must not be serving any current disciplinary sanctions; Historical sanctions pertaining to the athlete will also be given consideration during the selection process.
- H. Abide by Volleyball England's Codes of Conduct.

All athletes who are planning on competing in international competitions in any given calendar year must have all required paperwork (as per Administration document) completed and sent to the Volleyball England talent team by 31<sup>st</sup> January each year. All paperwork must be submitted to the Volleyball England talent team at least 7 days before the registration deadline of any event they wish to enter. Failure to comply with this, unless in very extreme circumstances, will lead to athletes not being eligible to compete in that event.



## B. Tournament Eligibility Criteria

### Home Nations

- Both players must have competed in 2 UKBT Grand Slam Events in the past 365 days^

### NEVZA (and other Zonal Events), CEV and FIVB Events

- Both players must have competed in 2 UKBT Grand Slam Events in the past 365 days^
- Both players must have achieved a minimum result of **4th** in a UKBT Grand Slam Event in the last 365 days.
- Consideration will be taken when special circumstances occur (e.g., when Athletes are based in full time training abroad) and adjustments to the process will be made to cover these situations.

### Exceptions

- *Teams who are competing in a CEV or FIVB tournament which conflicts with the dates of domestic 5\* or Grand Slam level event may substitute those events for up to 2 of their required domestic events. The default conflict dates relate to tournaments occurring the same week, or an international event occurring the week after a UKBT event.*
- *Every effort must be made by teams competing in CEV /FIVB event to play in the Domestic Tour events when elimination from these events allow enough time for return to England to compete.*
- *Teams who are competing extensively internationally and unable to accommodate UKBT events into their planned competitions schedule may be exempt, The Beach Performance Director will review their plans and grant the exemption in collaboration with Beach Performance Group where suitable.*
- *Junior athletes who are on the Volleyball England talent pathway will have their eligibility to senior level events assessed by their respective Beach Performance Director in conjunction with the Beach Performance Group, however they will have had to compete in senior level Grand Slam UKBT event.*
- *Players residing abroad, whether permanently or partially, will need to be available for international commitments when selected. If this is for educational purposes, there will need to be an understanding of this, and an agreement reached with the educational establishment to allow release when required. Close cooperation between VE and the relevant parties is vital for both parties to understand and agree this process.*
- *If any injury prevents an athlete competing in the required number of events. Medical advice must be sought, and confirmation of physical readiness given, before a return to international level events is approved.*

*The Performance Director, after consulting with relevant parties, has discretion on applying exemptions to any other situation, subject to a review process.*



**C. Selection Criteria:** The Selection Criteria for each level of squad / tournament is as follows:

1. Selection of teams to compete in Home Nation

- Entry will be at the discretion of the *The Beach Performance Director in conjunction with the Beach Performance Group*. FIVB ranking points and development requirements will be considered.

2. Selection of teams to compete in NEVZA, CEV and FIVB events

- Tournament selection will be made solely on FIVB Entry Points. (With possible exception for NEZVA's & other Zonal Events offering development opportunities for junior players/teams)
- In the event more teams wish to enter than the NF allocation allows, a decision will be made at the discretion of the *Beach Performance Director* and relevant parties as to whether a country quota match / tournament is arranged, or the top ranked teams are selected. Teams will need to provide a case for why a country quota match shall be arranged.

(Please note, due to a change in FIVB regulations, the cost of Country Quota matches which take place at the host venue will fall to the National Federation of the teams competing, and Volleyball England does not have a budget to pay for Country Quota matches)

*NB: Major games events will be subject to a specific selection policy in line with the qualification process and organising committee requirements.*

\*All selections are subject to approval by the Volleyball England Beach Performance group.