



Beach Tour

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

Last Updated: May 2023

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1 – VLY BEACH TOUR AIMS	
1.1	<p>The Volleyball Ireland Beach Tour (also referred to as “VLY Beach Tour”) has been established with the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide top-level national competition for Ireland’s elite and developing players, • To showcase beach volleyball to audiences across Ireland, • 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 CEV & FIVB events, • To engage new and existing tournament promoters across Ireland, • 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 player by implementing a 3-tier system, • To support the development of a referee pathway.
1.2	<p>The purpose of this Handbook is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a support guide to event organisers, • Guarantee the integrity of beach volleyball and the VLY Beach Tour, • 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 PROMOTERS & ORGANISERS	
2.1	The VLY Beach Tour is promoted by Volleyball Ireland and sanctioned by the Beach Tour Management Committee (BTMC).
2.2	Volleyball Ireland approves and oversees the calendar of tournaments, the rules and regulations, the publicity and promotion, membership system and overall administration of the VLY Beach Tour.
2.3	The delivery of events is undertaken by the appointed event organisers. Volleyball Ireland has no responsibility for the delivery of events.
2.4	All correspondence relating to the VLY Beach Tour should be sent to info@volleyballireland.com

3 – TOUR CALENDAR

3.1 The Tour Calendar for the 2023 season currently stands as follows:

May	June	July	August	Sept
27 Bettystown Blitz 1* & 2* Bettystown	18 Challenger Series Launch Dublin	1 The Big Bash 1* & 2* Dollymount Strand	13 1* + Club Championships Brittas Bay	9-10 Tour Finals 1* & 3* Bettystown
		15 Queen & King of the Court Balbriggan	26/27 Ballyunion 1* & 2* Co. Kerry	16 Challenger Series Final & Awards Party Dublin
		29 Challenger Series Event 2 Dublin		

VLV
Beach Tour

***adult tour programme only**
****all events subject to license**

The VLV Beach Tour calendar may be amended during the season at the discretion of the BTMC.

4 – TOUR STRUCTURE

The tour will operate on a tiered system:

Junior Tour	Mixed & Single gender, 1-day event for players aged Under 16 and Under 20.
1* & 2*	Mixed & Single gender, 1-day event to engage local beach volleyball communities and provide regular competition for Ireland’s top and developing players.
3*	Single gender, 2-day event for the country’s top-level players in iconic/high footfall locations. FIVB Scoring system.

5 – EVENT CRITERIA

Event criteria are agreed upon by the BTMC. They are intended to ensure that all events are accessible for all levels of player and sustainable for event organisers. More information on this can be found in Appendix C.

6 – EVENT APPLICATION PROCESS

6.1	It is mandatory for all event organisers planning to host a VLY Beach Tour 1* and 2* event to register their event with BTMC by no later than March 1 st preceding the start of the Tour. The confirmed calendar will then be released by the end of March, with events included at the sole discretion of the BTMC.
6.2	All 3* events will be hosted by Volleyball Ireland.

7 – RULES & REGULATIONS

All VLY Beach Tour players agree to abide by the VLY Beach Tour Handbook, the VLY Beach Tour Players Code of Conduct and, where, applicable, all individual tournament rules and regulations.

8 – DISPUTE RESOLUTION

8.1	At all VLY Beach Tour events, it is the responsibility of the event organizer and/or technical supervisor to deal with all disputes or protests arising during the tournament, irrespective of whether they do or do not relate to playing of matches.
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8.2	If a player is deemed to be bringing the game into disrepute, the event organizer/technical supervisor has the right to report the individual and his/her behaviour to the BTMC. The BTMC may, in conjunction with the event organizer/technical supervisor, issue the player a disciplinary warning and, furthermore, a disciplinary hearing.
8.3	Should the BTMC wish to penalise the player, the BTMC will appoint an independent panel, to which the player can plead their case, after which the panel will make a final determination.

9 – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

9.1	To be eligible for entry into a VLY Beach Tour event, a player must meet the following conditions:
	<p>All players MUST hold a valid Volleyball Ireland Player License (see clause 9.2). Licenses can only be obtained via Just Go, Volleyball Ireland’s membership portal. Please note that such licenses are only valid for the season for which they are purchased and are not carried over to successive seasons.</p> <p>Adult Licenses cost €15, making the player eligible to play in all VLY Beach Tour events, excluding junior tour events. Non-League or National League licenses are acceptable.</p> <p>Junior Licenses cost €5, making the player eligible to play in all VLY Beach Tour events, but can only be purchased by Under 18s.</p>
9.2	Players playing in the U20 Junior Tour must be aged 19 or under on 31 st December 2022.

10 – TOURNAMENT ENTRY

10.1	Entry to all tournaments, and payment of entry fees, must be completed via Just Go, Volleyball Ireland’s membership portal.
10.2	<p>Entry deadlines</p> <p>Entry deadlines are at the event organiser’s discretion, including any decision to bring forward the deadline or to close the tournament to entries once all spaces have been filled. 1* and 2* events operate on a first-come-first-served basis.</p> <p>Please note that event organisers, in conjunction with the BTMC, may exercise discretion for players on international duty at CEV and/or FIVB sanctioned events.</p>

10.3	<p>Confirmed Entry Lists</p> <p>For Junior Tour, 1* and 2* Events, entry lists can be confirmed at the event organiser's discretion.</p> <p>For 3* Events, entry lists must be confirmed by the Tuesday prior to the event start date; entry is based on seeding points on this date.</p>								
10.4	<p>Entry Fee</p> <p>The entry fee for each event is at the discretion of the event organiser, but the suggested minimum fee for all events is €10 per person for Junior Tour and 1* Events and €15 for 2* Events. The entry fee for 3* events will be advised in due course.</p>								
10.5	<p>Number of Entries per event</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="261 752 1466 920"> <tr> <td>Junior Tour</td> <td>Minimum of 4 teams.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1*</td> <td>Minimum of 4 teams.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2*</td> <td>Minimum of 6 teams.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3*</td> <td>To be confirmed by the BTMC and VLY.</td> </tr> </table> <p>The maximum number of teams in each event will be dependent on the number of available courts.</p>	Junior Tour	Minimum of 4 teams.	1*	Minimum of 4 teams.	2*	Minimum of 6 teams.	3*	To be confirmed by the BTMC and VLY.
Junior Tour	Minimum of 4 teams.								
1*	Minimum of 4 teams.								
2*	Minimum of 6 teams.								
3*	To be confirmed by the BTMC and VLY.								
10.6	<p>As a guide, it is advised that players playing in the National League at Premier Division level do not enter 1* events, and that they enter 2* events only. It is also advised that players playing in the National League at Division 2 level not enter 2* events and only enter 1* events.</p> <p>In the event of fewer teams entering than required to meet the minimum levels outlined in 10.5 above, the BTMC and VLY may ask teams to swap over from 1* to 2* or vice versa.</p>								

11 – WILDCARDS

9.1	<p>The awarding of Wildcards will only be considered for 3* events, and only at the discretion of the event organiser and the BTMC.</p>
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12 – WITHDRAWALS / CHANGES TO PLAYING PARTNERS

12.1	<p>Teams who withdraw within seven days of an event are not entitled to a refund unless another team replaces them in the interim, or if indicated otherwise by the event organiser in the respective tournament regulations.</p>
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12.2	All event organisers must run a reserve list for every event.				
12.3	<p>The following shall apply in the case of a team withdrawing from an event:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Junior Tour, 1* & 2*</td> <td>The next entered team on the reserve list will be offered a position in the event. If they do not accept, the next team on the reserved list will be offered a position and so on. The reserve list will be headed by those who applied first etc.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3*</td> <td>The highest seeded team on the reserve list will be offered a position. If they do not accept then the next highest seeded team will be offered a position etc.</td> </tr> </table>	Junior Tour, 1* & 2*	The next entered team on the reserve list will be offered a position in the event. If they do not accept, the next team on the reserved list will be offered a position and so on. The reserve list will be headed by those who applied first etc.	3*	The highest seeded team on the reserve list will be offered a position. If they do not accept then the next highest seeded team will be offered a position etc.
Junior Tour, 1* & 2*	The next entered team on the reserve list will be offered a position in the event. If they do not accept, the next team on the reserved list will be offered a position and so on. The reserve list will be headed by those who applied first etc.				
3*	The highest seeded team on the reserve list will be offered a position. If they do not accept then the next highest seeded team will be offered a position etc.				
12.4	<p>If a player wishes to change their partner within 14 days of the event, the following shall apply:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Junior Tour, 1* & 2*</td> <td>The player can be replaced without penalty.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3*</td> <td>The team will be re-ranked on their new seeding. If there is a team on the reserve list who has a higher ranking than a team in the competition, then they will be replaced. If there is no reserve list of the reserve team(s) can no longer take part in the event, then the original team will stay in the event.</td> </tr> </table>	Junior Tour, 1* & 2*	The player can be replaced without penalty.	3*	The team will be re-ranked on their new seeding. If there is a team on the reserve list who has a higher ranking than a team in the competition, then they will be replaced. If there is no reserve list of the reserve team(s) can no longer take part in the event, then the original team will stay in the event.
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12.5	The BTMC or event organisers reserve the right to request supporting evidence in respect of the withdrawal of a player (e.g. medical certificate).				
12.6	Event organisers have the right to report any suspicious activity to the BTMC and, if those suspicions are proven to be valid, penalties may be imposed.				

13 – VENUES

13.1	<p>In all instances, the tournament site shall be under the control of the event organiser. Players, coaches, team officials and spectators are expected to treat each venue with respect and in accordance with any host venue guidelines, regulations or by-laws that may be in place.</p> <p>In the event of any non-compliance with such guidelines, the event organiser may impose sanctions against those responsible.</p>
13.2	Whilst every effort is made to ensure the suitability of each tournament site, they are independently managed. Volleyball Ireland accepts no responsibility for any injury caused because of debris on the playing surface or site.
13.3	Volleyball Ireland will provide insurance for each event.

14 – EXPECTATIONS OF EVENT ORGANISERS	
14.1	Event organisers must agree to the terms of the Event Organiser Agreement, issued by the BTMC prior to the start of the new season.
14.2	Event organisers must follow the official event application procedure.
14.3	Organisers are responsible for meeting and delivering the criteria for the tier of event they are organizing. Those criteria are detailed in Appendix B.
14.4	In the event of any non-compliance in 14.1 to 14.3 above, the BTMC reserves the right to withdraw an event from the Beach Tour calendar, even after the event has taken place.

15 – PLAYER REGISTRATON & TECHNICAL MEETING					
15.1	<p>The following guidelines apply in relation to a technical meeting:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="263 958 1468 1321"> <tr> <td>Junior Tour, 1* & 2*</td> <td>The Event organiser may choose to either hold a technical meeting on the morning of the event or publish details of the draw and competition rules via email or social in the days prior to the event.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3*</td> <td>There will be no technical meeting on the morning of the first day of the event, and the schedule will be published the day before the event. Please note that players are expected to arrive in good time for both playing and any officiating duties.</td> </tr> </table> <p>In the event of a technical meeting being required, <u>all players must be in attendance.</u></p>	Junior Tour, 1* & 2*	The Event organiser may choose to either hold a technical meeting on the morning of the event or publish details of the draw and competition rules via email or social in the days prior to the event.	3*	There will be no technical meeting on the morning of the first day of the event, and the schedule will be published the day before the event. Please note that players are expected to arrive in good time for both playing and any officiating duties.
Junior Tour, 1* & 2*	The Event organiser may choose to either hold a technical meeting on the morning of the event or publish details of the draw and competition rules via email or social in the days prior to the event.				
3*	There will be no technical meeting on the morning of the first day of the event, and the schedule will be published the day before the event. Please note that players are expected to arrive in good time for both playing and any officiating duties.				
15.2	In the event of exceptional circumstances preventing a team from registering, or a player from attending the Technical Meeting, it will be the team's or 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.				
15.3	The Event organiser may impose sanctions on any team for failing to register or for any player(s) failing to attend a Technical Meeting.				

16 – COMPETITION FORMAT	
16.1	<p>For all 2* and 3* events, matches shall be played as a best of three sets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In sets one and two, a team wins a set upon reaching 21 points and being two points clear. If scores reach 20-20, play continues until one team leads by two

	<p>points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a third set is required, the winner is the first to reach 15 points and being two points clear. If scores reach 14-14, play continues until one team leads by two points. <p>1* events may operate on a 1-set match basis, or on a three-set format.</p>
16.2	<p>The format for Junior, 1* and 2* competitions shall be at the Event organiser's discretion, and will depend on a number of logistical factors, including size of venue, number of teams entered etc. In general terms, however, best efforts will be made to ensure all teams are scheduled to play a minimum of three matches.</p> <p>Formats may involve group play, single or double elimination, and details will be circulated either in advance of events or at the technical briefing. The formats are summarized as follows:</p> <p>Group Play – teams are divided into groups, with each team playing all others in the group once. Depending on results, a team or teams from each group will progress to further rounds.</p> <p>Single Elimination – a knockout format in which the winner of each match progresses to the next round and the loser is eliminated.</p> <p>Double Elimination – a format in which a team isn't eliminated from contention until it has lost two matches.</p> <p>Please note that it may be necessary for teams to compete in a third-place match once they have been eliminated from a competition and, depending on the format of a particular event, any teams eliminated at the same stage/round will all be awarded the same final ranking for the event.</p> <p>In the event of teams competing in group play, positions will be decided on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 – Matches Won 2 – Set Difference 3 – Head-to-Head result
16.3	<p>For 3* Events, teams are divided into groups, depending on number of competing teams and seedings. The top seeds will be kept apart in the group stage.</p> <p>Each team plays each of the other teams in their group once, with teams ranked on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 – Matches Won 2 – Ratio of points for / points against 3 – The winner of the match between teams if teams remain tied. <p>Depending on the format and number or groups, the overall knockout format for the competition will be communicated to teams in advance of the event.</p>

16.4	Rules and Regulations for the King & Queen of the Court and Challenger events will be circulated under separate cover.
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17 – MATCH TIMING & SCORING	
17.1	<p>Intervals Between Matches</p> <p>A maximum 5-minute interval will take place between matches, unless otherwise indicated by the standing referees.</p> <p>Teams scheduled to play back-to-back matches, or teams playing straight after refereeing a match, a minimum 5-minute interval will be permitted. The maximum length of this interval shall be at the discretion of the Event organiser, who shall have the final word on the matter.</p>
17.2	<p>Variation of Match Format</p> <p>In conjunction with VLY Beach Tour Management, the Event organiser may decide to use a reduced scoring format in some or all matches of a tournament.</p> <p>At the discretion of the Event organiser, matches may be played without the provision of a technical time-out.</p> <p>Any variations to the standard match format, as provided for in the FIVB Beach Volleyball Official Rules will be advised at the Technical Meeting, or in the advanced communication.</p>
17.3	<p>Alterations to Match or Tournament Format during an Event</p> <p>Where necessary, the Event organiser may alter the match or tournament format during an event, to ensure player safety and/or the completion of the event.</p> <p>Any such match or tournament format changes will be announced to all competing teams immediately upon such a decision being made.</p> <p>Any matches that are in progress at the time of such a decision being made and announced will be allowed to be completed under the originally advertised match/tournament format.</p>
17.4	<p>Ready to Play</p> <p>Please note that teams should be ready to start matches at the scheduled time, or no more than 5 minutes following the conclusion of the preceding match, whichever is later. If the preceding match is overrunning, teams should wait by the court ready to enter at the conclusion of the preceding match.</p>

	If a team is not in position to play at the end of any warmup period, the opposing team shall be entitled to claim a walkover, and the team not ready to play shall forfeit the match.
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18 – INCOMPLETE OR CANCELLED EVENTS	
18.1	The Event organiser has the authority to stop or cancel play, as deemed necessary, in conditions where the principles of fairness and/or enjoyment may be difficult to meet. Cancelled events will be confirmed as early as possible, and in conjunction with VLY’s Beach Tour Cancellation Policy, a copy of which is available on the VLY website and can be found in Appendix C.
18.2	If a tournament is not started, or the first round is incomplete and cannot be resumed with adequate time to complete the event, the tournament will be declared “cancelled”.
18.3	Where possible, a cancelled tournament will be rescheduled to another date. Teams will be notified as soon as possible when a cancellation occurs.
18.4	Teams may be required to re-enter any such rescheduled tournaments. Those teams that do not re-enter a rescheduled tournament will have their entry fee refunded.
18.5	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 available. These will be allocated in proportion to the number of completed rounds. For example, if half of the scheduled matches are played before the tournament is cancelled, then 50% of the ratings, points and prize money will be awarded.
18.6	In the event of a cancelled tournament, Volleyball Ireland accepts no responsibility for any losses incurred by a player as a result of the cancellation.

19 – OFFICIAL COMPETITION BALL	
19.1	All VLY Beach Tour events must be played using the Mikasa VLS300 Beach Volleyball (See Appendix B). Failure to do so may result in the event being removed from the VLY Beach Tour calendar.

20 – OFFICIAL COMPETITION UNIFORMS	
20.1	The following shall apply in respect of player uniforms:

Junior Tour & 1*	Players may wear any uniform they like.
2*	Players on the same team must wear tops that are the same colour.
3*	<p>When a player competes in their first 3* Tour event, they will be given two playing tops. Players on a team must wear matching bottoms.</p> <p>Players must wear the official VLY Beach Tour 3* events uniform at all such events.</p> <p>During a match, each team must be wearing a different colour playing tops. The referee for each match shall decide which team wears which colours.</p> <p>Players in a team must always wear matching uniforms, that meet the following requirements:</p> <p>Men – Official top but permitted to wear a T-Shirt/Long-Sleeved top under their singlet, and leggings may be worn under shorts.</p> <p>Women – Official top but permitted to wear a T-Shirt/Long-Sleeved top under their singlet, and shorts or leggings may be worn instead of bikini bottoms.</p>

21 – VLY BEACH TOUR RANKING SYSTEM

21.1	The Ranking Points system provides an overall ranking of Beach Volleyball players in Ireland, details of which can be found in Appendix A. Tour point rankings as based on a player's best 6 performances from the current and previous beach tour season.
21.2	All teams eliminated at the same point in a tournament will be allocated the same points. For example, the teams knocked out at the quarter-final stage will all be allocated the same number of points.

22 – VLY BEACH TOUR CHAMPIONS RACE

22.1	Only ranking points earned in VLY Beach Tour events or the Challenger Series can be counted towards the VLY Beach Tour Champions Race.
22.2	VLY Beach Tour Champions Race points start from zero at the beginning of each beach season and accumulate at each event in which a player competes. The season runs from 1 st May to 16 th September.

23 – VLY BEACH TOUR NATIONAL RANKING

23.1	A Player's National Ranking will be calculated on the basis of their best four results over the current and previous season. Rankings are not reset automatically at the start of a season.
23.2	Ranking points accrued in FIVB World Tour events are counted as 3* equivalents. For the avoidance of doubt, this means a 1 st place finish would earn 100pts.

24 – TOURNAMENT SEEDING POLICY

24.1	Teams will be seeded for an Event based on the combined ranking points earned by team members, from each member's best 4 results in the current and previous season. Please note that this might involve players earning points from different events in that time.
24.2	Should two or more teams have the same total of ranking points, seedings will be determined by the lowest ranking point total of an individual member in each team. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that if the lowest ranking point total in one team is 50 points, that team will be ranked higher than a team whose lowest ranking point is 49.
24.3	Any teams receiving a wildcard entry into a tournament will be seeded at the discretion of the Event organiser, in consultation with the VLY Beach Tour Committee, whose decision will be final.
24.4	A team's seeding points may change from the point that the entry list is confirmed to the day of the event. In this instance, the team will be seeded according to their new seeding points total on the day of the event.
24.5	Player points will be available on the Volleyball Ireland website.

25 – TOURNAMENT PRIZES & TROPHY PRESENTATION

25.1	Details of tournament prizes can be found in Appendix B
25.2	It is expected that the top 3 teams in an event stay for the presentation ceremony. If a player or team fails to attend the presentation ceremony, the Event organiser reserves the right to impose sanctions including, but not limited to, the withholding of prize money, medals, trophies and/or any other prizes awarded.

26 – OFFICIATING	
26.1	As a rule, referees will not be provided for 1* events. In all 2* Events where there are insufficient referees to officiate every match, teams will be expected to do their share of refereeing and scoring matches. In this case, all competition schedules will indicate which team is to officiate which match(es). Failure to do so may result in sanctions being applied for non-compliance.
26.2	Team members officiating in matches shall be located on opposite sides of the court (one to be first referee and the other as scorer). The first referee shall stand for every match.
26.3	If sufficient referees are available to perform first referee duties in matches, teams may still be required to second referee and/or score.

27 – SAFEGUARDING	
27.1	<p>Event organisers agree to uphold a level of Safeguarding as laid out by their respective NGB during Junior Tour Events, and when young people are present. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where U18s are participating in the event, the host must appoint a Children’s Officer who has Safeguarding 2 and Garda Vetting (achieved through VI) credentials. That person must remain present on site for the duration of the Event and remain vigilant to any risks at all times. • The host organization must have an up-to-date Child Safety Statement and Risk Assessment. • For all U18s participating in the event to have provided a parental consent form, which must clearly indicate who the Children’s Officer is for that event. • Deal with any Safeguarding concerns that might arise in accordance with NGB guidance. • If any concerns are raised, the Children’s Officer must report these to the Host Club’s Designated Liaison Person, and to VI’s National Children’s Officer. • If, in the opinion of the Children’s Officer, there an imminent risk or danger to any Under 18s taking part in the event, they must contact Tusla or An Garda Siochana in the first instance, along with VI’s National Children’s Officer.
27.2	<p>The following links may be useful:</p> <p>Statutory Emergency Contact Details</p> <p>How to Apply for Garda Vetting Clearance</p> <p>Volleyball Ireland’s Safeguarding Policy</p>

APPENDICES
APPENDIX A – RANKING POINTS (AWARDED TO EACH MEMBER OF A TEAM)

POSITION	3* EVENT or Intl Competition	2* EVENT	1* EVENT
1	96	60	24
2	84	48	20
3	72	36	18
4	66	30	17
5=	60	24	16
7=	48	20	14
9=	36	18	12
11=	24	16	10
13=	20	14	8
15=	18	12	6
17=	10	6	4
19=	6	4	2
25=	4	2	1

FIVB World Tour or CEV Zonal Snr Events are the only events classed as 'International'.

APPENDIX B – EVENT CRITERIA TABLE

	JNR TOUR	1 STAR	2 STAR	3 STAR
GENDER	Mixed or single gender	Mixed or single gender	Mixed or single gender	Single gender
ORGANISER	Club/National Squad or VLY Staff	Club/National Squad	Club/National Squad	VLY Staff
PLAYERS	3v3 (U16 Only) 2v2 (U20 Only)	4v4 & 3v3 No Ranking Points 2v2 Ranking Points	2v2	2v2
ENTRY	First come, first served – BTMC reserve the right to entry	First come, first served – BTMC reserve the right to entry	First come, first served – BTMC reserve the right to entry	Ranking Pts plus 4 wildcards
PRIZE	Medals for 1st & 2nd Place Clubs Can issue prizes also.	Medals for 1st & 2nd Place Clubs Can issue prizes also.	Medals for 1st & 2nd Place Clubs Can issue prizes also.	Prize Money & Medals for 1st, 2nd clubs Can issue prizes also.
SCORING	Reduced scoring allowed (1 set match)	Reduced scoring allowed (1 set match)	Reduced scoring allowed (1 set match)	Full Scoring
NUMBER OF TEAMS	Minimum of 4 teams per gender (Max TBC based of courts)	Minimum of 4 teams per gender (Max TBC based of courts)	Minimum of 6 teams per gender (Max TBC based of courts)	To be determined by BTMC & VLY
FORMAT	Various	Round robin or modified Pool Play, with knockout rounds thereafter.	Round robin or modified pool play, with knockout rounds thereafter.	To be determined by BTMC & VLY
OFFICIALS	Inform E&T Commission of event for any referee training opportunities	Inform E&T Commission of event for any referee training opportunities	Referee for SF & Final	2 Referees for Centre Court, 1 Referee for other courts
MARKETING	VLY Material to be displayed			
ENTERTAINMENT	Music			
CENTRE COURT	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
UNIFORM	N/A	N/A	Matching Colours	Yes

APPENDIX C – VLY BEACH TOUR EVENT CANCELLATION POLICY

Introduction

This document serves to clarify the decision-making processes in relation to the cancellation of Beach Tour Events and ensures that the communication of any such decision is made in a timely manner to all involved.

VLY Beach Tour Events are intended to be **fair** and **enjoyable** to all participants, and it is on the basis of defending these two key areas that any decision to cancel an event will be made.

The Process

From a week in advance of a VLY Beach Tour Event and every day thereafter, the weather forecast for the venue in question (or nearest location if unavailable) will be checked – on the *Met Eireann* website/app – to ensure that conditions are likely to be conducive to a successful event.

If, 48 hours in advance of the event, the forecast is predicting any, some or all of the following, then all stakeholders will be informed of the adverse forecast, and warned that a cancellation may take place:

- A base wind speed in excess of 25 km/h,
- Wind gusts in excess of 35 km/h,
- Heavy rain for prolonged periods during the duration of the Event,
- Any weather warnings covering the location and duration of the Event.

This notification shall take the form of an email, accompanied by a relevant screengrab from Met Eireann highlighting the issue. From there, a final call will be made 24 hours prior to the start of the Event and, in the event of a decision being taken to cancel the Event, all stakeholders will be notified by email as soon as possible thereafter. A notification will also be posted on VLY's social media channels to that effect as well.

It is also possible that the medium-term forecast in advance of an Event might be adverse. If that forecast deteriorates, or fails to improve, then VLY reserves the right to cancel an event in advance of the timelines noted above.

Mitigation

VLY acknowledges that some venues have unique features that may mitigate the potential effects of adverse weather, and therefore VLY reserves the right to take this into consideration during the decision-making process.

In addition, it should be noted that the data being considered is simply a prediction of what might happen, and no guarantee that it actually will eventuate as predicted. As such, it is accepted that there may be occasions where a forecast results in an Event being cancelled, but it subsequently transpires that the weather on the day would have been reasonable for conducting the Event.