



BEACH TOUR PLAYER GUIDE

Nations Cup 2025

Sport Ireland Campus, Blanchardstown

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Introduction

Following the successful indoor Nations Cup played in April 2025, so a similar beach competition will be launched this summer, with players playing for their countries, as a celebration of the diversity within our beach playing numbers.

The format for the Nations Cup is a qualifying group stage, played in July, from which a number of teams will advance to a Finals Day in August, when both men's and women's competitions will be played to a conclusion.

More information on eligibility, formats etc follows below.

Competition Format & Player Eligibility

The Nations Cup will be played as a Men's and Women's Competition, with the intention of including up to 24 teams in each competition. A qualifying day will take place in July for each competition, with the top 12 teams in each returning for a Finals Day in August. Dates are confirmed as follows:

Men's Qualifier:	Saturday 12 th July
Women's Qualifier:	Sunday 13 th July
Finals Day:	Saturday 9 th August

Teams can be considered for entry by completing the expression of interest form, available [here](#). Once the deadline for entries has passed, the 24 successful teams will be informed of their inclusion, and asked to confirm their entry by payment of an entry fee of €60 per team.

Both players on a team must be citizens of the same country or hold a valid passport of that country. The office may ask a player(s) to confirm the above in the event of any queries.

The intention is to have a maximum of three teams representing a single country, although this may change, depending on the responses received to the expression of interest form.

By agreeing to enter the competition, teams are confirming they would also be available to play on the Finals Day if they qualify. If a player is unavailable to play on Finals Day, a replacement player will only be permitted through injury – if the player can provide a doctor's certificate to confirm the injury, and they can confirm their eligibility to play for that team (see above), a replacement will be permitted. If a player is unavailable for any other reason, the team will be forced to withdraw from the competition, and that team's place on Finals Day will be offered to the next ranked team on the finishing list from the qualifying day.

Tournament Structure

Qualifying Day

The 24 teams will be allocated into four qualifying groups of six teams. Those six teams will play each other in a round-robin format, with each match being played as a single set, with the first to 21 points. If a match reaches 20-20, play continues until one team leads by two points.

The winner of each match secures three points in the league table.

At the end of the group stage, the top two teams in each group will progress to finals day and will be joined by the next four teams (across all groups) with the best records. In the event of teams finishing level on points (either within a group or when comparing across groups), the following tie-breaks will be used:

- Points difference in all group matches
- Head-to-head result between teams in the tie-break (this does not apply if comparing teams across multiple groups)
- Points scored in all group matches

If the above fails to break a tie, positions will be determined by a drawing of lots.

Finals Day

The 12 teams will be seeded (based on qualifying records) and allocated into four groups of three teams. Those three teams will play each other in a round-robin format, with each match being played as a best of three sets, with the first to 15 points (and two points clear) – the third set, if required, will be first to 11 points (and two points clear).

The winner of each match secures two points in the league table.

At the end of the group stages, the four group winners will progress to Semi-Finals. In the event of teams finishing level on points, the following tie-breaks will be used:

- Set difference in all group matches
- Points difference in all group matches
- Head-to-head result between teams in the tie-break
- Points scored in all group matches

If a tie involving multiple teams is broken using the above criteria, further ties are broken by continuing down the list of criteria (in other words, the tie break doesn't return to set difference).

If the above fails to break a tie, positions will be determined by a drawing of lots.

All matches from semi-finals onwards will be played as best of three set matches (25, 25, 21), and there will be a match to decide 3rd & 4th place.

Clothing

Clothing will be provided to all competing teams – vests for the men's teams and sports bras for the women's teams. These should be worn at all times when on court, and teams should make best efforts to co-ordinate their attire to look like a team when on court. Teams returning for Finals Day will again be asked to observe this rule and wear the clothing provided.

Refereeing & Scorekeeping

Best efforts will be made to provide referees on each match day. However, it is likely that teams taking part will also be asked to share the load of refereeing and scoring matches (one player to referee, one to score) and, to that end, matches will be allocated to teams on Tournify.

In the event that you are rostered to a match and a referee is officiating, you will instead be asked to score the match.

Team Names

Tournify will identify teams by their country and, if there is more than one team from that country, a number e.g. Brazil 1, Italy 2, Ireland 1 etc. Please familiarize yourself with your team name, to avoid confusion on the day.

Venue and Location Information

This VLV Elite Beach Tour event will be held at the Sport Ireland Beach Facility in Blanchardstown. This brand-new facility was opened in April and will be a regular Beach Tour venue.

- Google Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/F4xSdnAm3ApbITDU6>
- Toilets: There are public toilets in the pavilion building.
- Getting here: If you have to travel via car, share where possible. Several bus routes from Dublin City Centre pass the Sport Ireland Campus.



Format and Draw

The Tournament website will be available [here](#), which will outline the match schedule, referee appointments, groups and format. This will be updated in the build-up to the event, but all details are subject to change both before and during the event.

The tournament schedule is also available on the Tournify app by searching: **VLV Beach**.

Tournify is available to download on both the Google Play and Apple Store.

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.

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.