

ACADEMY BEACH

2026-2027 Full Season Parent Overview

A year-round beach volleyball pathway built around athletic development, regional competition, and complete-player growth.

Capacity	10-20 athletes
Divisions	12U, 14U, 16U, 18U
Leadership	Coach Alese: 12U/14U Coach Cass: 16U/18U
Support Staff	At least 2 assistant coaches
Evaluations	July 17, 5:00-7:00 PM July 18, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Evaluation Fee	\$25 through PlayMetrics
Contact	Cass - cass@avcga.com

Program Overview

Academy Beach is open to all athletes, including athletes who also play indoor volleyball and athletes who want a beach-only pathway. Year 1 will remain intentionally small so AVC can provide quality coaching, consistent communication, and meaningful pair development.

- Target capacity: 10-20 athletes
- Four divisions: 12U, 14U, 16U, and 18U
- Athletes compete in pairs; partner requests are welcome, but final pair placements are made by Academy Beach staff
- Beach-only participation is available, especially for older athletes seeking a dedicated pathway

Coaching Structure

Division Group	Lead Coach	Support
12U / 14U	Coach Alese	Supported by Academy Beach assistant coaches
16U / 18U	Coach Cass	Supported by Academy Beach assistant coaches

Academy Beach will have at least two assistant coaches to support station training, partner development, sand sessions, and tournament coverage.

Season Phases

Phase	Months	Primary Focus
Athletic Performance + Foundation	Aug-Oct 2026	Strength, speed, agility, explosiveness, movement, beach fundamentals, ball control, and partner communication.

Indoor Priority / Beach Maintenance	Nov 2026-Apr 2027	Reduced beach load for indoor athletes; maintenance touches, serve receive, vision, and selected competition.
Main Beach Competition Season	May-Jul 2027	Full beach training, regional qualifiers, pair development, and championship opportunities.

Practice Model

Academy Beach will use a hybrid practice model. Indoor training supports technical instruction and athletic performance. Sand sessions allow athletes to apply those skills in true beach conditions.

- Full training phases: Tuesday indoor, Thursday indoor, and Sunday sand
- August-October includes a strong strength, speed, and agility emphasis
- November-April uses a reduced maintenance schedule around indoor tournaments
- May-July returns to fuller beach training and tournament preparation
- Athletes train in one unified program, then divide by division, pair, skill level, and competitive readiness

Competition Structure

Academy Beach will use a two-tier tournament model: a mandatory core schedule included in tuition and optional premium events for pairs seeking additional exposure, travel, and higher-level competition.

Mandatory Core Schedule

The core schedule is designed to provide consistent competition, regional travel, AVP point opportunities, and multiple chances to pursue USA Volleyball Beach National Championship qualification.

Month	Proposed Event	Location	Purpose
September	First Coast Volleyball event	Jacksonville, FL	Opening benchmark and pair development
October	Spiketober	Emerson, GA	Regional competition and AVP points
November	Thanksdigging	Emerson, GA	Fall competition and pair chemistry
December	Voliday Madness	Emerson, GA	Midseason benchmark
March	Carolina Region Beach Regional Qualifier	Apex, NC	USAV American Division bid opportunity
May	Carolina Grand Slam Beach National Qualifier	Apex, NC	USAV Open Division bid opportunity
June	Charlotte Open Beach National Qualifier	Charlotte, NC	USAV Open Division bid opportunity
June	Carolina Beach Boogie Regional Qualifier	Indian Trail, NC	Final regional qualification opportunity

Important: 2027 event names, dates, formats, locations, and qualifier designations are tentative until organizers publish the official 2027 calendars. The schedule above is based on established event patterns.

Nationals Qualification Path

- Beach National Qualifiers can provide Open Division bid opportunities
- Beach Regional Qualifiers can provide American Division bid opportunities
- AVP qualification is separate from USAV qualification
- Exact 2027 qualifying criteria and dates will be communicated once official calendars are released

Optional Premium Events

Optional premium events are not included in standard tuition. Families opt in by event, and participation is confirmed only after both partners commit, payment is received, coaching coverage is available, and the event still has space.

Month	Event	Location	Status
January	Winter World Mega Showcase	Tavares, FL	Optional premium / two-day
February	Futures Tour	Gulf Shores, AL	Optional premium / two-day
Spring-Summer	Additional qualifier or showcase	Southeast	Coach-approved pair opportunity
July	USAV and/or AVP National Championship	Location varies	Qualification or invitation based

Optional Event Process

- Both partners must opt in by the published deadline
- Both families must complete payment before AVC registers the pair
- The Beach Director must approve the pairing and event level
- If one partner declines, the interested athlete may enter an available-player pool
- AVC may approve a substitute partner, but replacement placement is not guaranteed
- Once AVC submits registration or books coach travel, charges may become non-refundable

Program Investment

Expected tuition range: \$1,650-\$1,850 per athlete.

Tuition Includes

- Full Academy Beach training program
- Athletic performance training
- Indoor skill practices and Sunday sand practices
- Eight mandatory core tournament entry fees
- Tournament coaching support
- Two jerseys and two practice shirts
- Athletic sunglasses, sand socks, and backpack
- Pair management and program administration

Family-Paid Expenses

- AVP America membership
- USAV membership or beach add-on when required
- Transportation, lodging, and meals
- Optional premium event fees
- National Championship fees and travel
- Additional personal beach equipment

Evaluations

Academy Beach is open to all athletes. Evaluation registration does not guarantee placement. Year 1 capacity is limited to approximately 10-20 athletes across the 12U, 14U, 16U, and 18U divisions.

Friday, July 17	5:00-7:00 PM
Saturday, July 18	9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Location	Sand court
Evaluation Fee	\$25
Registration	PlayMetrics

What We Evaluate

- Ball control and serve receive
- Movement, agility, and body control
- Communication and competitive maturity
- Court vision and decision-making
- Coachability and partner chemistry

Parent FAQ

Is Academy Beach only for AVC athletes?

No. Academy Beach is open to all athletes. Current AVC athletes and athletes from outside AVC are welcome to register for evaluations.

Who leads each division?

Coach Alese leads the 12U and 14U divisions. Coach Cass leads the 16U and 18U divisions. At least two assistant coaches will support training and competition.

Can an athlete play both indoor and beach?

Yes. The schedule is designed to complement indoor volleyball. Beach-only participation is also available.

Can athletes opt out of tournaments?

Core events are part of the program commitment. Approved conflicts may be accommodated, but routine opt-outs may not receive refunds. Optional premium events use a separate opt-in process.

Can my athlete choose a partner?

Athletes may request a partner, but final pair assignments are made by Academy Beach staff.

Do all practices take place on sand?

No. Academy Beach uses indoor skill and performance training plus dedicated sand sessions.

Who should I contact?

Contact Cass at cass@avcga.com.

Questions or interest? Contact Cass at cass@avcga.com