

Competition Format and Rules

Format et règlement des compétitions

As of WED 21 OCT 2026

Youth Olympic Competition Format

The beach volleyball competition at Dakar 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games consists of men's and women's events.

Competition for men and women consists of two phases - the preliminary phase and the final phase.

A total of 48 men and 48 women grouped in two-player teams will take part in the competition. In total, 108 matches will be played (54 men's and 54 women's).

Preliminary phase

The preliminary phase will consist of six pools of four teams each in a round robin format, followed by the lucky loser round.

Seeding of the teams and pool allocation will be determined by a draw to be conducted by the FIVB, in cooperation with Dakar 2026, no later than one week before the start of the competition.

A total of 16 teams will qualify to the final phase for each of the men's and women's events.

- The first two ranked teams from each pool advance automatically to the final phase - 12 teams qualify
- The best two teams that ranked third will also advance automatically to the final phase - two teams qualify
- The four remaining third ranked teams will play a two-match lucky loser round (third vs sixth and fourth vs fifth) - two teams qualify to the final phase

Final phase

The 16 men's and 16 women's teams advancing to the final phase will play a single elimination system - a head-to-head match from which the winner advances to the next round and the loser is eliminated from the competition.

Seeding of the teams will be in accordance with the FIVB regulations.

The pool winners (six teams) will be placed in predefined positions in the final phase bracket.

The remaining 10 teams will be placed in the bracket according to the draw. These 10 teams comprise the six teams that placed 2nd in each pool, the two best 3rd ranked teams, and the two winners of the lucky loser round.

Differences between the Youth World Championships and the Summer Youth Olympic Games

The competition format is different to the Summer Youth Olympic Games. The Youth World Championships currently have 32 teams per gender.

Changes since Buenos Aires 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games

The total number of participating teams has changed from 16 to 24 teams per gender.

Sport Rules and Procedures

Scoring

Each match is the best of three sets. The first two sets are played to 21 points and the third set, if needed, is played to 15 points. All sets require a two-point advantage to win.

Beach Volleyball uses the rally point system where the team winning a rally scores a point regardless of which team is serving. When a team wins a rally, it gains a point and the right to serve.

At the completion of each match during the pool stage, two points will be awarded to the winner, one point will be awarded to the loser. Zero points are awarded to the loser in the case of a no-show forfeit or disqualification.

Ranking in Pools

In the case of a tie in the pools (match points) during the pool round, the following rules will apply:

- Tie between two teams:
  - The team with the higher rally points ratio in the matches between all teams in the pool, is ranked higher



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- If a tie remains then the teams have the same position in ranking

- Tie between three teams:
  - If three teams are tied by match points, then the teams are ranked by rally points ratio between all teams in the pool
  - If a tie remains then the teams are ranked equally
- Tie between four teams:
  - The ranking is determined by rally points ratio between all teams in the pool
  - If a tie remains then the teams are ranked equally

In the case of a tie in the pools (match points) at the end of the pool round, the following rules will apply:

- Tie between two teams:
  - The team with the higher rally points ratio in the matches between all teams in the pool, is ranked higher
  - If a tie remains, then the winner of head-to-head match is ranked higher
- Tie between three teams:
  - Teams are ranked by rally points ratio in the matches between the three tied teams
  - If a tie remains then the tied teams are ranked by rally points ratio between all teams in the pool
  - If a tie remains then the tied teams are ranked by the tournament seeding established at the general technical Meeting (the better seed of the tied teams ranked higher, i.e. seed 15 is ranked higher than 18)

Seeding of 3rd Ranked Teams in Pools

All 3rd ranked teams from the pools will be ranked according to their match points, then by set ratio followed by rally point ratio and lastly by tournament seeding established at the general technical meeting.

The two best 3rd ranked teams from the pools will qualify directly to the final phase.

The remaining four 3rd ranked teams from the pools will play in the two lucky loser matches. The matches will be set according to their pool ranking (3rd vs 6th and 4th vs 5th). The winners of these matches will qualify to the final phase.

Protests

On-court disputes shall be resolved under FIVB Regulations as per protest protocol directives. The Game Jury shall decide if the protest will be initiated, rejected or accepted at Level 1. The Event Delegate/CC will be in charge of resolving any on-court protest confirmation at Level 2.

FIVB Control Committee members of the same nationality as the team making a protest will be excluded from the deliberations when the protest is being studied.

FIVB Control Committee

The judges and jury for Beach Volleyball are chosen in accordance with the FIVB regulations.

The FIVB board of administration will appoint 10 FIVB control committee members and two Event Delegates who will also perform the duties of jury of appeal for Beach Volleyball.

The FIVB will be responsible for the technical control and direction of the Olympic Beach Volleyball competition.

Appeals

A total of sixteen referees oversee the competition, appointed by the FIVB from the pool and the host international pool. The FIVB will be responsible for appointing referees for each match.

Note:
For further information please consult: www.fivb.com