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Design and Layout: Samuel Chesaux
Printed by IRL
Photos: © FIVB
FIVB President’s Message

Dr. Rubén Acosta Hernandez
FIVB President

Beach Volleyball superstars bring the amazing to China

Only twelve years have passed since Beach Volleyball made its Olympic debut in Atlanta. Now it is time for Olympic Beach Volleyball to come to Asia and we are ready for the challenge of putting on yet another spectacular show for television, the media and spectators. Beijing will host the 29th Olympic Games and our best athletes, for both Volleyball and Beach Volleyball, are ready to fight for 12 Olympic medals. China is a country where Volleyball has strong roots and Beach Volleyball has quickly developed here, with Chinese teams already among the world’s best. The FIVB is extremely proud to bring players from around the world to compete in its two Olympic disciplines in a land where Volleyball and Beach Volleyball culture thrives.

This Media Guide is a clear example of how we appreciate the role of the media in promoting our sport. We have listed here all the teams that will participate at the Olympic Games, with all the data useful for the media to cover the event. Our website will be another strong support tool for journalists. It will be updated after every match, making sure you are constantly updated with the latest news. We have also prepared a Volleyball Media Guide, which is at your disposal in the Press Working Room in all of the three venues devoted to Volleyball and Beach Volleyball.

Chaoyang Park is probably the best-ever venue that Beach Volleyball has had at the Olympic Games. We hope that, with help from the journalists, we can enjoy the best Beach Volleyball Olympic Tournament so far.

As you probably know, on August 24 after the Men’s Gold Final I will hand over the FIVB Presidency after 24 memorable years and Mr. Jizhong Wei from China will be the third President in FIVB history. I would like to thank all the TV and media who have given us their full support over these years and I hope this support can consolidate our sport and give Volleyball and Beach Volleyball the attention and media coverage they deserve. It is the beginning of a new era in which the media will enjoy the best days of our sport.

Get involved, Keep the ball flying!

Dr. Rubén Acosta Hernandez
FIVB President
**Beach Volleyball: From Depression Diversion To Multi-Million Dollar Delight**

Born in the depression days of the 1920s on the sandy beaches of Santa Monica, California, Beach Volleyball has soared to a multi-million dollar extravaganza and an Olympic sport that has captivated players in more than 150 countries.

From those first matches the game caught on 10 years later in France, Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Latvia before slotting perfectly into the Californian lifestyle in the 1950s and the pulsating 1960s, taking its place alongside surfing.

USA and Brazil then played a major role in transforming “Beach” into a professional sport in the 1970s and 1980s but it was the hard work of the FIVB President Dr. Rubén Acosta and Beach Volleyball stars such as Sinjin Smith, Karch Kiraly and Randy Stoklos that helped establish Beach Volleyball internationally in the 1980s and 1990s. Beach Volleyball became a full medal sport at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. At the same time the FIVB Beach Volleyball international circuit evolved from the World Series to the World Tour and exploded in popularity in Europe, Latin America and Asia.

Now in this Olympic year, the SWATCH FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour calendar boasts 39 events in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas with more than USD 8.3 million in Prize Money up for grabs.

**Milestones**

1920s
The birth of Beach Volleyball takes place on the beaches of Santa Monica, California.

1947
The first official two-person Beach Volleyball tournament is held at State Beach, California, with no Prize Money.

1948
The first tournament with prizes is played at State Beach, California, where the top teams are rewarded with a crate of Pepsi.

1974
The first money tournament is held – the USD 1,500 San Diego Open with 250 spectators.

1987

1992
Almeria, Spain: The first Olympic demonstration.

1993
International Olympic Committee decides to include Beach Volleyball in the Olympic program.

1996
Beach Volleyball makes its first appearance (a hugely successful sell-out) at the Atlanta Olympic Games.

2000
Sydney Olympics: Beach Volleyball becomes a smash hit at Bondi Beach with 180,000 spectators and millions of TV viewers.

2001
More than 120,000 spectators attend five days of competition at the World Championships at the lakeside in Klagenfurt, Austria.

2003
Swatch becomes the international title sponsor of the World Tour.
- The SWATCH FIVB World Tour begins to include as “Grand Slam” events Los Angeles, Berlin, Marseille and Klagenfurt, each carrying USD 600,000 in Prize Money and Bonus Pool. The challenge is there for the top teams to win “The Slam” and go down in history as truly great players.
Dr. Rubén Acosta succeeds President Paul Libaud

One of the big turning points for the FIVB came in 1984 when President Paul Libaud, by then in his 80s and highly acclaimed for having founded the Federation and making it a significant reality on the world sports stage, resigned after 37 years of leadership. Dr. Rubén Acosta Hernandez was elected new President to succeed Libaud at the World Congress in Long Beach, California.

FIVB History

The Founding

A decisive moment in the history of Volleyball’s first 100 years was certainly that of the founding of the FIVB (Federation Internationale de Volleyball) when in April 1947 representatives of 14 countries (Belgium, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Netherlands, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Uruguay, USA and Yugoslavia) met in Paris under the leadership of France’s Paul Libaud to found the FIVB. Libaud, President of the French Federation, was elected first President of the FIVB. The headquarters were established in Paris, where they remained for the first 37 years until 1984 when Mexico’s Dr. Rubén Acosta took over the Presidency from Libaud.

Olympic Games

Testifying to the prestige attained in 1959 at the IOC session in Munich, Volleyball was included as a medal sport in the Olympic Games. The game was played with 10 Men’s and six Women’s teams for the first time at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, where the Japan Women’s team and the USSR Men’s team won gold medals. Consequently, the Volleyball phenomenon started in Japan soon after the Games. Thirty-two years later, at the Atlanta Games, Beach Volleyball, one of the world’s fastest growing sports, made its Olympic debut as Volleyball’s successful second discipline.

The Move

The FIVB moved its headquarters to Lausanne, Switzerland, the same year, bringing it closer to the International Olympic Committee. Soon after, Dr. Acosta became Volleyball’s ambassador, relentlessly promoting the sport in worldwide competitions held in the five continents (Asia, Africa, Europe, South America and NORCECA).

Members rising


From game to great TV spectacle

At the same time, Volleyball went through a number of modifications to change the face of the sport. The need to make it more telegenic in order to attract fans and sponsors led to major modifications in 1998, such as the introduction of the Rally Point System, the Libero player, the “let ball in play” rule and many other new rules that makes the game much more attractive."

2004

Swatch and the FIVB renew their sponsorship agreement of the World Tour and World Championships until 2008.
- A landmark season for Beach Volleyball sees 26 scheduled tournaments (14 men’s and 12 women’s events) in five continents with a total of USD 5.3 million in Prize Money and Bonus Pool and more than 750,000 spectators.
- The Athens Olympics sees 24 men’s and women’s teams from five continents compete for 12 days. TV ratings are the best in the history of Beach Volleyball. The stunning stadium at Faliro Complex holds 10,000 spectators and displays two giant video walls providing live feeds. For the first time at the Games, an entertainment programme is implemented with 12 dancers, DJs and Production Managers creating an electric atmosphere.

2005

The SWATCH FIVB World Tour features 31 events, including a record 16 stops for women and 15 for men, on five continents. A total of USD 7.28 million in Prize Money and Bonus Pool is distributed to both genders for all events.

2007

The 2007 SWATCH FIVB World Championships powered by 1to1 energy in the mountain resort of Gstaad, Switzerland, sees 26 scheduled tournaments (14 men’s and 12 women’s events) in five continents with a total of USD 5.3 million in Prize Money and Bonus Pool and more than 750,000 spectators.
- The Athens Olympics sees 24 men’s and women’s teams from five continents compete for 12 days. TV ratings are the best in the history of Beach Volleyball. The stunning stadium at Faliro Complex holds 10,000 spectators and displays two giant video walls providing live feeds. For the first time at the Games, an entertainment programme is implemented with 12 dancers, DJs and Production Managers creating an electric atmosphere.

2008

FIVB President Dr. Rubén Acosta announces that Stavanger, Norway, host of many Open and Grand Slam World Tour events in the past 10 years, will be venue for the 2009 SWATCH FIVB World Championships presented by ConocoPhillips.
- The SWATCH FIVB World Tour is currently in progress. With six Grand Slam events, 16 double-gender events, five men’s single-gender events and four women’s single-gender events, the total Prize Money and Bonus Pool is set to be a record USD 8.325 Million.

2009

The 2009 SWATCH FIVB World Championships powered by 1to1 energy in the mountain resort of Gstaad, Switzerland, sees 26 scheduled tournaments (14 men’s and 12 women’s events) in five continents with a total of USD 5.3 million in Prize Money and Bonus Pool and more than 750,000 spectators.
- The Athens Olympics sees 24 men’s and women’s teams from five continents compete for 12 days. TV ratings are the best in the history of Beach Volleyball. The stunning stadium at Faliro Complex holds 10,000 spectators and displays two giant video walls providing live feeds. For the first time at the Games, an entertainment programme is implemented with 12 dancers, DJs and Production Managers creating an electric atmosphere.

2010

FIVB President Dr. Rubén Acosta announces that Stavanger, Norway, host of many Open and Grand Slam World Tour events in the past 10 years, will be venue for the 2009 SWATCH FIVB World Championships presented by ConocoPhillips.
- The SWATCH FIVB World Tour is currently in progress. With six Grand Slam events, 16 double-gender events, five men’s single-gender events and four women’s single-gender events, the total Prize Money and Bonus Pool is set to be a record USD 8.325 Million.
Today and tomorrow

In 2008, the FIVB consists of 220 affiliated Federations and governs, manages and promotes all forms of Volleyball and Beach Volleyball worldwide through tournaments such as the World Championships, World League, World Grand Prix, SWATCH FIVB World Tour, World Cup, Grand Champions Cup, Junior and Youth tournaments and, of course, the Olympics. In the words of President Dr. Rubén Acosta, the FIVB is entering the third phase of its life with the election of Jizhong Wei as President, after 24 years of continuous improvement under Dr. Acosta and the 37 years of leadership from President Libaud. The crowning achievement after 24 years of peerless leadership from Dr. Acosta was in realizing his and wife Malú Acosta’s dream of creating a fitting home for Volleyball’s future generations. The result of their endeavour was the creation of “Château Les Tourelles,” FIVB’s stunning new headquarters on the banks of Lake Geneva in Lausanne, Switzerland.
The first Olympic Beach Volleyball competition – and what a marvellous event. Twenty-four men’s teams and eighteen women’s teams competed for Olympic medals on Atlanta Beach in July in a 10,000-seat stadium, with over 107,000 spectators selling out the six-day event. Some 600 athletes representing 42 countries took part in the Olympic qualifying process.

1996 Olympic Beach Volleyball Tournament
Medallists – Men
Gold: Karch Kiraly and Kent Steffes (USA)
Kiraly became a three-time Olympic gold medallist and the first Olympic Champion in Volleyball and Beach Volleyball.
Silver: Mike Dodd and Mike Whitmarsh (USA)
Bronze: John Child and Mark Heese (Canada)

Medallists – Women
Gold: Jackie Silva and Sandra Pires (Brazil)
Silver: Mônica Rodrigues and Adriana Samuel (Brazil)
Bronze: Natalie Cook and Kerri-Ann Pottharst (Australia)

Four years after the overwhelming success of the first Olympic experience, Beach Volleyball became even more of a hit at Sydney 2000. The top 24 men’s and 24 women’s teams in the world competed on Bondi Beach in a wonderful stadium seating 10,000 spectators and with modern facilities, offering a top-class event to the Olympic family of players, fans, media, sponsors. Teams from more than 50 countries took part in the qualifying process.

2000 Olympic Beach Volleyball Tournament
Medallists – Men
Gold: Dain Blanton and Eric Fonoimoana (USA)
Silver: Zé Marco and Ricardo (Brazil)
Bronze: Jörg Ahmann and Axel Hager (Germany)

Medallists – Women
Gold: Natalie Cook and Kerri-Ann Pottharst (Australia)
Silver: Adriana Behar and Shelda (Brazil)
Bronze: Sandra Pires and Adriana Samuel (Brazil)

With its new 10,000-seat main stadium built in the style of a traditional Greek amphitheatre, the Beach Volleyball venue and its surroundings provided an amazingly entertaining atmosphere in Athens. For the first time in an Olympic Games, an entertainment programme was implemented with the involvement of 12 dancers, DJs, multilingual announcements, production managers. More than 60 countries took part in the qualifying process.

2004 Olympic Beach Volleyball Tournament
Medallists – Men
Gold: Ricardo and Emanuel (Brazil)
Silver: Javier Bosma and Pablo Herrera (Spain)
Bronze: Patrick Heuscher and Stefan Kobel (Switzerland)

Medallists – Women
Gold: Kerri Walsh and Misty May-Treanor (USA)
Silver: Adriana Behar and Shelda (Brazil)
Bronze: Holly McPeak and Elaine Youngs (USA)

August 9, 2008: The fourth Olympic Beach Volleyball competition at the Beijing Games begins, with 24 women’s and 24 men’s teams competing against each other in 14 days (after six continuous days in Atlanta, 10 days in Sydney and 12 in Athens) of action-packed fun on the sand. This is the result of 12 years of Olympic Beach Volleyball history.

Beach Volleyball is one of the most popular Olympic sports thanks to professional athletes, a healthy and colourful ambience, exciting competition and celebratory entertainment, equal treatment of men and women and the Olympic tradition.

The fantastic spectacle of Olympic Beach Volleyball today started in 1992 when the International Olympic Committee allowed Beach Volleyball to participate as a demonstration sport at the Barcelona Olympic Games.

One year later in 1993 recognition was given to Beach Volleyball as an Olympic discipline at an IOC meeting in Monaco, opening the door for the sport to participate in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

2008 Olympic Beach Volleyball numbers:
Total number of teams: 24 men and 24 women.
Total number of athletes: 48 men and 48 women.
Total number of matches: 108, comprising of 54 men’s and 54 women’s matches.
## Competition

### Format and Schedule

The total number of matches will be 108, comprising 54 men’s and 54 women’s matches. The men’s tournament runs through August 9-22, the women’s August 9-21.

#### Preliminary Round

The 24 teams are split equally into Pool A, Pool B, Pool C, Pool D, Pool E, Pool F, in accordance with FIVB regulations. Teams in each Pool play a game against each of their Pool opponents. The top two teams of each Pool advance to the knockout First Round stage, along with the two best third-place teams. The remaining four third-place teams play two Playoff matches to determine the final two places in the First Round (Lucky Loser). All fourth-place teams in the Pool Round are eliminated.

#### Round of 16

The Round of 16 will be played in a single elimination format, to qualify eight teams for the quarterfinals. All teams finishing in first place in the Pool Round are separated in the First Round.

#### Semi-finals

The four winners of the quarter-finals advance to the semi-finals.

#### Finals

The winners of the semi-final compete for the gold-medal match. The losers of the semi-final compete for the bronze-medal match.

All matches (apart from the two Playoffs between the remaining four third-place teams which will be played in a court adjacent to the Centre Court) will be played at one venue in Beijing: the Chaoyang Park Beach Volleyball Ground, which has a capacity of 12,000.

### Matches Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Match Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 9-13, 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Preliminary Round</td>
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<td>Men’s Preliminary Round</td>
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<td>Women’s Preliminary Round</td>
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<td>Women’s Preliminary Round</td>
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<td>Men’s Preliminary Round</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Lucky Loser*</td>
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<td>Men’s Lucky Loser*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Bronze Medal Match</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Gold Medal Ceremony</td>
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<td>Women’s Round of 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Gold Medal Ceremony</td>
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</table>
Qualification for the single elimination round (round of 16) are the following:
A) rank 1 in each pool,
B) rank 2 in each pool,
C) the best two (2) third-ranked teams as per match points, points ratio and Olympic Ranking points,
D) the two (2) winning teams from the "Lucky Loser" round.

Order for the teams within the pools
1. Number of matches won.
2. Head to head
2A. Two teams: the winner finishes ahead.
2B:  Three teams:  The top-ranked team is determined by the points ratios in the matches between the three (3) tied teams. If a tie still exists, then by points ratio between all teams in the pool, then by 2008 Olympic Ranking points if a tie still exists. The second ranked-team is then decided by head-to-head match results.

Note: Teams from the same pool can not meet in the Round of 16.

For all matches in the pools (Page 14), the final team ranking will be determined in accordance with results of matches (won or lost). For each match won the winning team will earn 2 points, for each match lost the losing team will earn 1 point and for each forfeited match the winning team will earn 2 points while the forfeited team will have 0 points.
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2B: Three teams: The top-ranked team is determined by the points ratios in the matches between the three (3) tied teams. If a tie still exists, then by points ratio between all teams in the pool, then by 2008 Olympic Ranking points if a tie still exists. The second ranked-team is then decided by head-to-head match results.

Note: Teams from the same pool can not meet in the Round of 16.

For all matches in the pools (Page 16), the final team ranking will be determined in accordance with results of matches (won or lost). For each match won the winning team will earn 2 points, for each match lost the losing team will earn 1 point and for each forfeited match the winning team will earn 2 points while the forfeited team will have 0 points.
**Venue Details**

**Chaoyang Park**

The Chaoyang Park Beach Volleyball Ground, adjacent to the East 4th Ring Road in Beijing, is a stunning venue for the men's and women's Olympic Games Beach Volleyball Tournaments.

### Quick facts

- **Centre Court seating capacity:** 12,000.
- **No. of courts:** Nine (one main court, six training courts, two warm-up courts).
- **Distance from Olympic Village:** 21 kilometres.
- **Travel time from Olympic Village by road:** 30 minutes.
- **Travel time from Olympic Media Village by road:** 20 minutes.
- **Total land surface of Chaoyang Park Beach Volleyball Centre:** 180,000 square metres.
- **Mean daily maximum/minimum temperature in August:** 20° Celsius/ 29° Celsius.

### Press tribune

- **Location:** Via stairway through media entrance.
- **Press seats for written press:** 189 tabled, 95 non-tabled.
- **Press seats for photographers:** 90.

### Press conference room

- **Location:** North end of venue media centre.
- **Seats:** 150.

### Mixed zone

- **Location:** South-western corner of Field of Play on way to press conference room.

### Photo positions

- **Courtside:** North-east of Chaoyang Park.
- **Spectator stand:** Each side around Field of Play on second and third floor.
- **Medal ceremony:** West sideline of Field of Play.
2008 – WOMEN

1. Juliana-Larissa, BRA.
2. Talita-Renata, BRA.
3. Sheila-Ana Paula Connelly, BRA.

2008 – MEN

1. Emanuel-Ricardo, BRA.
2. Phil Dalhausser-Todd Rogers, USA.
3. Misty May-Treanor-Kerri Walsh, USA.

2007 – WOMEN

1. May-Treanor-Walsh, USA.
2. Juliana-Larissa, BRA.
3. Tian-Wang, CHN.

2007 – MEN

1. Dalhausser-Rogers, USA.
2. Emanuel-Ricardo, BRA.
3. Marcio Araujo-Fabio Luiz, BRA.
There will be 24 men's teams and 24 women's teams competing at the Beijing Olympics through August 9-22.

Qualification for the Olympics is decided by the number of points accumulated during nominated Olympic Qualification Tournaments that are the SWATCH FIVB World Championships and SWATCH FIVB World Tour (29 events for Men, 28 for Women) held worldwide from January 1, 2007, to July 20, 2008. A qualification tournament can also be one of the two annual CEV Beach Volleyball Continental Championship Finals in 2007 and 2008.

During these two seasons, teams were free to choose the Olympic Qualification Tournaments in which they wished to participate. From the total number of Olympic Qualification Tournaments in which they actually participated, only the points accumulated in their eight best performances were taken into account to determine their position in the FIVB Olympic ranking.

In order to respect the universality principle of the Olympic Games:
- A maximum of two countries were eligible among the final 24 teams.
- In the event that a continent did not have any teams qualified, the 23rd place (and, if applicable, the 22nd place, etc.) of the Olympic Qualification ranking was granted to the highest-ranked eligible team from that continent.

Also, one of the 24 places was allocated to a team from hosts China.

Qualifying for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games concluded with a SWATCH FIVB World Tour double gender event in the Mediterranean port city of Marseille, France, through July 15-20. The following week in Switzerland (July 26), the official 2008 Olympic Games Drawing of lots was staged to determine the composition of the six pools per gender and match schedule of the Preliminary Round Pools.