



Beach Regulation  
**Harambee guidelines**

## Introduction

### Board 2025/2026

Hello everyone,

For newcomers, we will introduce ourselves, so you know who to approach for questions, remarks or other business:

Chairman - Jente Brugman

Secretary - Melissa van der Pol

Treasurer - Ane van Zwol

TC Coordinator - Stan van Gaasbeek

Match Secretary/Referee Coordinator - Christian Weultjes

Deputy Chairman - Mirthe Bloten

Email: [bestuur@harambee.nl](mailto:bestuur@harambee.nl)

### Beach Competition Committee 2026

The BCC mainly occupies itself with the competition nights of the 2x2 competition, the 4x4 competition and the ranking. We will be present at competition nights, available for questions. This year, the BCC consists of:

Chairman - Amir Silberstein

Secretary - Maudsofia van Vuren

Treasurer - Mirthe Bloten

Match secretary - Melissa van der Pol

TC contact - Casper van Dongen

Beer drafter - Mirthe Bloten

Board contact - Melissa van der Pol

Email: [bcc@harambee.nl](mailto:bcc@harambee.nl)

## Competition

Every game consists of one set. A set ends when one of the teams scored at least 21 points, with a 2 point difference. At 21-19 the first team won, at 21-20 the game continues until one of the teams is ahead by 2 points.

If you're not playing, you will be asked to referee the other games. In beach volleyball, it is **customary** for the teams to candidly say if a ball was in, out or touché or if they committed technical fouls (check game rules for more details). As a referee, you are therefore mostly responsible for keeping score on the scoreboards present and the changing of sides after every 7 points.

## 2x2 Beach

### Competition Registration

Participation in the 2x2 competition requires registration for the entire competition. A fixed fee is paid for the competition.

Individual players register for the competition, but register per duo for the training sessions.

To prevent the competition from filling up too quickly, the maximum number of participants is 200.

You can sign up for the competition and trainings on the website: <https://harambee.utwente.nl/en/activity/641>

The beach competitions consists of 5 rounds:

Round 1: 30 April - 1 May

Round 2: 21-22 May

Round 3: 28-29 May

Round 4: 4-5 June

Round 5: 25-26 June

### Match Registration

Players register as a duo for a specific evening. For each round, a player can register with a different partner. You can choose to participate on Thursday or Friday, and in the men's or women's group (mixed teams have to join the gents). The number of spots per day is limited and registration closes two weeks before the round. Registration for a round is done via a Google Form, where it is possible to see how many spots are still available and which options are available regarding day and category.

### Poule Formation

Once registration for a round is closed, the poules are created.

The exact schedule will be announced about a week in advance, but when you register, you already know which evening you will play.

Poules are organized based on the average ELO rating of each team. Each duo receives a team ELO, calculated as the average of the individual ELO scores.

The number of poules depends on the number of teams:

Example: With 15 teams, there will be 3 poules of 5 teams, with the 5 highest-rated teams in poule 1, and so on.

With 7 teams, there will be 1 large poule. With 8 teams, 2 poules.

The standard schedule looks like this (it may differ due to sign up differences):

Thursday

Tijd	Field1&2	Field 3&4	Field 5&6
17:45	Gents Poule 1	Gents Poule 3	Ladies 3
19:30	Gents Poule 2	Gents Poule 5	Ladies 2
21:15	Gents Poule 4	Gents Poule 6	Ladies 1

Friday

Tijd	Field1&2	Field 3&4	Field 5&6
17:45	Gents Poule 4	Gents Poule 6	Ladies 1
19:30	Gents Poule 2	Gents Poule 5	Ladies 2
21:15	Gents Poule 1	Gents Poule 3	Ladies 3

### Matches and ELO Adjustment

After each match, the team's ELO rating is updated according to the standard ELO formulas.

The amount of change depends on the difference in rating between the teams.

Everyone starts with an initial ELO value.

### Sharing Poules and Match Schedules

The match schedule is distributed via email and website and is also posted at the beach courts on the evening of play.

The overall ELO rankings of all players are shared via email and website so that everyone stays updated on the current standings.

### Result Registration

Scores are no longer entered via the current beach website, but can be filled in online, at the bar or via a BCC member or board member present during the evening.

The deadline for submitting scores is on the evening of the round. If a score is not submitted, the match is considered not played, and the ELO score of both teams will go down.

### Substitutions

It is possible that one of two players ends up not being available anymore for playing. A player may join in if they are enrolled in the beach competition and do not differ too much in ELO Score. Ladies may play in men's teams, men may never play in ladies' teams. When the substitute player has a higher ELO Score or is not enrolled in the beach competition, **permission must always be asked of the beach competition committee**. Mail us **at least 24 hours before your beach round** to prevent having to search for another player. If both players cannot play, you may ask two substitutes to prevent your ELO Score from decreasing.

If the replacement has an ELO score known to the BCC (i.e., is registered for the beach competition), the matches count towards the team's ELO rating. If the substitute already plays with someone else that round the ELO points gained or lost do not count towards the substitute's ELO Score.

If the replacement does not have a known ELO score, that person gets a preliminary ELO Score assigned by the BCC/TC, which may be adjusted after the results of the matches to ensure fairness regarding the scores of the other players. When a player has been replaced after the registration form has closed, the team remains in the same pool

where it was originally placed. This ensures that ELO automatically adjusts based on the level of opponents. A person who is not part of the competition is only allowed to fill in as a substitute twice during the entire competition.

## Administration

All ELO scores and results per round are recorded in an Excel sheet. The Excel sheet automatically calculates the new ELO scores after entering match results.

## Sanctions

To have a nice competition, we would like to play as many games as possible. As soon as one team signs out of the competition, all other teams in that match group will have fewer matches. If a player is substituted without properly informing the committee, the ELO system cannot be applied correctly, since, for example, the change in scores would be assigned to the wrong person. You are therefore always expected to be present. If one member of your team is not available, please try to find a replacement before signing out the whole team, and inform the committee about the substitute.

If a team does not show up, sanctions will be placed upon that team. (see consequences below).

Times signed out	Times without signing out	Sanction
-	1	80 points are deducted from both players' ELO Scores.
3	2	The team is taken out of the competition.

A match where a team does not show up without proper sign out each match ends in a 21-0 victory for the present team. Which causes the team's ELO score to drop greatly. Please be present for every round you sign up!

If a player is substituted, sanctions will be placed upon the person that is substituted. (see consequences below).

Times substituted	Times substituted without informing the committee properly	Sanction
-	1	40 points are deducted from the ELO score of the player that is substituted.
3	2	The player is taken out of the competition.

## Game rules

For the official rules look at the website of game rules of NeVoBo which are only available in Dutch [here](#).

**Field and Net** The field is 8 by 16 meters, the net height varies based on the type of competition. For ladies' 2x2 beach competition: 2.24 meter, for mens' 2x2 beach competition: 2.43, and for UT Open beach (Mix): 2.35 meter.

**Match balls** The Beach Competition Committee arranges the volleyballs during the matches, you are free to take your own balls if you desire.

**Changing fields** Every seven point the players must change sides.

**Time-outs** There are no time outs in beach volleyball.

**Substituting players** You cannot substitute players during a game in 2x2 beach volleyball. It is allowed to change the substitute players in the UT open beach when you get the service after a breakpoint (so when you rotate).

**Foot fault** There is no middle line. Therefore, a player is allowed to touch the field of the opponent, however only when the opponents are not hindered by it in any way. With service you can make a foot fault when stepping over the back line.

**Service** You must serve from behind the back line. There is only a single attempt when serving. You should keep track of who serves yourself, the server should change when you make a breakpoint. The person/people who are not serving are not allowed to obscure the view on the serving person.

**Service pass** You can only pass the service with a hard contact. This is different from indoor volleyball where you are allowed to play the first ball using a soft touch.

Playing overhand balls: You can only take a ball overhand using a soft touch when it is the second ball, and it stays on your side of the field. It is not allowed to play the ball two times in overhand, you can touch the ball a little longer than when playing indoor volleyball.

**Attack** Any ball going over the net should have a hard touch (smash, overhand attack, knuckles, fingertips, fist, one arm underhand etc). So you are not allowed to attack a ball using a push technique where you can redirect the ball with your fingers.

**Defence** Only balls which are attacked hard can be played 'dirty' (longer or multiple contact). A rule of thumb is that a hard ball needs to be defended on reaction, when you have the time you are obligated to play neatly.

**Block** The block counts as one of the three times you can play the ball. So after blocking you can only play two more times, one of which can be the player who blocked the ball.

**Sportsmanship** There will not be referees in any of the competitions, only people who count the points. All players are therefore expected to play fair and be honest when losing a point.