

April 4, 2019



Association of Volleyball Professionals Kicks Off 2019 Pro Beach Volleyball Tour Season on May 3

- *Nation's Premier Beach Volleyball Festival Returns May through September Beginning with Huntington Beach and Culminating in Honolulu*
 - *Watch on Amazon Prime Video and NBC / NBCSN*

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The Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP), the nation's premier and longest running beach volleyball festival, will officially kick off its 2019 season in Huntington Beach, Surf City, USA on May 3. Making its way across the country and back again, the eight-stop tour will continue with stops in Austin, New York City, Seattle, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Chicago and conclude the season in Honolulu. Featuring the most decorated names throughout the 36-year history of the sport, the AVP will again showcase the talents of AVP stars and Olympians **Phil Dalhausser**, **Nick Lucena**, **April Ross** and **Jake Gibb**; rising stars and already accomplished AVP champions **Sarah Hughes** and **Summer Ross**, among many others, as they battle it out for both the title and prize money. Fans will also be able to catch the action at home on Amazon Prime Video and NBC / NBCSN.

New to 2019, the winning team from each non-Gold Series tour stop (Huntington Beach, Austin, Seattle and Hermosa Beach) per gender will automatically qualify for Main Draw entry at the AVP Hawai'i Open Presented by Hawaii Tourism. The remaining open spots will go to the teams with the highest Gold Series ranking, earned from their best two out of three Gold Series points.

For the last seven years, AVP has remained committed to investing in the building blocks of beach volleyball through its grassroots initiatives, as well as increased opportunities for more money and points through the Gold Series Events and added athlete benefits on the Pro Tour. This year, AVP is proud to offer an overall increase in prize purse and an athlete benefit to help offset travel expenses across all stops for the Pro Tour Season.

"Our priority is, and has been for over 36 years, to produce the most spectacular beach festival in the world, where the most elite beach volleyball athletes and rising stars alike have the platform to showcase their talents and entertain fans," said Donald Sun, managing partner, AVP. "We look forward to building upon the success we've achieved with our host cities and partners for the 2019 AVP season as we continually strive to elevate the fan and athlete experiences. Additionally, we remain committed to our grassroots initiatives through AVP Next, AVPFirst, AVP Academy and AVP America in an effort to contribute to the future success of the sport."

The 2019 AVP pro tour schedule is as follows:

2019 Dates <i>*Does not include Thursday Qualifiers</i>	Tournaments
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May 3-5	Huntington Beach Open
May 17-19	Austin Open
June 7-9	New York City Open - <i>Gold Series*</i>
June 21-23	Seattle Open
July 26-28	Hermosa Beach Open
Aug. 16-18	Manhattan Beach Open - <i>Gold Series*</i>
Aug. 30 - Sept. 1	Championships in Chicago - <i>Gold Series*</i>
Sept. 20-22	Hawaii Open Presented by Hawai'i Tourism

** Gold Series - elevated tournament with bigger stage, prize money and points that will potentially earn entry into the AVP Hawai'i Open Presented by Hawai'i Tourism*

Entering into a second year, multi-year deal with Amazon Prime Video, fans can catch the action at home on Amazon Prime Video where members will be able to watch live coverage of AVP Main Draw matches from all events and on-demand to completed matches, one to-be-determined final, highlights and additional content at primevideo.com/avp. One to-be-determined final will air on NBC or NBCSN throughout the season. Go to AVP.com for more information or check local listings.

In addition to watching world-class athletes battling for title and prize money, fans in attendance will enjoy an interactive sponsor village experience that includes fan activations, giveaways, product sampling, athlete meet 'n greets, top local food, AVP's wine & beer garden in selected markets (age 21+, ID required) and more. General admission to the AVP Pro Tour is free to the public with VIP tickets featuring an elevated experience including upgraded viewing, hospitality, full-service bar and exclusive athlete meet 'n greets, available for purchase at avp.com/tickets.

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Information on AVP and the Pro Beach Volleyball Tour, including live scoring and stats, tournament brackets and scheduled match-ups are available at www.avp.com.

About AVP

Established in 1983 and currently headquartered in Southern California, the AVP (Association of Volleyball Professionals) is the world's premier beach volleyball organization. The AVP today is comprised of four divisions: AVP Academy, AVPNext, the AVP Pro Tour, AVP America and their non-profit 501(c)3 organization, AVPFirst. With a 36-year rich history in creating, staging, and marketing some of the most innovative and engaging sporting events in North America, the AVP has successfully developed an annual circuit that is not just a sporting event, but a lifestyle as well. The AVP has been the home of some of the most respected athletes in professional sports, including: gold medalists Karch Kiraly, Kent Steffes, Misty May-Treanor, Kerri Walsh-Jennings, Todd Rogers, Dain Blanton and Phil Dalhausser. For more information, please visit www.AVP.com.

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