



AVP Hawai'i Invitational Presented by Hawai'i Tourism Authority // King of the Court Sept. 14- 16, 2018

Storylines

Overall AVP Hawaii Invitational Highlights

- **History / Significance of location:** The 2018 AVP tour makes its eighth and final stop of the year on the beautiful beaches of Honolulu, Hawaii. The iconic Waikiki beach is no stranger to beach volleyball though, as the sport is thought to have originated here in 1915. Teams have battled it out all season to earn their coveted spot at this year's [AVP Hawai'i Invitational](#) presented by Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), which is making its return for the first time since 2005. This international invitational kicks off Friday with King of the Court tournament, followed by a two-day double elimination competition showcasing the very best professional beach volleyball athletes from around the globe. The AVP will bring the beach festival experience in the heart of Oahu, right along the beaches of Fort DeRussy, Waikīkī.
- **Hawaii athletes** competing in the Double Elimination invitational tournament include **Tri Bourne, Taylor Crabb and Trevor Crabb**. The King of the Court tournament will also feature **The "Bearded Bros."** - **Maddison and Riley McKibbin** and University of Hawaii alumni **Karissa Cook and Katie Spieler**.
- **Newest Tour Stop on Longest Running Domestic Tour Brings International Players** - while AVP is the longest running domestic tour in the United States, international athletes are joining the AVP Hawai'i Invitational to end the 2018 season. Teams from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and more will participate in the weekend's events.
- **Double Elimination Competition consists of a field of eight teams per gender** - This competition will consist of four international teams through invitation, two AVP teams through qualification based on their best two of three finishes in the 2018 AVP Gold Series events, and two AVP wild cards through invitation.
- **New Partnership with Amazon Prime Video in 2018 and Live on NBC** - To enhance the AVP Pro Tour viewer experience, AVP has teamed up with Amazon Prime Video to livestream all of the Main Draw matches at each tour stop through the year 2020. Viewers in more than 200 countries and territories will be able to watch live and on-demand AVP content including all of the Main Draw matches from AVP Hawaii Invitational. Fans in the U.S. will be able to watch one to-be-determined final on NBCSN, Sunday, Sept. 16 at 5:30 p.m. HST / 8:30 p.m. PST / 11:30 p.m. ET and the other final can be viewed live on Amazon Prime Video. Viewers outside the U.S. will also be able to watch both men's and women's finals live on Amazon Prime Video.
- **AVPFirst teams up with Kevin Wong's Spike and Serve Club - Wednesday, Sept. 12:** In addition to the AVP Hawaii Invitational action, AVPFirst presents a special Community Corner Clinic partnering with the Spike and Serve Club founded by fellow Hawaii resident, six-time AVP champion, and Olympian Kevin Wong. Wong will also call the action on NBCSN (TV information below.) The Community Corner Clinic will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 12 on Queen's Surf Beach where AVP pros will volunteer to be coaches to 150 underprivileged and military kids. The weekend will highlight a couple top junior matches on Stadium Court per gender. **Updated due to weather: There will be a meet and greet, question and answer,**

get-together at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 15 for children in the community and children invited by AVPFIRST and Spike and Serve Club. Kids ages 8-18 are highly encouraged to attend and ask questions to these top athletes. Location will be on the second floor of Stadium Court in Club AVP at Fort DeRussy, Waikiki.

Throughout the 2018 season, AVPFIRST invited youth for free clinics with AVP pros and AVPFIRST coaches and host top local teams in an invitational match play style event that concluded with AVPFIRST National Championship finals being played on Stadium Court in front of a packed house in Hermosa Beach last month. Up from 210 teams last year, this year boasted the largest number of teams participating with 270 teams across the US and Puerto Rico, and international representation from Canada, Mexico, and Australia.

- **King of the Court Tournament - Friday, Sept. 14:** In addition to the festivities, the [King of the Court tournament](#) will make its domestic debut as part of the four-stop series. King of the Court has long been known as a training game but for the first time in the history of the sport, Sportworx has created a pro-level competition, sanctioned by the FIVB. Five teams will battle it out in rotational matches, with one team eliminated per match. There's a Challenger's side and a Winner's side. Challengers serve and points can only be scored at the Winner's side. If the Winners win a rally, they get one point and stay in their kingdom. If they lose, they're out and are sent to the back of the line of waiting teams. Challengers then move into the Winner's end to face the next team. The team with the least points on the buzzer is out. *Teams are listed [here](#).*
- **Festival Village and Activations** – The Festival Village is free to the public Friday through Sunday and is filled with activations, giveaways, experiences, food, a beer & wine garden and more.

Double Elimination Tournament Teams include:

- **Phil Dalhausser** (Redondo Beach, Calif.) - 55-time AVP champion and Olympic gold medalist / **Nick Lucena** (Davie, Fla.) - 12-time AVP champion and Olympian
- **April Ross** (Costa Mesa, Calif.) - 32-time AVP champion and two-time Olympic medalist / **Alix Klineman** (Manhattan Beach, Calif.) - Rising star and three-time AVP champion
- **Jake Gibb** (Huntington Beach, Calif.) - 30-time AVP champion and two-time Olympian / Four-time AVP champion and Hawaii athlete **Taylor Crabb** (Honolulu, Hawaii)
- The youngest and newest top ranked team - **Sara Hughes** (Costa Mesa, Calif.) and **Summer Ross** (San Diego, Calif.)
- **Tri Bourne** (Honolulu, Hawaii) - three-time AVP champion who recently made his return back to competition after an autoimmune disease forced him to withdraw from the 2017 and most of the 2018 season / **Trevor Crabb** (Honolulu, Hawaii) - seven-time AVP runner-up champion
- **Jeremy Casebeer** - Known for his passionate and intense style on the court, Casebeer has achieved a third-place finish four times with Reid Priddy this season / **Reid Priddy** - Four-time Olympian with a gold and bronze medal who retired from indoor volleyball to shift his focus to the beach in 2017. Priddy has earned five career AVP semifinals.
- **Sarah Sponcil / Terese Cannon** - At the 2018 AVP Championships in Chicago, this duo became the second lowest seeds (No. 18) to ever advance to an AVP women's semifinal. This marked Sponcil's second semi-final in her young career. Sponcil is a current UCLA student.

International Athletes Include:

- **Agatha Bednarczuk** (Curitiba, Brazil) is a 2015 World Champion and a 2016 Rio Olympic silver medalist / **Eduarda "Duda" Lisboa** (Aracaju, Brazil) earned first place with Bednarczuk at the FIVB World Tour Finals, making them number one in the world.
- **Alexander Brouwer** (Leiden, Netherlands) / **Robert Meeuwse** (Nieuwegein, Netherlands) - this Dutch duo took home a bronze medal in the 2016 Rio Olympics, clinched several FIVB podium finishes, and won King of the Court in Utrecht last year.
- **Pablo Herrera** (Castellón de la Plana, Spain) represented Spain four times at the Olympics, taking

home a silver medal in 2004. / **Adrian Gavira** (Cadiz, Spain) is a two-time Olympian, and Herrera and Gavira have maintained their spot as the number one team in Spain and a top 10 team worldwide.

- **Anders Mol** (Stord, Hordaland, Norway) / **Christian Sorum** (Oslo, Norway) are currently ranked number one in the world - they are coming off three FIVB first place finishes in a row and won the European Championships and the FIVB World Tour Finals
- **Guto Carvalhaes** (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) / **Saymon Barbosa** (Brazil) have each earned two FIVB World Tour firsts - one together. Guto was named FIVB's 2016 Top Rookie.
- **Sarah Pavan** (Kitchener, Ontario, Canada) competed in the 2016 Olympics for Canada. / **Melissa Humana-Paredes** (Toronto, Canada) won FIVB's 2014 Top Rookie Award. Together, Pavan and Humana have earned three firsts in 2018.
- **Taliqa Clancy** (Adelaide, Australia) competed at the 2016 Summer Games and is the first Indigenous volleyball player to represent Australia at the Olympics. / **Maraife Artacho** (Sydney, Australia) also competed at the 2016 Olympic Games for Australia just with a different partner. Clancy and Artacho, have placed first on the FIVB World Tour four times together.
- **Akiko Hasegawa** (Tokyo, Japan) is 32 years old, five foot nine inches tall, and has been playing on the FIVB World Tour since 2015. Hasegawa's partner, **Azusa Futami** (Kanagawa, Japan), is 26 years old and five foot 11 inches and has been playing on the FIVB World Tour since 2016. Hasegawa and Futami have been partners since 2017.

Overall Event Info

- This year marks **AVP's 35th season** with an eight-stop tour that started out in Austin, Texas (May 17-20) followed by stops in New York (June 7-10), Seattle (June 21-24), San Francisco (July 5-8), Hermosa Beach (July 26-29), Manhattan Beach (August 16-19), Chicago (August 30-Sept. 2) and new to 2018, **Hawaii (Sept. 14-16)** which is making it's return on the AVP Tour for the first time since 2005. Full tour schedule AVP.com/events.

AVP Brand

- The Association of Volleyball Professionals is the United States' premier beach volleyball tour, headquartered in Newport Beach, Calif. under Managing Partner, Donald Sun.
- AVP has a 35+ year legacy, and has become a household brand famous for their signature yellow and white Wilson volleyball. It is responsible for providing a stage and developing the careers for the biggest names in beach volleyball.
- In addition to the Pro Tour, AVP has several branches including a non-profit called **AVPFirst** dedicated to giving back to the community and providing scholarships and equal opportunities to underserved communities. It also has programs that are dedicated planting seeds early with the youth to invest in future beach volleyball stars and to increase chances for diversity in the sport. [AVPNext](#) is the official developmental program of the AVP Professional Beach Volleyball Tour and serves as the exclusive qualification circuit for elite amateur athletes to earn AVP points, a national ranking, and entry into the AVP Main Draws. [AVP Academy](#) offers a complete level of support services that compliment the entire athlete. Academy strives to provide athletes with the highest level of development possible.
- AVP played a key role in getting beach volleyball recognized as an [NCAA sanctioned sport](#) as the organizer and producer of the very first college event in 2006.

###