

# G.J. Gardner Homes NZ Beach Tour 2023

## Competition Structure FAQ

Friday, 16 December 2022

*Te Pae Tata/Mission: Unlocking of the ihihi of volleyball for all*

*Te Pae Tawhiti/Vision: Whanau thriving through volleyball*

*Nga Uara/Our Values:*

- *Manaakitanga – we give, we care, we respect*
- *Mahi Tahi – we listen, we connect, we inspire*
- *He Tangata – we embrace diversity, we promote equity*

G.J. Gardner. HOMES



### What was the review process?

VNZ led an internal review of the 2022 tour including workshop sessions internally, with event delivery partner SMC, a feedback loop with Regional Associations, commercial partners and gathered information via a player survey post tour. The information from this was collated to produce an outline for the 2023 event structure and approach.

### What is the purpose of the G.J. Gardner Homes NZ Beach Tour?

The following were identified as key purpose objectives the tour needs to consistently achieve to fulfil its role as the pinnacle domestic competition:

- to provide the highest-level national competition possible for New Zealand's best beach volleyball athletes
- provide a competition structure and events calendar which integrates appropriately talented international players
- to provide exposure and marketing opportunities for VNZ commercial partners
- to provide an opportunity for regional associations to build capability and lead delivery of the competition in their region where appropriate

### Why are there four events on the tour in 2023?

Following the review process, VNZ has opted to consolidate the number of national tour events to focus on improving quality of experience on and off sand for all involved. VNZ is also exploring the delivery of a World Tour Futures level event in the summer of 2022-2023.

### Why are there two tiers of events on the tour?

In the review process it was clear there is a need to develop a structured pathway of events leading towards our top level of competition. In total there are four tiers to the New Zealand beach senior pathway.

- Tier 4 – Local and Regional participation – no connection to the higher tiers
- Tier 3 – Regional Association Beach Series – 1 or 2-day events with participation earning points to Tier 2
- Tier 2 – G.J. Gardner Homes NZ Beach Tour – Qualifying Series – 3 events (Tasman, Auckland, Mt Maunganui)
- Tier 1 – G.J Gardner Homes NZ Beach Tour – Tour Finals - 1 event (Mt Maunganui)

Developing the Regional tier of competition (Tier 3) is critical to help athletes access more opportunities to play and develop prior to participating in the national tour. The structure provides opportunity for reward for players who participate in events in regions and the qualifying series for the Tour Finals.

### Why does the G.J. Gardner Homes NZ Beach Tour start later in the summer this year?

VNZ have opted to begin the tour in mid-February to provide more opportunity for Regional Associations to deliver events and increase their importance for the benefit of everyone in the game.

### Why are there no events in Northland or Christchurch in 2023?

VNZ has consolidated the number of events for the 2023 tour to improve quality of experience and provide more opportunities for Regional Association events to take on additional importance. In 2022, one quarter of registered tour participants were from the South Island. The number of events in 2023 across the tour in the South Island reflects this ratio of participants. VNZ remains committed in future to exploring expanding the number of beach tour locations and events should that be appropriate. In addition, VNZ is committed to confirming delivery of the first ever World Tour Futures level event in the summer of 2022-2023.

### Why are there two divisions of competition?

With international players and teams now likely to be participating, VNZ has created two divisions of competition to provide as many opportunities as possible for teams to experience an appropriate challenge point of competition in each game and event.

**What happens to the NZ Open?**

The NZ Open winner will be the winner of G.J. Gardner Homes NZ Beach Tour Finals event in each gender. The overall NZ Champions will be NZ teams only and will be team with the highest points total from the four G.J. Gardner Homes NZ Beach Tour events over the summer.

**Why are their differences between entry prices between Premier and Division 1 competitions?**

The two divisions will have separate levels of services and support. For example, Premier Division teams will be provided singlets/crop tops for all matches and VNZ is working to have referees appointed to an increased number of matches in the Premier Division (this remains TBC as of December 16, 2022).

**Why do points change during the year from including a result from previous years to only the current year?**

To begin the season, there is an opportunity for previous year's result to influence seedings due to, after the first national event, the seedings will be based on points taken from the current year. This is to encourage players to play more events to assist in their development and reward those who do well in the current year of competition.

**When is the entry cut off for the G.J. Gardner Homes NZ Beach Tour qualifier events?**

Two weeks prior to the event with the Premier Qualifying, Premier Main Draw and Division 1 (where possible) draw published the Monday prior to the event.

**What is the process of wildcards and how are they determined?**

Athletes will be able to apply for wildcards via the application form found [here](#). Please review the wildcard section of the competition regulations prior to submitting any application for consideration for a wildcard. The outcome of any applications will be confirmed prior to each event in line with draw publication timings. VNZ is using the G.J. Gardner Homes NZ Beach as an opportunity to provide development and high level of competition for both domestic and international athletes, including those in the Oceania region. Wildcards will be determined at the sole discretion of VNZ.

**What is the prizemoney available for each event?**

VNZ is investigating the increase of prizemoney for the 2023 events (from 2022 levels). Once finalised, prizemoney details will be confirmed and communicated to all participants.

**Is there an U-18 competition?**

No, the registration process asks for either adult entrants or those aged under 18. Entrants U-18 need parental consent, and this is achieved through completion of the U-18 registration form.

**Can we register as a team?**

No, you register for the competition as an individual.

**I'm an international player, how do I register?**

You register through the link on the competition website (insert link). Please note all international players (i.e., non-New Zealand as Federation of Origin must obtain their Federation's consent to participate. Please send any consent confirmation to [vnz4@volleyballnz.org.nz](mailto:vnz4@volleyballnz.org.nz)