



**REGULATIONS COMPETITION**  
**NORCECA Continental Qualifier**  
**to the LA2028 Olympic Games**  
**November 4-9, 2026**

*NORCECA reserves the right to update these regulations when necessary.*

**Version 3 – updated September 3, 2026**

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### 1. Headquarters and facilities.

The Beach Volleyball qualifying competition for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games will be held at Areia Sport Complex, Puerto Rico. The airport scheduled for the arrival and departure of participants is Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport (SJU). Accommodation for teams, referees, members of the Control Committee and staff of the host National Federation is provided at the resort itself. The address, telephone, website and details of internal transportation will be communicated in the corresponding invitation letter. In November, the average temperature indicated for Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, is approximately 25 °C at night and up to 32 °C during the day.

### Athlete Facilities

- Athletes' lounge
- Physiotherapy room
- Medical room
- Work area for the Control Committee
- VIP Area

### 2. Delegates, officials and the Organizing Committee.

| Name                        | Function                                             | Contact                          |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lic. Cristóbal Marte Hoffiz | President NORCECA                                    | norcecapresident@hotmail.com     |
| Dr. César Trabanco          | Puerto Rico National Volleyball Federation President | fedpurvoli@gmail.com             |
| Sr. Rodrigo Collazo         | Puerto Rico National Volleyball Federation, Contact  | rcollazofpv@gmail.com            |
| Sra. Eduardina Báez         | NORCECA Beach Department                             | norcecabeachvolleyball@gmail.com |
| Sra. Indhira Ramírez        | Director, NORCECA Beach Department.                  | norcecaassistant@hotmail.com     |

| Function                     | Designation                                            |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| NORCECA Delegate             | Mr. Ariel Sainz Rodriguez, NORCECA 1st. Vice President |
| NORCECA Technical Delegate   | Mr. Ed Drakich (CAN)                                   |
| NORCECA Referring Delegate   | Mr. Marvin Mora (CRC)                                  |
| NORCECA Competition Delegate | Ms.. Eduardina Báez (DOM)                              |

### Organizing Committee

| Function                                     | Name                | Contact               |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Presidente Puerto Rico Volleyball Federation | Dr. César Trabanco  | fedpurvoli@gmail.com  |
| Operations Manager                           | Mr. Rodrigo Collazo | rcollazofpv@gmail.com |

## 3. Ranking and Eligibility System

### Quota per National Federation and gender

| Federations                        | Quota                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Host Federation (Host NF)          | Maximum one (1) team per gender. |
| Participating National Federations | Maximum one (1) team per gender. |

### Eligibility

Participating players must be citizens of the country they represent, in accordance with the current FIVB and NORCECA General and Sports Regulations. The official document to verify eligibility is the valid passport issued by the competent government authorities of their country.

- Athletes will be required to comply with the current FIVB and NORCECA regulations.
- The original passport will be verified during the Preliminary Interview; copies of the passports will not be accepted.
- Eligibility for the women's competition will be strictly governed by the current FIVB and NORCECA rules, in accordance with the Sports Regulations Regulation and must be eligible following the FIVB SRY testing.

### Official registration and Preliminary Interview.

Each athlete and National Federation must register their participation in the FIVB VIS system. Upon receipt of the qualification confirmation, NORCECA will confirm the acceptance in writing. FIVB VIS System: [www.fivb.org/vis/login.aspx](http://www.fivb.org/vis/login.aspx) The registration fee is USD 1,000.00 (one thousand US dollars). For international bank transfers, payment must be received by NORCECA at least two weeks before the start of the event.

| Dato bancario    | Información                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bank             | CITIBANK                                                                                                                                      |
| Account No.      | 36265289                                                                                                                                      |
| SWIFT            | CITIUS33                                                                                                                                      |
| Bank address     | New York, N.Y. 10013, United States of America                                                                                                |
| Beneficiary bank | Banco BDI, S.A.                                                                                                                               |
| Address          | Av. Sarasota #27, La Julia, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana                                                                               |
| Credit to        | Confederación NORCECA de Voleibol                                                                                                             |
| Account No.      | 4010048081                                                                                                                                    |
| NORCECA Address  | Av. Máximo Gómez esq. 27 de Febrero, Pabellón de Voleibol, 3ra Planta, Centro Olímpico Juan Pablo Duarte, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana |

Payments by bank administration check must be sent payable to NORCECA by certified express mail (DHL, FedEx, or other equivalent postal service). Payment in cash, in U.S. dollars only, to the Administrative Control Committee or the Director of Competition during the Preliminary Interview is also acceptable.

### Preliminary Interview

Date. / Date: November 5, 2026 | Time: 16:00-20:00 the following documents must be presented:

- Form BV-02
- Form BV-08
- Form BV-10
- Original passports
- National flag (4 x 6 feet)
- National anthem
- Uniforms
- Apparel & Accessories
- Manipulation Course Certificate
- Play Clean Course Certificate
- Confirmation of receipt and study of the guidelines/protocols of the Video Challenge System.

Teams must have uniforms in at least two contrasting colors. The NORCECA Technical Delegate may review the required accessories. During the Preliminary Interview, photographs of the players will be taken for the giant screen presentation on the main court.

## 5. Visa and General Technical Meeting

### Visa

The host National Federation and/or the Organizing Committee shall facilitate, through the relevant government authorities of the United States Department of State, the visa process required for entry into the host country, Puerto Rico. Participating National Federations shall be responsible for submitting, on time, the required documents to their respective USA Embassies and covering the related costs.

### General Technical Meeting

The General Technical Meeting will take place in the meeting room of Areia Sport Complex at 9:00 p.m. on November 5, 2026. All athletes are convene; any exceptional situation will be evaluated by the President of the Control Committee.

## 6. Competition System.

16 Men's and 16 Women's teams will participate, for a total of 64 athletes: 32 Men and 32 Women. 72 matches are planned: 36 Men's and 36 Women's. The tournament will comprise a preliminary group stage and a Round of 12 (R12), to which the top three teams in each group will qualify.

### Seeding Criteria and Draws.

**Seeds 1 and 2: will be determined between A1 and B1. Seeds 3 and 4: will be determined between C1 and D1.**

1. Match Points. / **Match Points**
2. Set Coefficient. / **Set Ratio**
3. Coefficient of points (rally point ratio). / **Point Ratio (rally point ratio)**

The team with **the highest values will occupy the corresponding higher seed.**

- Draw 1: A2, B2, C2 and D2.
- Draw 2: A3, B3, C3 and D3.
- Teams from the same group will not be able to face each other in the Round of 12 or in the quarterfinals.
- If two teams from the same group advance to the semifinals, they will not be able to face each other in that round.
- If three teams from the same group advance to the semifinals, the 1<sup>er</sup> place in the group must face the 3<sup>er</sup> place in the same group in a semifinal.
- **Draw 1:** A2, B2, C2 and D2.
- **Draw 2:** A3, B3, C3 and D3.
- Teams from the same pool may not face each other in Round of 12 nor in the quarterfinals.
- If two teams from the same pool advance to the semifinals, they may not face each other in that round.
- If three teams from the same pool advance to the semifinals, the 1<sup>st</sup> place team of the pool must face the 3<sup>rd</sup> place team of the same pool in one semifinal.

## 7. Pool Ranking and Scoring System

The 16 teams will play in four pools of four teams under the Round Robin system.

### Pool Ranking

1. Match points: 2 points to the winner and 1 point to the loser.
2. Set ratio: sets for / sets against.
3. Ratio of points: points for / points against.
4. Result of the match between the teams involved, if necessary.

### Tie-breaking criteria

In the event of a tie between three teams in the same group, the above indicators will be applied using only the results of the matches played between them. In the event of a tie between two teams, the same indicators will be applied until the result of the match between them is reached, if necessary.

### Discontinued matches, injuries and disqualifications

Discontinued or unstarted matches will be evaluated by the Technical Delegate to determine the DSQ or INJ/DSQ condition and the allocation of match points.

- If a team withdraws due to injury before or during a match, or is disqualified during the match, it will receive 1 match point and keep the sets and points obtained up to that point; the sets and points against will be completed to the regulatory maximum indicated in the source document.
- If the injury occurs before the start of the match, the result will be recorded as INJ/DSQ; the losing team will receive 1 point and the winner 2 points.
- If a team withdraws without valid reason or does not show up, they will lose by default 0-2 (0:21, 0:21), receive 0 points and the result will be marked DSQ.
- If a team is disqualified during the group stage for a positive anti-doping test, it will forfeit all its group matches by default and will not receive qualification.

## 8. Knockout Stage and Team Distribution

The top three teams in each group will advance to the Round of 12.

### Quarterfinals and semifinals

The quarterfinals will be played by direct elimination to determine the four teams qualified for the semifinals.

### Finals

The winners of the semifinals will compete for the gold medal and the losers will dispute the bronze medal.

### Distribution of teams in groups

The initial round will be formed using the first 16 teams per gender from the 2025 NORCECA Cumulative Ranking as of August 31, 2026. If the host country team is ranked 1st and 4th in the valid ranking for the event, it will be placed as A1; if it is ranked 5th or lower, it will be placed as D1.

| Grupo A          | Grupo B | Grupo C | Grupo D |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>A1 (HOST)</b> | B1-RN1  | C1-RN2  | D1-RN3  |
| A2-RN7           | B2-RN6  | C2-RN5  | D2-RN4  |
| A3-RN8           | B3-RN9  | C3-RN10 | D3-RN11 |
| A4-RN15          | B4-RN14 | C4-RN13 | D4-RN12 |

Scenario B (5th or lower venue):

| Grupo A | Grupo B | Grupo C | Grupo D          |
|---------|---------|---------|------------------|
| A1-RN1  | B1-RN2  | C1-RN3  | <b>D1 (HOST)</b> |
| A2-RN7  | B2-RN6  | C2-RN5  | D2-RN4           |
| A3-RN8  | B3-RN9  | C3-RN10 | D3-RN11          |
| A4-RN15 | B4-RN14 | C4-RN13 | D4-RN12          |

## Competition bracket



In accordance with the modifications approved by the FIVB for the 2026 cycle, the presence of coaches within the Field of Play (FOP) is authorized during the Continental Olympic Qualification Event to be held in Puerto Rico in November 2026. This provision is incorporated with the objective of harmonizing continental regulations with international technical guidelines and strengthening the strategic support provided to teams during competition.

The presence of coaches shall be subject to the following operational conditions:

1. Coaches may be positioned in the area designated by the Organizing Committee within the FOP, outside the immediate free zone of the playing court, and without interfering with the movement of players, referees, line judges, or technical personnel.
2. Verbal communication is permitted only during official intervals: before the start of the match, between sets, and during established technical time-outs. During live play, non-verbal communication is allowed provided it does not constitute disruptive behavior.
3. Coaches may not enter the free zone, approach the players during live action, or interfere with the scorer's table, referees, or operational staff.
4. The area designated for coaches must be clearly marked and remain accessible throughout the event. Its location shall be defined by the Organizing Committee in coordination with the NORCECA Technical Directorate.

Any violation of these provisions may result in warnings, disciplinary sanctions, or removal of the coach from the competition area, in accordance with the Conduct Regulations and the FIVB Code of Ethics.

## **9. Late arrival and final classification**

### **Late arrival**

If a confirmed athlete is late to the Preliminary Interview and does not notify NORCECA in advance for approval, a fine of USD\$500.00 will be applied.

Teams that do not attend the Preliminary Interview on time may be excluded from the tournament by decision of the assigned Technical Delegate and treated as no-shows. Cases of force majeure must be reported before the start of the Preliminary Interview and accompanied by the corresponding travel documentation.

### **Final classification**

The gold medal winning team in each gender will qualify for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games by NORCECA.

## **10. Prizes, rules of the game and protests**

### **Cash prizes**

The event does not offer cash prizes for 1<sup>er</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>er</sup> place teams.

## Game Rules

The competition will be held in accordance with the FIVB Beach Volleyball Official Rules 2025-2028 and the FIVB/NORCECA regulations in force at the time of the competition. The necessary interpretations shall be clarified during the Referee Clinic and/or the General Technical Meeting. In case of a discrepancy of interpretation, the English version shall prevail.

Reference indicated in the source document: [www.fivb.com/beach-volleyball/the-game/official-rules-of-the-games](http://www.fivb.com/beach-volleyball/the-game/official-rules-of-the-games)

## Protests, appeals and complaints

All protests, appeals and complaints will be dealt with in accordance with FIVB and NORCECA regulations.

- Complaints shall be submitted in writing to the Control Committee and resolved in accordance with the current FIVB/NORCECA General, Sports and Game Rules.
- Complaints for technical violations of the Laws of the Game must be raised during the match and resolved during the match by the Control Committee. The President of the Match Jury and the Refereeing Delegate may intervene to resolve the situation and ensure the proper continuity of the match.
- Complaints or appeals not related to a technical violation must be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Control Committee within 60 minutes of the end of the match.
- These complaints or appeals require a cash deposit of USD 500.00. If applicable, the deposit will be returned. The Chair of the Control Committee shall issue a decision within four hours of filing.

## 11. Competition program and calendar

| Dates           | Event                                                         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 04/11 | Technical inspection                                          |
| Thursday 05/11  | Arrivals, Preliminary Interview and General Technical Meeting |
| Friday 06/11    | Day 1 of competition                                          |
| Saturday 07/11  | Day 2 of competition                                          |
| Sunday 08/11    | Finals                                                        |
| Monday 09/11    | Departure                                                     |

## Competition Schedule:

Calendar color code: **yellow** = female; **blue** = male

### CALENDARIO DE COMPETENCIA.

AMARILLO - FEMENINO./ YELLOW - WOMEN

AZUL - MASCULINO / BLUE - MEN

| Date              | Start Time | Court 1            | Court 2            | Court 3            |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Day 1<br>Friday   | 09:00      | A1 vs A4           | A2 vs A3           | B1 vs B4           |
|                   | 09:45      | C1 vs C4           | C2 vs C3           | D1 vs D4           |
|                   | 10:30      | B2 vs B3           | D2 vs D3           | B1 vs B4           |
|                   | 11:15      | A2 vs A3           | A1 vs A4           | B2 vs B3           |
|                   | 12:00      | C1 vs C4           | C2 vs C3           | D1 vs D4           |
|                   | 12:45      | D2 vs D3           |                    |                    |
|                   | 13:30      | BREAK              |                    |                    |
|                   | 17:30      | A1 vs A3           | A2 vs A4           | B1 vs B3           |
|                   | 18:15      | C1 vs C3           | C2 vs C4           | D1 vs D3           |
|                   | 19:00      | B2 vs B4           | D2 vs D4           | A1 vs A3           |
|                   | 19:45      | A2 vs A4           | B1 vs B3           | B2 vs B4           |
|                   | 20:30      | C1 vs C3           | D2 vs D4           | D1 vs D3           |
|                   | 21:15      | C2 vs C4           |                    |                    |
| Date              | Start Time | Court 1            | Court 2            | Court 3            |
| Day 2<br>Saturday | 09:45      | A1 vs A2           | A3 vs A4           | B1 vs B2           |
|                   | 10:30      | C1 vs C2           | D3 vs D4           | D1 vs D2           |
|                   | 11:15      | B3 vs B4           | C3 vs C4           | A1 vs A2           |
|                   | 12:00      | A3 vs A4           | B1 vs B2           | B3 vs B4           |
|                   | 12:45      | C1 vs C2           | C3 vs C4           | D1 vs D2           |
|                   | 13:30      | D3 vs D4           |                    |                    |
|                   | 14:15      | BREAK              |                    |                    |
|                   | 17:30      | DS9 vs DS8 (25)    | DS12 vs DS5 (26)   | DS6 vs DS11 (27)   |
|                   | 18:45      | DS7 vs DS10 (28)   | DS9 vs DS8 (25)    | DS12 vs DS5 (26)   |
|                   | 19:30      | DS6 vs DS11 (27)   | DS7 vs DS10 (28)   |                    |
| Date              | Start Time | Court 1            | Court 2            | Court 3            |
| Day 3<br>Sunday   | 09:00      | A1/B1 vs WM25 (29) | WM26 vs C1/D1 (30) | C1/D1 vs WM27 (31) |
|                   | 09:45      | WM28 vs A1/B1 (32) | A1/B1 vs WM25 (29) | WM26 vs C1/D1 (30) |
|                   | 10:30      | C1/D1 vs WM27 (31) | WM28 vs A1/B1 (32) |                    |
|                   | 11:15      | WM29 vs WM30 (33)  | WM31 vs WM32 (34)  |                    |
|                   | 12:00      | WM29 vs WM30 (33)  | WM31 vs WM32 (34)  |                    |
|                   | 12:45      | BREAK              |                    |                    |
|                   | 15:00      | LM33 vs LM34 (35)  | Bronze Medal       |                    |
|                   | 15:45      | WM33 vs WM34 (36)  | Gold Medal         |                    |
|                   | 16:30      | LM33 vs LM34 (35)  | Bronze Medal       |                    |
|                   | 17:15      | WM33 vs WM34 (36)  | Gold Medal         |                    |

## 12. Technologies and accreditations

### Video Challenge System

All matches on Centre Court will be equipped with a Video Challenge System. The current regulations correspond to the FIVB Beach Volleyball Challenge System.

### Acreditaciones

| Code           | Designations                                                                                        |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>FIVB</b>    | FIVB Officials                                                                                      |
| <b>NORCECA</b> | NORCECA Staff                                                                                       |
| <b>CC</b>      | Comité de Control Members                                                                           |
| <b>NF</b>      | Host National Federation Officials                                                                  |
| <b>OC</b>      | Organizing Committee                                                                                |
| <b>G</b>       | Government officials                                                                                |
| <b>D</b>       | Accredited diplomats                                                                                |
| <b>VIP</b>     | Special guests                                                                                      |
| <b>TP</b>      | Technical staff and specific areas (VIS, statisticians, line judges, scorers, scoreboard operators) |
| <b>SP</b>      | Support staff (boleros, rakers, line judges, announcers and venue staff)                            |
| <b>P</b>       | Accredited press and media                                                                          |
| <b>A</b>       | Participating athletes                                                                              |
| <b>TS</b>      | Technical Support Personnel                                                                         |
| <b>S</b>       | Security                                                                                            |
| <b>R</b>       | Referees                                                                                            |
| <b>MD</b>      | Medical Staff                                                                                       |

Athlete accreditation shall include the competition number, accreditation number and doping test control code in accordance with WADA/FIVB protocol.

## 13. Transportation, accommodation, Referring and catering

### Transportation

**Official airport:** Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport (SJU). Athletes, Referees, Delegates and other officials will receive airport transfer and local transportation when necessary. Additional details will be communicated later.

### Accommodation of the Control Committee and officers

| Función                 | Ocupación |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| NORCECA Delegate        | Single    |
| Director of Competition | Single    |
| Referring Delegate      | Double    |
| Press Delegate          | Double    |
| Photographer            | Double    |
| VIS Delegate            | Double    |
| Medical Delegate        | Double    |
| International Referees  | Double    |
| FIVB Support Staff      | Double    |

### Athletes

The organizer will provide accommodation to the teams from one day before the start of the event until the official day of departure. The athletes will be responsible for their extra expenses and for any damage caused to the room. The organizer will not be responsible for the reservations of coaches, physiotherapists, guests or family members accompanying the athletes.

### Referees

NORCECA will nominate a total of 16 referees. The host country may nominate a maximum of three international referees who meet the requirements; the remainder referees will come from the participating countries. Only one category A arbitrator will be allowed per country.

Line judges, scorers, boleros, court staff, score operators, announcers and other support staff shall be presented by the host National Federation to the President of the Control Committee and/or his representative for evaluation and approval.

### Catering

The organizer will provide three meals a day to athletes and referees, from dinner the day before the start of the event to lunch on the day of departure. The organizer will not be responsible for the accommodation or meals of coaches or other members of delegations who are not registered as players.

### Video Camera Policy

The Local Organizing Committee will guarantee an area on each competition field, certified by the NORCECA Technical Delegate, for the filming of the matches. The custody of the technological equipment will be the responsibility of each delegation.

## 14. Uniforms, equipment and infrastructure

### Uniforms, equipment and accessories

Uniforms, equipment and accessories shall comply with the general regulations set out in Chapter 8 of the FIVB Beach Volleyball Sports Operations Manual and the applicable uniform guidelines.

- Federations and national teams will be able to produce their own playing uniforms in accordance with the FIVB Uniforms guidelines; NORCECA shall provide the final approval.
- Each team athletes must wear the same color/design uniform.
- The playing uniforms must be of the same color/design style and must comply with the FIVB uniform guidelines rules for beach volleyball.
- The top must be numbered 1 or 2, include the FIVB and NORCECA logos and display the country code on the front and back.
- Teams will be able to promote sponsors and manufacturer in the permitted areas, respecting location and size established by FIVB/NORCECA following the FIVB Uniforms Guidelines.
- Covering unauthorized promotions or branding with tape or other similar material is prohibited.



## Infrastructure

- 4 official beach volleyball courts
- 1 main beach volleyball court for semi-finals and final
- Minimum 5m x 4m LED display
- FIVB and NORCECA approved Challenge system
- FIVB Regulatory Free Area
- Sand with regulation depth

## Sports equipment and equipment

All competition, warm-up and training equipment must comply with FIVB and NORCECA regulations. The official ball indicated is MIKASA BV550C. The net, antennas, lines and referee chairs will be of the SENOH brand in accordance with the applicable FIVB homologation regulations.



NORCECA will provide the host National Federation with fifty (50) MIKASA VB550C balls. The sand of the playing, warm-up and training courts shall comply with the 2025-2028 Beach Volleyball FIVB Official Rules.

## 15. Medical services and anti-doping control

### Medical Services

All players must have medical insurance. During the competition the host organizer National Federation must provide the service of a medical doctor and two sport therapists for the care of the athletes, in addition to an equipped medical area.

### Anti-doping control

Anti-doping control tests are programmed. The NORCECA Medical Commission Delegate, together with the Puerto Rico Doping Control Wada Regional Agency, will be responsible for its coordination.

## 16. Financial Responsibilities

### Host National Federation

- Payment of USD\$150,000.00 hosting fee to NORCECA.
- Cover 50% of the cost of anti-doping tests performed by the authorized regional agency, in accordance with FIVB/NORCECA/WADA protocols.
- Cover airline tickets and per diems of USD\$100.00 per day for the Control Committee and designated referees, from the date of arrival to the date of departure, according to the competition regulations of the event.
- Provide first aid medical service during the competition.

NORCECA grants to the host National Federation the corresponding rights of local commercialization and sponsorship, including TV, radio and Internet streaming, marketing, merchandizing, governmental, state, provincial or municipal support or economic contribution.

### Participating National Federations

- Payment of the registration fee of USD\$1,000.00 to NORCECA.
- Payment of the doping fee of USD\$500.00 to NORCECA.
- Present, compulsory, international medical insurance to cover medical services that may be required by members of their delegation.
- Assume the other additional expenses of the delegation that correspond.
- Payment of international transportation, visa fees, and airport taxes.

## 17. Security and sanctions

### Security

The host National Federation and/or the Organizing Committee shall ensure the safety of all delegations from arrival to departure, including hotel, competition and training venues, official matches and internal transport.

### Sanctions

- Team that arrives at the tournament without being properly registered: USD\$1,000.00.
- Duly registered team that does not show up for the tournament: USD\$10,000.00.
- Withdrawal three days before the event: USD\$10,000.00.
- Failure to comply with uniform provisions indicated on the Competition Regulations: USD\$3,000.00.
- Team confirmed at the Technical Meeting that does not complete the competition format without justified cause: the National Federation will be sanctioned with USD\$5,000.00 for each team in fault.
- The sanctions established by the FIVB Constitution and the corresponding Disciplinary, Administrative, Financial, Sport Regulations and Statutory Provisions will also be applicable.

## 18. Medals and Trophy

The three highest-ranked teams will receive medals. The trophy will be awarded to the winner of the NORCECA Olympic Qualification Continental Championship for Los Angeles 2028. The champion team of each gender will be granted the continental quota corresponding to NORCECA.