

Tips for Beach Ultimate tournament directors



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Introduction

If you are (thinking of) organizing a Beach Ultimate tournament, here is a document prepared to facilitate your work and make your event a success. Read on and find some great organizational tips and checklists as well as valuable insights provided by experienced tournaments directors.

First of all, here is a list of must-read's created by Leaguevine:

- [Running Hat Tournaments](#)
- [Volunteer Coordinator - Rules of the trade](#)
- [Running an Ultimate Clinic](#)
- [The 5 W's of starting a new tournament](#)
- [The Ultimate Volunteer](#)
- [Spirit scores and why they are so important](#)
- [Tips for Starting a New Tournament](#)
- [Creating a Tournament Schedule](#)
- [Tournament Merchandising \(Part 2 - What to buy\)](#)
- [Tournament Merchandising \(Part 1\)](#)
- [Getting Teams to Attend Your Tournament](#)
- [Increasing Your Tournament's Fun Factor](#)
- [Canceling a Tournament: The Best Worst Case Scenario](#)
- [Creating a Tournament Timeline: Big Picture Organizing](#)
- [Writing a Tournament Schedule](#)
- [Creating a Tournament Budget: Cost Estimates](#)
- [Acquiring Sponsorships \(Response from Frans Passchier\)](#)
- [Acquiring Sponsorships: Playing the Percentages](#)

Now that you have a much better idea on how to organize, read on to get Beach Ultimate specific tips and make your event even more fun and successful.

Lines for Fields

Purchase

Not many places sell sidelines. One possibility is to go to Port-a-field.com and get fields that are portable and easy to set up and take downs. You can get fields for 4-on-4 and 5-on-5 Beach Ultimate and they last for 10+ years.

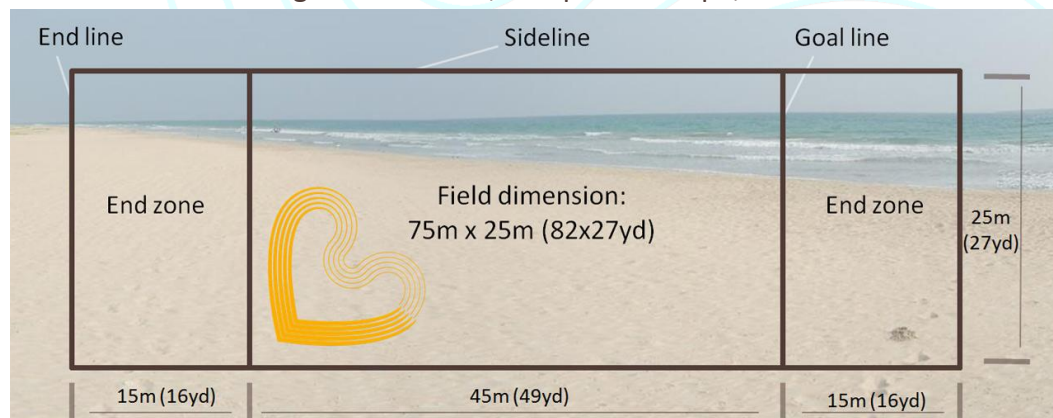
How to make fields yourself

- To set up the 75x25m fields with the two endzones you need 5 x 100m rolls (500m total) of poly-propylene strap (non-elastic!)

- 28 metal rings



- A hole punch and fitting tool for the rings. Otherwise a quality sewing machine (with large needles), or find a friendly shoemaker ;-)
- *Optional:* 16 Mountain climbing hooks (carabinas).
- Cut 1 roll in to 4 equal parts (=25m each). These are the endzone lines. (To measure large distances you could use the athletics track)
- Cut, or fold and sew, 4 rolls to make 4 L-shaped lines of 75m x 25m.
- Attach rings to each corner, at each end of the lines, and at 15m (endzone) from end of the 75m length.
- Connect the lines using the carabinas, or a piece of rope, or other methods.



What is the difference in lines for 4-on-4 field?

The assembly is the same; just the measurements of the lines have to be adjusted accordingly. For 4-on-4 the Playing Field is a 46m (50 yds) long and 27m wide (30 yards). The playing field is broken up into a central playing field that is 31m long and two End zones that are 7.5m deep at each end of the playing field.

How much time will it take?

The best example we have of the construction process shows that it took a total time of 6 hours (4 people) to make the lines. Putting in the rings = 1 hour (2 people), by shoemaker with a pressure machine (like stapler), not sewn! If sewn = 1 hour (2 people), with a good sewing machine with quite a big needle. It is hard work! Some of the BULA people spoke to a local sail maker and after describing the layout and a simple sketch, he constructed the lines in under one week.

Legal paperwork for Beach Ultimate tournaments

The legal paperwork necessary for a beach tournament varies widely from country to country and even to different locals within a country. Basically, you will likely have to obtain the rights to the space on the beach that the fields occupy as well as some kind of insurance for damages to thirds.

Although we strongly suggest that you contact the local municipality or council, here is a synopsis of information sent to BULA by various tournament organizers from around the world that can give you some insights:

Canada

From: Donnie McPhee, Parlee Beach Tournament, New Brunswick, Canada.

The tournament organizers contacted the Provincial park sports coordinator at Parlee Beach and asked if the park was interested in a small project that might someday bring significant national publicity to the Park. By keeping the park staff involved every step of the way they never needed permits. According to Donnie, the key has been to grow slowly and to keep the staff and the park informed. They have tons of local support and claim it is the easiest tournament you could ever run.

From: Steve Ott, Brittania Beach Tournament, Ottawa, Canada.

In Ottawa, it was necessary to book the beach as a sporting event from the municipal council for which the City of Ottawa charged them a small fee. The Council not only requested a contact, the organizers had to provide a diagram of the beach with the

number of fields and the area they would occupy as the Council did not want the tournament to take up more than 50% of the useable beach area. Lastly the organizers had to provide a \$1,000,000 liability insurance waiver which cost them a couple of hundred \$'s.

Estonia

From: Raul Mägedik, Pärnu hat tournament, Pärnu, Estonia.

The organizers needed 2 permits: 1) a permit from the local city government's sport office stating that there were no scheduling conflicts with another sporting event, and 2) a permit from the local police department to organize a public event in the city. Raul's advice is to start with the city government, as they know exactly what permits you must have and what you need to organize a public sport event in the city. Another important point is that in order for players from Russia and Ukraine to obtain visas they must receive invitations in a specific format dictated by the local Estonian embassies. Since a personal invitation is not sufficient, Raul worked with an official organization to get these visas approved.

Latvia

From: Aiga Grasmane, Jurmalas Bite, Riga, Latvia.

After consultation with the local government it was agreed upon that no permits were needed. However the tournament could only set up fields just outside the popular places.

Mexico

From: Fernando Najera, Fiesta en Pie de la Cuesta, Acapulco, Mexico.

No permits were required since the field were set up in an isolated area away from the big hotels.

Portugal

From: Sofia de Campos Pereira, Bar de Peixe hat tournament, Aldeia de Meco, Portugal.

The organization needs to obtain licenses from the Sesimbra City Council and Maritime Police, which also involves proof of an insurance policy covering damages to beach goers. The total cost is approximately 2000 Euros each time the tournament is held.

South Africa

From: Matthew Shaer, UVUYO, Cape Town, South Africa.

The permit to use the beach is obtained at City of Cape Town Parks and Bathing Services at a cost of \$700 per day.

Spain

From: Valerio Iani, Dr.SAND & Mr.GRASS, Tenerife, Spain.

The permits are obtained at the sport and coastal department of Santa Cruz.

From: Sarah Gilbert, Porró Open, Barcelona, Spain.

In Spain the public beaches are run by the Coastal Department (Departamento de Costas). They concede or deny coastal "beach use" permit for events held throughout the year. In the early years, we applied directly for this permit from the Coastal Department for 1,860 euros. The following years we petitioned the Town Hall of Castelldefels to include us in their event calendar for the year which they then submit to the Coastal Department, which made it free.

From: Ulf, Copa Pescadisco, Mallorca, Spain.

Beach use permits were obtained from the government of the city **and** the government of the State. Furthermore they had to agree that the tournament had no political background, that 2 hospitals would be informed of possible injuries, and that a first aid car must be available within 10 minutes from the event.

Switzerland

From: Flo, MagicMaggia, Maggia Valley, Switzerland.

A permit from the community council as well as the "canton" was necessary.

Trinidad

From: Ozzie Patton, Trinidad & Tobago Carnival, Trinidad.

Beach space permit from the tourist industry government group, TIDCO are required as well as possible security permits from the same organization.

UK

From: Dave, C.U.B.E., Aberdeen, UK.

Since Balmedie Beach is a Scottish park/reserve... they had to go through the Park Rangers. However, contact with an official from Aberdeen City Council helped progress things and in the end all that was needed was an e-mail from them confirming acceptance of the tournament. Although the need for permits has not yet arisen, as the tournament grows this might change.

USA

From: Tim Finan, Battle on the Beach and Singer Island, Florida, USA.

The first place to contact is the Parks & Recreation Department to find out who to contact and what to do to secure a permit. Many times you will need to pay a filing fee for the permit and issue an insurance policy naming the city as additionally insured. Some parks (beaches) will charge a fee for the use of the space. For Tim's tournaments he needed to secure a permit through the city, pay a usage fee and provide insurance.

From: Ed Pulkinen, Memorial Hat and Beach Tournament, Savanna GA, USA.

A permit from the City of Tybee Island as well as a permit from the department of Natural Resources was necessary.

From: Mike Adlis, Wildwood, Wildwood NJ, USA.

The organization is able to obtain permits by going to city hall and seeing if the dates of the tournament are available. Once that is done, a number of permits are requested, including: permit to play beach ultimate, vehicle permits to drive supplies onto the beach, alcohol permit to drink beer on the beach, vending permits to be able to sell merchandise.

From: Jet Quenemoen, Sandblast, Chicago IL, USA.

The permits were obtained from the Chicago park district and cost 1250\$/day. However, since they used the UPA, they received 'non-profit' status and got half off. As well, the UPA provided the insurance that the park district needed.

From: Tim Herbert, DA BUT, Annapolis, MD, USA.

A detailed event permit request with tournament details, including date, number of people, space requirements, etc. was submitted to Sandy Point State Park. The more professional and detailed the letter, the better the chances of obtaining a sizable section of the beach and be allowed to have 2 supply vehicles right next to the beach. The cost was only \$25 since the Park makes their money from the entrance fee – and each individual entering Sandy Point must pay a \$4 fee on weekends.

What Rules and Spirit scoring system to use

BULA supports 2 sets of rules:

1. 5-on-5 Beach Ultimate, which is more like classic grass Ultimate with a field that is 75x25m.
2. 4-on-4 Beach Ultimate, where the field is shorter (but not narrower), where an endzone-to-endzone pass is worth 2 point and the stall count is to 6.

Depending on the type of tournament you can always try some fun/alternative rules. For example:

- **HACK rule:** A score is worth 2 points if everyone during that offensive play touches the disc at least once. So as not to make the game go too fast in the case the game is played to a max number of points, an additional rule can be enforced: whenever a HACK point is scored, the points the game is played to goes up by one. So a game that's 2-2 played to 11 would become 4-2 played to 12. (Suggestion by: Melle Clark, USA)

More information about rules and the different spirit scoring systems can be found at www.beachultimate.org/rules-and-spirit/

Promoting your tournament

The calendar of events is getting fuller each year and getting seen/attended is getting harder each year. Here are a few tips that help you stand out from the crowd:

- Start planning at least 8 months beforehand to ensure that you can book the tournament on the date you want and then have time to promote it properly.
- The majority of the Ultimate community is online and highly active on all social media, so internet and mobile platforms such as facebook, twitter, instagram, etc would be the first place to start: www.beachultimate.org/social-media/
- Become a BULA Recommended tournament. It will highlight your event in the annual calendars and give you discounts on discs and clothes: www.beachultimate.org/be-bula-recommended/

General organizing tips

- Make sure the basic necessities (permits, accommodation, field, food, first aid, party) are taken care of. Get in touch with all parties involved, such as: local police, beach services, parks personnel and local businesses.
- Make sure there is enough drinking water close by the fields.
- Make the tournament also fun for non-playing friends/family/kids as well as spectators.
- Give out flyers at the beach venue as well as at the local nightlife scene.

- Set up additional activities such as golf course in the dunes, volleyball net for disc tennis, accuracy and/or flubber guts competition.
- Cheap or free alcohol is always a good idea, but make sure this is allowed and you are not breaking any laws.
- Ensure that medical services such as the Red Cross or local hospitals are quickly accessible in case of accidents.
- Make sure ice is available for injuries.
- A tournament shuttle bus can be a good idea.
- 2 way radios (or walkie talkies) are a good way to keep the organization running smoothly
- Giving automatic entry (NOT fee waiver) to teams/individuals that won the Spirit of the Game award and/or the team that won the tournament will help keeping high Spirit as well as level of play in the following years.

Accommodations

Once the date has been set, it is essential to make sure you can sleep all your players/members of the organizing committee and guests close to the venue. Depending on your target player and you're your budget; there are a number of possibilities. Here are some useful tips:

- For the cheap option, look for housing at local schools, gymnasias, or campsites.
- If you are using hotels, you should assign the rooms a week in advance and fax the hotel the list of people in their room groups (usually by team). The hotels then have something solid to look at and plan around and you come out looking more professional. Of course, you will have to deal with the occasional cancellation or room change...

Financial tips

- All teams and players should pay in advance to minimize the risk of losing money and to establish a working budget.
- When deciding players/team fees, make sure you take into account bank transfer fees.

- Check out how [Paypal](#) can facilitate payment for you.
- Think about giving a donation to local charity of discs to a local school, as it creates goodwill and a nice thing to do.

Music

Music is an important component of Beach Ultimate tournaments, and although the sound of the waves is great it is awesome to listen to funky beats while playing throughout the day.... Not to mention for dancing at night....

- To get sound on the beach, Youth Centers and other community or sports centers often have equipment that they may allow you to use for free (make sure you don't need a sound permit). Mind you, nowadays some mini speakers carry powerful sound.
- Having a DJ or a playlist for the party with funky music mixed in with some old rock works great to get everyone on their feet.
- A live band at the party is always great, for example Michele Mengucci has rocked Ultimate crowds for years at Ultimate tournaments all over the world (Portugal, Italy, Spain, Brazil, etc..)
- Ultimate players are often highly creative and there is usually a musical talent in the crowd. Remind players to bring guitars, bongos, flutes and you may get a musical surprise!

Where to buy discs, cones, sidelines, scoreboards

- Large sport stores (at least for cones and scoreboards)
- www.port-a-field.com (sidelines)
- www.discraft.com/ultimate.html (discs)
- www.daredevildiscs.com (discs)

Want more knowledge...?

Go to: www.beachultimate.org/bula-circle/