

SPORTS

On Friday, May 28, the random Pool Play session begins at 8 a.m. sharp, followed by the afternoon session at 2:30 p.m. The action—all of which can be attended absolutely free of charge—will no doubt be fierce throughout the various divisions. As Walker explains, the competitive edge of the tournament will not be lost within the dizzying buffet of outside events.

“Of course it’s social, but it’s social to the point to when the people get on the court it’s a different game,” he says. “Once they get on the court it’s no longer the conduit to friendships. People are there to win.”

David Vazzana has been playing with PGV for three years, and was recently elected treasurer of the organization. This year’s national championships will be his first, as he and the rest of the Portland Pirates will attempt to dominate the BB division. Outside the lines of the volleyball court, Vazzana is looking forward to the grander scope of Portland’s hosting role for the NAGVA championships.

“I think [the tournament is] going to

up at CC Slaughters Friday night, May 28, when the club hosts the Memorial Weekend Block Party: Volleyball Edition beginning at 5 p.m. The event will include DJ Delusional outside and DJ Robb inside manning the faders. Cover is just \$5 for volleyball members, and \$7 general admission.

After the continuation of Pool Play on Saturday morning, Bracket Play will begin no later than 5:30 p.m., with up to four rounds of Winners’ Bracket matches.

The culmination of the tournament is Sunday, May 30, with continuous Bracket Play from 8 a.m. until a champion is crowned. A barbecue brunch at Hobo’s will be followed by the capping event of a long, sweaty weekend of sports and culture: the official NAGVA National Championships Afterparty at Barracuda.

The “Fire and Ice”-themed party will kick off at 10 p.m. with fire dancers, acrobats and aerialists for a \$10 general admission charge, \$5 for NAGVA players.

Such a packed event would not have been

possible without the support of small businesses such as Under U 4 Men and bigger sponsors like Adidas, as well as the efforts of Walker to make the Portland tournament one that players, fans, the Portland LGBTQ community and beyond won’t soon forget.

“The volleyball players themselves are a close-knit community because we play in tournaments throughout the year all over the nation, and we

have people who have been playing in these tournaments for 20 years,” observes Walker. “That’s built a lot of excitement for us in Portland because we want everyone to have the best experience possible.”

*Get out to the Oregon Convention Center (777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.) from May 28 to 30 to cheer on your favorite team for free! Learn more at portland2010.com or by visiting NAGVA at nagva.org.*



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bring a lot of awareness to the community and I think it’s going to bring a lot of people to Portland who’ve never been here,” says Vazzana. “I’m also really excited about just meeting a lot of people from all over the country and outside the country—to play host to this kind of tournament, and show people from other states and outside the country what we have to offer, and our lifestyle, our way of life and the strength of our community.”

Win or lose, most players will probably end

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