

FRIENDS OF THE COURT

The Seaside Beach Volleyball tournament — the world's largest amateur volleyball tournament — enters 36th year

By **BRENNA VISSER**
COAST WEEKEND

When Joel Maag first started playing in the Seaside Beach Volleyball tournament, the conversations he would have with friends after a match revolved around what they planned to do that weekend.

Now, 25 years later, Maag and those same friends still play together in the tournament. But the talk has shifted from weekend plans to bonding over their kids, families and full-time jobs.

“Today, almost all of us have kids. And maybe we aren’t as athletic as we all once were. But it is still great we are playing today,” Maag said. “Between reminiscing about the old days, to experiencing this with our kids today, it has been fun to watch that transition.”

As he has for the last 25 years, the Portland resident will return to play in the Seaside Beach Volleyball tournament Thursday through Sunday, Aug. 10 through 13. He will be on one of the 1,400 teams estimated to register this year. This equates to almost 3,000 volleyball enthusiasts crowding the soft sands of Seaside.

Skill levels vary from casual play to the open division, where world-renowned players compete in the center court for a first-place \$4,000 cash prize and prestige.

In its 36th year, the tournament includes players of all ages and has been recognized as the world's largest amateur volleyball tournament. Many aspects of the tournament will remain the same, but,



SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, AUG. 10

8:30 a.m., players meetings and national anthem

9 a.m. Juniors “AM” (morning) wave pool play starts, “PM” (afternoon) wave after

FRIDAY, AUG. 11

8:30 a.m., Adult players’ meeting and national anthem

9 a.m., Adult Doubles and Junior Doubles begin in waves. Parent/Child and Coach/Child pool play begins after Junior bracket finishes

SATURDAY, AUG. 12

9 a.m. Junior Quads and Junior Sixes pool play begin. Parent/Child and Coach/Child brackets begin and finish

SUNDAY, AUG. 13

9 a.m., Junior and Adult Quads and sixes begin and finish

LEFT: Darith Lim, left, of Vancouver, Washington, attempts to tip a shot at the net over the hand of John Nizich, of Oregon City, the 2013 Seaside Beach Volleyball tournament.

PHOTO BY ALEX PEJUNAS



Photo by Jeff Ter Har