



The World Games 2025

Chengdu, China

Beach Korfball

Xinglong Lake Beach Arena

15-17 August 2025



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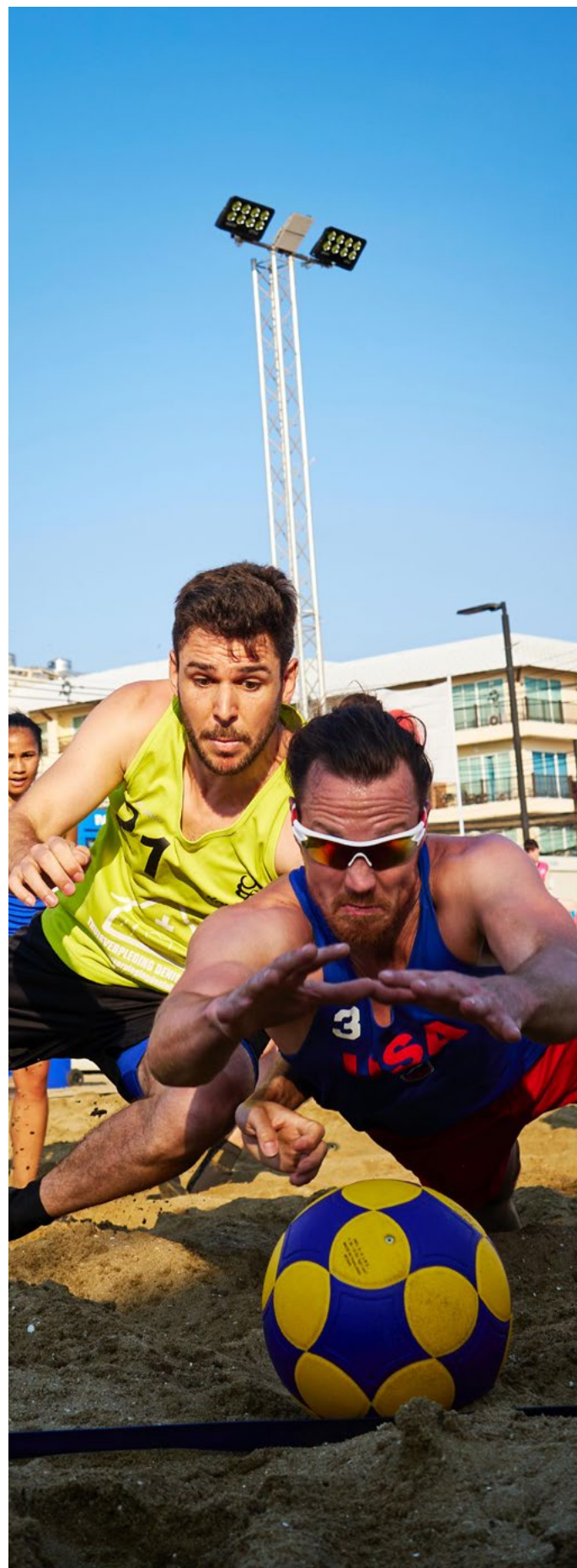


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Gert Jan Boon
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Marco Spelten
Winanda van Zwamen

The World Games



An international multi-sport event comprising sports that are not contested in **the Olympic Games**. They are usually held every **4** years.

The World Games 2025 is the **12th** World Games.



The World Games 2025
Chengdu, China August 7-17, 2025.

Korfball @ The World Games



Indoor Korfball has been on the programme of The World Games since **1985**. Beach Korfball is part of the official program for the **1st** time.



Korfball @ The World Games 2025

Indoor Korfball
Longquan High School Gymnasium
8-12 August 2025

Beach Korfball
Xinglong Lake Beach Arena
15-17 August 2025

Mascots



SHU BAO
Giant Panda

Celebrating Chengdu's
"Beautiful Landscapes"
and "Fiery Passion"

*Golden
Snub-nosed
Monkey*

JIN ZAI



Rising Sun



Endless green mountains



Facts & Rules



Beach Korfball was officially introduced by the International Korfball Federation (IKF) in 2017.

It was developed to:

- Expand the reach of korfball into more informal and accessible settings (like beaches),
- Increase youth and public engagement during summer or festival seasons,
- Provide a fast-paced, spectator-friendly format.



- There are 2 poles on the court, and players alternate between attacking and defending each pole similar to basketball.
- During a game, each squad can have up to 3 male players and 3 female players.
- A team is allowed a maximum of 4 players on the court: two players of each gender.

Unlike the indoor format where each goal counts as one point, beach korfball has two points for goals scored from the designated long-range shooting area.

Group A



POLAND



NETHERLANDS



BELGIUM



AUSTRALIA

Group B



CHINESE TAIPEI



HUNGARY



UNITED STATES



CHINA

Match Schedule

15-17 August 2025 | Xinglong Lake Beach Arena

Friday, 15 August

14:30	 POL	-	BEL	
14:50	 NED	-	AUS	
15:10	 TPE	-	USA	
15:30	 CHN	-	HUN	

17:30	 NED	-	BEL	
17:50	 POL	-	AUS	
18:10	 HUN	-	USA	
18:30	 CHN	-	TPE	

Saturday, 16 August

14:30	 POL	-	NED	
14:50	 TPE	-	HUN	
15:10	 CHN	-	USA	
15:30	 BEL	-	AUS	

17:30	1st A	-	4th B	QF1
17:50	1st B	-	4th A	QF2
18:10	2nd A	-	3rd B	QF3
18:30	2nd B	-	3rd A	QF4

Sunday, 17 August

10:00	L QF1	-	L QF4	SF3
10:20	L QF2	-	L QF3	SF4
10:40	W QF1	-	W QF4	SF1
11:00	W QF2	-	W QF3	SF2
12:20	L SF3	-	L SF4	7/8
12:40	W SF3	-	W SF4	5/6
13:00	L SF1	-	L SF2	3/4
13:20	W SF1	-	W SF2	1/2



Team Squad

TEAM COACH

Pui Man Amy CHOW

PLAYERS

15	Robert Andrew REICHMAN	3	Emily Rose HUTCHESSON
22	Christopher Alexander HUTCHESSON	13	Amy Louise KUBANK
26	Rhys David KUBANK	34	Louise Patricia ROBERTS



Australia Beach Korfball Team Gears Up for The World Games

As the countdown to the The World Games ticks on, Australia's beach korfball team is embracing the challenge ahead with open arms—and open hearts. For Rhys Kubank, Emily Hutchesson, and the rest of the squad, this tournament isn't just another competition; it's the culmination of years of effort, sacrifice, and unwavering camaraderie.

"We've been playing together for about three years now in international tournaments," said Kubank. "But our focused preparation for The World Games really kicked off at the start of this year." With Australia set to face off against some of the best beach korfball nations in the world, the team knows it will need every ounce of experience gained from their pool matches to charge into the crossover rounds with confidence.

One of their toughest hurdles? The weather. "Training in winter while preparing for a tournament held in hot, humid conditions definitely adds an extra layer of difficulty," Hutchesson noted with a smile. "But we're pushing through. That's what we do."

This Australian squad isn't just defined by their skill on the sand, but by the diverse paths that brought them here. Many of the players first honed their athletic abilities on basketball courts before falling in love with korfball's unique mix of strategy, speed, and teamwork. Now veterans of the sport, they've developed into a tight-knit unit—described in three words: diverse, enthusiastic, and focused.



Support and encouragement flow freely within this group. “What makes me proudest is the way we always have each other’s backs,” Kubank shared. “It doesn’t matter what’s happening—we lift each other up, every single time.”

That unity is perhaps best seen in the family ties running through the team. Australia boasts not one but two sets of siblings playing side by side, a rarity in elite sport and a testament to the close-knit nature of the group.

Another layer of adversity comes from the team’s grassroots foundation. “We’re a fully self-funded team,” said Hutchesson. “Balancing full-time jobs with intensive training and tournament prep isn’t easy, but we’re passionate about representing Australia on the world stage.”



Asked who the standout player might be at the tournament, Kubank chuckled. “Honestly, we all bring something different. There’s no one star—everyone contributes in their own way.”

In a world where elite sport is often defined by flashy headlines and big sponsorships, Australia’s beach korfball team offers something refreshingly real: hard work, heart, and an unshakeable sense of team spirit. As they take to the sand in 2025, this group of determined athletes hopes to inspire others—not just with their play, but with the story behind it.



Team Squad

TEAM COACH

Kevin An C DE WAELE

TEAM MANAGER

Detlef ELEWAUT

OFFICIAL 1

Nathan VAN LANGENDONCK

OFFICIAL 2

Inge Joanna VAN ACKER

PLAYERS

13	Ruben Willy VERGAERT	2	Elin LOOS
17	Axel VAN GENECHTEN	3	Lauren SOMERS
20	Cédric SCHOUMACKER	4	Paulien Lieve L RYCKX



Belgium's Beach Korfball Team Is Ready to Make Waves in Chengdu

When the sun blazes down on the sands of Chengdu for The World Games 2025, one team will be there with gold in their sights and grit in their hearts—Belgium's national beach korfball squad.

Led by captain Paulien Ryckx, the team isn't shy about their ambition: "As Belgians, we aim high. We're going for a medal—ideally one with a golden colour!" she says with a confident grin. And with the legacy Belgium holds in korfball's indoor format, no one is questioning their potential.

But beach korfball is a different beast. With only six players—three men, three women—there's nowhere



to hide, no time to rest, and no backup plan. Every player is essential, and every moment matters.

Training with Purpose

Preparation for the tournament kicked off in earnest in early June, just after the end of Belgium's outdoor korfball season. But in truth, this team has been building towards TWG for years. Beach korfball is still a relatively young discipline, and Belgium has been among the nations pushing hardest to professionalize it.

The team reflects that evolution. "We're a mix of different ages, backgrounds, and levels of experience in beach korfball," Ryckx explains. "Some of us have played multiple world championships; others are new to the sand but bring top-level indoor skills."

That variety is part of what makes this group special. And while their training is serious and focused, the atmosphere is anything but stiff. "We always train with a smile," Ryckx says. "We enjoy what we do. There's ambition, yes—but there's also a lot of respect and fun."

Team First, Always

Ask Ryckx what makes her most proud, and she doesn't hesitate. "Our team spirit," she says. "We're six people, and there's no 'bench.' Everyone plays. Everyone is key."



That unity was tested early on when Ruben, one of the team's top male players, suffered an ankle injury at the end of the outdoor season. It cost him the start of the TWG prep program. But he's back now—recovered, ready, and determined to make up for lost time.

"He didn't want to miss this chance," Ryckx says. "And now he's bringing even more fire."

A Childhood Dream, Grown on Sand

Most of the squad started playing korfball as kids—between the ages of 5 and 7—and now compete in Belgium's top indoor league. That solid foundation gives them the technical finesse, tactical awareness, and athletic drive to make a serious run for the podium.

This team brings a rare combination: experience sharpened by competition, enthusiasm fueled by newcomers, and a collective mindset that values every pass, every block, every play.

Belgium's beach korfball team isn't just aiming to win. They're looking to make a statement—about what's possible when different generations come together, when resilience meets passion, and when a team becomes more than the sum of its players.





Team Squad

TEAM COACH

Hao LIU

OFFICIAL 1

Zhen HUANG

OFFICIAL 2

Hao YIN

OFFICIAL 3

Qiang HUANG

PLAYERS

9 Linxu HE

4 Jingyi YIN

10 Jiaxingwang JIANG

5 Hui NIU

16 Bingchen LI

11 Wenjing LI



China's Beach Korfball Team: a Hometown Dream in Chengdu

When The World Games 2025 kick off in Chengdu, few teams will carry as much heart—and heat-tested resolve—as the Chinese national beach korfball team.

Led by Head Coach Liu Hao, the team is aiming high: a top-four finish in one of the sport's most intense and unforgiving formats. "We've trained for a year," says Liu. "The sheer physical toll of this game. The sand, the sun—it tests every part of you."

He's not exaggerating.

Trained by the Sun, Forged in the Sand

In the searing outdoor heat—where temperatures on the training ground regularly hit 40°C—the Chinese team has prepared for months on end, pushing through conditions few others endure. Players have battled peeling skin, dehydration, and even heatstroke. But in a sport governed by strict anti-doping regulations, even a mild fever means no medication—only cold towels and willpower.

"This is what makes our athletes extraordinary," Liu says. "They stay strong, stay focused, and keep showing up—every day."

The Pride of 2024

That spirit already paid off. At the 2024 World Beach Korfball Championship, China earned their spot in The





World Games by winning six out of nine matches. Even more impressive? Star player Yin Jingyi was named Best Female Shooter of the entire tournament—the only athlete across all nations to earn the title.

Now, alongside Niu Hui (No. 5) and He Linxu (No. 9), Yin will lead China into battle on home soil.

Local Roots, National Dreams

There's something special about this squad: it's truly local. The entire team is built around elite athletes from Sichuan University, with coaches who are alumni of the same institution. "This is a Chengdu team playing in Chengdu," Liu proudly notes. "We're not just representing China. We're representing our home."

The players' backgrounds speak to years of hard-earned experience:

- Niu Hui began korfball in 2014. With 11 years under her belt, she's claimed multiple national championships and an Asian Championship bronze medal.
- Yin Jingyi is a 15-year veteran of the game. A multiple-time national champion, she has also earned Best Female Shooter at numerous international events.
- He Linxu, who joined in 2018, has already climbed podiums with national championship wins and silver medals.

A Team Built on Mission and Unity

Coach Liu sums up his team with three words: resilience, unity, mission. And that mission—competing at the highest level, on home sand—is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"There are no shortcuts in beach korfball," Liu says. "But we believe in our preparation. We believe in each other. And we believe in making Chengdu proud."

Come the opening whistle, the Chinese team won't just be playing for medals. They'll be playing for every drop of sweat shed under the sun, for every blister and sunburn, for every hour of training far from the spotlight—and for a crowd cheering not from across the globe, but from just across the street.

This isn't just a team. It's a hometown story in the making.





Team Squad

TEAM COACH

Barnabás András HACK

TEAM MANAGER

Olivér Rudolf JAKAB

OFFICIAL 1

Bence DR. CSELIK

OFFICIAL 2

Attila ERDEI

PLAYERS

8	Kristóf Tamás BELLUSZ	4	Anna VÁGÓ
10	Szabolcs CSERNÁK	7	Noémi JAMRIK-MAJOR
11	Zsolt Ferenc MAJER	9	Diána VASZKÓ

The Netherlands



Team Squad

TEAM COACH

Roelof KOOPMANS

TEAM MANAGER

Agatha Maria Johanna JANSEN

PLAYERS

14	Jasper Arend VAN DER EIJK	1	Mandy KOELMAN
15	André ZWART	2	Lynn BIJKERK
23	Jesper TOLSMA	3	Jessie HEUVELING



Photo Credit: Gert Jan Boon

Dutch Beach Korfball Team Sets Sights on Gold

When it comes to beach korfball, few countries can match the pedigree of the Netherlands. But for head coach Roelof Koopmans and team captain André Zwart, past success means nothing unless it's matched—and bettered—on the sand in Chengdu this summer.

“Our goal? That answer can be very short: GOLD,” the two say, in perfect sync. It's not a boast—it's a standard. One that comes with the weight of representing the birthplace of korfball on the world stage.

But even with that clear focus, this Dutch squad isn't just chasing medals. “We also want to make beach korfball better known,” Koopmans adds. “Not just in the Netherlands, but internationally. The sport deserves more attention.”

A Team Rebuilding, A Culture Growing

The road to Chengdu didn't begin years ago, as you might expect. In fact, this specific group only kicked off its preparations on April 13th—a mere four months before The World Games. But if there's one thing Dutch korfball is known for, it's the ability to build chemistry quickly.

“We want to grow closer together, improve our teamwork,” says Zwart. “That's what it takes to be more than just a group of good players—you need to be a team.”

For Koopmans, the challenge lies in assembling the right mix of experience, fitness, and chemistry. “My task is to decide who's going to be on the team. That's not easy. There's a lot of talent, and I want the strongest possible group in Chengdu.”



Battle-Tested and Unshaken

This team has already proven its mental toughness. Last year, at the World Championship in Thailand, the Dutch fell to Chinese Taipei in the group stage. It was a rare stumble for a country used to dominating the korfball scene.

“That was a tough call,” André admits. “But we set the disappointment aside, regrouped, and came back even stronger in the final.” The result? A tournament win and a ticket to The World Games.

That resilience—turning a setback into fuel—is what makes this squad special. It’s also what makes Zwart so proud to wear the orange jersey. “Representing our country at The World Games is a huge honor,” he says. “And to do it with a group so motivated and driven... that’s something you never take for granted.”

All Eyes on... Everyone

When asked which players fans should keep an eye on, Koopmans grins. “All of them,” he says. And he means it. The Dutch team doesn’t rely on one or two stars; it thrives on balance, cohesion, and the kind of fluid play that makes beach korfball such a spectacle.

There are, however, standout stories within the squad. Mandy Koelman, for example, is a very experienced korfball player, well-known in the Dutch korfball scene. She was part of the team that won the World Championship in Thailand in 2023 and in Chengdu she is ready to compete again. Her experience will be a cornerstone for the team.

Then there’s Jasper van der Eijk—one of the youngest on the roster. A painter by trade, Jasper brings more than just talent to the court. “His mindset, his drive... it’s infectious,” Koopmans says. “In a short time, he’s become a key part of our team, both in quality and spirit.”

Thirty Years and Counting

As for Zwart himself? He’s been with his club, LDODK, since 1993. That’s over three decades of korfball—indoor, outdoor, beach—you name it.

“Most of us started young,” he says. “It’s part of who we are.” And now, with years of playing, winning, and evolving behind them, they have one final task ahead: to prove once again why the Dutch are at the top of the sport.

In Chengdu, they’ll step onto the sand not just to compete—but to define what beach korfball can be.

Together. Motivated. Enthusiastic. That’s how they describe themselves. And this summer, the world will get to see exactly what that looks like in action.



Photo Credit: Gert Jan Boon



Team Squad

TEAM COACH

Maciej Krzysztof ZAK

PLAYERS

10	Rafał DIADIK	1	Tamara SIEMIENIUK
11	Jędrzej MASZTALERUK	2	Izabela Dominika KOŁODZIEJCZYK
12	Kamil Mateusz NOWACKI	6	Natalia KLIMCZYK



Poland's Beach Korfball Team Eyes Breakthrough Performance

When Poland steps onto the sand at The World Games 2025 in Chengdu, it won't just be another appearance at a global tournament—it'll be the latest chapter in a story of quiet grit, sharp ambition, and a team built from the ground up.

Head coach Maciej Żak knows the odds. He knows how deep the competition runs and how unforgiving the format can be. But more importantly, he knows his team.

"Our goal is clear," Żak says. "We want to reach the knockout stage—and yes, we're aiming for a podium finish. But beyond that, we want to show the world how far beach korfball has come in Poland."

More Than Just Sand and Strategy

Poland's rise in beach korfball hasn't happened overnight. It's been a steady climb, one forged through packed training camps, international matches, and a willingness to fight through growing pains. Since qualifying for the 2025 Games, the team has spent over a year preparing—mentally, physically, and tactically.



And they've got the results to show for it. Most notably, Poland made history by winning the first-ever World Beach Korfball Championship in 2022. More recently, they clinched silver at the 2024 IKF Beach Korfball World Cup in Belgium, pushing even powerhouse Netherlands in the final.

Those results weren't flukes. They were earned—one sprint, one dive, one team huddle at a time.

A Team Built on Experience and Drive

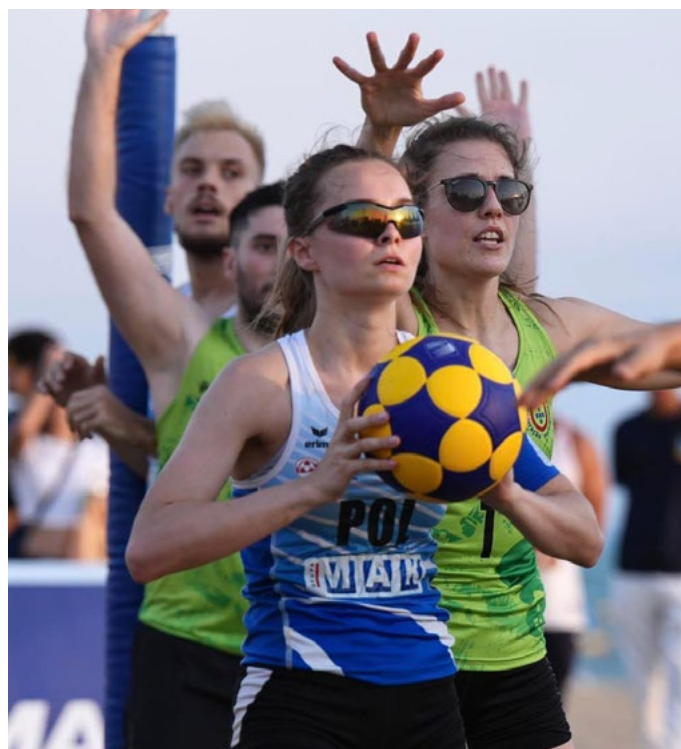
Resilient. Experienced. Ambitious. Those are the three words Żak uses to describe his squad.

"Our strength is in our collective effort," says Żak. "We don't rely on stars. What defines us is unity—how we move, think, and play together."

That doesn't mean there aren't moments of brilliance. There always are. But they come from every corner of the court. Whether it's a perfectly timed interception, a seamless transition play, or a clutch shot under pressure—it's Poland's cohesion that makes them dangerous.

A Quiet Fire Burning

"The story of our team is one of passion and perseverance," Żak says. "This sport is still growing in



Poland. We're not the biggest, we don't have the most resources—but what we do have is a team of players who give everything they've got."

Behind the medals and match scores are hours of travel, training in all kinds of weather, and balancing life's commitments off the court. Many players have pushed through personal hardships—though Żak prefers to keep those private. "What matters is that we're here now, healthy, focused, and hungry," he adds.

More Than a Game

This team knows they're playing for more than just themselves. They're carrying the hopes of a korfball community that's growing steadily back home. Every shot they take, every match they win, is a signal to young Polish players: this is possible.

With a little over a year of preparation, a squad filled with seasoned leaders and fresh energy, and a coach who believes in their ability to surprise the world, Poland's beach korfball team isn't just heading to Chengdu to compete—they're going to belong.

And if things go their way, they may just be standing on the podium by the end of it.





Team Squad

TEAM COACH

Chun-Cheng FENG

TEAM MANAGER

Ting-Yin YU

OFFICIAL 1

Shih-Chieh LIN

OFFICIAL 2

Yi-Hsien HSU

OFFICIAL 3

Chia-Hsiang CHEN

PLAYERS

2 Ying-Ting HUANG

3 Jia-Yi WU

6 Chia-Chuan CHANG

4 Shu-Ping CHU

9 Ming-Kai WANG

5 Yi-Wen WANG



Chinese Taipei Beach Korfball Team Aims for Gold at The World Games 2025

As beach korfball makes its historic debut at The World Games 2025, the Chinese Taipei national beach korfball team is setting its sights high—with one clear goal: winning the first-ever gold medal in this new discipline.

“Our objective is crystal clear,” says Head Coach Michael Feng. “We’re here to fight our way through the strongest teams in the world and bring home the first

beach korfball gold in The World Games history. More than just a medal, we want the world to see Taiwan and witness the strength and resilience of our team.”

But the journey toward that dream is filled with challenges. As this is the first time beach korfball is included in The World Games, there’s no blueprint to follow—and few opponents at home that can match the intensity, style, and pace of what they’ll face on the world stage.

“To get real match experience at that level, we’d need to travel to Europe,” Feng explains. “That’s not always feasible. So right now, we’re training hard behind closed doors, pushing ourselves through intense simulations and refining every detail to make up for the lack of international exposure.”

Despite the odds, there’s a quiet fire burning in this team—a fire forged from discipline, unity, and sheer willpower. When asked to describe his team in three words, Coach Feng doesn’t hesitate: “Hardworking, full of potential, and united. No matter how tough the



environment, our players never give up. They may be young, but every single one of them has the potential to shine on the world stage.”

And shine, they will. Keep an eye on these standout players:

- Shu-Ping Chu, the “Magician Shooter,” known for impossible-angle shots that defy logic.
- Chia-Chuan Chang, dubbed the “Prince of the Sand,” who moves with elegance and grit on the court.
- Ying-Ting Huang, the “Silent Shooter,” calm and steady—until he strikes with unstoppable force.
- Yi-Wen Wang, the “Tactical Brain,” with razor-sharp vision and precise playmaking.
- Ming-Kai Wang, a fearless young star with limitless potential.
- Chia-Yi Wu, the “Beach Sprinter,” whose blistering speed leaves defenders in the dust.

But for Coach Feng, it’s never just about a few individuals. “Every single player is essential,” he emphasizes. “There is no one unimportant. Each one is a unique light in this team.”

Most of the team’s players started their korfball journey in primary or junior high school. Along the way, they’ve faced plenty of setbacks—but never gave up. “They’ve grown through hardship,” says Feng. “Now, they’re ready to stand in the spotlight and let the world see them for who they truly are.”

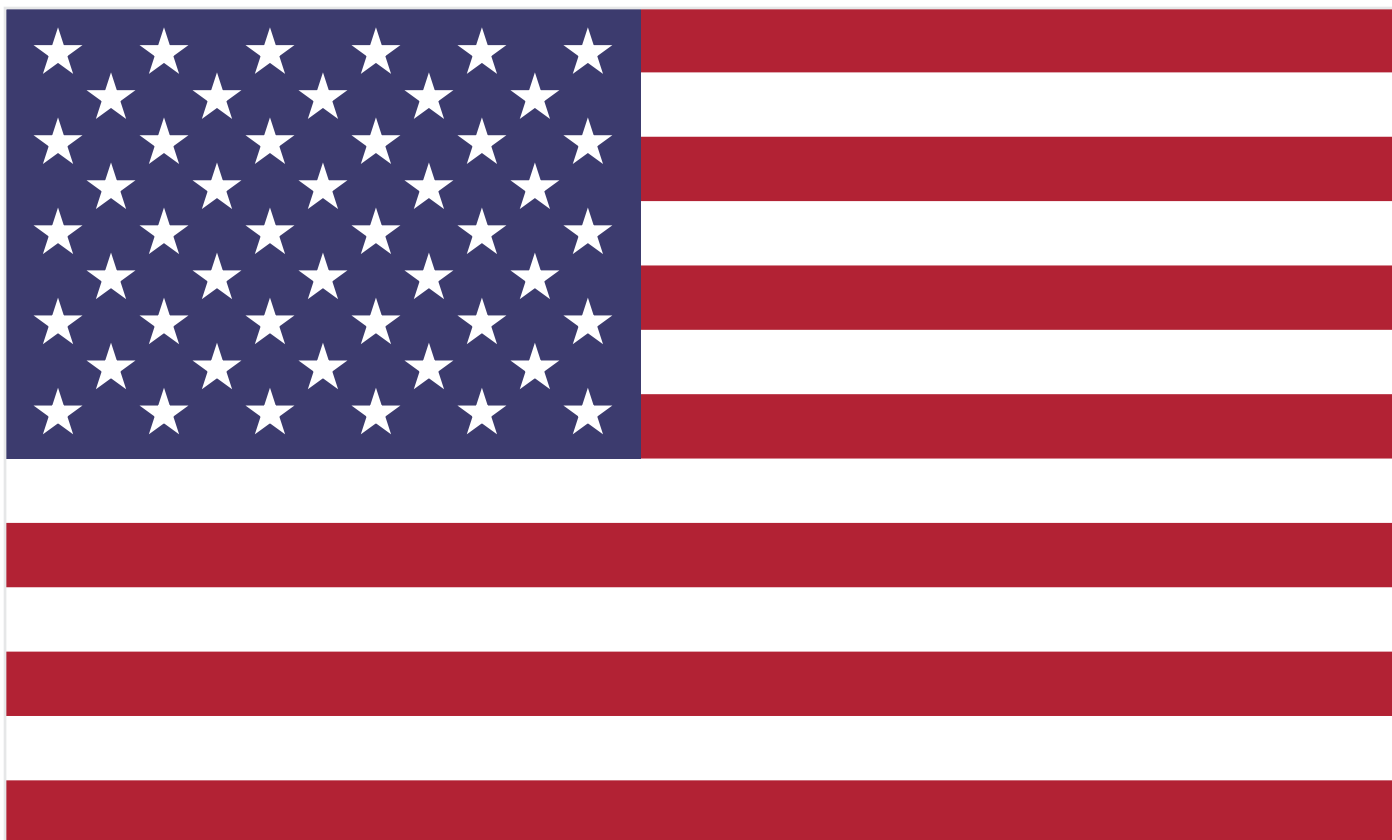
What makes this story even more compelling is the uphill battle beach korfball faces in Taiwan. With limited access to proper facilities and unpredictable weather, training is often grueling. Blistering sun, sudden rain, and the relentless resistance of sand are all part of their daily routine. But none of it has stopped them.



“No complaints. No excuses,” Feng says. “We embrace the difficulties and keep moving forward. That’s not just how we train—it’s who we are. Even if the conditions aren’t perfect, we will show the world our best.”

As the countdown to The World Games in Chengdu begins, one thing is clear: Chinese Taipei’s beach korfball team isn’t just chasing gold. They’re writing their own story—one built on heart, grit, and an unshakable belief in each other. And come game day, the world better be ready.

United States of America



Team Squad

TEAM COACH

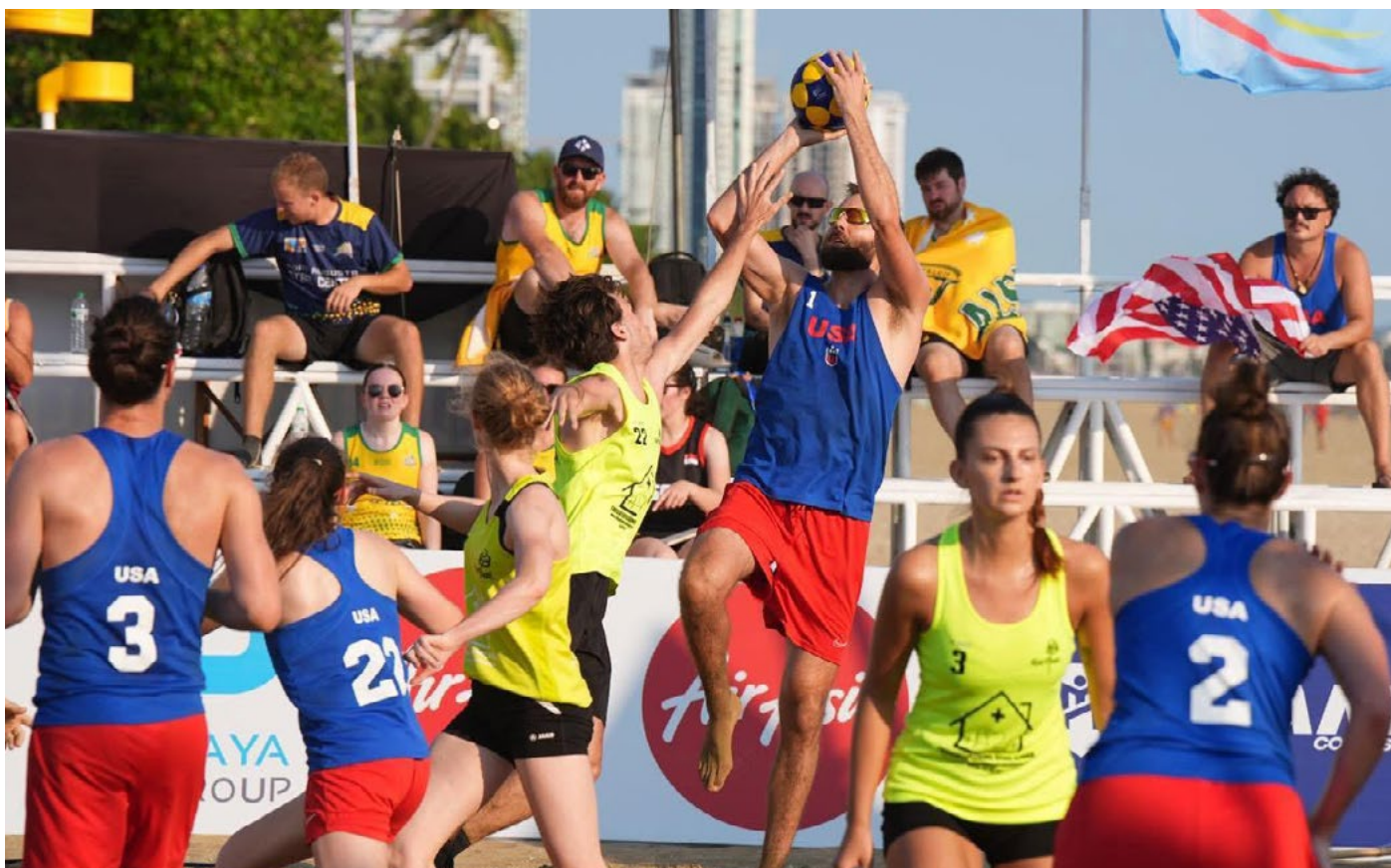
Erik Frank A. VAN DEN BULCK

OFFICIAL 1

Juliana Wen Jie THONG

PLAYERS

1	Willard James JOHNSON	4	Lindsey Marie CLEARY
3	Sean Joseph HERMES	17	Lariel Joy Mateo BAUTISTA
11	Jeffrey Todd MERRELL	22	Ashley Leina'ala GRAHAM



From PVC Hoops to the World Stage: Team USA's Beach Korfball Journey

Four years ago, a group of American athletes stood in a Seattle park, staring at a homemade korfball hoop cobbled together from PVC pipes, cardboard, and raw determination. They'd never played the sport before, and weren't even sure they were pronouncing "korfball" correctly.

Now, that same group is headed to Chengdu to represent the United States at the 2025 World Games—ranked among the top eight beach korfball teams in the world.

"It still feels a little surreal," says Jeffrey Merrell, one of the team's founding members. "When we started in 2021, the goal was just to field a team for the World Championships in Morocco. We didn't think a few years later we'd be competing at the highest level."

Building a Dream—Literally

With minimal korfball infrastructure in the U.S. at the time and no regulation hoops to train with, the team had to get creative. They hit up a local hardware store, bought pipes and cardboard, and built two makeshift hoops by hand. For months, they practiced and played on those DIY creations.



"We eventually got proper equipment from a former U.S. player in L.A.," recalls Ashley Graham, one of the team's leaders. "But those first few weeks really bonded us. And let me tell you—real hoops are a lot less forgiving than cardboard ones."

From the Ground Up

Most of the U.S. squad has a basketball background, with many having played at high school or collegiate levels—and even a few with professional experience. That gave them an athletic foundation, but learning the nuance and rhythm of korfball, especially on sand, was a whole different challenge.

"There's a lot more movement off the ball, and you can't rely on just raw physicality," says Jeffrey. "It's a very cerebral game. We're still learning every time we step on the sand."

To gain experience and exposure, the team has traveled the world over the past few years: Portugal, Thailand, Poland, Belgium—anywhere they could compete and grow.

"We don't have many teams to train against in the U.S.," Ashley says. "That's why we flew to Portugal this May for a team training camp. It's all part of the commitment."

Heart, Hustle, and Healing

One of the most inspiring stories on the team belongs to Lariel, who tore her ACL just 10 months ago. She

could've stepped away. Instead, she pushed through an intense rehab process and is now back—faster and stronger than ever.

"Watching her come back has been a massive motivation for all of us," Jeffrey says. "She's the definition of resilience."

All Eyes on Chengdu

Heading into The World Games, Team USA isn't just dreaming of showing up—they're gunning for a medal. But more than that, they want to raise the profile of beach korfball in a country where almost no one has even heard of it.

"This sport is fast, fun, and unlike anything else," says Ashley. "We're proud to be ambassadors for something so unique. Hopefully, our story inspires a few more people back home to pick up a ball—or a PVC pipe—and give it a shot."

Korfball has been part of the U.S. sports landscape since 1969, with the U.S. Korfball Federation (USKF) officially formed in 1978. While the sport has seen its ebbs and flows over the years, including a proud bronze medal at The World Games 1985, recent growth in beach korfball has sparked fresh momentum. This beach revival has not only brought new energy but also helped kickstart wider development efforts, with the USKF now actively promoting indoor korfball, adaptive korfball, and urban korfball across the country.





<https://korfball.sport/twg2025>