



# Russian beach volleyball at the olympic games: results, problems, prospects

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## Abstract

**Objective of the study** was to assess the quality of performance of competitive actions by players of the best 16 men's and women's teams participating in the Olympic beach volleyball tournaments in the program of the XXXII Olympic Games of 2021 in Tokyo (Japan).

**Results and conclusions.** The ranked values of the performance of players in performing offensive strikes, blocking and serves, given in the illustrations, make it possible to identify their average group values, which are conditional guidelines for Russian athletes and athletes preparing to participate in the XXXIII Olympic Games of 2024 in Paris (France) and others major international beach volleyball competitions. Recommendations and wishes developed based on the results of the study to athletes and coaches aim them at specific actions that will help improve the quality of pre-Olympic preparation processes in beach volleyball.

**Keywords:** *beach volleyball, Olympic Games, quality of game actions.*

**Introduction.** Beach volleyball continues to develop successfully both on the international stage and in our country. One of the manifestations of this development is the successful performance of Russian teams at major competitions - championships and championships of Europe, the world, stages and finals of the World Tour (we are sure that the politicized exclusion of Russian athletes from international competitions is a temporary phenomenon [2-4]).

The greatest international success of Russian beach volleyball players is the silver medal won at the 2021 Olympic Games in Tokyo (Japan) by the team of Krasilnikov V. - Stoyanovsky O.

**Objective of the study** was to assess the quality of performance of competitive actions by players of the best 16 men's and women's teams participating in the Olympic beach volleyball tournaments in the program of the XXXII Olympic Games of 2021 in Tokyo (Japan).

**Methods and structure of the study.** To achieve the intended goal of the study and solve the assigned

problems, research methods were used such as the study and analysis of special scientific and methodological literature, as well as Olympic newsletters, pedagogical observation, video recording of game actions and their processing using Data Volley Sistem 2 technology, methods of mathematical statistics [ 1].

The research was carried out in July-August 2021 during the beach volleyball tournament as part of the XXXII Olympic Games in Tokyo (Japan).

**Results of the study and discussion.** Table 1 presents individually ranked information characterizing the effectiveness of the attacking and defensive competitive actions of the players of the best 16 teams of the men's Olympic beach volleyball tournament in Tokyo 2021.

As follows from Table 1, the players of the best 16 teams (out of 24 participating) of the Olympic beach volleyball tournament in Tokyo 2021 played from three to six matches, totaling from seven to fifteen games with the average group values of these indicators be-

**Table 1.** Quality of competitive actions of athletes participating in the Olympic beach volleyball tournament in Tokyo 2021 (n=32 people)

| Rank | Surname         | Country | Olympic Games result (medal, place) | Played  |         | Number of won   |          |         | Sum of points | Number of points per game |
|------|-----------------|---------|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------------|----------|---------|---------------|---------------------------|
|      |                 |         |                                     | Matches | Parties | Forward strikes | Blocking | Innings |               |                           |
| 1    | 2               | 3       | 4                                   | 5       | 6       | 7               | 8        | 9       | 10            | 11                        |
| 1    | Mol             | NOR     | gold                                | 6       | 13      | 105             | 33       | 6       | 144           | 11                        |
| 2    | Younousse       | QAT     | bronze                              | 6       | 13      | 91              | 24       | 3       | 118           | 9                         |
| 3    | Krasilnikov     | ROC     | silver                              | 6       | 15      | 110             | 0        | 5       | 115           | 8                         |
| 4    | Stoyanovskiy    | ROC     | silver                              | 6       | 15      | 78              | 24       | 6       | 108           | 7                         |
| 5    | Alison          | BRA     |                                     | 5       | 11      | 73              | 28       | 5       | 106           | 10                        |
| 6    | Herrera Allepuz | ESP     |                                     | 5       | 11      | 95              | 4        | 4       | 103           | 9                         |
| 7    | Nicolai         | ITA     |                                     | 5       | 12      | 60              | 23       | 6       | 89            | 7                         |
| 8    | Gaxiola         | MEX     |                                     | 4       | 10      | 81              | 2        | 5       | 88            | 9                         |
| 9    | Plavins         | UVT     | 4                                   | 5       | 13      | 82              | 1        | 4       | 87            | 7                         |
| 10   | Kantor          | POL     |                                     | 4       | 10      | 72              | 10       | 2       | 84            | 8                         |
| 11   | Evandro         | BRA     |                                     | 4       | 10      | 58              | 15       | 10      | 83            | 8                         |
| 12   | Thole           | GER     |                                     | 5       | 12      | 69              | 12       | 2       | 83            | 7                         |
| 13   | E. Grimalt      | CHI     |                                     | 5       | 11      | 76              | 1        | 3       | 80            | 7                         |
| 14   | Dalhausser      | USA     |                                     | 4       | 11      | 56              | 19       | 4       | 79            | 7                         |
| 15   | Gerson          | SUI     |                                     | 4       | 9       | 74              | 0        | 3       | 77            | 9                         |
| 16   | Lupo            | ITA     |                                     | 5       | 12      | 75              | 0        | 1       | 76            | 6                         |
| 17   | Semenov         | ROC     | 9                                   | 5       | 10      | 42              | 22       | 11      | 75            | 8                         |
| 18   | Leshukov        | ROC     | 9                                   | 5       | 10      | 71              | 1        | 0       | 72            | 7                         |
| 19   | Tijan           | QAT     | bronze                              | 6       | 13      | 67              | 1        | 3       | 71            | 5                         |
| 20   | Brouwer         | NED     |                                     | 4       | 8       | 66              | 0        | 3       | 69            | 9                         |
| 21   | Bryl            | POL     |                                     | 4       | 9       | 48              | 18       | 3       | 69            | 8                         |
| 22   | Lucena          | USA     |                                     | 4       | 11      | 67              | 1        | 1       | 69            | 6                         |
| 23   | McHugh          | AUS     |                                     | 3       | 7       | 59              | 4        | 5       | 68            | 10                        |
| 24   | Wickler         | GER     |                                     | 5       | 12      | 58              | 0        | 9       | 67            | 6                         |
| 25   | Gavira Collado  | ESP     |                                     | 5       | 11      | 49              | 7        | 10      | 66            | 6                         |
| 26   | Heidrich        | SUI     |                                     | 4       | 9       | 50              | 11       | 4       | 65            | 7                         |
| 27   | Bruno Schmidt   | BRA     |                                     | 4       | 10      | 58              | 0        | 6       | 64            | 6                         |
| 28   | Toes            | LAT     | 4                                   | 5       | 13      | 47              | 16       | 0       | 63            | 5                         |
| 29   | Alvaro          | BRA     |                                     | 5       | 11      | 54              | 1        | 4       | 59            | 5                         |
| 30   | Fijalek         | POL     |                                     | 4       | 9       | 52              | 0        | 5       | 57            | 6                         |
| 31   | Bourne          | USA     |                                     | 4       | 9       | 51              | 0        | 5       | 56            | 6                         |
| 32   | Gibb            | USA     |                                     | 4       | 9       | 44              | 8        | 4       | 56            | 6                         |
|      | M               |         |                                     | 4,7     | 10,9    | 66,8            | 8,9      | 4,4     | 80,2          | 7,3                       |
|      | ±m              |         |                                     | 0,14    | 0,34    | 3,08            | 1,82     | 0,48    | 3,67          | 0,28                      |

ing respectively  $4.73 \pm 0.14$  matches and  $10.9 \pm 0.34$  games.

The number of offensive shots won by players ranged from 42 to 110, effective blocks performed by athletes performing blocking functions in teams - from 10 to 33 (players who performed the functions of blocking defenders in their teams did not perform blocking or blocked extremely rarely - 1-2 times in all games), innings won - from 0 to 33. The average group values of these criteria were  $66.8 \pm 3.08$  offensive strikes,  $8.9 \pm 1.82$  blocks and  $4.4 \pm 0.48$  serves.

The total points scored by beach volleyball players ranged from 56 to 144 per tournament and from 5 to 11 per game, with the average group values of these criteria being, respectively,  $80.2 \pm 3.67$  points per tournament and  $7.3 \pm 0.28$  points per game.

The positions of Russian beach volleyball players (highlighted in grey) competing under the flag of the Olympic Committee (ROC) basically corresponded to the places taken at the Olympic tournament.

Silver medalists V. Krasilnikov and O. Stoyanovsky had the third and fourth individual ratings, respectively,



and K. Semenov and I. Leshukov, who took 9th team place, had 17th - 18th individual ratings, respectively.

As positive aspects of the competitive preparedness of Russians, it should be noted the leadership of V. Krasilnikov in the number of offensive hits won at the tournament (110), the leadership of K. Semenov in the number of innings won during the tournament (11) and the third-fourth individual ranking of O. Stoyanovsky in the number of innings won during the tournament blocking.

The disadvantages of the competitive activity of Russian beach volleyball players include the 31-32nd individual rating of I. Leshukov in terms of the number of innings won during the Olympic tournament (0), as well as the 17-18th individual ratings of the sum of points for K. Semenov and I. Leshukov (75 and 72), almost two times inferior to those of the leaders of the Olympic tournament (144 and 118).

The ranked performance of attacking and defensive actions of beach volleyball players representing

**Table 2.** Quality of competitive actions of athletes participating in the Olympic beach volleyball tournament in Tokyo 2021 (n=32 people)

| Rank | Surname           | Country | Played  |         | Number of won   |          |         | Sum of points | Number of points per game |
|------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|----------|---------|---------------|---------------------------|
|      |                   |         | Matches | Matches | Forward strikes | Blocking | Innings |               |                           |
| 1    | 2                 | 3       | 4       | 5       | 6               | 7        | 8       | 9             | 10                        |
| 1    | Graudina          | LAT     | 7       | 18      | 98              | 18       | 22      | 138           | 8                         |
| 2    | Clancy            | AUS     | 7       | 16      | 111             | 14       | 12      | 137           | 9                         |
| 3    | Verge-Depre       | SUI     | 7       | 17      | 127             | 2        | 7       | 136           | 8                         |
| 4    | April             | USA     | 7       | 15      | 113             | 0        | 15      | 128           | 9                         |
| 5    | Heidrich          | SUI     | 7       | 17      | 70              | 20       | 20      | 110           | 6                         |
| 6    | Brandie           | CAN     | 5       | 13      | 79              | 14       | 9       | 102           | 8                         |
| 7    | Pavan             | CAN     | 5       | 11      | 72              | 25       | 4       | 101           | 9                         |
| 8    | Klineman          | USA     | 7       | 15      | 68              | 21       | 11      | 100           | 7                         |
| 9    | Claes             | USA     | 4       | 11      | 81              | 11       | 6       | 98            | 9                         |
| 10   | Kravcenoka        | LAT     | 7       | 18      | 84              | 0        | 10      | 94            | 5                         |
| 11   | Rebecca           | BRA     | 5       | 13      | 79              | 0        | 13      | 92            | 7                         |
| 12   | Ana Patricia      | BRA     | 5       | 13      | 59              | 28       | 1       | 88            | 7                         |
| 13   | Fernandez Steiner | ESP     | 5       | 11      | 68              | 15       | 4       | 87            | 8                         |
| 14   | Makroguzova       | ROC     | 4       | 10      | 62              | 17       | 7       | 86            | 9                         |
| 15   | Artacho del Solar | AUS     | 7       | 16      | 71              | 0        | 13      | 84            | 5                         |
| 16   | X. X. Wang        | CHN     | 4       | 9       | 62              | 14       | 6       | 82            | 9                         |
| 17   | Bansley           | CAN     | 5       | 13      | 75              | 0        | 4       | 79            | 6                         |
| 18   | Lidy              | CUB     | 5       | 10      | 59              | 8        | 10      | 77            | 8                         |
| 19   | Agatha            | BRA     | 4       | 9       | 66              | 7        | 3       | 76            | 8                         |
| 20   | Kozuch            | GER     | 4       | 12      | 60              | 11       | 4       | 75            | 6                         |
| 21   | Meppelink         | NED     | 3       | 9       | 54              | 11       | 3       | 68            | 8                         |
| 22   | Wang              | CHN     | 4       | 9       | 52              | 13       | 2       | 67            | 7                         |
| 23   | Melissa           | CAN     | 5       | 11      | 57              | 0        | 8       | 65            | 6                         |
| 24   | Betschart         | SUI     | 3       | 11      | 59              | 0        | 2       | 61            | 6                         |
| 25   | Ludwig            | GER     | 4       | 12      | 53              | 1        | 7       | 61            | 5                         |
| 26   | Huberli           | SUI     | 3       | 11      | 48              | 5        | 6       | 59            | 5                         |
| 27   | Stam              | NED     | 4       | 8       | 43              | 15       | 0       | 58            | 7                         |
| 28   | Keizer            | NED     | 3       | 9       | 52              | 0        | 6       | 58            | 6                         |
| 29   | Duda              | BRA     | 4       | 9       | 45              | 1        | 8       | 54            | 6                         |
| 30   | Xia               | CHN     | 4       | 9       | 48              | 0        | 6       | 54            | 6                         |
| 31   | Sude              | GER     | 3       | 7       | 42              | 5        | 4       | 51            | 7                         |
| 32   | Murakami          | JPN     | 3       | 9       | 44              | 0        | 7       | 51            | 6                         |
|      | M                 |         | 4,81    | 11,91   | 67,53           | 8,63     | 7,50    | 83,66         | 7,06                      |
|      | ±m                |         | 0,26    | 0,56    | 3,77            | 1,52     | 0,91    | 4,61          | 0,24                      |
| 34   | Kholomina         | ROC     | 4       | 10      | 44              | 0        | 3       | 47            | 5                         |



the best 16 teams of the Olympic tournament in Tokyo 2021 is presented in table. 2.

As follows from Table 2, beach volleyball players from the 16 best teams participating in the Olympic tournament in Tokyo 2021 played from three to seven games, totaling 8-18 games with the average group values of these indicators being 4, respectively  $.8 \pm 0.26$  games and  $11.9 \pm 0.56$  games.

Individual fluctuations in the number of offensive hits won during the tournament were recorded in the range from 43 to 127, effective blocks performed by athletes who specialized in this element of the game in their teams - from 11 to 28, effective serves - from zero to 22's. The group average values of these indicators were, respectively,  $67.5 \pm 3.77$  offensive strikes,  $8.6 \pm 1.52$  blocks and  $7.5 \pm 0.91$  serves.

Changes in the individual values of the sum of points for the three analyzed game elements scored during the tournament were identified in the range from 51 points to 138 points scored in one game - from 5 to 9-12 points, with the average group values of these criteria, components  $83.7 \pm 4.61$  and  $7.1 \pm 0.24$  points, respectively.

The individual values of Russian N. Makroguzova (14th individual rating) basically corresponded to the team's ninth place at the Olympics. The positive aspects of this athlete's competitive preparedness include the fact that she entered the top-6 beach volleyball players of the Olympic tournament in performing effective blocks (17), as well as in the number of points scored in one game (9).

The relatively unsuccessful (9th place) performance of the Russian women's beach volleyball team at the Olympic tournament in Tokyo 2021 is apparently largely due to the fact that Makroguzova K.'s teammate Kholomina S. was unable to show her best qualities in a tense competitive environment, as evidenced by her 34th individual rating and competitive performance in performing the analyzed indicators, which is inferior to the group average.

**Conclusions.** For Russian beach volleyball players and female volleyball players preparing for the Olym-

pic Games and other major international competitions in this sport, it is advisable to:

a) it is advisable to maintain and develop performing skills that correspond to the recorded individual ratings of the best players of the beach volleyball tournament in the program of the XXXII Olympic Games in Tokyo 2021;

b) reduce the identified intra-team difference in the quality of competitive actions from 18-20 to 5-7 rating units;

c) pay increased attention to improving the quality of performance of those competitive actions for which performance has been identified that is inferior to the rating of the top-20 players of the Olympic tournament in Tokyo 2021.

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