



# The Islander News

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## Beach tennis

Beach Tennis has become somewhat of a tradition at Crandon Park.

The sport, which has become known as the X-Games of tennis, will once again host a two-day international open tournament, March 27-28, at the site of the Sony Ericsson Open.

The tournament, which features a total prize purse of \$3,000, attracts fans from all over the venue to its exciting action in the sand. This is the fifth consecutive year the Beach Tennis USA has been held as part of the Sony Ericsson Open.

"They keep inviting us back, so that's a good sign that it's popular," Beach Tennis USA spokesperson John Rarrick said. "It's really grown into a full-on tournament that sees players from all over the world. The European champions are playing this year. It's a testament to the growth."

Pro Doubles division pool play will take place Saturday, March 27, at 9 a.m. at Crandon Park South Beach, directly in front of the cabanas.

"What's nice is the people who come to the open are repeat visitors, and now we're finding people expect for beach tennis to be

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there as well," Rarrick said about the growing popularity of the sport. "People stop by to watch a match and wind up staying for hours.

"It's really all about fun," he said. "It's as much about a lifestyle as it is about sport."

On Sunday, March 28, players advancing to the quarterfinals of the Pro Doubles division will begin match play at 9 a.m. The Women's Pro Doubles final will take place at 2 p.m. and the Men's final at 5 p.m.

Competitors in all divisions can register to play at [www.BeachTennisUSA.net](http://www.BeachTennisUSA.net). Early registration is encouraged, as player space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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