



## **NAIA Men's Volleyball Coaches Association Annual Business Meeting Agenda AVCA Convention | Kansas City, Missouri | Kansas City Convention Center**

Friday December 19, 2025 | 10:30 a.m. – Noon | KCCC 2215B | NAIA MVB Business Meeting

### **I. CALL TO ORDER – LUKE BENTLEY, MVCA PRESIDENT**

- a. Welcome & Introductions
- b. Executive Committee
  - a. Luke Bentley, William Penn, President; Jared Goldberg, Master's, 1<sup>st</sup> VP; Chad Hanson, Dordt, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; Doug Sherer, Mount Vernon-Not Present, Secretary; Greg Reitz, Lourdes, Past President-Not Present
- c. Coaches in Attendance: McKenna Clugston, Avila University (Mo.); Jeffrey Lipton, Culver-Stockton College (Mo.); Chad Hanson, Dordt University (Iowa); Raphael Lima Seabra, Grand View University (Iowa); Ian Harris, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (Ind.); Ashley Harris, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (Ind.); Tom Ryan, Saint Xavier University (Ill.); Jared Goldberg, The Master's University (Calif.); Michael Shea, Truett McConnell University (Ga.); Luke Bentley, William Penn University (Iowa); Bruce Tate, NAIA, Katie Green, NAIA.

### **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - LUKE BENTLEY, MVCA PRESIDENT**

**Motion to approve:**

**Vote: 9-0**

### **III. APPROVAL OF 2024 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES - LUKE BENTLEY, MVCA PRESIDENT**

**Motion to approve:**

**Vote: 9-0**

### **IV. PARTNERSHIP REPORTS**

- a. Molten – Jeff Keyes-Present: presented same offer to NAIA men's volleyball programs as previous years with bonus volleyballs; mentioned a redesign of the ball cart wheels to a bigger size for better court movement.
- b. NCSA – Manolo Concepcion-Present: presented he is available to support NAIA men's volleyball recruits and his messaging is that NAIA opportunities are not to be viewed as a "back-up plan" but rather to be considered in primary ways for recruits.
- c. Gared – Andrew Peterson-Not Present: Bruce and Katie mentioned the new tradition at the volleyball championships of cutting down the nets.
- d. Marines – Ronnell Rock and Leonard Ross-Not Present

### **V. REPORTS**

- a. NAIA National Office Report – Bruce Tate
  - i. Coaches associations can take action through sports motions in 3 areas: Sport Rules, Policy, Legislation. Sport Rules and Policy Change have similar paths – Sport Motion by coaches, voting process. Legislation process is a different path – Can start as a sport motion to gain support from the coaches, MUST gain a co-sponsor (conference or standing committee), but must be submitted to Legislative Services by mid-January and will be voted on at Convention in April. Voting process, includes: on-site straw polls, electronic ballots distributed for full votes, requires that 50% of coaches—either in attendance or participating electronically—must vote to move an issue forward to the NAC
  - ii. Highlighted NAIA's sport manager and NAC liaison role. NAC rep Nik Rule, Heart Commissioner.

- iii. Official ball of the NAIA is Molten. Strongly encouraged to be used.
- iv. Final Site – Returning to Cedar Rapids, Iowa this 2026 spring through 2028. The bid process is transitioning to a 3 year bid cycle. [Host a National Championship Link](#)
- v. Two new members were approved beginning Fall 2026. Wesleyan College (GA) and Andrew College (GA) who both will compete in the Southern States Athletic Conference and do not currently participate in men's volleyball
- vi. NAIA Championships is entering year two of its agreement with Urban Edge Network. NAIA has extended coverage to include early rounds. Opening Round doesn't pertain to men's volleyball. Katie Green commented on partnership and viewership as well.
- vii. Men's Volleyball post season roster limits have increased to **20** for the 25-26 season and beyond.
- viii. Post season national selection committee has been improved to ensure consistency across all sports. Areas Rating Committees (ARCs) have been realigned, and key operational practices have been standardized-meeting four times per season, ARC rating releases on a unified cycle, and final ARC ratings published on the same day the NSC meets.
- ix. Discussed the topic of Five Season of Competition. The Path Forward Task Force has been evaluating the current landscape of college athletics in a various areas. The task force has recommended the association to consider five seasons of competition, but final determination has not be decided on, but could be on the table to vote on before or during convention in April. Men's volleyball coaches provide great feedback and questions pertaining to the pro and cons of awarding a 5<sup>th</sup> year of competition. It was debated if it's the best option for the NAIA.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

None.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Sport Motion #1-Rule Modification to Win the Match

**Discussion:** Change of Ruling to Win the Match-Ruling 6.3 to Win the Match-USAV handbook states rule 6.3.1: The match is won by the team that wins two sets out of three (or three sets out of five). The motion will eliminate the language of two sets out of three and change to three sets out of five, therefore removing any possibility of a Varsity collegiate match being played in a best-of-three format. Cleaning up the language will help clear up any confusion and state the obvious: all varsity contests should be best of three out of five sets.

**Motion to approve: Goldberg/Hanson**

**Vote: 9-0-0**

- b. Sport Motion #2-All-America Committee Composition

**Discussion:** All-American Committee Composition adjustment to include a member of each conference to expand the breadth of knowledge of all qualified candidates from across the country. If the Executive Committee does not have equal representation from all conferences, then the ARC member that completes the conference representation will be included in the selection committee. This will allow the executive committee to gain equal representation from all conferences across the country to select All-Americans.

**Motion to approve: Goldberg/Bentley**

**Vote: 9-0-0**

- c. Sport Motion #3-National Championship Format Change

**Discussion:** Change the National Championship Format to go directly into a 12 team single elimination bracket play rather than any pool play. Under this format, the top 4 overall seeds would get a bye out of round 1 and go directly into the quarterfinals. The coaches see pool play as meaningless games, and going to bracket play will motivate the teams to play for something from the start at the final site. Will discontinue teams waiting around for results and potential ties to be played out for bracket play. The new format will allow a day off, rather than the consistent days of play in the current format.

**Motion to approve: Goldberg/Bentley**

**Vote: 9-0-0**

- d. Sport Motion #4-National Coach of the Year Pool

**Discussion:** National Coach of the Year Pool: Candidate Pool to include Conference Volleyball Coaches of the Year and National Tournament participating coaches. This is the format that women's volleyball currently follows so would like to mirror.

**Motion to approve: Hanson/Bentley**

**Vote: 9-0-0**

- e. Sport Motion #5-Legislative Services-Competition Start Date

**Discussion:** Keeping a consistent competition start date to allow for off-balanced calendars. The start date would count back 13 weeks from the conference championship dates. The current rule allows for our first competition to take place on the final Thursday of the last full weekend of January. This will cause our season to be shortened by a full week in 2027, due to the way the calendar dates fall. This new proposal of 13 weeks from the conference championship matches mirrors the women's format as well.

**Motion to approve: Goldberg/Hanson**

**Vote: 9-0-0**

- f. Sport Motion #6-All-American Selection Process

**Discussion:** All-American selections are open to any player selected on their All-Conference teams or on a team that qualifies for the NAIA National Tournament. In years past, the All-American selections were limited to players on All-Conference teams, therefore limiting players who did not receive recognition in smaller conferences that only select one All-Conference team. If a player is left off for some reason, they were not eligible to become an NAIA All-American.

**Motion to approve: Goldberg/Hanson**

**Vote: 9-0-0**

- g. Sport Motion #7-Increase Championship All-Tournament Team

**Discussion:** Increase the NAIA National Championship All-Tournament Team from 5 members to 12 members which would include the MVP and the Sportsman of the Year Awards. Therefore, 10 total members of the All-Tournament Team plus the MVP and the Sportsman of the Year to make a 12 member All-Tournament Team. The 12 member All-Tournament Team will continue to be chosen by the Tournament Committee per existing Bylaws.

**Motion to approve: Goldberg/Lipton**

**Vote: 9-0-0**

- h. Sport Motion #8-Remove Mandatory Switching Sides

**Discussion:** Remove the mandatory switching sides between sets. It was a change driven by COVID, coaches voted to switch back a couple of years ago, and now being presented with the option to remove mandatory switches. There was plenty of conversation on the pros and cons of switching, especially the facilities that have glaring issues with staying on one side. Volleyball at all other levels is back to switching, so why should men's volleyball be different?

**Motion to approve: Hanson motion to vote**

**Vote: 3-6-0**

- i. Sport Motion #9-Out-of-Rotation Errors

**Discussion:** To change a rule allowing the referee's whistle to define the official rotation status, and the toss of the serve will determine when players can shift their court positions. Discussion amongst the coaches that this is something they could support, but not for the upcoming season, as proposed. After further discussion, Lipton amended the decision to propose for the 25-26 academic year, and coaches agreed to support/vote if it were proposed for the 26-27 academic year. All agreed and moved forward with the voting process.

**Motion to approve: Goldberg/Bentley**

**Vote: 6-3-0**

- j. Executive Committee Nominations
  - a. Secretary Position Opening
    - i. Lisa Bangasser, Hope International (Calif.)

Additional nominations will be solicited through a formstack link during the voting process and re-sent out for voting at a later date.

## **VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION**

- Ian Harris mentioned/asked if the Crossroads may need one more team to become a conference.
- Chad Hanson presented a potential new style of NAIA men's volleyball to think about in the future of a different number of front and back line players, with a libero.
- Jared Goldberg mentioned looking at the national tournament ruling about staying on the sport court for the boundaries of play.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to approve: Goldberg/Lipton**

**Vote: All in favor**



## Men's Volleyball Motion #1

Submitted by: Luke Bentley, William Penn University (Iowa)

Coaches Vote: 0-0-0

### MOTION:

Change of Ruling to Win the Match-Ruling 6.3 to Win the Match-USAV handbook states rule 6.3.1: The match is won by the team that wins two sets out of three (or three sets out of five) The motion will eliminate the language of two sets out of three and change to three sets out of five, therefore removing any possibility of a Varsity collegiate match being played in a best of three format.

### RATIONALE:

The USAV rulebook covers junior and club volleyball divisions that would follow a two sets out of three format, however, that is not allowed in NAIA volleyball, unless played in a Junior Varsity match. This change will eliminate confusion or any question of the match format length.

### HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

The NAIA Men's Volleyball rulebook is the same as the USAV rulebook, with a few modifications. This motion would support another modification to clear up any confusion on a match format length.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

### START DATE:

2025-26 Academic Year



## Men's Volleyball Motion #2

Submitted by: Gregory Reitz, Lourdes University (Ohio)

Coaches Vote: 0-0-0

### **MOTION:**

All-American Committee Composition adjustment to include a member of each conference to expand the breadth of knowledge of all qualified candidates from across the country. If the Executive Committee does not have equal representation from all conferences, then the ARC member that completes the conference representation will be included in the selection committee.

### **RATIONALE:**

In order to get equal and fair representation of deserving individuals from across the country we should have a committee that represents that same diversity. The current committee consists of the Men's Volleyball Executive committee only. This motion aims to address the limited view of the committee to ensure all qualified student-athletes are considered equally.

### **HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:**

Men's Volleyball has two All-American Awards, one from the NAIA and the other from the National Coaches Association (AVCA). This proposal would result in a more similar committee model for each. Currently the AVCA selection committee has more representation from members across the country, whereas the NAIA committee has much smaller representation. It would be a more fair and equitable committee if we expand to include a member from each conference with Men's Volleyball representation.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None

### **START DATE:**

2025-26 Academic Year



## Men's Volleyball Motion #3

Submitted by: Jared Goldberg, The Master's University (Calif.)

Coaches Vote: 0-0-0

### MOTION:

Change the National Championship Format to go directly into a 12 team single elimination bracket play rather than any pool play. Under this format, the top 4 overall seeds would get a bye out of round 1 and go directly into the quarterfinals (See attached visual diagram as well).

Round 1: Tuesday

Seed 5 vs Seed 12

Seed 6 vs Seed 11

Seed 7 vs Seed 10

Seed 8 vs Seed 9

Round 2 (Quarterfinals): Wednesday

Seed 1 vs Winner of #8/#9

Seed 2 vs Winner of #7/#10

Seed 3 vs Winner of #6/#11

Seed 4 vs Winner of #5/#12

Round 3 (Semifinals): Friday

Seed #1/#8/#9 vs Seed #4/#5/#12

Seed #2/#7/#10 vs Seed #3/#6/#11

Round 4 (Finals): Saturday

Semifinal Winner #1 vs Semifinal Winner #2

### RATIONALE:

In the current format, there have been many meaningless games in our national championship postseason which are played out between two teams mathematically eliminated. This format would fall into line with the way many other NAIA sports run their postseason.

Since our sport is not sponsoring enough teams just yet to make an argument to go up to a 16 team tournament, this proposed format will make the seedings a bit more impactful. The national selection committee will still make these seedings as they have always done, but with just a little more impact on giving byes to those top 4 seeds out of the first round.

### HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

With our 12 team pool play format, in the last 5 years, we have only had 1 pool out of the last 20 which ended up in a 3 way tie. Therefore, our national championships have hosted 19 matches

over the last 5 years which are completely unnecessary. Every team understands that in the current format, it's a win or go home, and nobody is fighting to play unnecessary matches.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

With a change to bracket play adding in an off day before the semifinals, there would be little financial costs to consider since the tournament would be the exact same length of time as the current structure. Therefore, it would also have no impact to the current structure of the national tournament contract with the host city either. If the national tournament pays their officials by each match, there is a potential to reduce overall costs by eliminating some matches in the tournament.

#### **START DATE:**

2026-27 Academic Year







## Men's Volleyball Motion #4

Submitted by: Douglas Sherer, Mount Vernon Nazarene University (Ohio)

Coaches Vote: 0-0-0

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| <b>MOTION:</b> |
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| National Coach of the Year Pool: Candidate Pool to include Conference Volleyball Coaches of the Year and National Tournament participating coaches. |
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| <b>RATIONALE:</b> |
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| This mirrors the same criteria for Women's National Coach of the Year Pool. |
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| <b>HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:</b> |
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| In the past, the Men's National Coach of the Year was only eligible based upon the Pool of Conference Coach of the Year winners. Very possible in the past where a Conference Coach of the Year might not get their team to the National Tournament but still be eligible for National Coach of the Year. Also, very possible your conference tournament winner may not have been conference coach of the year and this would prevent that coach from being part of the discussion for National Coach of the Year. |
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| <b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:</b> |
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| None |
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| <b>START DATE:</b> |
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| 2026-27 Academic Year |
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## Men's Volleyball Motion #5 – Legislative Services

Submitted by: Luke Bentley, William Penn University (Iowa) – Coaches Association

Co-Sponsorship:

Coaches Vote: 0-0-0

### **MOTION:**

Competition Start Date: Keeping a consistent competition start date to allow for off-balanced calendars. The start date would count back 13 weeks from the conference championship dates

### **RATIONALE:**

The current rule allows for our first competition to take place on the final Thursday of the last full weekend of January. This will cause our season to be shortened by a full week in 2027, due to the way the calendar dates fall. This new proposal of 13 weeks from the conference championship matches mirrors the women's format as well.

### **HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:**

For several years, the first date of competition has been the last Thursday in the last full weekend of January, allowing for about 12 weeks of play before conference championship matches. Looking into the future, this format will give us only 11 week seasons every 5-6 years. During the shortened year, the 11-week season would be extremely difficult to fit in all the matches allowed to fulfill a season and prepare for postseason without burn out and risk of injury. With the growth of the sport and the push for institutions to add men's volleyball, the flexibility of an extra week or two would allow for more non-conference play and more exposure to newer programs and more cross-conference play.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None that is required. Institutions may have a few more matches due to an earlier start or may consider bringing players back to campus earlier but most institutions will not change their schedule format. Potential additional costs may be incurred by institutions for housing and meal services due to student-athletes returning to campus early.

### **START DATE:**

2026-27 Academic Year



## Men's Volleyball Motion #6

Submitted by: Luke Bentley, William Penn University (Iowa)

Coaches Vote: 0-0-0

### **MOTION:**

All-American Selection Process: All-American selections are open to any player selected on their All-Conference teams or on a team that qualifies for the NAIA National Tournament.

### **RATIONALE:**

Eligible and deserving players should get recognition for their accomplishments. In years past, the All-American selections were limited to players on All-Conference teams, therefore limiting players who did not receive recognition in smaller conferences that only select one All-Conference team. If a player is left off for some reason, they were not eligible to become an NAIA All-American.

### **HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:**

In years past, the NAIA MVCA has been limited to selecting players from the conferences First-Team selections. This has created a limited pool, despite there being plenty of players to choose from, the talent level is not as high as it could be. In certain conferences, deserving players are put on the Second-Team or Honorable Mention lists due to too many players from one team or a crowded position group. As well, certain conferences only select a First-Team list, also leaving off deserving players from selection. If we open the pool to any All-Conference selection or any team in the National Tournament, this will eliminate those issues.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None

### **START DATE:**

2025-26 Academic Year



## Men's Volleyball Motion #7

Submitted by: Chad Hanson, Dordt University (Iowa)

Coaches Vote: 0-0-0

### MOTION:

Increase the NAIA National Championship All-Tournament Team from 5 members to 12 members which would include the MVP and the Sportsman of the Year Awards. Therefore, 10 total members of the All-Tournament Team plus the MVP and the Sportsman of the Year to make a 12 member All-Tournament Team. The 12 member All-Tournament Team will continue to be chosen by the Tournament Committee per existing Bylaws.

### RATIONALE:

Though the men's volleyball national tournament has increased from 8 teams to 12 teams since 2021, the number of 5 All-Tournament team members has remained unchanged. Further, the practice of applying an MVP outside of the 5 member All-Tournament Team was discontinued in the 2024 season (and the Bylaw language explicitly states the MVP must be within the 5 members chosen).

With 12 teams at the National Tournament final site, there is an abundance of talent that should and could be recognized, especially within the 4 National Semifinalist teams. Each of the 4 National Semifinalists has at least two athletes that are worthy of such an honor which would leave 2 remaining athletes that could be chosen from other participating teams who did not reach the National Semifinals. The above examples are to demonstrate the numerical distribution of honorees and not a formula or requirement for how the awards should be chosen.

Finally, the sport of men's volleyball typically involves a 7 member starting roster with 6 in the rotation and the libero as the 7th person. To have an All-Tournament Team of only 5 athletes is not a fit for the personnel of the sport, but rather emulates a basketball line-up of 5 starters.

### HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

See Attached jpeg for "2019-2027 All Tournament Team Spreadsheet picture" with the image of the 2019-2027 spreadsheet to be affixed here in "History Behind this Motion"

| Season        | Total Teams in Tournament | Total Teams in Elimination Bracket | # All Tournament Team Members | MVP (Included or Separate from Team) | Sportsman of the Year (Included or Separate) |
|---------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 2019          | 8                         | 4                                  | 5                             | Separate                             | Separate                                     |
| 2020          | NO TOURNAMENT (COVID-19)  |                                    |                               |                                      |                                              |
| 2021          | 12                        | 4                                  | 5                             | Separate                             | Separate                                     |
| 2022          | 12                        | 4                                  | 5                             | Separate                             | Separate                                     |
| 2023          | 12                        | 4                                  | 5                             | Separate                             | Separate                                     |
| 2024          | 12                        | 4                                  | 5                             | Included                             | Separate                                     |
| 2025          | 12                        | 4                                  | 5                             | Included                             | Separate                                     |
| Upcoming 2026 | 12                        | 4                                  | 5                             | Included                             | Separate                                     |
| Proposed 2027 | 12                        | 4                                  | 12                            | Included                             | Included                                     |

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| <b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:</b>                               |
| The cost of the additional 5 plaques. Approx \$100 increase. |

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| <b>START DATE:</b>    |
| 2026-27 Academic Year |





## Men's Volleyball Motion #8

Submitted by: Charles Shearer, Life University (Ga.)

Coaches Vote: 0-0-0

### **MOTION:**

Remove the mandatory switching sides between sets

### **RATIONALE:**

Side switching wastes time in between sets staff could be meeting with each other/players and making choices about changes in the next set. The USAV rule we use already has language in it where, in the event of a clear side difference due to gym (lights, polls, AC, hoops, etc), then switching would occur, so not forcing the switch in the overwhelming majority of gyms would allow us to focus more on volleyball and less on gathering gear/equipment and moving to a new bench.

### **HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:**

The removal of side switching was a result of Covid, however it led to more time spent focusing on strategy, feedback ,and player rest. It was something that continued after the height of Covid, and most coaches found joy in not being forced to switch sides. We resumed this, simply due to a "it's what we've always done" mindset. Even VNL/Worlds only switches between 2nd and third sets, although their break is much longer. As a small benifit, it should also cut down on misplaced warmups/gear/equipment that sometimes occurs when teams switch, saving money in replacement. With the current rule wording having an exception if the gym creates a clear side advantage, there seems to be no reason we cannot adapt this to make life easier for everyone.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None

### **START DATE:**

2025-26 Academic Year



## Men's Volleyball Motion #9

Submitted by: Jeffrey Lipton, Culver-Stockton College (Mo.)

Coaches Vote: 0-0-0

### MOTION:

Out-of-Rotation Errors: To change a rule allowing the referee's whistle to define the official rotation status, and the toss of the serve will determine when players can shift their court positions.

### RATIONALE:

This would eliminate any serve receive rotation errors and allow the setter to release faster to the target area on the court (leaving any positions to the front row center or center right position).

This is where volleyball is going and the NAIA should be in the forefront in the evolution of the game.

### HISTORY BEHIND MOTION:

For the better part of volleyball history, players must line up in specific positions and are not allowed to move until the server contacts the ball. This would be a major paradigm shift for volleyball, but for the better.

The FIVB tested this new rule during the last Summer 2025 VNL - Volleyball Nations League. I do believe that in the next rule book for the FIVB 2025 - 2028, that will become official.

USA Volleyball will be publishing its new rule book around the same time 2026.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

### START DATE:

2026-27 Academic Year