



2026-27 Men's Volleyball Policy Updates

This document outlines all rules motions presented to the NAIA National Administrative Council (NAC), including both approved and denied proposals.

Approved Motions	Effective Date
Approved an expansion of the NAIA Men's Volleyball National Championship to a 16-team, single-elimination format.	2026-27
Creation of the Red Banner Scholar Award, beginning with the 2026-27 academic year. The award will be presented at each NAIA National Championship Final Site and will recognize the championship participant with the highest cumulative institutional GPA among eligible NAIA Scholar-Athletes competing in the event. The award utilizes the existing NAIA Scholar-Athlete nomination and approval process and requires no additional submissions from member institutions.	2026-27
The men's volleyball start date for competitions is 14 Thursdays prior to the sports conference qualification deadline.	2026-27
Amend Rule 6.3 to require that all matches be played in a best-of-five format, eliminating the option for best-of-three matches and ensuring consistency across varsity collegiate competition.	2026-27
Adjust the All-America Selection Committee composition to ensure representation from each conference, expanding the committee's overall perspective on qualified candidates nationwide. If the Executive Committee does not provide full conference representation, an ARC Chair or designee will be added to complete that representation. Should gaps still remain, the Executive Committee may appoint a representative from any unrepresented conference.	2026-27
Define the National Coach of the Year candidate pool to include all Conference Volleyball Coaches of the Year and head coaches of teams participating in the national tournament.	2026-27

Approved Motions	Effective Date
Expand the NAIA National Championship All-Tournament Team from five to seven members, including the MVP, with selections continuing to be made by the Tournament Committee per existing bylaws. The Sportsman of the Year will remain a separate recognition and is not required to be included among the seven All-Tournament Team members. The committee denied the submitted motion to increase the All-Tournament Team to twelve members due to the current tournament size but supports an increase to a seven member team as outlined above.	

Denied Motions	Rationale
Out-of-Rotation Errors	The motion was denied as the rule has only been tested at the professional level. Implementing it within the NAIA at this time could create officiating inconsistencies, particularly given the variation in rules across collegiate levels.
All-American Selection Process	The motion was denied because the All-America pool is limited to players from All-Conference teams, maintaining consistency across all sports.