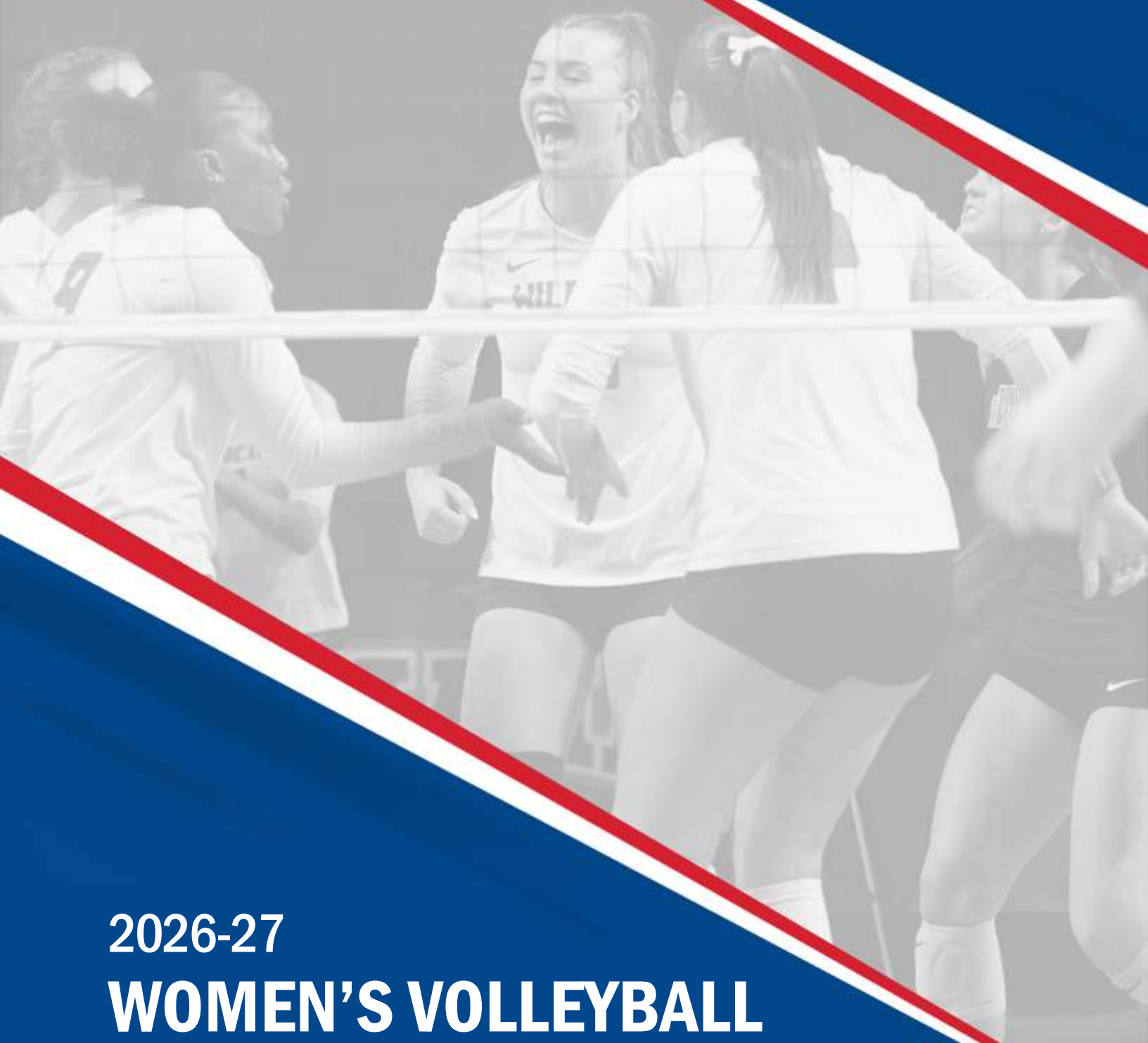




2026-27

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL COACHES MANUAL



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IMPORTANT DATES

2026-2027 WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SPORT CALENDAR

AUGUST 1	START – Practices, Scrimmages and Exhibitions
AUGUST 12	START – National Coaches Polls <i>Dates: Aug 12 (pre), Sept 2, 16</i>
AUGUST 14	START – Competitions
AUGUST 25	START – Player of the Week Releases <i>Dates: Aug 25, Sept 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov 3</i>
SEPTEMBER 30	DEADLINE – Nominations NAIA Scholar-Athletes in NAIA Connect
OCTOBER 1	DEADLINE – First & Second Round Facility Certification Application
OCTOBER 1	START – Area Rankings Releases <i>Dates: Oct. 1, 14, 28, Nov. 15</i>
OCTOBER 1	START – National Selection Committee Polls Releases <i>Dates: Oct. 1, 14, 28, Dec. 18 (Postseason Poll)</i>
OCTOBER 17	DEADLINE – Undeclare from Postseason
NOVEMBER 2	DEADLINE – Submitting Bid Packet for First & Second Round Host Institutions
NOVEMBER 9	DEADLINE – Sport Motion Submissions
NOVEMBER 14	DEADLINE – Completion of conference/CAC/unaffiliated tournaments
NOVEMBER 15	DEADLINE – Submit Champions of Character Nominee
NOVEMBER 16	RELEASE – 4:00pm CST National Championship Qualifiers and Opening Round matchups and locations on the NAIA Network
NOVEMBER 16	DEADLINE – Submit All-Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group forms to the NAIA National Office
NOVEMBER 17	DEADLINE – Submitting Official Postseason Rosters in NAIA Connect
NOVEMBER 21	NAIA Women's Volleyball National Championship – Opening Round 24 Host Sites
DECEMBER 2-8	NAIA Women's Volleyball National Championship – Final Site Tyson Events Center, Sioux City, IA.
DECEMBER 8	RELEASE – NAIA National Tournament Coach of the Year, All-Tournament Team, and MVP
DECEMBER 15	RELEASE – NAIA Volleyball All-America teams and Player of the Year
DECEMBER 16-17	NAIA Women's Volleyball Coaches Association Business Meeting AVCA Convention , San Antonio, Texas. Full Convention Dec 16-20
DECEMBER 18	RELEASE – Post Season Women's Volleyball Coaches Poll
JUNE 30	DEADLINE – Nominations for NAIA Scholar Teams
JULY 15	DEADLINE – Nominations for NAIA Hall of Fame Due

FIVE-YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Conference Tournament Deadline	November 14	November 13	November 11	November 10	November 16
Opening Round	November 21	November 20	November 18	November 17	November 23
National Championship	Dec 2 – Dec 8	Dec 1 – Dec 7	Nov 29-Dec 5	Nov 28-Dec 4	Dec 4 – Dec 10

National Championship Website – [Click Here](#)



PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS

PLAYING RULES

NAIA Women's volleyball will use NCAA Volleyball Competition Rules with approved NAIA modifications. These rules will be applied to all contests (preseason, regular-season, and postseason) when both institutions are members of the NAIA. A complete listing of the NCAA Volleyball Rulebook is available in July each year and may be downloaded for free [here](#). Approved Rule Changes for the 2026-2027 season can be found [here](#). NAIA Women's Volleyball Rule Modifications can be found [here](#).

MATCH REFEREES

All Referees used for Conference, CAC, and National competition should be PAVO certified. The NAIA-VCA recommends the use of PAVO Referees and Line Judges for all matches, regular season as well as tournaments.

Trained and uniformed lines people and scorers should be used throughout the season.

OFFICIAL BALL

The official ball for all NAIA postseason competition is the Official NAIA Perfection Leather Volleyball by Baden (Red/White/Navy). The NAIA strongly recommends the use of this ball for all regular season play as well.

SEASON RECORDS

Win-loss records for all member institutions participating in Women's Volleyball shall include only those games played against accredited, upper-level, four-year, degree-granting institutions, and shall not include games against junior college, club, foreign (Canada and Mexico excluded), or military teams.

Competition against institutions holding associate membership in the NAIA or members of the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) shall be considered as satisfying this requirement. To verify countable vs. non-countable opponents, [click here](#).

The reported record shall include ONLY matches which have been officiated by two Referees who are certified by a national (PAVO or USAV) or international (FIVB) volleyball association.

CONDUCT IN COMPETITION

EJECTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

An ejection is an action enforced in conjunction with competition by an official consistent with the playing rules in that sport. A suspension is required by NAIA bylaws (Article 6, Section B, Item 7) as an additional consequence related to ejections in conjunction with competition.

Ejections are not subject to appeal. Some sport rules allow protests through an official process outlined in each sport rule book.

Suspensions may be appealed starting with the Conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions). An institution must submit an appeal to their conference within 72 hours of the completion of contest. The conference will submit a recommendation to the national office within 72 hours of receiving the appeal from the institution. The Conduct and Ethics Committee is responsible for all appeals related to suspensions due to ejections of a coach and/or student-athlete.

Once an appeal with appropriate signatures has been submitted to the conference, the student-athlete/coach may continue to participate through the appeal process. If the appeal is not approved, then the student-athlete/coach must sit out of the next scheduled contest(s).

A suspended person cannot be in the competitive venue the day of the contest or communicate with any team personnel or game officials the day of the contest. The student-athlete/coach will normally be removed from the venue during a suspension. However, the game manager will use their best discretion on what is appropriate to risk management procedures regarding their venue.

Ejection reports must be completed by the NAIA game official ejecting a student-athlete or coach. The form must be submitted to the NAIA within 48 hours after the completion of the contest. [Ejection Report Form](#)



POSTSEASON COMPETITION

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

CREDENTIAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL PARTY – The official party for each team participating in postseason play is 20 players allowed in uniform and up to 5 support staff. Each team will receive a maximum number of 25 credentials, 20 student-athlete credentials and 5 official party credentials.

Official Postseason Roster forms can be filled out via [NAIA Connect](#). If you do not have a login account, please contact naiacnectsupport@naia.org. Once you login, please follow these [instructions](#).

Postseason rosters (and ejection disclosures) will be processed electronically and the administrator completing the roster will sign electronically. Postseason rosters no longer need to be sent to the NAIA National Office.

If you have trouble with the on-line roster form, please contact [Katie Green](#) of the NAIA Athletics Communications Department. Any other general questions related to the official postseason rosters, please contact Sport Manager [Fred Aubuchon](#).

The list of up to 20 eligible players (Official Postseason Roster and Entry Form) must be submitted at the time of the institution's selection into NAIA postseason play. Only players on the official postseason roster may be in uniform. If a team is discovered using a player not on the official postseason roster at any time during the post-season tournament, that team will be immediately disqualified from further postseason play that year. From the point of first infraction by a team using a player not on the official postseason roster, all subsequent games shall be forfeited by the offending team.

A copy of this roster form **MUST** also be hand-carried to the site of the Affiliated Conference/Continental Athletic Conference/Affiliated Group qualifying tournament and National Championship (Opening Round and Final Site) and be presented to the respective Championship Site Supervisor prior to that institution's participation in the tournament.

The deadline for certifying the official roster of 20 players is 30 minutes prior to each team's first game of any conference tournament, National Championship Opening Round or Final Site.

Once the National Championship (Opening Round or Final Site) begins, no player may play who is not on the official roster.

MEDICAL PERSONNEL

Each team is allowed up to two athletic training/medical personnel on the team sideline. One of which must be an ATC, MD, or DO. A licensed health care provider's license information/number must be submitted in the application in order to receive any medical/athletic training credentials for your team. Applications will close 72 hours before the event starts. Medical personnel credentials can be picked up during team check-in/registration, or at the on-site Athletic Trainers meeting, only with a photo ID.

Please apply here for medical personnel credential: [LINK](#)

SPORTS INFORMATION/MEDIA PERSONNEL

All SIDs/Media personnel will need to apply for a credential for the final site. Applications will close 72 hours before the event starts. Media Credentials can be picked up directly from the on-site Media Coordinator during coaches check-in or at the box office only with photo ID. Only those that have applied for Media Credentials may pick up their credentials.

Please apply here for Media credential: [LINK](#)

ADMINISTRATOR PERSONNEL

All Presidents and Athletic Directors from qualifying teams will each receive two credentials. These credentials can be picked up at the box office/will call.

All other administrators will receive free admission with their NAIA membership card when presented at the box office.

ROSTER CHANGES

Any eligible player whose name is included on the NAIA Official Eligibility Form for women's volleyball for the current season may replace a player on the official roster between the Affiliated Conference/Continental Athletic Conference/Unaffiliated Group tournaments and the National Championship (Opening Round and Final Site). Any change made to a roster must be reported to the NAIA. An updated roster notification should be emailed to the NAIA (faubuchon@naia.org and kgreen@naia.org). The coach will need to hand-carry a copy of the eligibility form to each tournament if a roster change is necessary.



For unaffiliated group qualifying tournament plans that call for preliminary competition between conference teams, roster changes cannot be made once the preliminary competition begins. Unaffiliated group tournaments will follow the same roster change policies used for affiliated conference/CAC tournaments.

For the National Championship, roster changes are permissible between the Opening Round and the start of the Final Site competition. Replacements are permitted from among eligible athletes only.

UNIFORMS

Teams must have both light and dark colored uniforms available. Home teams generally wear light colored uniforms and visitors wear dark colored uniforms. The jersey number must be of a color that is clearly in distinct contrast with the color of the jersey, irrespective of any border around the number.

Sponsor Logos

Approved NAIA uniform rules modifications to allow sponsor logos/patches during competition.

- Limit of one sponsor logo or patch on a uniform.
 - The logos may not exceed a standard square of 2.25 inches.
 - Sponsors of alcohol, tobacco, or any legalized drugs (for example, Oregon marijuana) are not permitted.
 - Sponsors whose sole or primary business function is sports gambling (e.g., FanDuel, DraftKings, etc.) are not permitted.
- Sponsor logos must be in the same location on each set of uniforms (ex: if the home whites patch is on neckline, all home whites must be same, away jerseys could be in a different permissible location).

Placement – A sponsor patch meeting the restrictions of Rule 1-25.2 located in one of two places on the front of the jersey (1) the apex of the neckline; (2) shoulder panel on either the right or left side, and in only one place on the back of the jersey, the apex/center of the neckline as close to the neckline as is possible.

EXPENSES

Each participating team shall be responsible for its own expenses en route to, during, and from all postseason events.

PARTICIPATION AT EVENTS

All participating teams and individuals competing in a national championship, including opening rounds, must attend all event functions including, but not limited to Coaches Meetings, Opening Round celebrations and Champions of Character initiatives. Failure to comply will result in a penalty of a \$1,500 fine to the institution.

COACHES' RESPONSIBILITY

The coach or other designated person from each participating team must always be in attendance and responsible for their team while at the site of the championship. This person shall accept the responsibility for the conduct of their student athletes at the championship site, during the championship and at all activities connected with the team's championship participation. In the case of property damage, the offending institution shall be held financially responsible.

INSURANCE

Each participating team shall provide its own medical, hospitalization, travel and accident insurance for all members of its official party.

REPORTING RESULTS/STATISTICS & SUBMITTING SCORES

Mandated by the NAC, all contest results must be reported to the NAIA Stats site (via Presto Stats) within 24 hours of completion and final statistics within 72 hours to be eligible for team and/or individual weekly ratings and honors. Institutions failing to report statistics and/or results for two consecutive weeks, or a total of four weeks, during the reporting period will not be eligible for inclusion in the national statistical website or leaderboards.

Institutions failing to report statistics or results for two consecutive weeks, or four total weeks during the season will be subject to a monetary penalty. The first violation will continue to be a warning. Any second violation (first penalty) will be a \$500 fine. The third violation will be a \$1,000 fine and a loss of postseason awards. The fourth violation will be a \$1,000 fine and will be dealt with at the discretion of membership services. Fines will be due within 30 days of notification.

CONFERENCE/UNAFFILIATED GROUP TOURNAMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

The conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group volleyball national qualifying tournaments are planned and administered by the Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group volleyball committee under the leadership of their respective volleyball chair and subject to approval of all standards and conditions as may be prescribed by their respective executive committees/commissioners/presidents.



If available, the conference/CAC volleyball chair will serve as administrator for the conference/CAC national qualifying tournament in cooperation with the host site athletics director. When not available, the host athletic director, or a designated person, may serve in this capacity.

At the time of final team selection, immediately provide the NAIA (Championships Department) with the participating teams, seeding and pairings, and match sites and times.

Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group national qualifying plans must be submitted by September 1 of each year.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

The dates and sites of the conference/CAC/unaffiliated volleyball national qualifying tournaments shall be determined by the conference/CAC/unaffiliated volleyball committees. The conference/CAC/unaffiliated volleyball playoffs, if held, **MUST** be completed no later than **Saturday, November 14**.

TEAM QUALIFICATION AND SELECTION

To qualify for a post-season tournament, a team must play a minimum of 16 matches.

Consideration may be given to any one or a combination of the following criteria in selecting teams for the post-season tournaments:

1. An approved rating system;
2. Regular-season overall win-loss record;
3. Overall win-loss record against NAIA teams within the conference, and/or
4. Any system approved by the NAIA Championships Department.

FINANCES

The host site for all Conference/CAC/Group qualifying tournament games is responsible for the following:

1. Compensation of game officials.
2. Ordering Conference/CAC/Group awards, if applicable (see Awards section of this handbook for information on officially approved NAIA awards).
3. Administrative expenses, including security, ticket personnel, and public address announcer, scorer, timer, etc.
4. Expenses of game administrator, if applicable.

POST-SEASON LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES & COMPETITION GUIDELINES

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONFERENCE/CAC/UNAFFILIATED CHAMPIONSHIP HOST SITES

1. Administrative expenses including ticket sellers, security, scorers, public address announcer, maintenance, etc.
2. Expenses of the assigned conference/CAC administrator if applicable.
3. Compensation of the PAVO-rated officials with assignment approved by the conference/CAC chair.
4. Reporting scores of all matches to the [NAIA Stats site \(via Presto Stats\)](#).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONFERENCE/CAC VOLLEYBALL CHAIR

1. Order appropriate championship awards and ship to the tournament site and pay from the appropriate treasury.
2. Confirm postseason national championship qualifying plan is complete, signed by commissioner and submitted to the NAIA national office by September 1.
3. Confirm the assignment of PAVO-rated officials for the postseason national qualifying tournament if applicable.
4. Assign a tournament administrator to work with the host-site for the administration of the event.
5. Provide all information to all coaches within their conference/CAC.
6. Provide a financial report form to the host-site(s) for reporting event income and expenses; and establish policy for proration of income in consultation with the appropriate executive committee.
7. Serve on the All-Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Team selection committee.
8. Forward All-Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated ballots and statistics to NAIA national office.

COMPETITION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Institutions have a great opportunity to stage their matches to heighten their event impact. To that end, the following contest management suggestions are offered:

1. Provide a printed protocol guide to opponents and officials, outlining match procedures and mechanics well ahead



- of match time.
2. Provide pre-match and between-game music.
 3. Charge admission.
 4. Provide printed programs.
 5. Provide an announcer for pre-game activity and play-by-play.
 6. Utilize a three-ball return system.
 7. Require Line Judges to be in uniform and qualified.
 8. Encourage bench personnel to dress appropriately for a Championship.
 9. Provide statistical summaries to opponents.
 10. Use of the National Anthem is encouraged.
 11. Staging of match promotions, particularly between games 2 and 3, is encouraged.
 12. Practice opportunity on playing court.
 13. Provide competent statisticians and present those stats to the visiting team at the end of the match.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP – OPENING ROUND

DATES AND SITES

The Women's Volleyball National Championship Opening Rounds will take place on **Saturday, November 21**. Match times for Opening Rounds will be determined by each Host Site and matches should be completed by 10:00pm CST.

There will be 24 Opening Round sites selected for the Opening Round of the Women's Volleyball National Championship.

Host sites are selected by the NAIA National Office and are based on the following:

1. Approved Facility Certification.
2. Approved Formal Bid Submission.
3. Final Seed for the National Championship with priority going to higher seeds.

FACILITY CERTIFICATION AND BID SUBMISSION

In order to be eligible to serve as an Opening Round host, all potential hosts, including NAIA institutions or Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs) partnering with an NAIA institution, must complete the [Facility Certification](#) process. The Facility Certification process ensures that all Opening Round host facilities meet certain minimum venue standards. The deadline to submit a Facility Certification application for Women's Volleyball is **October 1, 2026**.

Completion of the Facility Certification process does not automatically qualify the submitter to host an Opening Round Event. The Facility Certification, in addition to submitting an Official Opening Round [Bid Form](#) is required to be considered in the host selection process.

The deadline for prospective NAIA Volleyball Championship Opening Round Tournament hosts to submit an official bid is **November 2**. The announcement of the twenty-four National Championship Opening Round hosts will be in conjunction with the release of the qualifiers.

[Facility certification requirements](#) for hosting an Opening Round in Women's Volleyball. The updated requirements focus on locker room standards, press row capacity, and scoreboard specifications. Additionally, the revised policy eliminates the five-year expiration period that previously required institutions to resubmit facility certifications for review.

A list of all Approved Opening Round Certified Facilities can be found [HERE](#).

New for 2026-2027: Host institutions are to utilize a three-ball system during all matches. Failure to comply will be considered a violation of Opening Round policy and may result in a strike toward future ineligibility to host Opening Rounds.

New for 2026-2027 – Host institutions are required to remove portable basketball hoops from the volleyball playable area. Failure to comply will be considered a violation of Opening Round policy and may result in a strike toward future ineligibility to host Opening Rounds.

ADMINISTRATION

The NAIA Volleyball National Championship is under the direct control and supervision of the NAIA Site Supervisors (opening rounds). Site Supervisors are responsible for the management of tournament matches and the general welfare of participating teams and coaches. They conduct tournament coaches' meetings, work with the supervisor of officials, and coordinate both pre- and post-tournament ceremonies.



All opening rounds should be determined in competition, with matches played to conclusion. Playability should be determined by the onsite games committee in consultation with the national office, making every effort to conclude on schedule. The committee should make every possible effort to finish in the timeliest fashion possible.

All Opening Round National Championship matches should be administered and conducted as an extension of the overall National Championship. Hosts and Site Supervisors are to ensure teams, schools, and fans that the host venue is a neutral location.

1. Special recognition of the home team, school, coaches or athletes should not take place before or during the event.
2. Promotional activities that are disruptive or favor the home team should not take place before or during the event.
3. Contact the NAIA Championship Sport Manager for questions or clarifications.

The host site is responsible for the following:

1. Host rights fee of \$6,000.
2. Appropriate provisions for Referees and Line Judges, to include transportation, housing, meal allowance (per diem) and match fees for officials.
 - a. Certified officials will be assigned by the host conference/CAC (in consultation with the NAIA and PAVO) based on criteria set by the National Administrative Council for opening rounds.
 - b. It is strongly recommended that officials for Opening Round pairings are PAVO or USAV nationally certified officials.
 - c. Payment of officials and match operation costs are host institution responsibilities.
3. Administrative expenses may include security, ticket personnel, PA announcer, scorer, timer, etc.
4. Travel costs and meal allowance for Site Supervisor.
5. Complete details about hosting a Volleyball National Championship Opening Round can be found in the Opening Round Site Survey/Bid Form and Opening Round Host Manual on the NAIA website.

QUALIFICATION OF TEAMS

The NAIA National Championship includes a field of 48 teams. Qualification plans are approved by the NAC and can be found in NAIA Connect.

1. Conferences and the CAC automatically qualify one berth per six sponsored teams and two for 10. These automatic berths are awarded based on the approved qualifying tournament plans for each conference and the CAC.
2. At-large berths will be selected by the Women's Volleyball National Selection Committee
3. A host institution (if one exists) may receive an automatic berth if it does not qualify through the automatic or at-large process. If no host berth is awarded an additional at-large berth will be added.
 - A host institution must have a minimum .600 winning percentage prior to NAIA postseason play.
 - Host berths must meet additional criteria outlined in the host contract.
4. There are no limits to the number of at-large berths a conference or the CAC may receive.
5. Qualifying teams will be seeded by the Women's Volleyball National Selection Committee.

SELECTION AND SEEDING

New for 2026-2027 – The National Selection Committee will be composed of trained athletics administrators, while coaches will no longer serve as voting members in final selection and seeding. Coaches will continue to play a vital role through Area Rating Committees (ARCs), which provide the foundational evaluation and input into the national process.

New for 2026-2027 – ARC Information will be moved from Secondary Criteria to Primary Criteria.

Selection

1. The National Selection Committee shall select a straight seed field (#1 vs #48, #2 vs #47, etc.).
2. Host sites and pairings will be announced on **November 16**, as a part of the Official Women's Volleyball Selection Show.

Seeding and Final Pairings

1. The 24 opening-round pairings will be played on **Saturday, November 21** at NAIA campuses nationwide. All pairings for the opening round will be based upon the following prioritized criteria:
 - a. Geographical location of teams.
 - b. Financial considerations.
 - c. Final selection committee seeding.
 - d. First round opponents shall not be from the same conference.
2. The Selection Committee shall then look at geographic distance for these matchups. The committee shall move teams up to 10 slots to eliminate a team from flying (a matchup that would result in travel of over 750 miles). Such movement



is achieved by moving the lower seeded team.

3. The National Selection Committee shall then attempt to have all matchups be within a 500-mile, one-way travel distance. The committee may move teams seven slots to create these matchups.

FORMAT

The NAIA National Championship will include a field of 48 teams. Forty-eight (48) teams compete in 24 National Championship Opening Round matchups played on campus sites nationwide. Opening Round winners will take part in a 24-team pool play tournament (eight pools of three teams each) at the Final Site for the National Championships.

CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION APPEALS PROCESS

If there is misapplication of NAIA policy and procedures regarding tournament selection, an institution may appeal to the NAIA National Office.

Criteria for filling an appeal

1. A written appeal citing the specific NAIA policies and/or procedures that have been misapplied must be submitted to the NAIA National Office within 24 hours from the time the tournament field has been released.
2. Once an appeal has been submitted a response will be provided within 24 hours from receipt of the appeal.
3. Appeals must be submitted on school letter head and signed by the Athletics Director and President of the institution.

NOTE – The NAC Sport Liaison will be on-site at the selection to listen to the discussion and tournament selection. The NAC liaison will report any concerns to the NAIA National Office immediately following the conclusion of the selection.

TEAM TRAVEL/REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES

The National Administrative Council and the Council of Presidents have approved a flat fee reimbursement rate for traveling teams in Opening Round competition. For those institutions that require air travel to an Opening Round Event, institutions are no longer required to secure a quote through Short's Travel to be eligible for any travel reimbursements. Please contact Short's Travel (816-323-6405) to book your travel arrangements.

Traveling teams will be responsible for a minimum amount of their transportation and housing expenses determined by the Council of Presidents (COP) prior to being eligible for expense reimbursement for participation in NAIA Women's Volleyball National Championship Opening Rounds.

There are two categories for potential transportation reimbursement –

1. Trips less than 750 miles –
 - Air travel will not be eligible for reimbursement without prior written approval from the NAIA.
 - Expenses for one standard 55-passenger bus, or up to two 15-passenger vans. Institutions are responsible for arranging all ground transportation needs.
 - Teams traveling close to 750 miles may submit a written request to the NAIA for approval to use air travel. Written request must be accompanied by –
 - The estimated cost of ground transportation.
 - Any airline tickets purchased without written approval from the NAIA Department of Championships will not be eligible for reimbursement.
2. For trips over 750 miles –
 - Air transportation will typically be used.
 - Commercial airline flights for up to 25 members of the official party.
 - A quote for alternative proposed travel arrangements.

The traveling team's institution is responsible for transportation expenses incurred from campus to the NAIA designated airport for departure and return.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Film Exchange – All qualifying teams must upload their most recent game film to the Hudl Video Exchange program **by noon (CST) on Tuesday** following the release of qualifiers or incur the stated fine – No Exceptions will be made.

New for 2026-2027 – The national film exchange policy requires teams to upload their most recent game film to the video exchange program, removing the restriction related to games against non-championship field opponents.

All postseason tournament play, or if no tournament, then the last game played, shall be filmed for the purpose of the film exchange. This policy is to be monitored by the NAIA-VCA. It is recommended that uploaded matches should be filmed from the baseline when possible.



The film exchange is mandatory. Any violation of the film exchange policy will result in a \$500 fine. In addition, the chair of the championship committee will direct a letter to the athletics director (copy to the president) of said institution that the coach/school has neglected to follow NAIA-VCA policy.

Meetings – At all campus sites the NAIA Site Supervisors will conduct pre-match meetings with head coaches and officials. This meeting shall serve as an informational forum and will include a briefing by a representative of the match officials. Head coaches are required to attend.

Rosters – Each team is permitted 20 players in uniform and up to five (5) support staff. Athletic Trainers (up to two) and Support Staff (up to five) will receive Credentials. Coaches should bring two copies of their Postseason Roster to the pre-match meeting.

Athletic Trainers will be able to access the court and the team benches with their credentials. Athletic Directors are not to be put on the Official Party roster as their Membership Card will allow them, and a guest, access to the Opening Round.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL SITE

DATES AND SITE

The final site for the 2026 NAIA Women's Volleyball National Championship will be at the Tyson Events Center in Sioux City, Iowa. Pool Play will be December 2 – 4 for all teams. Bracket play/Quarterfinals will begin on Saturday, December 5, followed by Semifinals on Monday, December 7, and the Championship on Tuesday, December 8.

ADMINISTRATION

The NAIA Women's Volleyball Championship is under the direct control and supervision of the NAIA and the Women's Volleyball Championship Committee. The Championship Committee is responsible for the management of tournament games and the general welfare of participating teams and coaches. The NAIA Championship Committee shall conduct a tournament coaches' meeting, work with the supervisor of officials, and coordinate both pre- and post-tournament ceremonies.

All national championships should be determined in competition, with matches played to conclusion. Playability should be determined by the onsite Championship Committee in consultation with the national office, making every effort to conclude on schedule. The committee should make every possible effort to finish in the timeliest fashion possible.

FORMAT

At the final site teams will compete in a 24-team pool play format, with eight pools of three teams each. The top team from each pool will advance to single elimination. After the opening round is complete, the championship committee will build pools based on the seeding of the remaining teams. The tie breaker procedure for pool play is outlined below.

Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D	Pool E	Pool F	Pool G	Pool H
#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8
#16	#15	#14	#13	#12	#11	#10	#9
#24	#23	#22	#21	#20	#19	#18	#17

Following Pool Play teams will advance to single elimination bracket play as follows:

- Winner of Pool A plays Winner of Pool H
- Winner of Pool B plays Winner of Pool G
- Winner of Pool C plays Winner of Pool F
- Winner of Pool D plays Winner of Pool E

In the case of a 3-way tie after Pool Play

1. All teams would have a 1-1 record (one win and one loss).
2. Team's will be seeded into a 3-team, single elimination bracket using the tie-breaking procedure below:
 - a. Percentage of sets won in the Pool (total sets won/total sets played).
 - i. The team with the best sets won percentage would receive the #1 seed and a bye.
 - ii. The remaining two (2) teams would play the first set (see appendix A).
 - b. If two (2) teams remain tied for the #1 seed position, then head-to-head will be used to break the tie and determine the #1 seed.
 - c. If three (3) teams remain tied for the #1 seed position, then points differential will be used (points won-points lost).

Complete Tiebreaker Set Information – See Appendix A



MATCH RELATED INFORMATION

Match Times – The host organization, the NAIA Championships Department and the Championship Committee jointly determine match times for all matches.

Final Site Match Times (all times CST)

1. Pool Play
 - Wednesday and Thursday (2 courts), Game times: 10:00am, 1:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm
 - Friday (2 courts), Game times: 9:00am, 12:00pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm
2. Quarterfinals – Saturday (1 court)
 - Game times: 11:00am, 2:00pm, 5:30pm, 8:30pm
3. Semifinals – Monday (1 court)
 - Game times: 5:00pm, 8:00pm
4. Championship – Tuesday (1 court)
 - Game time: 7:00pm

Challenge Review System (CRS) will be utilized for all play throughout the National Championship at the Final Site, including any tiebreaker sets.

1. Each team will begin the match with two (2) challenges.
2. If a coach successfully wins their challenge, then they retain that challenge. Lost challenges are not retained.
3. If the match enters a fifth set, then each team will automatically receive an additional challenge (not to exceed two total challenges).
4. In tiebreaker sets, each team will receive one (1) challenge, with the same stipulation of 'win and retain' the challenge.

Pregame Warm-up Protocols

1. The Home team for all national championship matches will be determined by the highest seed as assigned when placed into pools (the #1 seed is the highest). The home team will also select their bench.
2. The following policies are meant for match warm-up on the official competition court or a neutral court.
 - a. Warm-up balls will be available for shared warm-up at 60 minutes (prior to the official match time).
 - b. Teams may be on their side of the court prior to 60 minutes for a warm-up without volleyballs.
 - c. Teams may not use any part of their opponents court during the non-full court warm-up periods.
3. All matches will have a minimum of 45 minutes warm-up on their official court.

TEAM HOUSING

All participating teams **MUST** stay at designated hotels. Failure to do so would make a team **INELIGIBLE** for **participation and reimbursement**. Potential reimbursement for lodging begins on Monday prior to the start of play and includes the evening of the team's elimination from the National Championship.

PARTICIPATION IN FUNCTIONS AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

All participating teams and individuals competing in a national championship, including opening rounds, must attend all functions including formal and arranged gatherings, Coaches' Meetings, Student-Athlete Experience Events, and Teaming Up for Character Events. Failure to comply will result in a penalty of a \$1,500 fine to the institution.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If inclement weather should cause travel delays for any team(s) competing in the National Championship it will be up to the discretion of the NAIA Sport Manager and the Championship Committee to make changes to the National Championship schedule to accommodate such delays.

It is the responsibility of the host Medial Director/Athletic Trainer at NAIA Championship events to determine when an event should be suspended and when it is safe to return to play as the result of severe weather. The Head Athletic Trainer is to notify the NAIA Championship Sport Manager who, in collaboration with the appropriate personnel (Host and Competition Committee, and NAIA National Office), will implement the predetermined action plan for both player and spectator safety.

MATCH OFFICIALS

A minimum of eight (8) Referees and 16 Line Judges will be selected to work the NAIA Women's Volleyball National Championships. Each match crew will consist of the First Referee (up), Second Referee (down), and two-Line Judges.

The process for selecting National Referees will consist of Conference Assignors nominating Referees for selection, while the NAIA National Assignor will consider all nominations and select the eight (8) Referees. The on-site Coordinator of Referees and Line Judges will make all game assignments, while the Championship Committee will assist with assessments that are shared with the Coordinators. Three-to-four Referees and two-to-four Line-Judges will be chosen to work the Semifinals and National



Championship Matches. The NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules (with applicable NAIA modifications) are utilized for all matches.

A CRS Official may be added to Officiating Crews if necessary.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Film Exchange – All advancing teams must upload their Opening Round Match game film to the Hudl Video Exchange program by 6:00pm Sunday (CST) following their Saturday Opening Round Match.

- No Exceptions will be made. Uploaded matches should be filmed from the baseline when possible.

Final Site Student-Athlete Experience Event - All NAIA institutions will be required to attend the Student Athlete Experience Event. Information about the event will be shared with all qualifying teams prior to the championship.

Meetings – In addition to the Qualifier Call there will be a mandatory onsite Coaches Meeting conducted by the Championship Committee.

Rosters – Each team will receive 25 Credentials for their Official Party (20 participants and five support staff). Athletic Trainers must apply for separate credentials and will not be included in the 25 official party credentials. Coaches should bring two copies of their Postseason Roster to Coaches Check-in (as a backup).

Approved Athletic Trainers will be able to access the court and the team benches with their credentials. Athletic Directors are not to be put on the official party roster as their Membership Card will allow them, and a guest, access to the tournament. Athletic Directors and Presidents Can pick up VIP Credentials at the Box Office/Will Call.

Please apply here for medical personnel credential: [Link](#)

Non-Participant Coaches - Coaches whose teams have not qualified for the championship are encouraged to attend and become involved in the event. The following are areas in which assistance would be welcomed.

- o Member of the Championship Committee, if space is available.
- o Host volunteer service.
- o Coaches who are interested should contact the Championships Sport Manager of the NAIA prior to the Opening Round of the National Championship.

TRAVEL

SHORTS TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Qualifying institutions are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to the National Championship.

The Official Travel partner of the NAIA is Short's Travel Management. Please contact **Short's Travel (816-323-6405)** to book your travel arrangements.

Short's Travel has contacts with charter air travel as well as charter buses for ground travel.

NATIONAL CAR RENTAL

National Car Rental/Enterprise Rent-a-Car is offering special rates for the NAIA National Championship. Teams will be able to access these special rates by providing the special NAIA contract ID #XZ05146.

Click [here](#) for account setup and instructions to use code.

MASTER'S TRANSPORTATION

Master's Transportation is the official provider of all shuttles/buses for your sale, lease and rental needs. Please contact Maria Duran at 816-979-3493 or mduran@masterstransportation.com for more information.



NAIA POLICY HANDBOOK INFORMATION

The NAIA Policy Handbook can be found at [HERE](#). Please refer directly to the NAIA Policy Handbook for the following:

Competition

- A. Declaration of Intent to Participate – Bylaws, Article I, Section L
- B. Frequency of Play and Scheduling – Bylaws, Article I, Section F
- C. Criteria for Countable Contests – National Administrative Council, Article XXV, Section A, Item 12
- D. Reporting Results – National Administrative Council, Article XXV, Section A
- E. Forfeits – National Administrative Council, Article XI
- F. Conduct in Competition Guidelines – National Administrative Council, Article IV
- G. Ejection Policy – Bylaws, Article VI Section B Item 7
- H. Drug Testing and Reinstatement Procedures – Bylaws, Article VIII

Eligibility

- A. Definitions for Eligibility – Bylaws, Article V, Section B
- B. Eligibility Requirements – Bylaws, Article V, Section C
- C. Transfer Rules – Bylaws, Article V, Sections F-H
- D. Amateur Rules and Reinstatement – Bylaws, Article VII

Recruiting & Financial Aid

- A. Recruitment – Bylaws, Article II, Section D
- B. Campus Visitations and Tryouts of Prospective Students – Bylaws, Article II, Section C
- C. Financial Assistance – Bylaws, Article II, Section B
- D. Financial Aid Limits – Council of Presidents, Article XII

SUNDAY PLAY POLICY

As a matter of policy, NAIA national qualifying and national championship competition will not be scheduled on Sunday. See NAIA Policy Handbook, National Administrative Council, Article XXIII for additional information.

DRUG TESTING

Drug testing may be done at any randomly selected NAIA National Championship competition for performance enhancing drugs. In accordance with the guidelines set forth by the National Drug Testing and Education Committee, the National Office will select which championships will incorporate drug testing each year. Student-athletes may be tested before, during and/or after NAIA National Championships.

For more information regarding championship drug testing, the [National Administrative Council Drug Testing Policy Manual](#), the safety of supplements and over-the-counter medications and resources to increase awareness on your campus, please visit – www.naia.org/wellness

DRUG TESTING CONSENT FORM

Each academic year all eligible NAIA student-athletes must sign a [Drug Testing Consent Form](#) in which he or she consents to be tested for the use of drugs prohibited by the NAIA Banned Substance List to participate in any NAIA National Championship competitions. This consent form shall be administered by the institution.

To ensure all student-athletes participating in NAIA National Championship competitions have signed a consent form and such form is on record with the institution, a representative of each institution participating in any NAIA National Championship competition must sign an Official Certification of Student-Athlete Consent Form at check-in.

It is recommended that before the season begins that an institution has all student-athletes complete the form to minimize the possibility of issues occurring when the postseason roster is submitted at a NAIA National Championship.

MEDICAL EXEMPTION FORM

The NAIA recognizes that some banned substances are used for legitimate medical purposes. Accordingly, the NAIA allows exemptions to be made for those student-athletes with a documented medical history demonstrating the need for regular use of such a drug. Exemptions may be granted for substances included in the following classes of banned drugs – Stimulants, anabolic agents, beta blockers, diuretics, peptide hormones, anti-estrogens, and beta-2 agonists.

[Medical Exemption Form](#)



REPORTING RESULTS AND STATISTICS

REPORTING RESULTS/SUBMITTING SCORES

Mandated by the NAC, all contest results must be reported to the NAIA Stats site ([via Presto Stats](#)) within 24 hours of completion and final statistics within 72 hours in order to be eligible for team and/or individual weekly ratings and honors. Institutions failing to report statistics and/or results any **two consecutive weeks, or a total of four weeks**, during the reporting period will not be eligible to be included in the national statistical website or leaderboards.

Institutions failing to report statistics or results for two consecutive weeks, or four total weeks during the season will be subject to a monetary penalty. The first violation will continue to be a warning. Any second violation (first penalty) will be a \$500 fine. The third violation will be a \$1,000 fine and a loss of postseason awards. The fourth violation will be a \$1,000 fine and will be dealt with at the discretion of membership services. Fines will be due within 30 days of notification.

STATISTICS

National statistics are available online at [naiastats.prestosports.com](#) throughout the year. Only statistics from games against varsity teams from upper-level, degree-granting institutions should be submitted. Categories will be determined on a sport-by-sport basis and by the NAIA Athletics Communications Department. Statistical minimums for all leaderboards are set by the NAIA National Office in consultation with the NAIA Sports Information Directors Association.

The host institution is responsible for recording both team's official statistics. The home team must notify an opposing team at least 72 hours prior to a contest if official stats will not be provided. The opposing team can file an appeal if they feel an error was made in the official stats up to 72 hours after the conclusion of the contest. The appeal must be filed with the home team up to 72 hours after the contest and both teams must change the stats. To view the full NAC policy on NAIA Statistics, please click [HERE!](#)

It is vital that sport records maintain a certain level of integrity and accuracy. The NAIA urges the official statistician for every sport to become familiar and have a working knowledge of the statistical manual. For more information and details of statistics, see Appendix B.

AWARDS

Nomination details and forms for the following national awards can be found [HERE](#).

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Conference/CAC Player of the Week

Nominations for conference/CAC/unaffiliated group Players of the Week must be submitted by the conference/CAC/unaffiliated group via the Prestosports award system (<https://naiaawards.prestosports.com/awards/award-status>) by the conferences dedicated deadline in order for the conference/CAC/unaffiliated group players of the week to be considered for NAIA National Players of the Week honors.

National Player of the Week

National Players of the Week are selected from conference/CAC/unaffiliated group players of the week for each conference/CAC/unaffiliated group. Nominations from the conference/CAC/unaffiliated groups must be finalized by 3:00pm CST on Monday to be considered for the national award. Honorees are released on Tuesdays. Volleyball recognition shall have three players of the week awards, including Attacker of the Week, Setter of the Week, and Defender of the Week. Please note submitting all three nominations from the Conference level is not required.

For volleyball, NAIA Volleyball Players of the Week will be selected by a national voting committee made up of an SID representative from each conference/CAC/unaffiliated group. Nominations must be made by the conference/CAC/unaffiliated group sports information director, or their designated representative. The national office will NOT accept nominations from anyone but the conference/CAC/unaffiliated group sports information director or their designated representative. Conferences/CAC/unaffiliated group institutions may nominate only one athlete weekly for national consideration in each of the three awards.

ALL-CONFERENCE/CAC

Each conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping is entitled to select a 14-member All-Conference team. A conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping has the option to recognize additional players (i.e. 2nd team, honorable mention, etc.) for local recognition only. Additional selections do not advance for All-America consideration.

It is recommended that each conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping selection committee convenes via conference call or in person (set up by the conference/CAC/unaffiliated chair) to select the All-Conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping team. The VCA officer coordinates the calling time with the conference/CAC/unaffiliated volleyball chair.



The VCA strongly recommends the process be by consensus, rather than a ballot rating, to ensure proper recognition order of the athletes. **Athletes are considered for further recognition in the rank order given on the form.** The following factors should be considered in the selection process:

1. Observed performance
2. Statistics as appropriate
3. Relative strength of schedule
4. Team performance
5. Exhibits behavior consistent with "Champions of Character"

Philosophy/Note: These criteria will also be used in the All-America selection process. Schools/Conferences will be asked to support setter nominations for annual awards by submission of team attack efficiency statistics generated during the nominee's time on the court.

ALL-AMERICA

All-America awards are annually bestowed on the most outstanding athletes in the NAIA. Criteria for the awards and the procedures for selection are established by the Awards and Statistics subcommittee of the National Administrative Council (NAC). Please note some sports recognize All-America status by order of finish, and others require submission of materials and selection at the conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping levels.

The NAIA All-America Volleyball teams are selected by the NAIA-VCA Executive Committee during the NAIA National Championship. The pool of candidates comes from the All-Conference/CAC/unaffiliated Teams. The official All-Conference/CAC/unaffiliated form is sent separately by the national office to the conference/CAC/unaffiliated commissioners. Players must be listed in descending rank order starting with the conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping player of the year and working downward ranked in order.

The official deadline to submit forms will be emailed by the NAIA. Forms received after the deadline shall not be considered for All-America.

The All-America Committee shall select first, second, and third teams each consisting of 14 players. Any Conference Player of the Year will be placed on the third team, if they were not voted on to first, second, or third team initially. The third team is permitted to be larger than 14 players, if the addition of Conference Players of the Year is necessary.

New for 2026-2027 – A minimum participation requirement for NAIA All-America consideration, requiring student-athletes to compete in at least 66% of their team's total sets during the regular season and conference tournament (excluding the national tournament).

The NAIA Athletics Communications Department will release the NAIA Volleyball All-America teams on December 15.

NAIA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE

Criteria for the NAIA Scholar-Athlete Award are as follows:

1. Nominee must be a sophomore or above in academic standing.
2. Nominee must have been in attendance at the nominating institution one full academic year at the time of the nomination deadline (September 30).
3. Nominee has a minimum grade point average of 3.50 (on a 4.0 scale) at the time of the nomination deadline (for transfer students the GPA is only at current NAIA institution).
4. Nominee has been certified as eligible and is listed on the eligibility certificate submitted to conference eligibility chair.
5. Nomination form is complete and submitted through NAIA Connect.
6. All the above information is to be received by **September 30** to be eligible for national press release/website, certificate and honors database – **All criteria must be met by this date.**

NOTE: There are no statistical/playing requirements needed to receive this award.

NAIA Scholar-Athlete nominations will be filled out via [NAIA Connect](#). **NAIA Connect is the only way to nominate student-athletes as a NAIA Scholar-Athlete.**

If you do not have an account, please sign up and create your own. Access will be granted (usually) within 24 hours. Nominations will be processed entirely electronically. To complete a nomination, the student-athlete must have approved and signed a release of their cumulative grade point average for nominating purposes. If you or your sports information office does not have a signed release form from the nominated student-athlete on file, a blank document (PDF) will be available for download.



This release form does not need to be turned into the NAIA National Office. You are asked to retain it for your institutional records. The administrator nominating the student athlete will sign electronically. To be eligible for listing on website or honors database, forms must be submitted by **September 30**.

To download a template to create an award certificate for your student-athletes that have earned this honor, [CLICK HERE](#).

RED BANNER SCHOLAR AWARD

New for 2026-2027 – The Red Banner Scholar Award recognizes the highest level of academic achievement among student-athletes competing at each NAIA National Championship Final Site. The award celebrates the NAIA's commitment to developing champions in the classroom, character, and competition by honoring the student-athlete(s) with the highest cumulative institutional grade point average participating in the national championship.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Red Banner Scholar Award, a student-athlete must:

1. Be listed on the official active championship roster (team sports) or be an official qualifier and active participant (individual sports) at the NAIA National Championship Final Site.
2. Be recognized as an NAIA Scholar-Athlete for the applicable academic year.
3. Meet all established NAIA Scholar-Athlete eligibility requirements and be submitted through the official NAIA Scholar-Athlete nomination process by the applicable sport deadline.

Selection Process

The NAIA National Office will determine the recipient(s) using approved NAIA Scholar-Athlete data.

- The eligible student-athlete with the highest cumulative institutional GPA at the national championship final site will receive the Red Banner Scholar Award.
- In the event of a tie for the highest GPA, all tied student-athletes will be recognized as co-recipients.
- No additional nomination is required beyond the NAIA Scholar-Athlete submission process.

SCHOLAR TEAM AWARD

In recognition of academic achievement, the NAIA names a Scholar Team for all sports in which Scholar-Athletes are recognized. Based on a cumulative 3.0 season GPA for the current academic year on a 4.0 scale, all members of the team who appear on the eligibility certificate will be included in the GPA compilation.

The deadline for Scholar Team nominations is June 30. For the NAIA Scholar Team Award go to [NAIA Connect](#).

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Conference/CAC Player of the Year

Each conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping selects a Player of the Year using its own method of determination.

National Player of the Year

The NAIA-VCA officers serve in committee to select the AVCA-NAIA National Player of the Year. They convene at the National Championship final site to review nominations. The President chairs the selection committee. Questions regarding the selection process can be directed to any officer of the NAIA-VCA.

The committee considers the following when selecting the Player of the Year:

1. Outstanding performance on the court.
2. Participation in at least 66% of the team's matches (prior to the National Championships Opening Round).
3. Team success.
4. Exhibits behavior consistent with the Champions of Character philosophy.

The above selection will also be the NAIA-AVCA National Player of the Year unless that player's coach is not an AVCA member in which case an additional player will be selected for recognition through the AVCA.

National Defensive Player of the Year

The NAIA-VCA officers serve in committee to select the AVCA-NAIA National Defensive Player of the Year. They convene at the National Championship final site to review nominations. The President chairs the selection committee.

The NAIA National Defensive Player of the Year is selected from the Conference Defensive Player of the Year nominations. A minimum participation level of 66% in a team's schedule (prior to the National Championships Opening Round) is required to



qualify for Defensive Player of the Year.

National Attacker of the Year

The NAIA-VCA officers serve in committee to select the AVCA-NAIA National Attacker of the Year. They convene at the National Championship final site to review nominations. The President chairs the selection committee.

The NAIA National Attacker of the Year is selected from the Conference Attacker of the Year nominations. A minimum participation level of 66% in a team's schedule (prior to the National Championships Opening Round) is required to qualify for Attacker of the Year.

National Setter of the Year

The NAIA-VCA officers serve in committee to select the AVCA-NAIA National Setter of the Year. They convene at the National Championship final site to review nominations. The President chairs the selection committee.

The NAIA National Setter of the Year is selected from the Conference Setter of the Year nominations. A minimum participation level of 66% in a team's schedule (prior to the National Championships Opening Round) is required to qualify for Setter of the Year.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Conference/CAC Coach of the Year

Each conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping selects a Coach of the Year using its own method of determination.

National Coach of the Year

The NAIA-VCA officers serve in committee to select the National Coach of the Year. They convene at the National Championship to review the candidate pool that includes the Conference/CAC/unaffiliated Volleyball Coaches of the Year and national tournament participating coaches. The President chairs the selection committee. Questions regarding the selection process can be directed to any officer of the NAIA-VCA.

The following guidelines will be considered when selecting the Coach of the Year:

1. Performance in postseason play.
2. Team's success
 - a. overall ranking;
 - b. season record;
 - c. significant wins/losses.
3. Professional involvement
 - a. ambassador of the NAIA;
 - b. involvement in organizations;
 - c. professionalism;
 - d. Champions of Character role model.

If the selection is not an AVCA member, an additional coach will be selected for the recognition through the AVCA. See AVCA Recognition below.

National Tournament Coach of the Year

The National Tournament Coach of the Year is determined by vote taken by coaches of teams participating in the national championship at the final site. The ballot includes all national championship coaches.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

The NAIA maintains a standardized awards program for its national championships, with awards provided to the official parties of the top four teams. A 14-member All-Tournament Team, **including** the Tournament Most Valuable Player, Setter of the Tournament, Attacker of the Tournament, and Defensive Player of the Tournament are selected by members of the tournament committee in collaboration with participating national championship coaches. The National Tournament Coach of the Year is also selected. All tournament awards are presented during the awards ceremony.

AVCA RECOGNITION

In addition to NAIA honors, the AVCA conducts a separate AVCA-NAIA recognition program which includes player and coach awards at regional and national levels. To be eligible to receive AVCA honors the coach of the team involved must be an active member of the AVCA.

The AVCA has eight geographic regions for recognition purposes. Each region has a recognition committee that meets annually to select its All-Region Team, Region Player of the Year, Region Freshman of the Year, Region Coach of the Year, and Region Assistant Coach of the Year. The AVCA-NAIA region honors must be submitted to the AVCA.

**ORDERING AWARDS**

Conference/CAC/unaffiliated awards are ordered by the Conference/CAC/unaffiliated Commissioner and are the financial responsibility of the conference/CAC/unaffiliated or postseason host institution.

Official NAIA awards MUST be ordered from:

Collegiate Awards, 18081 E. Trafficway St., Springfield, MO

65802 Contact: Brad Stout – brads@collegiateawards.com

COACHES ASSOCIATION**NAIA-VOLLEYBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION**

The NAIA-VCA is an association comprised of volleyball coaches whose institutions are members in good standing. The NAIA-VCA is charged with the responsibility of carrying out programs beneficial to the sport of volleyball and the members of the NAIA-VCA. The NAIA-VCA elects officers (president, first vice president, second vice president and secretary) who serve one-year terms and provide the leadership for the Association.

The NAIA-VCA annual business meeting is held in conjunction with the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Annual Convention. The 2026 AVCA Annual Convention is December 16-20 in San Antonio, Texas. Agenda items may be submitted by any NAIA coach and should be sent to the NAIA-VCA current president at least two weeks prior to the annual business meeting.

AMERICAN VOLLEYBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) is committed to the development and advancement of volleyball throughout the nation. The Association has unified coaches at every level by increasing the professionalism of its members. Increasing knowledge and awareness is just one of the AVCA's commitments to coaches. The official AVCA technical journal, Coaching Volleyball, and the Association's newsletter, American Volleyball, will keep coaches abreast of volleyball techniques and activities. In addition, the AVCA annually recognizes hundreds of coaches and student-athletes through one of the most comprehensive single-sport award programs, including AVCA-NAIA All-America, Player of the Year and Coach of the Year. For a player or coach to be eligible for NAIA-AVCA recognition the coach must be a member of the AVCA. Additional information can be found at www.avca.org.

NAIA-VCA VOTING

NAIA Coaches Associations must have a quorum (at least 50% of eligible voters) for a sport motion to be heard by the National Administrative Council. All voting will be completed using an online process following the business meeting to ensure all head coaches have an opportunity to vote. Motions will still be presented and discussed at the Annual Business meeting. If desired, a "straw poll" can be taken by those present to determine if a motion will be opened for vote to the full coaches association.

STANDING COMMITTEES**NAIA Women's Volleyball Coaches Association Officers
(One-year terms)**

POSITION/TITLE	NAME, SCHOOL & CONTACT INFO
President	Trish Siedlik , Bellevue University, 402-557-7056, trish.siedlik@bellevue.edu
First Vice President	Ben Boldt , Concordia University, 402-643-7325, benjamin.boldt@cune.edu
Second Vice President	Liz Mendiola , College of Idaho, 208-459-5858, lmendiola@collegeofidaho.edu
Secretary	Jessica Enderle , Fisk University, 626-786-1776, jenderle@fisk.edu
Past President	Molly Karagyaurov , MidAmerica Nazarene, 913-971-3767, mlkaragyaurov@mnu.edu
NAC Liaison	Corey Westra , Great Plains Athletic Conference Commissioner, corey.westra@gpacsports.com

**Sub Committees****(One-year terms, can run consecutive years)**

POSITION/TITLE	NAME & SCHOOL
Hall of Fame, Chair	Stew McDole, Graceland University
Recognition, Chair	Stew McDole, Graceland University; Trish Siedlik, Assistant Chair
Competition, Chair	Rick Pruett, College of Saint Mary, Neb.
AVCA Head Coaches, Chair	Megan Lenhart, Cornerstone University

SUB COMMITTEES

Full details on Sub-Committees can be found in the NAIA-VCA Constitution below.

Recognition Committee

1. Committee Chair will serve on the Tournament Committee of the National Championships, unless their team qualifies for the final site.
2. Committee Chair will attend Executive Committee meetings when requested.
3. Committee Chair will work with the NAIA Championship Sport Manager to gather All-America nomination statistics.

Competition Committee

1. Committee Chair will serve on the Tournament Committee of the National Championships, unless their team qualifies for the final site.
2. Committee Chair will attend Executive Committee meetings when requested.

AVCA Head Coaches Committee

1. Committee Chair will attend Executive Committee meetings and share relevant information with the Head Coaches Committee.

NAIA-VCA CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1 - The name of the Association shall be the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Volleyball Coaches Association (NAIA-VCA).

ARTICLE II – ORGANIZATION

Section 1 - The membership of this Association shall be comprised of volleyball coaches who currently coach volleyball at an NAIA member institution. NAIA-VCA is an allied, sectional activity area of the NAIA parent organization and is charged with the responsibility of initiating programs beneficial to the game of volleyball and to the NAIA member coaches of this sport. The activities of this section shall be in accordance with the aims and objectives of NAIA and under the guidance of the NAIA National Administrative Council.

Section 2 - The NAIA-VCA shall submit to the NAIA National Administrative Council for approval, all recommendations, plans and practices.

ARTICLE III – AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1 - To initiate, conduct and supervise programs utilizing the guidance of the NAIA volleyball Executive Committee which will promote interest in volleyball programs on conference and national levels.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - There shall be three classes of membership; 1 - Active; 2 - Allied; 3 - Honorary.

Section 2 - Active membership shall consist of volleyball coaches who are actively engaged in coaching volleyball in an NAIA educational institution.

Section 3 - Allied membership shall consist of coaches who are engaged in coaching volleyball in secondary schools and other persons who are interested in the advancement of the game of volleyball.

Section 4 - Honorary membership may be conferred upon any individual who, because of his/her valuable contribution to the game of volleyball, shall be nominated by the membership committee and elected by two-thirds vote of the Association.



Section 5 - All members shall have the privilege of the floor at meetings of the Association, but the privilege of voting shall be exercised by active members only.

ARTICLE V – OFFICIERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, OTHER COMMITTEES

Section 1 – The officers of this Association, president, first vice president, second vice president, secretary, and past president shall be elected from the active membership of the Association. Such elected officers shall be from institutions which are in good standing in the NAIA. Nominations and resumes are to be received following the annual business meeting and shall be included with the minutes of the NAIA-VCA Annual Business Meeting. Results of the election will be distributed in the coaches' handbook, preceded by written notification.

Section 2 – Term of office shall be one year. The progression shall be from secretary to second vice president to first vice president to president to past president. Each office is to be held from August 1 to July 31.

In the event a vacancy occurs, the normal progression from secretary to president shall be accelerated to fill the vacant office. The NAIA-VCA Executive Committee is empowered to appoint officers from the membership-at-large to fill the remaining position. Such appointee shall not succeed in the normal progression of offices unless duly elected by the membership.

Section 3 – The NAIA-VCA officers, the executive committee, shall serve as the tournament committee at the NAIA National Volleyball Championship.

Section 4 – For the Council for Student-Athletes, there is a scheduled rotation of all NAIA championship sports (men's and women's), with each sport having representation on the CSA for a two-year term. The selected individual must be a NAIA Women's Volleyball Head Coach.

Section 5 – The NAIA-VCA Competition Committee is responsible for advocating issues related to competitive matters such as individual competitions, tournaments, format and suggested enhancements of the National Championships, rules of the game, competition officials, statistic education and any other matters regarding enhancing competitions. The committee shall be comprised of a maximum of six members as follows:

1. Chair, who shall be appointed for a three-year term by the VCA officers.
2. One current member of the NAIA-VCA officer committee.
3. Up to four additional current NAIA volleyball coaches, representing different areas of the country.

Section 6 – The NAIA-VCA Recognition Committee shall serve as advocate for issues relating to NAIA recognition programs. The committee shall be comprised of the following:

1. Chair, who shall be appointed for a three-year term by the VCA officers.
2. One representative from each NAIA volleyball recognition-specific geographic area.

Section 7 – The NAIA-VCA Recognition and Competition Committee members are selected by the respective committee chair. Terms of service shall be limited to two consecutive terms. Members must be off the committee for one year before serving again. If a member's initial term filled an un-expired term, the member is eligible for re-appointment to an additional three-year term. Term of service for each year shall begin August 1.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

Section 1 – One annual business meeting of the Association shall be held each year at the site of the AVCA National Convention Volleyball Championship.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – This constitution may be amended if presented to the membership by mail no later than three weeks prior to the annual business meeting by:

1. Affirmative two-thirds vote of the members present at the annual business meeting of the Association; or
2. Affirmative two-thirds vote of the ballots received by written response at the opening of the annual business meeting of the Association; or
3. Affirmative two-thirds vote of the ballots cast by mail by the membership.

Appendix A – Women's Volleyball

Tie Break Procedures

The following procedure is to be used only to determine place in pool play and cannot eliminate a team from competition:

1. Overall match record.
2. Percentage of sets won of those played among tied teams (total sets won/total sets played).
3. Head-to-head competition if 1 & 2 are tied after sets won.
4. Percentage of points won in matches played among tied teams (total points won/total points played).
5. Head-to-head competition if 1 & 2 are tied after points won.

Two-Way Ties – A two-way tie cannot exist in a three-team pool play.

Three-Way Ties – This is the only possible tie-breaking scenario in a three-team pool. In this case, the tied teams in the pool will play a single set to 25 points (win by two points; no cap) to determine the winner of the pool and advance to bracket play. The team judged to be superior by the procedure listed above will earn the first bye in the pool playoff. The other two teams shall play one set to 25 points (win by two points; no cap) and the winner will play the bye team one set to 25 points (win by two points; no cap) – For a total of two 25-point sets. Only one team will advance out of pool play.

Single Set Tie Break Format

1. The team judged to be superior by the procedure listed above will earn the first bye in the pool playoffs.
2. The other two teams shall play one set to 25 points (win by two, no cap) and the winner will play the bye team, one set to 25 points (win by two, no cap).
3. Only one team will advance out of pool play.
4. Protocols for the Tie Break.
 - a. Thirty (30) minute warm-up clock will begin after the completion of the referees/captains meeting.
 - b. The lower seed will call the coin toss.
 - c. The higher seed will decide which bench to start play.
 - d. Teams will switch sides when one team reaches 13 points.
5. Administrative protocols.
 - a. Live stream will not be required.
 - b. Endline camera will not be utilized.
 - c. Stats are not kept.
 - d. If CRS is utilized, each team will receive one challenge per set.
 - i. Continue to follow CRS rules in won or lost challenges (once a challenge is lost, then that coach has no more challenges).
 - ii. Challenges will not carry over to other tiebreaker sets.

Appendix B – Statistical Summary, NAIA-AVCA

CLARIFICATION, DEFINITION, AND CALCULATION

1. Detailed information, examples, worksheets, box score forms and accuracy checks are only available in the volleyball statistics manual from AVCA.
2. Statistics are required for NAIA All-Conference, All-Region, and All-America nominees.
3. All statistics are calculated by games (sets) played, not matches played.
4. Total attempts (TA) are the sum of all attempts within a category.
5. Always apply common sense to compilation. Follow logical sequence of the game. One statistic affects another.
6. It is recommended that a crew of two or three be used to take stats during the match. One person cannot do an adequate job, the game is too fast.
7. Whenever a player enters the game, that player gets credit statistically for participating. If the player only played front row, the game still counts against aces per game. Similarly, if the player only played back row, the game still counts against blocks and kills per game. There is no discrimination between front row games and back row games.
8. Categories of statistics: attack, assist, serve, pass, defense, and blocks.
9. **Game Box Score:**
 - a. attack kills, attack errors, total attacks attempts; assists; service attempts, service aces, service errors; service reception attempts, service reception errors; digs; solo blocks, block assists and block errors.
10. **Summary Box Score:**
 - a. statistical performance of total team including kills, attack efficiency, assists per game, digs per game and blocks per game.

ATTACK

1. **Clarification (ATA, K, AE)** - Any ball that is played over the net in an attempt to score a point or a side-out (any ball played over the net simply to keep the ball alive should not be considered an attack).
 - a. **Attack Attempts (ATA)** charged to a player anytime the player intentionally makes contact with or hits the ball over the net into the opponents court (spike, tip, down ball, setter dump or hit as an overhead attack) except:
 - i. on a ball played over the net on serve reception (overpass);
 - ii. on a free ball played over the net when in the opinion of the statistician the free ball is passed only to keep the ball in play; or
 - iii. if in the opinion of the statistician, the set is bad and the player plays the ball over the net to keep the ball in play.
 - b. **Kill (K)** anytime an attack/contact is unreturnable by the opposition or anytime the attack leads directly to a blocking error by the opposition. Must lead directly to a point.
 - c. **Attack Error (AE)** charged to a player whenever an attack is:
 - i. hit out of bounds;
 - ii. hit into the net leading to a four hit violation;
 - iii. blocked down by the opposition to the same side as the attacker and cannot be kept in play;
 - iv. hitter goes into net, makes center line violation, is called for illegal contact on the attack, or hits the ball into or outside the antenna.
 - d. **Zero (0) Hit** attack attempt kept in play by the opposition.
2. **Calculation** - when awarding **K** or **E**, should also award **ATA**.

a. Kills/Game

$$K/G = \frac{\text{Total Kills}}{\text{Total Games Played}}$$

b. TA

$$TA = \text{Kills} + \text{Errors} + 0 \text{ Hits}$$

c. Attack Efficiency (Kills efficiency)

$$EFF = \frac{\text{Total Kills} - \text{Total Errors}}{\text{Total Attempts}}$$

ASSIST

1. Clarification (A, AST)

- Assists (**A, AST**) awarded whenever that player passes or sets the ball to a teammate who attacks the ball and records a kill.
- Total **Attempts (TA)** In assist category (Box Score Form) - total number of assists attempts either by an individual player or the team.

2. Calculation

- Assists Per Games

$$\text{AST/G} = \frac{\text{Total \# of Assists}}{\text{Total Games Played}}$$

SERVING

1. Clarification (TA, SA, SE)

- Total Attempts (TA)** any attempt to serve the ball, may result in a service ace or a service error, or the ball may be successfully played by receiving team.
- Service Ace (SA)** service which results directly in a point.
 - strikes opponent's court untouched;
 - passed by opponent but not kept in play;
 - official calls a violation on the receiver;
 - receiving team out of rotation.
- Service Error (SE)**
 - fails to clear net;
 - is out of bounds or hits antenna;
 - foot fault/too much time;
 - serves out of rotation.

2. Calculation

- Aces/Games

$$\text{A/G} = \frac{\text{Total Number of Aces}}{\text{Total Games Played}}$$

- Service Percentage

$$\text{SE\%} = \frac{\text{Total Attempts} - \text{Errors}}{\text{Total Attempts}}$$

PASSING

1. Clarification (RE, TRE, PASS%)

- Reception Error (RE)** - Individual player
 - serves strikes floor in area of player;
 - passes serve but not kept in play by team;
 - official calls reception violation.
- Team Reception Error (TRE)**
 - serve balls between two players, unable to determine player responsible;
 - receiving team out of rotation.
- Total Attempts**
 - each time player attempts to pass a served ball;
 - ball hits floor in immediate area, player responsibility; NOTE: Reception error also charged with passing attempt.

DIGGING

- Clarification (D)** - The pass or play of any ball which is attacked is awarded a DIG. The ball can be kept in play on the digger's side of the net or can go back to the opposition.

- Dig (D) awarded whenever a player passes the ball which has been attacked by the opposition. Only given when players receive an attacked ball and it is kept in play.

2. Calculation

- Digs per Game

$$\text{D/G} = \frac{\text{Total \# Digs}}{\text{Total Games Played}}$$

BLOCKING

- Clarification (BS, BA, BE)** - Only blocks on termination plays count. Do not count blocks where ball remains in play.

- a. **Block Solo (BS)** awarded whenever a single player blocking alone blocks ball into opposition's court leading directly to a point.
- b. **Block Assist (BA)** awarded whenever two or three players block ball into opponent's court for a point. Each player receives a block assist even if only one player actually blocks ball.
Note: If three players are involved, each player will receive a BA.
- c. **Blocking Error (BE)** results in point or side-out for attacking team when an official calls a blocker for:
 - i. net violations;
 - ii. line violation;
 - iii. blocking as a back row player; or
 - iv. Illegally reaching over the net. (below, team stat totals)

2. Calculation

a. Player Block Average

$$B/G = \frac{(Total \# BS) + (Total \# BA)}{Total \text{ Games Played}}$$

b. Team Block Average

$$\frac{(Total \# BS) + (1/2 \text{ of } Total \# BA)}{Total \text{ Games Played}}$$

STATISTICS ACCURACY CHECKS

1. Team **A ATTACKS** are nearly equal to **Team A (Kills + Errors) + Team B Digs**.
2. **Team A ASSISTS** are nearly equal to, but never more than Team A's **KILLS** (could be equal, but unlikely).
3. Setter's **TOTAL ASSISTS** will always be less than setter's **TOTAL ASSISTS ATTEMPTS** (could be equal, but unlikely)
4. One team's **SERVICE ACES** = other team's **RECEPTION ERRORS**, includes team reception errors.
5. Total individual **BLOCKS**, sum of **BLOCK SOLOS** and **BLOCK ASSISTS**/Total team **BLOCKS**, sum of **BLOCK SOLOS** and ½ **BLOCK ASSISTS**
6. Player's individual statistics per game **WILL BE LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO** team's per game statistics. Principle applies to all "per game" statistics except hitting efficiency.

Position Terminology

S – Setter

OP – A front row player playing opposite the setter

OH – Left outside hitter

MH – Middle blocker/attacker

L1 – Libero 1

L2 – Libero 2

DS – Defensive/back row specialist