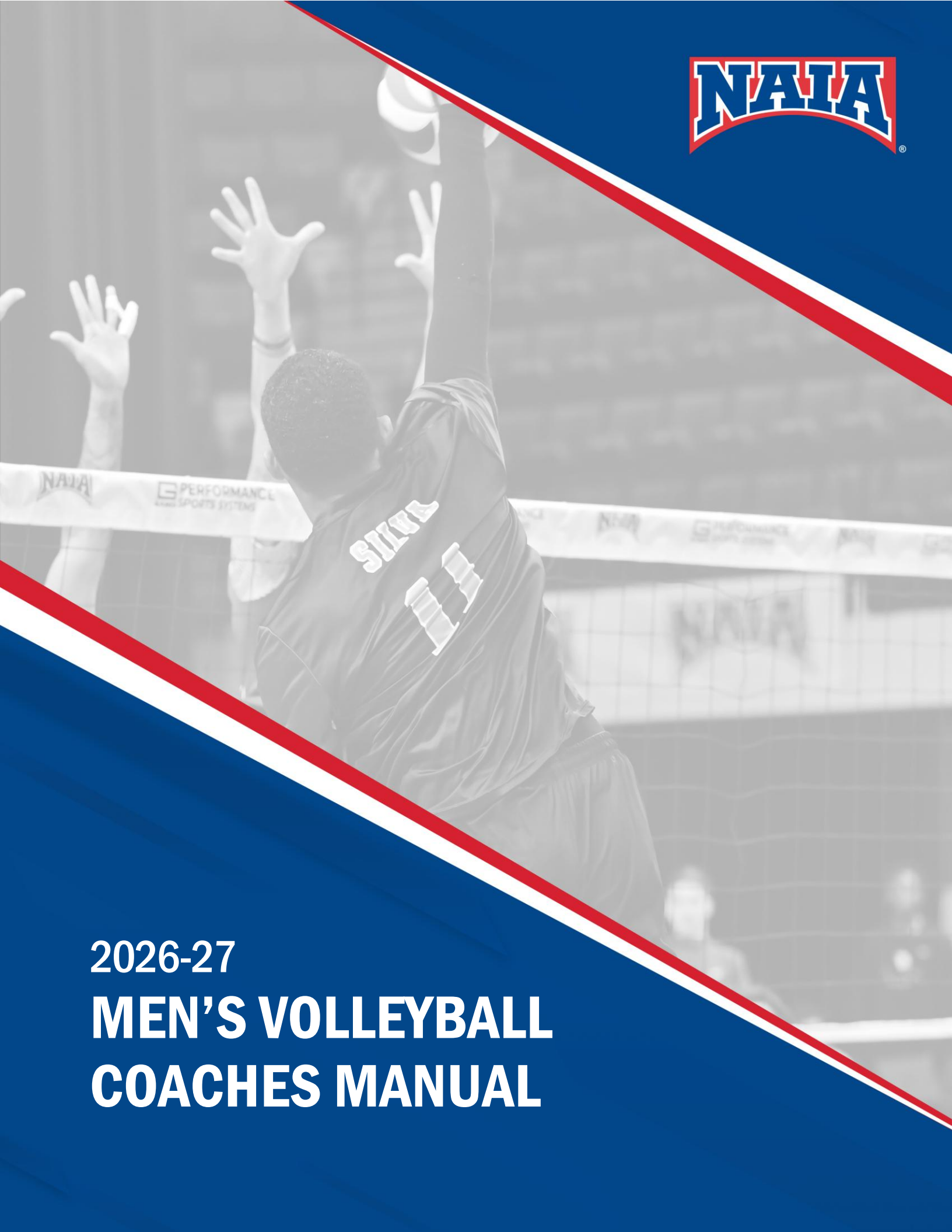




2026-27
**MEN'S VOLLEYBALL
COACHES MANUAL**



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NAIA MEN'S VOLLEYBALL — IMPORTANT DATES

2026-27 MEN 'S VOLLEYBALL SPORT CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 1	START – Practices, scrimmages, exhibitions, & fall competitions
NOVEMBER 16	DEADLINE – for submitting Sport Motions to be heard at the Business Meeting
DECEMBER 16 – 20	Men's Volleyball Coaches Association Annual Business Meeting <i>AVCA Convention – San Antonio, Texas</i>
JANUARY 20	START – National Coaches Poll Release <i>Dates: Jan. 20, Feb. 10, Feb. 24, Mar. 10, Mar. 24, Apr. 7, Apr. 19, May 5 (Postseason)</i>
JANUARY 14	START – Spring competitions
DECEMBER 16-20	AVCA Convention – San Antonio, Tex. – NAIA Men's Volleyball Business Meeting Friday, Dec. 18
FEBRUARY 9	START – Player of the Week <i>Dates: Feb. 9, Feb. 16, Feb. 23, Mar. 2, Mar. 9, Mar. 16, Mar. 23, Mar. 30, Apr. 6</i>
MARCH 8	START – Area Ranking Release <i>Dates: Mar. 8, Mar. 22, Apr. 5, Apr. 19</i>
MARCH 8	START – National Selection Committee Polls Release <i>Dates: Mar. 8, Mar. 22, Apr. 5, Apr. 19, May 5 (Postseason)</i>
MARCH 20	DEADLINE – Undeclare from Postseason
APRIL 15	DEADLINE – for submitting NAIA Scholar-Athletes DEADLINE – for submitting Champions of Character Individual Award Nominations
APRIL 17	DEADLINE – Completion of Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated tournaments
APRIL 19	RELEASE – National Championship Qualifiers, Field and Matchups at www.naia.org
APRIL 21	DEADLINE – Conference/Independent chairs to send All-Conference/Independent teams to the NAIA National Office
APRIL 21	DEADLINE – Submitting Postseason Roster
APRIL 27 - May 1	NAIA Men's Volleyball National Championship <i>Alliant Energy Power House – Cedar Rapids, IA</i>
MAY 6	RELEASE – NAIA Coach of the Year, NAIA Men's Volleyball All-America Teams, and Player of the Year
JUNE 30	DEADLINE – Submitting Scholar Team Award Nominations
JULY 15	DEADLINE – Submitting Hall of Fame Nominations

FIVE-YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR

	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Conference Tournament Deadline	April 17	April 22	April 21	April 20	April 19
National Championship	April 27 – May 1	May 2-6	May 1-5	April 30 - May 4	April 29 - May 3

National Championship Website – [Click Here](#)

PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS

PLAYING RULES

NAIA Men's volleyball will use USA Volleyball Domestic Indoor 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 USA Volleyball Domestic Indoor Competition rules is available [HERE](#).

MATCH OFFICIALS

All officials used for Conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions)/Unaffiliated Group and National Championship should be USAV certified. The NAIA-MVCA recommends the use of USAV officials and PAVO/NCAA line judges for all matches, including regular-season and postseason tournaments.

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

OFFICIAL BALL

The official volleyball for all NAIA postseason competition is the NAIA – Red, White and Blue Molten Flistatec VSM5000. The NAIA strongly recommends the use of this volleyball for all regular season play as well. USA Volleyball has recommended an inflation range of 4.26 to 4.61 PSI.

SEASON RECORDS

Season won-loss records for all NAIA member institutions shall include only those matches against upper-level, degree-granting institutions in the United States and Canada, and shall not include any matches against junior colleges, clubs, foreign or military teams.

The reported record shall include ONLY matches which have been officiated by two officials (both the first and second referees) who are certified by a national (USAV) or international (FIVB) volleyball association.

REPORTING RESULTS AND STATISTICS

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 in order to be eligible for team and/or individual weekly polls 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.

Reporting team scores on the NAIAstats.org website provides greater team exposure to media, coaches, potential student-athletes and fans.

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 teams' official statistics. The home team must notify the opposing team at least 72 hours before the contest if official stats are unavailable. 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 men's volleyball, please refer to this [LINK](#).

CONDUCT IN COMPETITION

EJECTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

An ejection is an action enforced in conjunction with competition by a game 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/CAC/Unaffiliated 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 NAIA 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/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 be normally 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

OFFICIAL PARTY

Postseason rosters should be submitted in [NAIA Connect](#). If you have trouble with the online form, please contact **Katie Green** (kgreen@naia.org) of the NAIA Athletics Communications Department. For any other general questions related to the official postseason rosters, please contact the NAIA Men's Volleyball Sport Manager – **Bruce Tate** (btate@naia.org)

1. A hard copy of your official postseason roster **MUST** be hand-carried to the site of the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Tournament and National Championship and presented to the Tournament Director – Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Volleyball Chair for Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Tournament and NAIA Sport Manager for the National Championship – prior to that institution's participation in the tournament. A team must submit its official roster in order to be eligible to participate in the tournament.

2. The deadline for certifying the official roster of 20 players in uniform is 30 minutes prior to the first match of any Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Tournament; or at the coaches meeting of the National Championship. Once the tournament begins, no player who is not on the official roster may play.
3. A player may be replaced on the official roster between the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Tournament and the National Championship by any eligible player whose name is included on the NAIA Official Eligibility Form for Men's Volleyball for the current season. The coach will need to hand-carry a copy of the eligibility form to each tournament if a roster change is necessary.
4. For the National Championship, roster changes are permissible between the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Tournaments and the start of National Championship only in the event of injury, illness or family emergency. Replacements are permitted from ~~among~~ eligible athletes only.
5. For Unaffiliated Group Qualifying Tournaments that include preliminary Conference/CAC/Group qualifying contests in the qualification plan, roster changes cannot be made between "rounds." Unaffiliated Group Tournaments will follow the same roster change policies used for Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Tournaments.

ROSTERS

Official Postseason Roster forms are completed via NAIA Connect (<https://www.naiiaconnect.org/s/login>) and submitted to the NAIA National Office. If you do not have a login account, please contact naiiaconnectsupport@naia.org. Once you log in, please follow these [instructions](#).

Postseason rosters will be processed entirely electronically. The administrator completing the postseason roster will sign electronically. Postseason rosters no longer need to be sent to the NAIA National Office via email or fax.

You are still required to carry a hard copy of your roster to the site of the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group and National Championship, and present to the Tournament Director prior to that institution's participation in the tournament.

UNIFORMS

Teams must have both light and dark colored uniforms available. Home teams generally wear light colored uniforms, and visitors wear dark colored uniforms.

Sponsor Logos

Approved NAIA uniform rules modifications to allow sponsor logos/patches during competition in Men's Volleyball.

- Limit of one sponsor logo or patch on a uniform.
- The logos may not exceed a standard size of 2.25 inches square.
- Sponsors of alcohol, tobacco, or any other 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 (e.g., if you have different colored uniforms, the jerseys of the same color must have the same sponsorship patch and placement. Ex. All red jerseys must be the same, and all white jerseys must be the same.)

Placement – (1) Front shoulder panel opposite the manufacturer's logo. Between the apex of the neckline and the shoulder seam; (2) Centered on the bottom right sleeve (as worn) or centered bottom opposite sleeve of the manufacturer's logo; Alternate Permissible Location: If neither of the above locations is available, use the apex/center of the neckline as close to the neckline as possible on the back of the jersey.

EXPENSES

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

PARTICIPATION AT EVENTS

All participating teams and individuals competing in a National Championship must attend all event functions, including, but not limited to, Parade of Champions, coaches meetings, 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 be in attendance and is responsible for their team at all times while at the National Championship site. This person shall accept the responsibility for the conduct of his/her student-athletes at the tournament site, during the tournament, and at all activities connected with the team's National Championship participation. In 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.

CONFERENCE/CAC/UNAFFILIATED GROUP TOURNAMENTS

The Affiliated Conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions)/Unaffiliated Grouping National Qualifying Tournaments are planned and administered by the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Volleyball Committee under the leadership of the Conference/Unaffiliated Grouping Volleyball Chair and subject to approval of all standards and conditions as may be prescribed by their respective Executive Committees, Commissioner, or Presidents.

Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping National Qualifying Tournament plans must be submitted by December 1 of each year.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

The dates and sites of the Conference/Unaffiliated Grouping Volleyball National Qualifying Tournaments shall be determined by the Conference/Unaffiliated Grouping Volleyball Committees. The Conference/Unaffiliated Grouping Volleyball Tournaments, if held, MUST be completed no later than **Saturday, April 17**.

TEAM QUALIFICATION AND SELECTION

In order to qualify for a postseason tournament, a team must play a minimum of 12 matches between the Thursday of the last full weekend in January and the start of the postseason tournament.

Consideration may be given to any one or combination of the following criteria in selecting teams for the postseason tournaments:

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

ADMINISTRATION

If available, the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Volleyball Chair will serve as the administrator for the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping National Qualifying Tournament, in cooperation with the host site's 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 Championship Sport Manager with the participating teams, seeding and pairings, match sites, and times.

POSTSEASON LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES & COMPETITION GUIDELINES

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONFERENCE/CAC/UNAFFILIATED GROUP CHAMPIONSHIP HOST

1. Administrative expenses, including ticket sellers, security, scorers, public address announcer, maintenance, etc.
2. Expenses of the assigned Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group administrator, if applicable.
3. Compensation of the USAV-rated officials with assignment approved by the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group chair.

4. Reporting scores of all matches
5. Payment of any income to the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group treasury in accordance with the respective Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Executive Committee policies.
6. Filing a financial report with the appropriate chair of all on-site income and expenses related to the administration of the event.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONFERENCE/CAC/UNAFFILIATED GROUPING VOLLEYBALL CHAIR

1. Order appropriate awards, ship to the tournament site and pay from the appropriate treasury.
2. Confirm postseason national qualifying plan is complete, signed by Commissioner and submitted to the NAIA National Office by December 1.
3. Confirm the assignment of USAV-rated officials for the postseason national qualifying tournament if applicable.
4. Assign a tournament administrator to work with the host-site in the administration of the event.
5. Provide all information to all coaches within their Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group.
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. Forward All-Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping ballots and statistics to NAIA National Office.
8. Serve on the All-Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping selection committee.
9. Organize annual volleyball meeting.

COMPETITION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

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

1. Make a minimum of 15 minutes private time available to your opponent on your competition court available prior to match protocol.
2. Provide a printed protocol guide to opponents and officials, outlining match procedures and mechanics well ahead of match time.
3. Provide pre-match and between-game music.
4. Charge admission.
5. Provide printed programs.
6. Provide an announcer for pre-game activity and play-by-play.
7. Utilize a three ball return system.
8. Require lines persons to be uniformed and capable.
9. Require bench personnel to dress professionally.
10. Provide statistics summaries to opponents.
11. Use of the National Anthem is encouraged.
12. Staging of match promotions, particularly between sets 2 and 3, is encouraged.
13. Minimum practice opportunity on court/playing court.
14. Provide competent statisticians and present those stats to the visiting team at the end of the match.

WARM-UP PROTOCOL

The NAIA strongly recommends using the following warm-up protocol for all regular-season and postseason play. Each Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping may modify this warm-up protocol, as needed, but must communicate any modifications with both visiting teams and officials.

CLOCK	COURT	TEAM
70:00	Half Court Available – No Volleyballs Crossing Net	Home/Visitor
40:00	Full Court	Visitor
30:00	Full Court	Home
	Coin Toss – Team Captains & Officials	
20:00	Full Court	Visitor
15:00	Full Court	Home
10:00	Full Court	Visitor



5:00	Full Court	Home
00:00	Teams Return to Benches – Anthem/Introductions	

NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

DATES AND LOCATION

The NAIA Men's Volleyball National Championship will be played at the Alliant Energy PowerHouse in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from **April 27 – May 1, 2027**.

QUALIFICATION OF TEAMS/SELECTION/SEEDING

New for 2026-27 season: The NAIA National Championship Tournament includes a 16-team single-elimination tournament. The top team from a conference/qualifying grouping based on the number of participating schools will automatically qualify for the National Championship. 1 auto birth per 6+ team grouping; 2 auto births per 12+ team groupings. The remaining spots out of the field of 16 will be awarded to at-large teams.

1. There are no limits on the number of at-large berths a Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping may receive.
2. At large teams will be selected by the Men's Volleyball Selection Committee.
3. Qualifying teams will be seeded by the Men's Volleyball Selection Committee.

Qualification Allotments for 2027

- Automatic Berths for Conferences/Unaffiliated Groupings
- At-Large Berths
- One Host Berth (.650 record)

CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION PROCESS APPEALS

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

Criteria for Filing an Appeal

1. A written appeal citing the specific NAIA policies and/or procedures that have been misapplied must be submitted to the NAIA Department of Championships within 24 hours, or Noon (CT) of the next business day if the end of the 24 hour period falls on a non-business day, from the time the Championship field has been released.
2. Once an appeal has been submitted, a response from the NAIA will be provided within 24 hours from the receipt of the appeal.
3. Appeals must be submitted and signed by the Athletics Director and President of the institution.

NOTE – The National Administrative Council Men's Volleyball liaison will be on the selection conference call to listen to the application of National Championship selection procedures. The NAC liaison will report any concerns to the NAIA National Office immediately following the conclusion of the conference call.

ADMINISTRATION

The NAIA Men's Volleyball Championship is under the direct control and supervision of the NAIA and the Men's Volleyball Tournament Committee. The NAIA Sport Manager and the Tournament Committee are responsible for the management of tournament matches and the general welfare of participating teams and coaches. Together, the NAIA Sport Manager and the Tournament Committee conduct the coaches' meetings, work with the Coordinator of Officials, and coordinate both pre- and post-tournament ceremonies. Should a member of the Tournament Committee have a team qualify for the National Championship, the NAIA Sport Manager will appoint an alternate to serve on the Tournament Committee.

All National Championship champions should be determined in competition, with the National Championship played to conclusion. Playability should be determined by the onsite NAIA Sport Manager and Tournament Committee, in consultation with the NAIA



National Office, making every effort to conclude on schedule. The Tournament Committee should make every possible effort to finish in the timeliest fashion possible.

FORMAT

New for 2026-27 season: The NAIA National Championship Tournament will include a field of 16 teams. The sixteen teams that qualify for the NAIA National Championship Tournament will be ranked by the selection committee.

Once the 16-team field is set, the Selection Committee, NAIA Sport Manager, and National Administrative Committee Men's Volleyball Liaison will convene via conference call to set the National Championship Tournament seeding matchups.

Matches in all rounds are best of five.

The NAIA National Championship Tournament will be a 16 Team Single-Elimination Tournament.

The championship will feature a 16-team single-elimination bracket. Four first-round matches will be played on Tuesday and four on Wednesday, followed by the quarterfinals on Thursday, the semifinals on Friday, and the National Championship match on Saturday.

GAME TIMES

The host organization, the NAIA Championships Department and the Games Committee jointly determine match times for all matches. An institution will not play more than one match a day unless weather becomes a factor in completing the championship on the scheduled completion date.

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 of 25 credentials (20 student-athlete credentials and 5 official party credentials).

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 only with a photo ID.

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

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 will be picked up at a TBD location. Approved credential applicants will be notified of where to pick up credentials after their application has been approved. Media credentials will NOT be included in the team packets at coaches pick up.

[Final Site Media Credential Application](#)

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.

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

TEAM HOUSING

All participating teams **MUST** stay at the designated headquarters hotel or assigned properties. Failure to do so would make a team **INELIGIBLE** for the National Championship.

PARTICIPATION IN FUNCTIONS AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

All participating teams and individuals competing in a National Championship Tournament must attend all functions, including Coaches meetings, Student-Athlete Experience Event, and Champions of Character® activities. 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 Men's Volleyball National Championship, it will be up to the discretion of the NAIA Sport Manager and the Tournament Committee to make changes to the 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 AT is to notify the NAIA Championship Manager who, in collaboration with the appropriate personnel (i.e. Tournament Committee) will implement the predetermined action plan for both player and spectator safety.

MATCH OFFICIALS

Up to eight match referees and line judges will be selected to work the NAIA Men's Volleyball National Championships, and will work in four-person crews, including one up official, one down official, and two line judges. The process will consist of Conference Assignors nominating umpires for selection, while the NAIA National Assignor will consider all nominations and select the officials. The on-site Coordinator of Officials will make all game assignments, while the Games Committee will assist with written assessments submitted to the Coordinator of Officials. Officials will be chosen to work the semifinals and National Championship. The USAV Domestic Competition Rules (with applicable NAIA modifications) are utilized for all games.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Film Exchange – Coaches entering National Championship Tournament play will be required to upload the film of their most recent match to a shared platform that will be accessible to all National Championship head coaches. Matches must be the last game played in the team's Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Tournament and unedited.

All postseason tournament play, or if no tournament, then the last match played, shall be filmed for the purpose of the film exchange. This policy is to be monitored by the NAIA-MVCA.

The film exchange is mandatory. Any violation of the film exchange policy will result in a \$500 fine. In addition, the chair of the Tournament Committee will direct a letter to the Athletics Director (and copy the President) of said institution that the coach has neglected to follow NAIA-MVCA policy.

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 – At the National Championship, the Tournament Committee will conduct pre- and or post-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 – At the National Championship, each team is allowed up to 20 student-athletes in uniform. Each team is also allowed up to five credentialed support staff.

Athletic Trainers will have two separate credentials and will not be included in the 25 official party credentials. 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 National Championship. They will receive information on how to pick up their credentials as the championship approaches.

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

- All-Tournament nomination process



- Officials' evaluation
- Host volunteer service

Coaches who are interested are asked to notify the Tournament Committee either in advance or immediately upon arrival, indicating interest and availability.

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

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 Aid Rules – Bylaws, Article II, Section B
- D. Financial Aid Limits – Council of Presidents, Article XI

SUNDAY PLAY POLICY

As a matter of policy, NAIA Opening Round 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 – <https://www.naia.org/student-athletes/current/wellness-center/>

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](#)

AWARDS

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Player of the Week

Nominations for Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Players of the Week must be submitted to the conference/CAC/Unaffiliated group award on the NAIA Awards site (<https://naiaawards.prestosports.com/login/login.jsp?u=%2Fadmin>) by 3:30 PM (CT) Mondays from the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Sports Information Director or his/her designated representative. Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Players of the Week winners are considered for 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 winners. Honorees are announced by end of day on Tuesdays. Men's Volleyball recognition shall have three Player of the Week awards, including Attacker of the Week, Setter of the Week and Defender of the Week. Please note it is not required to submit all three nominations from the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group level.

For Men's Volleyball, NAIA National Players of the Week will be selected by a national voting committee. Nominations must be made by the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Sports Information Director, or their designated representative. The NAIA National Office will NOT accept nominations from anyone but the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Sports Information Director or their designated representative. Conferences/CAC/Unaffiliated Groups may nominate only one student-athlete weekly per award for national consideration.

ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS

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

It is recommended that each Conference/Unaffiliated Group selection committee convenes via conference call (set up by the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group) to select the All-Conference/Unaffiliated Group team. The Men's Volleyball Coaches Association officer coordinates the calling time with the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Men's Volleyball chair. **All-Conference/Independent teams must be sent to the NAIA National Office by April 20, 2027.**

The Men's Volleyball Coaches Association 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 –

- a. Observed performance



- b. Statistics as appropriate
- c. Relative strength of schedule
- d. Team performance
- e. Exhibits behavior consistent with "Champions of Character" philosophy

Note – These criteria will also be used in the All-America selection process.

ALL-AMERICA

~~The AVCA annually selects a 12-player All-America Team, including a Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year. Additionally, a 10-player Honorable Mention All-America Team will be selected.~~

~~The NAIA Athletics Communications Department will release the NAIA-AVCA Men's Volleyball All-America teams on April 18.~~

~~Men's Volleyball also utilizes an NAIA All-American program.~~

Each conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping is entitled to select a nine-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 selection committee convenes via conference call (set up by the conference/CAC to select the All-Conference team. The MVCA officer coordinates the calling time with the conference/CAC volleyball chair.

The MVCA strongly recommends that the process be by consensus rather than by ballot rating to ensure the 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:

- a. Observed performance
- b. Statistics as appropriate
- c. Relative strength of schedule
- d. Team performance
- e. Exhibits behavior consistent with "Champions of Character" philosophy

The NAIA All-America Volleyball Teams are selected prior to the NAIA National Championship by the NAIA-MVCA All-America Selection Committee, which is comprised of the NAIA-MVCA Executive Committee and additional representatives as needed to ensure conference-wide representation. The committee is structured to include representation from each conference, providing a broader national perspective when evaluating qualified candidates. If the Executive Committee does not provide full conference representation, an ARC Chair or designee will be added to complete that representation. Should conference representation still be incomplete, the Executive Committee may appoint a representative from any unrepresented conference to serve on the committee for the selection process.

The pool of candidates is comprised of student-athletes selected to the All-Conference/Independent Teams. The official All-Conference/CAC form is distributed separately by the NAIA National Office to conference/CAC commissioners. Student-athletes must be listed in descending rank order, beginning with the Conference/Independent Player of the Year and continuing in order of selection.

Any Conference/CAC Player of the Year who is not selected to one of the three All-America Teams will automatically be added to the Third Team. Each of the three All-America Teams will consist of nine (9) student-athletes.

The NAIA-MVCA Executive Committee will also vote on Player of the Year and Coach of the Year.

CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER INDIVIDUAL STUDENT AWARD

Each participating team at the National Championship shall nominate one student-athlete who has shown a documented display of exemplary character and sportsmanship during competition, on campus, and in the community that exemplifies the core values of Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Sportsmanship, and Servant Leadership.

The deadline for nomination is **April 15**. The nomination link can be found [here](#).

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 (Jan. 31)
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 Jan. 31 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.

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 **April 15**. Late nominations will not be accepted.

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 **3.0 season GPA** on a 4.0 scale, all members of the team who appear on the eligibility certificate will be included in the GPA compilation. Nominations will be accepted through **June 30**.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Groups Player of the Year

Each Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group selects a Player of the Year using its own method of determination.

National Player of the Year

The AVCA-NAIA National Player of the Year is selected in conjunction with the AVCA-NAIA All-America Teams.

The following criteria is considered when selecting the AVCA-NAIA Player of the Year –

1. Outstanding performance on the court
2. Participation in at least half of the team's matches
3. Team success
4. Exhibits behavior consistent with the Champions of Character philosophy

The AVCA-NAIA National Player of the Year is selected from the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Players of the Year.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group 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 AVCA-NAIA Coach of the Year is selected in conjunction with the AVCA-NAIA All-America Teams.

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

The AVCA-NAIA Coach of the Year is selected from the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Coaches of the Year and head coaches of teams participating in the national tournament.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

The NAIA maintains a standardized awards program for its national championship, with awards provided to the official party of the National Championship team. A 7-member All-Tournament Team, including the Molten Most Valuable Player, is selected by members of the tournament committee, with input from participating national championship coaches. The Molten Most Valuable Player is included as part of the 7-member All-Tournament Team. The Sportsman of the Year award is also presented during the awards ceremony as a separate recognition and is not required to be included among the seven All-Tournament Team members.

ORDERING AWARDS



Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group awards are ordered by the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Commissioner and are the financial responsibility of the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group and/or postseason host institution. Official NAIA awards should be ordered from –

[Collegiate Awards](#), 18081 E. Trafficway, Springfield, MO 65802

Contact – Brad Stout – brads@collegiateawards.com

COACHES ASSOCIATION

NAIA MEN'S VOLLEYBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

The NAIA-MVCA is an association comprised of Men's Volleyball coaches whose institutions are members in good standing. The NAIA-MVCA is charged with the responsibility of carrying out programs beneficial to the sport of Men's Volleyball and the members of the NAIA-MVCA. The NAIA-MVCA 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-MVCA 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 current NAIA-VCA 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. In order for a player or coach to be eligible for NAIA-AVCA recognition, the coach must be a member of the AVCA. For \$205, an NAIA head coach (\$140 for assistants, \$95 for support staff, \$65 for students or \$379 for Institution staff up to 3 members) may join the Association and begin reaping the benefits only membership can offer. Additional information can be found at www.avca.org.

NAIA-MVCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Officers

President	Chad Hanson	Dordt University (Iowa)	712-722-6320	Chad.hanson@dordt.edu
1st Vice President	Doug Sherer	Mount Vernon Nazarene (Ohio)	216-702-2706	Douglas.sherer@mvnu.edu
2nd Vice President	Tom Young	Missouri Baptist	314-392-2395	thomas.young@mobap.edu
Secretary	VACANT-TBD			
Past President	Luke Bentley	William Penn University	641-673-1705	Luke.bentley@wmpenn.edu
NAC Liaison	Nik Rule	Heart of America Conference		nik.rule@heartofamericaconference.com

NAIA-MVCA CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1 The name of the Association shall be the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Men's Volleyball Coaches Association (NAIA-MVCA).

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-MVCA 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-MVCA 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 Men's Volleyball Executive Committee which will promote interest in Men's 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 - MEETINGS

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

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