

**AVCA** GIRLS & WOMEN'S  
**VOLLEYBALL**  
**OFFICIALS**  
**APPRECIATION**  
**WEEK TOOLKIT**

**SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 7, 2023**

**#OFFICIATIONWEEK**

**[AVCA.ORG/EVENT/2023OFFICIATIONWEEK](https://avca.org/event/2023officiationweek)**





# Note from the AVCA



A couple of weeks ago we witnessed one of the greatest events in the long and storied history of competitive sports. 92,003 spectators packed the University of Nebraska's Memorial Stadium to watch a women's volleyball match between Nebraska and the University of Nebraska-Omaha to set a women's sporting event attendance world record!



(No "Googling" allowed.) Raise your hand if you knew the names of the four-person crew that officiated this history-making event before the first serve on August 30.

Our volleyball officials "punch the clock," donning their uniform and whistle ready to make history in our gyms and on our courts match after match - in many cases after clocking out from their "day job."

They don't show up because they want their names to be remembered. They don't do it for praise. They definitely don't do it to draw the ire of coaches, athletes, media, and fans! Our officiating community does it because they love our sport and want to create a positive, competitive experience for athletes, coaches, and volleyball fans across the country.

I can respect that! I can APPRECIATE that! Surely, you can, too!

Join us in celebrating the 3rd Annual AVCA Girls and Women's Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week, September 29, to October 7, 2023. Read more about how to get involved in this toolkit below and on our [website](#).

**HAPPY #OFFICIATIONWEEK! #WeAreAVCA**

## **Kennedy D. Wells**

AVCA Director of Membership  
Officiating Initiatives Staff Liaison

# September 29 - October 7, 2023



September 29 – October 7, 2023, is the 3rd Annual AVCA Girls and Women’s Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week. This nine-day period is set aside to make sure our officials know they are part of the sport. As coaches, you are the leaders, student-athletes, parents, and fans will follow your example of ensuring that we treat our officials in a manner befitting their role in helping girls and women’s volleyball become one of the United States most popular sports.

*CLICK HERE to view the...*

**[2023 AVCA GIRLS & WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS APPRECIATION WEEK PARTICIPANTS LIST!!](#)**

*\*Note: This list will be updated weekly during #OFFICIATIONWEEK.*

## How Can You Engage? **4 STEPS**

1

**CHOOSE A MATCH** during the week of September 29 – October 7. NOTE: Coaches/teams can participate in more than one match during the week. For example, you might choose to recognize officials at a match as the Home team and work with another school to recognize officials at another match as the Visiting team.

2

**COORDINATE WITH THE OPPOSING COACH/TEAM** to present a small token of appreciation – goodie bag(s) or certificate of appreciation or something agreed upon – prior to the match before the coin toss. Please include both coaches/teams in the presentation. You can also post signs or banners; for example, “Thank you to tonight’s officials! We appreciate all you do for volleyball!” **TO MAKE THIS A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL, PLEASE DO NOT PUBLISH NAMES OF OFFICIALS ON PROGRAMS, FLYERS, BANNERS OR SOCIAL MEDIA.**

3

**TAKE PICTURES.** The home team is responsible for pictures, though both teams may want to take photos to each share to social media. A photo that includes the officials, the coaches, and BOTH teams is highly recommended.

4

**POST 1-2 PICTURES TO SOCIAL MEDIA**, and tag **@AVCAVolleyball** and **#OFFICIATIONWEEK**. NOTE: You may also want to tag your state volleyball coaches and/or officials association, and/or state athletic association.

# LOOKING FOR WAYS TO GET INVOLVED?

## Choose an **IDEA** to put into action:



### ■ Banners or Posters

Hang banners or posters thanking officials near the court or in the gym

### ■ Breakfast for Officials

Host breakfast for volleyball officials

### ■ Certificate of Appreciation

Present officials with a customized AVCA Officials Appreciation Week Certificate of Appreciation

- **DOWNLOAD** the 2023 AVCA Officials Appreciation Week Certificate as an editable PDF
- **DOWNLOAD** the 2023 AVCA Officials Appreciation Week Certificate as an editable DOCX

### ■ Emphasis Sportsmanship

- Donate a sportsmanship book or video to a local library on behalf of officials
- Encourage your school's coaches to take the free online NFHS's Sportsmanship Course: [nfhslearn.com](https://www.nfhslearn.com)
- Invite your athletic director and coaches to discuss sportsmanship with athletes and parents
- Place a special emphasis with players and coaches to show great sportsmanship and respect to officials during the #OFFICIATIONWEEK match, and encourage the other team to do the same
- Share posts from the NFHS's [benchbadbehavior.com](https://www.benchbadbehavior.com) to social media during #OFFICIATIONWEEK emphasizing good sportsmanship from athletes, coaches, parents and fans

### ■ Goodie Bags

Present a goodie bag from both teams to officials. Goody bags can include snacks, gift cards to local establishments, team or school shirts, whistles, or anything else that represents your school

### ■ PA Announcement

Read a PA announcement before the game or during a break in play

- **Sample PA script:** *"This week is the American Volleyball Coaches Association Girls & Women's Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week. We're asking fans, coaches and parents to join with us in honoring our officials for their time, dedication and selfless service to grow the sport of volleyball and the student-athletes who participate in it. Bad behavior by fans has led to a national shortage of officials. Set a positive example - bench bad behavior, think before you speak and always show respect to officials."*

### ■ Thank You Notes

Provide written "thank you" notes from student-athletes to officials prior to a match

### ■ Video Message

Create an #OFFICIATIONWEEK video for social media and/or the video board during a match

# Additional Resources: High School



## ■ NFHS: Become a High School Official

Individuals interested in learning more about becoming a high school official, and even begin the application process, can do so at [HighSchoolOfficials.com](https://www.highschoolofficials.com)

- September 6, 2023, NFHS Video Voice, “High School Officials are People – They Deserve to be Treated with Respect”

## ■ NFHS: Bench Bad Behavior Campaign

When high school athletic events are canceled because of bad behavior, everyone loses, ESPECIALLY our students. The #BenchBadBehavior NFHS campaign includes a toolkit and social media post to proactively address bad behavior at high school athletic events. Learn more at [BenchBadBehavior.com](https://www.benchbadbehavior.com)

## ■ NFHS: National High School Activities Month Resource Kit

The NFHS provides state associations and high schools resources to promote National High School Activities Month during October, which was created to increase the public’s awareness of the values and needs of interscholastic activity programs. Learn more at [nfhs.org/HSActivitiesMonth](https://www.nfhs.org/HSActivitiesMonth)

- 2022 NFHS National High School Activities Month Campaign Booklet
- State High School Activities Month Toolkits

## ■ NFHS Playbook: Recruiting and Retaining Officials & Addressing Behavior in Sport

September 2023 - Strategies to address barriers to the recruitment and retention of officials developed by the NFHS Officials Consortium and NFHS Behavior Summit; such as, assignments; sportsmanship; work environment; financial issues; mentorship; recruitment; and training for officials.

## ■ RefReps Officiating Education System

RefReps is currently working with 32 NFHS member state high school association to provide online training for officials as well as curriculum for high school and college students wanting to learn how to become officials

- July 27, 2023, article, “NFHS Begins Agreement with RefReps to Assist with Education Content for Officials”
- February 9, 2023, article, “Encouraging High School Students to Enter the Officiating Avocation”

## ■ THSCA Officials Appreciation Toolkit

The Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) #OfficialsAppreciation with the AVCA Game Kit includes suggested actions, a PA announcement, an event poster, and a video board graphic to help teams recognize hard-working officials and get more information. Learn more at [thsca.com/downloads](https://www.thsca.com/downloads)

# Additional Resources: College



## ■ Collegiate Player 2 Ref Program

The Division 2 Conference Commissioners Association (D2 CCA) and Division 2 Athletics Directors Association (D2 ADA) "Collegiate P2R" program aims to draw in student-athletes who have concluded their college playing careers to educate them on the benefits and advantages of becoming an official

## ■ Indiana Wesleyan Volleyball Fundraiser's Unexpected Benefits Video

Players officiating of matches raised funds for preseason trip, but also brought team members and the community closer together. Watch the AVCA interview with Indiana Wesleyan Volleyball Head Coach Candace Moats, and players, Macy Staggs and Julia Price, about their experience

## ■ NCAA Say Yes to Officiating

NCAA resources to become an official and improve the sporting behavior of the game environment in college sports, including:

- NCAA Officiating Interest Form
- Become a Sports Official
- National Association of Sports Officials
- Collegiate Player to Ref Program
- NCAA Intro to Sports Officiating Enrollment Form
- Arbiter Sports
- RefQuest+
- In-Venue Video Board Graphic
- Officially Human Public Service Announcement
- 2020 NCAA National Review of Collegiate Officiating Report

# Additional Resources: Professional

## ■ National Association of Sports Officials (NAOS)

"Say Yes to Officiating" is a collection of free resources from the NAOS designed to help recruit new sports officials, retain the ones already working, instill excellence, and celebrate the officiating experience. Learn more at [sayyestoofficiating.com](http://sayyestoofficiating.com)

- [NASO Suggestions for Showing Officials Appreciation](#)

## ■ Professional Association of Volleyball Officials (PAVO)

Information from the Professional Association of Volleyball Officials (PAVO) on how to become an official, receive training and advance one's career, and get certified. [Learn more at pavo.org](http://pavo.org)

# 2021 - 2023 #OFFICIATIONWEEK History



Now in its third year, #OFFICIATIONWEEK has become a proud annual tradition among hundreds of high school boys and girls, and college men's and women's volleyball teams from 32 states including D.C. The annual event is hosted by the AVCA High School Leadership Council. While the athletes, coaches and teams plan and lead the individual officials appreciation events, the national campaign's success is also credited to AVCA's Affiliate Program Partners; high school athletic associations; intercollegiate athletic conferences; public and private high schools and universities; and USA Volleyball Regions who encouraged their teams to participate.

## 2021 AVCA Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week

#OFFICIATIONWEEK was started by the AVCA in the fall of 2021, in response to the national shortage of high school volleyball officials. This 1st event was promoted to girls high school teams.

## 2022 AVCA Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week

### 241 Participants | 26 States

The 2nd Annual AVCA #OFFICIATIONWEEK held September 30, to October 8, grew vastly from the its first year to include 241 participants in 26 states. While the week was mainly marketed to girls volleyball teams, participants included girls, boys, beach and women's volleyball teams.

- View the [2022 AVCA Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week Participants List](#)
- Watch the [2022 AVCA Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week Highlights Video](#)

**2022 AVCA Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week/#OFFICIATIONWEEK**  
241 Participants in 26 States including DC

CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE PARTICIPANTS LIST + LINKS TO MORE PHOTOS



# 2021 - 2023 #OFFICIATIONWEEK Highlights



## 2023 AVCA Men's & Boys Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week 122 Participants | 23 States

In Spring 2023, the 1st annual AVCA Men's and Boys #OFFICIATIONWEEK kicked off as a tremendous success with 122 participants from 23 states.

- View the [2023 AVCA Men's/Boys Vb Officials Appreciation Week Participants List](#)
- Watch the [2023 AVCA Men's & Boys Vb Officials Appreciation Week Highlights Video](#)

**2023 AVCA Men's/Boys Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week**

**122 Participants in 23 States**

**April 1 - 16, 2023**  
**#OFFICIATIONWEEK**

**CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE PARTICIPANTS LIST + LINKS TO MORE PHOTOS**

**QUESTIONS:** Contact AVCA Membership and Communications Specialist Tara McGuire at [tara.mcguire@avca.org](mailto:tara.mcguire@avca.org), or visit [avca.org](http://avca.org).