

AVCA BOYS, MEN'S & BEACH **VOLLEYBALL** **OFFICIALS** **APPRECIATION** **WEEK TOOLKIT**

MARCH 23 - APRIL 7, 2024

#OFFICIATIONWEEK

[AVCA.ORG/EVENT/2024 OFFICIATIONWEEK/](https://avca.org/event/2024_officiationweek/)



AVCA Boys, Men's & Beach Volleyball **Officials Appreciation Week**

March 23 - April 7, 2024



This Toolkit Contains....

Page 1	Toolkit contents
Page 2	Note from the AVCA
Page 3	Instructions to participate <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2024 #OFFICIATIONWEEK participants list- How can you engage? 4 steps
Page 4	Looking for more ways to get involved? Choose an IDEA to put into action: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Banners/posters- PA announcements- Certificates for Officials- And much more!!- Goodie bags
Pages 5 - 6	Additional resources
Pages 7 - 9	2021 - 2024 #OfficiationWeek history

***“THANK YOU for showing appreciation to our
volleyball officials. Play ball!”***

Note from the AVCA

What we are witnessing with volleyball right now is phenomenal!

92,003 spectators for the University of Nebraska's Volleyball Day got the 2023-24 season off to roaring start in August taking the standard for our sport to heights that most of us could not have imagined the sport would reach.



According to the NCAA, throughout the women's season more than 30 Division I women's programs set attendance records with a reported 3.6 million total fans attending women's college volleyball matches in 2023. This wave also resulted in this being the most-viewed regular season, per ESPN which say on average 116,000 viewers for their regular-season broadcast on ESPN platforms.

The 2023 women's and girls indoor season could not have wrapped up on higher note, but it did! The NCAA D-I Women's Volleyball Championship in Tampa set an attendance record of 19,727 and an average 1.7 million viewers tuned in to ABC on a Sunday afternoon – against NFL coverage – to watch the University of Texas sweep Nebraska to claim back-to-back national championships.

Right there along for the ride are our outstanding and dedicated volleyball officials!

The calendar has flipped to 2024 and we cannot wait to see how the boys, men's and beach disciplines continue to build on their tremendous momentum. With the increase in states that have sanctioned high school boys, bracket expansion for the National Collegiate Men including an automatic qualifier from the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC), and the next level of excitement for Women's Collegiate Beach as they crown a 2024 champion in Gulf Shores, Alabama before moving to Huntington Beach, California in 2025.

Right there along for the ride are our outstanding and dedicated volleyball officials! We say THANK YOU!

The AVCA is excited about cultivating the relationship with our officials and promoting volleyball officiating as an avocation. We can't wait to see what is next for our sport.

Join us in continuing our celebration and appreciation for our officials. The 2024 AVCA Boys, Men's and Beach Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week is March 23 – April 7. Read more about how to get involved in this toolkit and on our website. **HAPPY #OFFICIATIONWEEK! #WeAreAVCA**

Kennedy D. Wells

AVCA Director of Membership



March 23 - April 7, 2024



March 23 – April 7, 2024, is the 4th Annual AVCA Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week. This 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 to ensure we treat our officials in a manner befitting their role in helping volleyball become one of the United States most popular sports.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the....

2024 AVCA BOYS, MEN'S & BEACH 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 March 23 - April 7. NOTE: Coaches/teams can participate in more than one match during the week. For example, you might choose to recognize officials at a Home match then work with another school to recognize officials at a match as the Visiting team. **If your team's schedule prevents you from participating during this period, contact tara.mcguire@avca.org for special arrangements.*

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 2024 AVCA Officials Appreciation Week Certificate as an editable PDF
- **DOWNLOAD** the 2024 AVCA Officials Appreciation Week Certificate as an editable DOCX

■ Emphasis Sportsmanship

- 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
- Encourage your school's coaches to take the free NFHS's Sportsmanship Course: nfhslearn.com
- Share posts from NFHS's benchbadbehavior.com to social media during #OFFICIATIONWEEK emphasizing good sportsmanship from athletes, coaches, parents and fans
- Donate a sportsmanship book or video to a local library on behalf of officials
- Invite your athletic director & coaches to discuss sportsmanship with athletes & parents

■ 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 Boys, Men's & Beach 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



■ [IHSAA Free Volleyball Officials Training](#)

Free volleyball officials clinic in Indiana sells out at 100 participants

■ [MSHSAA Initiative: Trade Your Stripes](#)

An initiative in Missouri, which encourages veterans and active military to become officials

■ [NFHS: Become a High School Official](#)

Learn more about becoming a HS official, and download the [Become a HS Official State Toolkit](#)

- 2023 NFHS Video Voice, ["High School Officials are People"](#)

■ [NFHS: Bench Bad Behavior Campaign](#)

When high school athletic events are canceled due to bad behavior, everyone loses, ESPECIALLY our students. This campaign includes a toolkit and social media post

■ [NFHS: National High School Activities Month Resource Kit](#)

National High School Activities Month is hosted annually in October to increase the public's awareness of the values and needs of interscholastic activity programs

- [2023 NFHS National High School Activities Month Campaign Booklet](#)

■ [NFHS Playbook: Recruiting and Retaining Officials & Addressing Behavior in Sport](#)

Strategies to address barriers to the recruitment and retainment 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 providing online officials training plus curriculum for students seeking to become officials in 32 NFHS member state high school associations

■ [THSCA Officials Appreciation Toolkit](#)

The Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) #OfficialsAppreciation with the AVCA Game Kit includes a PA announcement, an event poster, and a video board graphic to help teams recognize officials

■ [USA Volleyball: Beach Referee Resources](#)

USAV Beach Volleyball Referee Courses and camps to become a beach referee candidate

■ [Volleyball Coaches Clinics include Officiating](#)

Many high school volleyball coaches clinics hosted by AVCA Signature and Affiliate Partner Associations now include an officiating component. Some associations also recognize an Official of the Year

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 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 DIICA Strategic Plan for Collegiate Officiating**

Division III Commissioners Association (DIICA) Strategic Plan for Collegiate Officiating including initiatives as Officials' Appreciation Week and **NEWMAC Conference's Volleyball Officials Spotlight**

■ **NCAA Say Yes to Officiating**

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

- NCAA Officiating Interest Form
- Collegiate Player to Ref Program and RefQuest+
- NCAA Intro to Sports Officiating Enrollment Form
- 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.

- **NASO Suggestions for Showing Officials Appreciation**
- **NASO National Officiating Survey** to gauge the state of sport officiating from official's perspective

■ **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.

2021-2024 #OFFICIATIONWEEK History



Now in its 4th year, #OFFICIATIONWEEK has become a proud annual tradition among hundreds of boys, girls, beach, men's and women's volleyball teams from 45 states plus D.C. 2024 marks the first official beach volleyball #OFFICIATIONWEEK. The annual event is hosted by the AVCA High School Leadership Council. While the athletes, coaches and teams plan and lead the 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](#)

2021-2024 #OFFICIATIONWEEK History



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

The banner features a collage of photos from various states including Arizona, California, Colorado, New York, Connecticut, Illinois, North Carolina, South Carolina, Indiana, Kansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Rhode Island, Texas, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. A map of the United States highlights the 23 participating states in red.

2021-2024 #OFFICIATIONWEEK History



2023 AVCA Girls and Women's Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week: 600 Participants | 44 States

Thank you to the RECORD-BREAKING 600 teams and organizations in 44 states that participated in #OFFICIATIONWEEK!!

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

CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE FULL HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO!!

600 PARTICIPANTS IN 44 STATES

#OFFICIATIONWEEK

AVCA Girls & Women's Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week
Sept. 29 - Oct. 7, 2023

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#OFFICIATIONWEEK
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QUESTIONS: Contact AVCA Membership and Communications Specialist Tara McGuire at tara.mcguire@avca.org, or visit avca.org.