



## 2026 AVCA Men’s NAIA Awards Packet

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All nomination links and any updates to the Postseason Awards program or timeline will be published on <https://www.avca.org/award/avca-mens-naia-all-america-and-coach-of-the-year-nominations/>

**AWARDS CHANGES:** Throughout the awards packet, all new changes for the 2026 season are highlighted in yellow.

## AVCA Men's NAIA Postseason Awards Timetable

The following is a list of the awards deadlines and timetables established by the AVCA. It has been outlined so that you will be able to monitor all of the deadlines, enabling your student-athletes to be eligible for postseason honors.

<b>AWARDS TIMETABLE</b>
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**Tuesday, March 31 – Head Coach Membership Deadline**

Membership deadline (head coaches) in order to be eligible for the AVCA Postseason Awards Program (This includes new members as well as renewals). Call the AVCA and speak with Lauren Miller in Member Services if you have questions regarding your AVCA membership at 866-544-2822 or e-mail [members@avca.org](mailto:members@avca.org).

**Monday, April 13** nationally ranked teams emailed to member head coaches for compiling statistics versus nationally ranked teams for All-America consideration.

**Monday, April 13 – NACOY Nominations Due**

Nominations for the AVCA Men's NAIA National Assistant Coach of the Year are due to the AVCA Office.

**Tuesday, April 14 thru Monday, April 20 – Student-Athlete Nominations Accepted**

Nominations will be accepted online beginning at 8:00 a.m. ET on April 14 through 5:00 p.m. ET on Monday, April 20.

**Tuesday, April 14 – NCOY & NACOY Preliminary Ballot**

AVCA Men's NAIA National Coach of the Year preliminary ballot emailed to member head coaches.

**Monday, April 20 – NCOY & NACOY Preliminary Ballot – DUE!**

AVCA Men's NAIA National Coach of the Year preliminary ballot due to AVCA.

**Tuesday, April 21 – NCOY & NACOY Final Ballot**

AVCA Men's NAIA National Coach of the Year final ballot e-mailed to member head coaches.

**Thursday, April 23 – NCOY & NACOY Final Ballot – DUE!**

AVCA Men's NAIA National Coach of the Year final ballot due to AVCA by 3:00 p.m. ET.

**Monday, April 27 – Men's NAIA All-Americans**

All-America Team and Honorable Mentions announced via press release from the AVCA.

**Monday, April 27 – Men's NAIA NCOY and NPOY**

AVCA NAIA All-Americans, Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, AVCA National Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year announced

**Tuesday, April 28 – Saturday, May 3**

NAIA National Invitational Tournament.

## AVCA Men's NAIA Awards Committee

**Luke Bentley (Chair)**  
William Penn  
[luke.bentley@wmpenn.edu](mailto:luke.bentley@wmpenn.edu)

**Representatives**  
Tom Ryan St. Xavier  
Alfonso Alvarez, Campbellsville  
Jared Goldberg, The Master's  
Greg Reitz, Lourdes  
Chad Hanson, Dordt  
Charles Shearer, Life  
Steven Brasher, Simpson

## AVCA Postseason Student-Athlete Awards Information

The AVCA Men's NAIA volleyball postseason awards program is in its twelfth year. The AVCA is proud to honor deserving student-athletes. **The AVCA will select two All-America teams featuring 12 athletes each for a total of 24 student-athletes. The committee reserves the option to select All-America Honorable Mention selections beyond these 24. The amount of Honorable Mention selections will be determined by the committee.** Selections will be highlighted by the selection of the **AVCA NAIA Player of the Year** and the **AVCA Newcomer of the Year**. The AVCA NAIA All-America Team selection committee is comprised of seven AVCA-member NAIA men's head coaches and the AVCA committee chair. To ensure geographic representation, these individuals represent the conferences of the country for men's volleyball.

### NOMINATING PROCEDURES

The postseason student-athletes awards nomination procedure is an online process.

There are no restrictions regarding how many student-athletes one team may nominate, as there are no restrictions on the number of student-athletes that one team can place on the AVCA All-American team. Please use your professional judgment to only nominate those student-athletes who legitimately have a chance to earn honors.

**Please note that one spot on the 24-member AVCA NAIA All-America Teams will be designated for the libero position.**

### NOMINATION RULES & REQUIREMENTS

The general requirements for nominating a student-athlete for AVCA postseason honors are:

- The student-athlete must meet all eligibility requirements as listed in the rules adopted by his respective institution;
- The student-athlete may be in his first, second, third or fourth year of eligibility;
- The student-athlete must be nominated by the head coach of his institution;
- **Athletes are required to have played in 2/3 of the sets played in order to be nominated.**
- All deadlines and guidelines must be met for a nomination to be considered.
- The student-athlete's head coach must be a member in good standing of the American Volleyball Coaches Association. Head coaches have until **Tuesday, March 31** to become a member or renew their membership to ensure compliance

**TERMS FOR  
DISQUALIFICATION**

Failure to meet the above stated rules and requirements may result in the disqualification of a student-athlete from AVCA postseason awards consideration.

**FRESHMAN OF  
THE YEAR  
CANDIDATES**

The AVCA recognizes the top player in his **true freshman** year of competition. Only **one** player from each institution can be nominated.

**ALL-AMERICA  
NOTIFICATION**

A press release will be sent out on Monday, April 27, 2026 announcing the AVCA Men's NAIA All-America Team and Honorable Mentions.

If your student-athlete(s) is selected as an AVCA All-American, head coaches will be notified via a phone call from the AVCA staff. Head coaches should provide a cell phone number if at all possible on the athlete's nomination form in order to reach you away from home or the office if necessary.

**NO "CO"  
AWARD  
WINNERS**

The AVCA will not be selecting "co" winners of any award offering they provide. This includes National Coach and the Year and Player of the Year. All award selections will be awarded to a singular person.

## Postseason Statistical/Selection Criteria

The postseason selection committees will consider the criteria listed below when selecting the postseason honorees. The student-athletes will be compared with others of the same position and ranked using the statistics submitted. All statistical data will be considered; however, the importance of each shall be left to the judgment of the selection committees.

**IMPORTANT:** *The statistical recommendations listed below are meant to serve as **guidelines based on historical averages, not as firm requirements.***

### STATISTICAL CRITERIA

#### A. Attack

1. Kills per set
  - a. Middle Blockers — 3.75
  - b. Outside hitters — 4.25
2. Kill Percentage (Kills/Attempt)

#### B. Set (for setters only)

1. Assist per set — 11.00

#### C. Serve

1. Aces per set
2. Errors per set

#### D. Pass (serve reception)

1. Is candidate a primary passer?

#### E. Digs

1. Digs per set

#### F. Blocks

1. Block solos — 1 point
2. Block assists — 1 point
3. Blocks per set
  - a. Middle blocker — 1.25
  - b. Outside blocker — 0.50

#### G. Strength of Schedule

#### H. Performance Against Strong Competition

### SELECTION CRITERIA

#### A. Middle Blockers

1. Primary Considerations
  - a. Attack percentage
  - b. Kills per set
  - c. Blocks per set
  - d. Kill percentage
2. Secondary Considerations
  - a. Passing
  - b. Digging

#### B. Outside/Opposite Hitters

1. Primary Considerations
  - a. Attack percentage
  - b. Kills per set
  - c. Digging
  - d. Passing
  - e. Kill percentage
2. Secondary Consideration
  - a. Blocking

#### C. Setters/Hitters

1. Primary Considerations
  - a. Assists per set
  - b. Kills per set
  - c. Individual attack percentage
  - d. Blocking
2. Secondary Considerations
  - a. Team attack percentage
  - b. Digging

#### D. 5-1 Setters

1. Primary Considerations
  - a. Assists per set
  - b. Team attack percentage
  - c. Blocking
  - d. Digging
2. Secondary Considerations
  - a. Individual attack percentage

#### E. Libero

1. Primary Considerations
  - a. Digs per set
  - b. Reception errors per set
  - c. Receptions per set
  - d. Reception percentage \*  
\* (reception attempts minus reception errors, divided by reception attempts)

## AVCA Postseason Student-Athlete Nomination Checklist

Complete the following information checklist for each student-athlete you wish to nominate for AVCA postseason honors. This information is provided as a means of ensuring that you have completed the requirements of the nomination procedure.

### CHECKLIST

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- O Please include as many matches as possible in your players' nominations.
- O Submitted nominations online **by 5 pm ET (4 pm CDT, 3 pm MDT, 2 pm PDT) on Monday, April 20. Must complete both pages of the online program: demographic info (p. 1) and statistics (p. 2).**
- O A match-by-match statistical account versus all opponents for the entire season for each nominee has been submitted **by 5 pm ET on Monday, April 20**. A match-by-match listing of performances versus nationally ranked or division-specific teams is not necessary; however, an overall match-by-match report versus ALL opponents for each nominee is required. The document **must be in a PDF format** and indicate the nominee's name and school without using special character, such as # or '.

### DEADLINES

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All nominations must be submitted via the on-line process at [www.avca.org](http://www.avca.org) by **5 pm (ET) on Monday, April 20**.

A one-page pdf of match-by-match statistics versus all opponents for the entire season for each nominee must be uploaded with the online **5 pm (ET) Monday, April 20**.

### NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

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Step-by-step instructions regarding the on-line student-athlete nomination process will be available through the AVCA Web site at [www.avca.org](http://www.avca.org) on that date.

**IMPORTANT:** All head coaches must have up-to-date memberships and know their personal information needed to log in to the AVCA website. Those entering the nominations will need to have the head coach's login and password. ***If you need your AVCA log-in information, please contact AVCA Member Services at [members@avca.org](mailto:members@avca.org) or 866-544-2822.***

## AVCA Coaches Award Programs



The American Volleyball Coaches Association annually honors deserving coaches through its National Coach of the Year and Victory Club programs. Refer to the information listed below for specifics regarding each program. If you have questions, please call Brad Wilson at (859) 219-3520 or e-mail [bradley.wilson@avca.org](mailto:bradley.wilson@avca.org). Head coaches must be AVCA members in good standing to be eligible for either program.

The men's NAIA AVCA volleyball coaches will vote and select a NAIA National Coach of the Year and National Assistant Coach of the Year. The four coaches (in each NCOY and NACOY category) receiving the most votes from the preliminary ballot will be included on the final ballot. Each AVCA NAIA men's head coach will then be asked to vote for one of the four coaches (in each NCOY and NACOY category) as the 2024 AVCA NAIA Men's National Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year.

### AVCA NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR

All AVCA member coaches will be asked to vote in a preliminary ballot (featuring all AVCA-member NAIA Men's Head Coaches) based on the following criteria:

- 1) **team success during current season;**
- 2) **team improvement from previous season;**
- 3) **fulfillment of team potential; and**
- 4) **professional manner and attitude of the coach.**

### AVCA NATIONAL ASSISTANT COACH OF THE YEAR

Added in 2017, the AVCA Men's NAIA National Assistant Coach of the Year Nomination Form can be found online at <https://www.avca.org/award/avca-mens-naia-all-america-and-coach-of-the-year-nominations/>. This form must be received by the AVCA by **Monday, April 14**. All AVCA head coaches are eligible to nominate **ONE** of their assistant coaches **or** an assistant coach in their respective conference. Only one nomination per AVCA head coach will be accepted. Nominations will be submitted based on the following criteria:

- 1) **AVCA Member;**
- 2) **player development on and off the court;**
- 3) **essential part of the program's athletic success;**
- 4) **service to the community;**
- 5) **commitment to the coaching profession and professional development; and**
- 6) **represents program in professional and ethical manner.**

The presentation will take place at the Jostens Coaches Honors Luncheon at the 2026 AVCA Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas.