

AVCA FALL **VOLLEYBALL** **OFFICIALS** **APPRECIATION** **WEEK TOOLKIT**

GIRLS AND WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
SEPT. 25 - OCT. 3, 2026

#OFFICIATIONWEEK2026

[AVCA.ORG/EVENT/2026OFFICIATIONWEEK/](https://avca.org/event/2026officiationweek/)



AVCA Fall Volleyball **Officials Appreciation Week**

September 25 - October 3, 2026



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

Note from the AVCA

As we embark on the **2026 AVCA Fall Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week**, I want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate the remarkable individuals who help make our sport possible each and every day, **our volleyball officials**.

Often working behind the scenes and under intense scrutiny, officials are essential to the success and integrity of our game.

Their commitment, professionalism, expertise, and passion for volleyball create an environment where student-athletes can compete, coaches can lead, and fans can enjoy the sport with confidence. From local high school gyms to collegiate arenas to football stadiums and even baseball diamonds, our volleyball officials bring consistency, accountability, and fairness to every match they oversee.

A special thank you to AVCA Membership and Communications Specialist **Tara Swan** for her continued leadership and dedication in helping advance this important initiative.

Throughout **#OFFICIATIONWEEK2026**, I encourage coaches, administrators, athletes, fans, and volleyball enthusiasts to join us in celebrating the individuals who keep the game moving.

Use the resources in the toolkit to recognize officials, highlight their impact on social media, and create moments of gratitude for the role they play in the volleyball experience.

Together, let us strengthen a culture of respect, appreciation, and recognition that extends far beyond a single week and reflects the value officials bring to volleyball year-round.

Thank you for helping us honor the professionals who uphold the standards of our game and embody the spirit of service that makes volleyball stronger at every level.

HAPPY #OFFICIATIONWEEK2026! #WeAreAVCA

With **APPRECIATION AND OFFICIATION**,

Kennedy D. Wells

Senior Director of Engagement, Research, and Mission
American Volleyball Coaches Association



SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 3, 2026



The 6th Annual AVCA Fall Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week is **September 25 - October 3, 2026**. This period is set aside for **girls and women's volleyball teams** to make sure our officials know how grateful the volleyball community is for the integral role they play. As coaches, you are the leaders, student-athletes, parents, and fans will follow your example of ensuring we treat our officials in a manner befitting their role in helping volleyball become one of the most popular sports.

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

2026 AVCA FALL VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS APPRECIATION WEEK PARTICIPANTS LIST!!

**Note: This list will be updated weekly during #OFFICIATIONWEEK2026.*

How Can You Engage? **5 STEPS**

1

CHOOSE A MATCH during the week of **September 25 - October 3, 2026**.

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.

- *We understand some team's schedule may not allow you to participate during the official event. Teams and organizations may submit their participation a week before and a week after the official dates to ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate.*

2

PLAN A SMALL TOKEN OF APPRECIATION FOR OFFICIALS PRE-MATCH – INCLUDE BOTH TEAMS

– Goodie bag(s) or certificate of appreciation or something agreed upon – prior to the match before the coin toss. 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

SNAP A GROUP PHOTO WITH OFFICIALS, BOTH TEAMS AND COACHES. The home team is responsible for pictures, though both teams may want to take photos to each share to social media.

4

POST & TAG #OFFICIATIONWEEK2026 + @AVCAVOLLEYBALL ON SOCIAL MEDIA. **You may also want to tag your local volleyball coaches and/or officials association, and/or athletic association.*

5

WANT YOUR TEAM ADDED TO THE NATIONAL PARTICIPANTS LIST? Submit your #OFFICIATIONWEEK2026 event to be added to the AVCA's National's Participant's List.

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 2026 AVCA Officials Appreciation Week Certificate as an editable PDF
- **DOWNLOAD** the 2026 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 Script:** *"This week is the American Volleyball Coaches Association's 2026 Fall Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week. We invite fans, coaches, and parents to join us in honoring our officials for their dedication and selfless service in growing the sport of volleyball and supporting our athletes. Let's set a positive example for everyone in attendance. Bench bad behavior, think before you speak, and always show respect to our officials. Thank you and enjoy the game!"*

■ **Thank You Notes**

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

■ **Video Message**

Create an #OFFICIATIONWEEK2026 video for social media and/or the video board during a match

Additional Resources: High School



■ [AVCA's #InspireSportsmanship Campaign](#)

Spotlights stories of girls and boys volleyball players, coaches and teams displaying exceptional sportsmanship. **Submit your story**

■ [IHSAA Free Volleyball Officials Training](#)

Read how an free Indiana high school volleyball officials clinic sold 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**

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

Strategies to address barriers to the recruitment and retainment of officials 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 suggested actions, a PA announcement, an event poster, and a video board graphic

■ [Volleyball AVCA/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

■ [Volleyball Coaches Clinics include Officiating](#)

High school volleyball coaches clinics hosted by AVCA Affiliate Partners now often recognize an Official of the Year, and feature sessions on officiating and good sportsmanship

Additional Resources: Club



■ [JVA Officials Reward Program](#)

The Junior Volleyball Coaches Association (JVA) Officials Reward Program is designed to recruit, retain and reward officials for working JVA volleyball events. The program is open to all certified Officials, from beginner to most experienced.

■ [JVA Officiating Resources](#)

Videos and outlines to train teams to make sure athletes understand the rules of officiating and scorekeeping

- JVA R2 Ref Training Video
- JVA Scoresheet & Libero Tracking Ref Training Video
- JVA Line Judge Ref Training Video

■ [USA Volleyball Resources for Officials](#)

- **Beach Volleyball Referee Resources**, including courses and camps
- **Benefits of Officiating**
- **How to become a USA Volleyball Official**
- **National Officials Development Program (NODP)**
- **Opportunities to officiate**, including registration instructions for national level tournaments

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

■ [Campus Recreation Programs](#)

Some college recreation departments offer officiating courses and training for students

■ [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 DIIICA Strategic Plan for Collegiate Officiating](#)

Division III Commissioners Association (DIIICA) 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

- [NCAA Officiating Interest Form](#)
- [Become a Sports Official](#)
- [National Association of Sports Officials](#)
- [Collegiate Player to Ref Program](#)
- [NCAA Intro to Sports Officiating Enrollment](#)
- [Arbiter Sports](#)
- [RefQuest+](#)
- [In-Venue Video Board Graphic](#)
- [Officially Human PSA](#)

■ [RefReps Officiating Education System](#)

Provides online officiating training, including an introductory course on officiating NCAA volleyball

Additional Resources: Pro



■ **[A-Z Podcast: S2E9 Letter G – Gratitude \(Coaches\) guest Kennedy Wells](#)**

In this episode of the From A to Zebra podcast, host Dana Pappas and guest Kennedy Wells discuss the importance of gratitude in officiating, particularly from the perspective of coaches. They explore the role of the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) in fostering relationships with officials, the significance of the AVCA and PAVO conventions, and the initiatives surrounding Officials Appreciation Week. The conversation highlights the emotional impact of appreciation on officials and the necessity of building strong relationships within the volleyball community.

■ **[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 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.

2021-2026 #OFFICIATIONWEEK History



Since 2021, AVCA #OFFICIATIONWEEK has become a proud annual tradition among over 3,000 elementary school, middle school, high school (boys and girls), club, beach, college men's and women's, and pro volleyball teams from 49 U.S. states, D.C. and other nations. The event is hosted twice each year, in the spring and fall; and all teams are encouraged to participate. The AVCA's Annual Spring #OFFICIATIONWEEK2026 is especially for boys, men's, beach, club and pro teams, and AVCA Fall #OFFICIATIONWEEK2026 is primarily for girls and women's teams.

The events are hosted by the AVCA High School Leadership Council. While the athletes, coaches and teams plan and lead the individual official's 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.

A large, colorful graphic for the 2021-2026 AVCA Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week. At the top, the AVCA logo is on the left and right, with the title "2021-2026 AVCA VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS APPRECIATION WEEK" in the center. Below the title, it says "Over 3,000 Participants in 49 States plus D.C." in blue. The central element is a map of the United States with state abbreviations, where 49 states are highlighted in blue. Surrounding the map are various photos of volleyball teams and officials, each with a label: "Middle School", "High School", "Club", "Boy's High School", "Beach", "Elementary School", "Men's Collegiate", "Two-Year College", "NAIA", "NCAA DIII", "NCAA DII", "NCAA DI", and "Pro". There are also several "Thank You" signs and a "We Love Our Refs!" sign. At the bottom, the hashtag "#OFFICIATIONWEEK" is prominently displayed in white on a dark blue background.

- Additional Resources: High School and Club
- Additional Resources: College and Pro

2021-2026 #OFFICIATIONWEEK History

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 its first year to include 241 participants in 26 states. While the week was primarily marketed to girls volleyball teams, participants included girls, boys, beach and women's volleyball.

- [2022 AVCA Highlights Video](#)
- [2022 AVCA Participants List](#)

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

The 1st Annual AVCA Men's and Boys #OFFICIATIONWEEK kicked off as a tremendous success with 122 participants from 23 states. Participants included: Middle School (3); High School (88); Club (4); Beach (2); NCAA DIII (12); NCAA DII (2); and NCAA DI (11).

- [2023 AVCA Men's & Boys Highlights Video](#)
- [2023 AVCA Men's & Boys Participants List](#)

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

A RECORD-BREAKING 600 teams and organizations in 44 states participated in #OFFICIATIONWEEK from September 29 to October 7, 2023! This marked the first #OFFICIATIONWEEK with participants from nearly every division involved, including: Middle School (4); High School Girls (451); High School Boys (1); Club (11); Beach (1); NJCAA (18); NAIA (5); NCAA DIII (27); NCAA DII (43); and NCAA DI (29).

- [2023 AVCA Girls & Women's Highlights Video](#)
- [2023 AVCA Girls & Women's Participants List](#)
- [2023 AVCA Girls & Women's Toolkit](#)



2021-2026 #OFFICIATIONWEEK History



[2024 AVCA Boys, Men's & Beach Volleyball Officials](#)

[Appreciation Week: 98 Participants | 34 States](#)

In spring 2024, 98 participants from 34 states took part in the AVCA Boys, Men's & Beach #OFFICIATIONWEEK. 2024 marked the first official beach volleyball #OFFICIATIONWEEK, and the 2nd Annual Boys and Men's. Spring 2024 #OFFICIATIONWEEK included participants from the following divisions: Middle School (4); High School (43); Club (18); Beach (9); NJCAA (2); NAIA (4); NCAA DIII (5); NCAA DII (6); NCAA DI (12); in addition to international volleyball programs.

- [2024 AVCA Boys, Men's & Beach Highlights Video](#)
- [2024 AVCA Boys, Men's & Beach Participants List](#)
- [2024 AVCA Boys, Men's & Beach Toolkit](#)

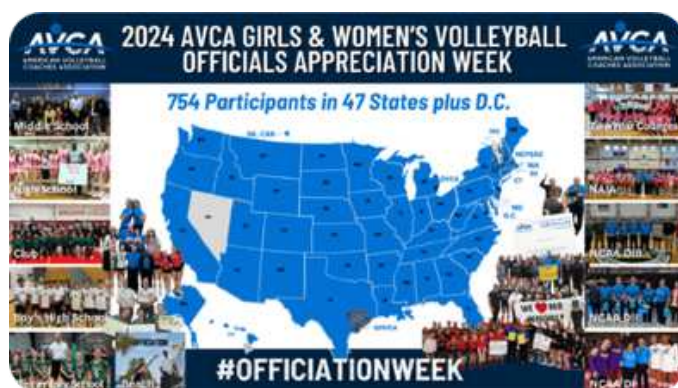


[2024 AVCA Girls & Women's Volleyball Officials](#)

[Appreciation Week: 754 Participants | 47 States](#)

Over 754 participants in 47 states took part in another record-setting 2024 AVCA Girls and Women's Volleyball #OFFICIATIONWEEK! This year's participation tops the previous record of 600 participants in 44 states set in 2023.

- [2024 AVCA Girls & Women's Highlights Video](#)
- [2024 AVCA Girls & Women's Participation List](#)
- [2024 AVCA Girls & Women's Toolkit](#)

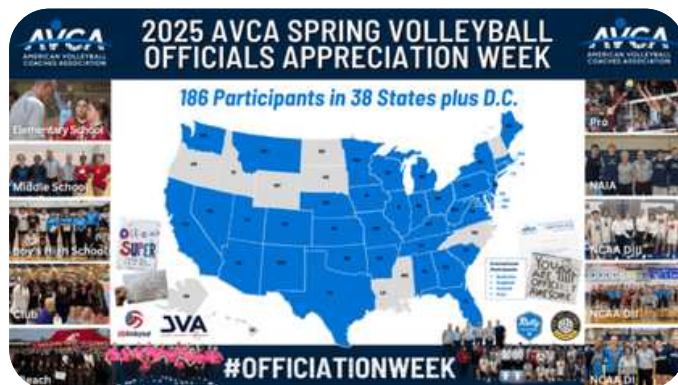


[2025 AVCA Spring Volleyball Officials](#)

[Appreciation Week: 186 Participants | 38 States](#)

The AVCA's 3rd annual celebration saw 186 teams from 38 states and D.C. honor volleyball officials. This year marked the first official Pro Volleyball #OFFICIATIONWEEK, expanding the celebration to include boys, men's, beach, club, and professional volleyball. Coaches led efforts to promote respect and gratitude towards officials, supported by organizations as the JVA, USA Volleyball, the Pro Volleyball Federation, local volleyball coaches associations, and many others, highlighting the vital role officials play in the sport.

- [2025 AVCA Spring Highlights Video](#)
- [2025 AVCA Spring Participation List](#)
- [2025 AVCA Spring Toolkit](#)



2021-2026 #OFFICIATIONWEEK History



2025 AVCA Fall Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week:

815 Participants | 46 States

The 5th Annual AVCA Fall Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week, held September 26 to October 4, 2025, brought together over 815 teams from 46 states, D.C., Canada, and Puerto Rico to celebrate the vital role officials play in the sport. Coaches and teams led the way with creative gestures of appreciation, reinforcing a culture that values the integrity, leadership, and dedication officials bring to the game.

- [2025 AVCA Fall Highlights Video](#)
- [2025 AVCA Fall Participants List](#)
- [2025 AVCA Fall Toolkit](#)



2026 AVCA Spring Volleyball Officials

Appreciation Week: 206 Participants | 39 States

This spring, our focus expanded beyond teams, players, and coaches to include a new and essential group of supporters—the fans. Building on the momentum of previous years, the 2026 initiative underscores the AVCA's ongoing commitment to recognizing officials during both the spring and fall seasons. This year introduces enhanced opportunities for fan engagement in the spring, laying the groundwork for a broader, community-wide strategy in future years.

- [2026 AVCA Spring Highlights Video](#)
- [2026 AVCA Spring Participation List](#)
- [2026 AVCA Spring Toolkit](#)



2026 AVCA Fall Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week: September 25 - October 3, 2026

The 6th Annual AVCA Fall Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week, is September 25, to October 3, 2026.

- [Submit your event](#) to be added to the [AVCA National Participants List](#)
- [2026 AVCA Fall Participants List](#)
- [2026 AVCA Fall Toolkit](#)



2021-2026 #OFFICIATIONWEEK History



Good Sportsmanship has the Power to Inspire

The AVCA's #InspireSportsmanship campaign was launched March 2024, through the AVCA High School Leadership Council. The campaign spotlights stories of girls and boys volleyball players, coaches and teams displaying exceptional sportsmanship. The campaign is an extension of #OFFICIATIONWEEK's efforts to promote sportsmanship through respect and appreciation of officials.

Unsportsmanlike acts spread further and faster than acts of kindness, humility, and corporation. That is why it is more important than ever to teach and spotlight good sportsmanship to inspire others.

Thank you to the many coaches, school administrators, volleyball coaches associations and others throughout the nation who have submitted stories of inspirational sportsmanship in volleyball. The AVCA is proud to feature these stories in the AVCA Affiliations eNewsletter, AVCA website, and social media in partnership with the AVCA's Signature Affiliate, Affiliate and Membership Organization high school partner associations.



SUBMIT YOUR STORY of inspirational sportsmanship by girls and boys volleyball players, coaches and teams. For more information, please contact **Tara Swan**, AVCA Membership & Communications Specialist.

QUESTIONS: Contact AVCA Membership and Communications Specialist Tara Swan at tara.swan@avca.org, or visit avca.org.