



## **New York Volleyball Coaches Association Hall of Fame Class of 2026 Mike Fusare**

Mike Fusare grew up in the Rochester area and graduated from Pittsford Sutherland high school in 1980. After graduating high school, Mike attended the State University at Cortland and majored in Physical Education. After graduating Mike left for North Myrtle beach where he taught for 7 years. He currently lives in Honeoye Falls, New York.

After moving back to New York in 1992, Coach Fusare became the Penfield junior varsity coach for the boys and girls programs. It was at this point, he was mentored by Penfield Boys varsity and future collegiate coach Chris

Redding. Coach Redding's guidance was a critical part of Coach Fusare's development. Coach Fusare also learned about how to create a winning culture under his long time athletic director Pete Shambo.

In 1995 Coach Fusare became the 4<sup>th</sup> coach in the history of Penfield Boys volleyball. In 1997 the program began to take off. He coached the Penfield Boys Varsity Volleyball program from 1995-2022.

While at Penfield, Coach Fusare's varsity boys teams posted a 536-117 match record. He is the winningest coach in the history of the Penfield boys volleyball program.

Coach Fusare's Penfield teams were Monroe county Division I champions in the years, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

His Penfield teams were Section V Class A champions in 2000, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2016, 2017, 2020 and 2021. They were finalists in 2004, 2005, 2012, 2014, 2015.

With the advent of a state championship for Boys volleyball in 2010, Coach Fusare's Penfield teams won the Division I State championship in 2016, 2017 and 2021. At the 2021 State championship the team was recognized with the Division 1 Sportsmanship Award.

Coach Fusare was recognized as the Class A Coach of the Year in 1998, 2000, 2003, 2011, 2015, 2016 and 2017 for Penfield.

Coach Fusare was also recognized as the All Greater Rochester Coach of the Year in 2007, 2011, 2016, 2017 and 2021.

While winning was always a great feeling, Coach Fusare enjoyed the culture portion of coaching more than anything. Watching the young men learn to play for the name on the front of the jersey was extremely meaningful to him.

In 2000, Coach Fusare founded the Performance Volleyball Camps. The camps grew to be the biggest camps in Western New York, consistently putting close to 500 players through camp in the Summers. He continues to run these camps in 2025.

At the grass roots level, Coach Fusare also ran an extremely successful youth program for Elementary school players from 1996-2021.

When Coach Fusare was not coaching he was busy being a husband, father and teacher. He is extremely grateful to his wife Christine and his two sons Joe and Jake for their support and understanding of his passion for volleyball. Without them this opportunity would not have been possible. His son Jake also played for him and shared the Penfield 2017 New York state title.

Coach Fusare also taught Physical Education for thirty seven years. The first seven years were in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The final thirty years were as an Elementary school teacher in Penfield, New York. He retired from teaching in 2022.