



WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

GENERAL INFORMATION

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION:

The following information will assist you in planning if your team qualifies for the 2023 NAIA Women's Volleyball National Championship, which begins with the Opening Rounds (November 18) played at 24 campus sites nationwide and concludes with the NAIA Women's Volleyball National Championship Final Site (November 29-December 5) in Sioux City, Iowa.

All potential qualifier information is available on the NAIA website – in the Women's Volleyball Coaches' Corner section – and will be sent to all Women's Volleyball head coaches.

Katie Green, NAIA Manager of Athletics Communications & Media and the NAIA Women's Volleyball National Championship Media Coordinator, will also be sending an email to your Sports Information Director requesting information/materials for your team as potential qualifiers for the NAIA Women's Volleyball National Championship.

FORMAT:

The volleyball championship includes a field of 48 teams. All teams will compete in 24 opening round matches played on campus sites nationwide. The 24 opening-round winners will advance to the final site and compete in pool play with eight pools of 3 teams each. The winner from each pool advances to single elimination. All matches in all rounds will be best of five.

QUALIFICATION:

The NAIA National Championship includes a field of 48 teams.

1. Conferences and the CAC automatically qualify one berth per six sponsored teams and two berths for ten teams. Automatic berths are awarded based on the approved qualifying tournament plans for each conference and the CAC.
2. At-large berths will be selected by the Women's Volleyball Selection Committee
3. The host institution (if one exists) receives an automatic berth if it does not qualify through the automatic or at-large process. If no host berth is awarded an additional at-large berth will be added.
4. There are no limits on the number of at-large berths a conference or the CAC may receive.
5. Conferences with fewer than six teams are considered "unaffiliated" and grouped geographically by the National Administrative Council (NAC) to determine method of qualification.
6. Qualifying teams will be seeded by the Women's Volleyball Selection Committee.

SELECTION & SEEDING:

The 48 teams in the National Championship will be a combination of Conference automatic qualifiers and at-large qualifiers. The at-large qualifiers will be selected by the Women's Volleyball National Selection Committee. The 48-team field will be seeded by the Women's Volleyball National Selection Committee.

The criteria which will be used by the National Selection Committee for both at-large selection and seeding are as follows –

Criteria for Selection:

PRIMARY:

- Coaches Top 25 Poll
- Scoring Analytic
- ARC Rankings

SECONDARY:

- Schedule
- Common Opponents
- Head-to-Head
- Home/Visitor/Neutral

Additional Information:

- Conference Record
- Winning Percentage
- Last 10 Matches

Basic Principles for Selection:

1. At no point in the process may a member vote for a team that he/she represents as an athletic administrator or coach. A committee member from a conference office may vote for all teams that he/she represents.
2. All votes will be by confidential ballot.
3. All committee meeting discussions, votes, brackets, seedings, pairings are strictly confidential and should not be shared with anyone outside of the women's volleyball committee until after the championship bracket announcement.

Basic Procedures Considered in the Following Order:

1. Determine the automatic qualifying teams and then select the remaining at-large teams.
2. Place the teams into the championship bracket.

NOTE: Every effort will be made to separate conference teams from playing each other in the opening round.

Selection of At-Large Teams:

Principles

1. Select the best available teams to fill the at-large berths.
2. There is no limit on the number of teams the committee may select from one conference or area.

Procedures

1. Prior to the selection meeting, committee members shall prepare the following information:
 - a) A ranking of all teams within his/her area to be considered for at-large berths.
 - b) Ranking of teams within each conference within his/her area.
2. At-Large Nomination Pool
 - a) All teams included in each Area Ranking.
 - b) Any team finishing first or second in their conference in the regular season will be placed in the nomination pool.
 - c) Other teams mentioned during the committee's final evaluation call that do not meet the aforementioned criteria will automatically be considered part of this process.

OPENING ROUND PAIRINGS

The 24 opening-round pairings will be played on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at NAIA campuses nationwide. All pairings for the opening round will be based upon the following prioritized criteria:

1. Geographical location of teams.
2. Financial considerations.
3. Final rating/seeding.
4. First round opponents shall not be from the same conference.

GAME OPERATIONS

MATCH TIMES

In consultation with the host institution, the NAIA National Office establishes match times for National Championship Opening Round competition. All Opening Round matches shall be played on Saturday, November 19 and should conclude by 10:00 PM (CT).

All game times must be approved by the NAIA National Office in advance.

OFFICIAL BALL

The official ball for all NAIA postseason competition is the Official NAIA Perfection Leather Volleyball by Baden (Red/White/Navy).

PRE-GAME SCHEDULE

The following time schedule should be followed at all Opening Rounds:

First 41 minutes	Court available for shared warm up (visible clocktime: 60:00 – 19:00)
30 minutes on clock	Coin toss
19 minutes on clock	Visiting team court
15 minutes on clock	Home team court
11 minutes on clock	Visiting team court
6 minutes on clock	Home team court
1 minute on clock	Team huddle and announcements
Start time	National Anthem and introductions, Match Begins

The National Anthem(s) will be played before the first match of each session of competition. Following team warm-up, the following protocol will be used for the national anthem and player introductions at opening rounds and for the quarterfinal, semifinal and final rounds.

- Teams return to their benches for team huddles and announcements.
- Teams participate in the opening ceremony which includes the gift exchange.
- Teams stand for the national anthem(s).
- The visiting team will be announced first. The announcer will begin with non-starters followed by starters and then coaches. All players (starters and non-starters) should line up on the end line.
- Home team introductions follow visiting team introductions.
- Referees are introduced after the home team.

PLAYING RULES

The official NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules are followed with the exceptions as specified in the NAIA Women's Volleyball Coaches Manual.

OFFICIAL TEAM PARTY

Each participating team's official party includes a maximum of 18 players in uniform and a **total of 23** people in their official party (this does not include SIDs or ATs). The number of athletes in uniform shall not exceed the maximum number at the start of the contest. Failure to comply with squad limitations will result in forfeiture of the match to the opposing institution.

Official Postseason Roster forms will be filled out via the SIDHelp admin website at www.naiasports.org/admin and sent to the NAIA National Office. **Official Postseason Roster forms will be due November 1st before conference tournaments begin.** If you do not have a log-in account, please go to the link and sign up. You must have an account to fill out the roster forms as the forms will no longer be available through Coaches' Manuals. Once you log-in, please follow these instructions:

1. Under "Forms and Rosters" click on the link "Enter Postseason Information."
2. Click on the "Edit Postseason Roster/Bench Personnel to complete the roster form.

All Official Party members should be included in the SIDHelp submission. Postseason rosters will be processed electronically and the administrator completing the roster will sign electronically.

If you have trouble with the on-line nomination form, please contact Katie Green (kgreen@naia.org) of the NAIA Athletics Communications Department. Any other general questions related to the official postseason rosters, please contact the Sport Manager.

1. A copy of this roster **MUST** be hand-carried to the site of the conference/CAC post-season tournament and national tournaments and presented to the supervisor (conference/CAC volleyball chair for conference/CAC tournament, and NAIA Site Supervisor/Tournament Committee for the national championship) prior to that institution's participation in the tournament. A team must submit its official roster to be eligible to participate in the tournaments.
2. The deadline for certifying the official roster of 18 players is 30 minutes prior to the first match of any conference/CAC tournament, or at the coaches meeting of the national championship. Once the tournament begins, no player may play that is not on the official roster.

Roster Changes:

- A player may be replaced on the official roster between the conference/CAC and the national championship by any eligible player whose name is included on the NAIA Official Eligibility Form for volleyball for the current season.
- Changes to the postseason roster **MAY NOT** be made once the conference tournament has begun, but **CAN** be made **BETWEEN** conference tournament and national championship play, only in the event of injury, illness or family emergency. Replacements are permitted from among eligible athletes only.
- **If changes are made, PLEASE inform NAIA Athletics Communications Manager Katie Green (kgreen@naia.org) and NAIA Championship Manager Fred Aubuchon (faubuchon@naia.org) to ensure the correct roster is listed for the championship program.** Final site rosters are due at the final site coaches registration, **BUT** rosters will be pulled for use in the official championship program prior to that.
- The coach will need to hand-carry a copy of the eligibility form to each tournament if a roster change is necessary.

TEAM BENCHES

Each team's bench includes 10 chairs for bench personnel, which would include the team's honorary coach if the team chooses. The head coach is responsible for designating bench personnel. No additional personnel are allowed on the bench for any tournament match. Please note: All players, both in and out of uniform, must present their credential for admittance into the Tyson Event Center/Gateway Arena and other event-related facilities.

All credentials will be issued based on the information provided on the official party roster. No extra credentials will be provided on site. Note: There are no children allowed on the bench.

TEAM TRAVEL

TRANSPORTATION

Shorts Travel Management

Qualifying institutions are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to the National Championship.

The Official Travel partner of the NAIA is Short's Travel Management. Please contact **Short's Travel (816-323-6405)** to book your travel arrangements.

Note: Traveling teams are no longer required to receive a quote from Short's Travel to be eligible for postseason reimbursement.

Short's Travel has contacts with charter air travel as well as charter buses for ground travel.

National Car Rental

National Car Rental/Enterprise Rent-a-Car is offering special rates for the NAIA National Championship. Teams will be able to access these special rates by providing the special NAIA contract ID #: XZ05146.

Master's Transportation

Master's Transportation is the official provider of all shuttles/buses for your sale, lease, and rental needs. Please contact Ron Haley at **816.979-3495** or rhaley@masterstransportation.com for more information.

HOUSING

All participating teams will be assigned to a hotel by the Opening Round host and must stay at that property for the duration of the National Championship Opening Round. A team representative should contact the assigned hotel property and provide a rooming list, date/time of arrival and a method of payment for all hotel charges.

A room block of 15 double/double hotel rooms will be reserved on behalf of each participating team, however, each participating team is financially responsible for the cost of the rooms (as well as all other travel expenses and meals). If traveling teams need hotel rooms in addition to the room block provided by the host, traveling teams will be responsible for requesting and securing those needs. Head coaches should reach out to the Opening Round Host Tournament Director or assigned NAIA Site Supervisor to receive hotel assignment and contact information.

In addition, all teams will be assigned to a hotel by our hosts in Sioux City for the National Championship and must stay at that property for the duration of the National Championship. Assignments will be shared once all Opening Round matches have concluded and the field of 24 is determined.

EXPENSE REPORT

Within 15 days after participating in an Opening Round, the traveling team shall submit the Traveling Team Expense Report Form, including receipts, to the NAIA National Office. The institution's Chief Executive Office and the Athletics Director will be notified when expense reports are not submitted within 15 days following the Opening Round competition. Submitting incomplete or late expense reports may jeopardize the institution's eligibility for reimbursement.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OPENING CEREMONY

At all National Championship tournament sites an opening ceremony will be conducted. This is the time when the gift exchange between opening round opponents will take place just before the match begins. All teams are required to participate in this function in full uniform.

AWARDS

The NAIA maintains a standardized awards program for all National Championship events which includes the following for Women's Volleyball –

Opening Round:

Champions of Character Individual Recognition – Prior to the National Championship Opening Rounds, each participating team will name one Champions of Character recipient. During each Opening Round, recognition of the Champions of Character individual honorees shall be announced before each Opening Round game.

Final Site:

Team and individual awards are presented to the official party of the top four teams. The championship team receives the traditional NAIA championship banner. In addition to the championship awards, 14 players are selected for the All-Tournament Team along with the Most Valuable Player, Attacker of the Tournament, Setter of the Tournament, and Defender of the Tournament. The NAIA tournament Coach of the Year is also awarded.

Immediately following the Championship match on Tuesday evening, the awards ceremony will take place.

HUDL FILM EXCHANGE

Teams will be using HUDL to upload their most recent film **that does not include an opponent in the championship field (either opening round or final site)**. The system is easy to use and HUDL's support team is ready to help you throughout the process. As always, it is imperative that the game required to be uploaded needs to be recorded for use in the National Championship Film Exchange.

Please refer to the HUDL Film Exchange document for more detailed information.

SOUVINEERS

National Championship merchandise will be available for purchase [online](#) for opening rounds and at the Tyson Event Center in Sioux City for final site merchandise.

GIFT EXCHANGE

The gift exchange has traditionally been a revered part of the NAIA National Championship experience and we are excited to bring it back for the 2023 National Championship! The gift exchange will take place just before all opening round matches. Teams will exchange gifts that have a strong connection to their own institution and/or geographic area of the country. Gift recommendations include:

- T-shirts
- Mugs/glasses/water bottles
- Sack-packs
- Hats or similar items

Each team is responsible for bringing a quantity equal to the number of the official party for that event. This includes players and support staff for a total of 23 people (18 players in uniform and 5 support staff).

HONORARY COACH PROGRAM

The Honorary Coach program is a distinguishing factor for NAIA championships. One or two individuals representing local businesses may be assigned to your team and will serve as your "local hosts". Honorary coaches have the option to sit with the team on the bench during matches. Please continue the tradition by bringing two extra warm-up jackets (extra-large) to be worn by your honorary coaches during tournament matches. They will be returned to you at the conclusion of your team's participation in the tournament.

You will also want to show your institution's appreciation for your host's service in making your stay enjoyable. We suggest that you bring a memento emblematic of your institution or send an appropriate gift to those individuals after you return home. You are encouraged to send letters of appreciation after returning from the championship.

CONDUCT

Each member institution is responsible for the conduct of its athletes, coaches and fans at all national championship opening rounds and final site. Students are expected to act responsibly and perform as a positive role model for the institution, community, and association. Institutions will be held financially responsible for damage incurred at hotels/motels or any other facility directly involved with the national championship.

MISCONDUCT OF OFFICIALS

Members of the coaching staff or other representatives of participating institutions or conferences shall not make public statements critical of officiating in any NAIA championship event.

DRUG TESTING

NAIA drug-testing is a possibility at all NAIA championship rounds and sites. However, as a best practice, the NAIA will not announce whether drug testing will occur at any specific venue. Although knowing prior to competition if NAIA drug testing was to occur has value for reasons of convenience, it leaves open the possibility that student-athletes might be tempted to use banned substances if they knew that NAIA testing was not being conducted at the site of competition.

Each academic year all eligible NAIA student-athletes must sign a Consent Form in which he or she consents to be tested for the use of drugs prohibited by the NAIA Banned Substance List to participate in any NAIA National Championship competitions ([Consent Form](#)). This Consent Form shall be administered and kept by each individual institution.

Each institution will be responsible for verifying a signed consent form is on file for each participating student-athlete **on the official postseason roster form**. By providing a signed roster form at check-in, each institution is officially verifying that all student-athletes on the postseason roster have completed a drug testing consent form and are thus eligible to participate in postseason competition.

