

AVCA GIRLS & WOMEN'S **VOLLEYBALL** **OFFICIALS** **APPRECIATION** **WEEK TOOLKIT**

SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 5, 2024

#OFFICIATIONWEEK

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



AVCA Girls & Women's Volleyball **Officials Appreciation Week**

September 27 - October 5, 2024



This Toolkit Contains....

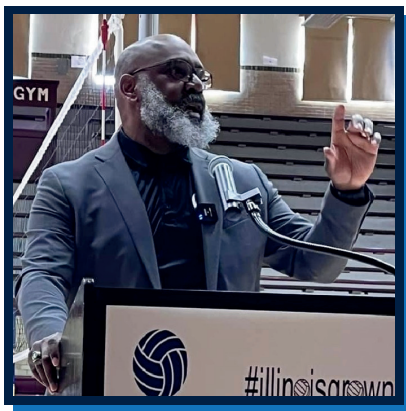
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***“THANK YOU for showing appreciation to our
volleyball officials. Play ball!”***

Note from the AVCA

We are proud to celebrate the men and women who officiate our matches!

What a tremendous honor it is to celebrate the fourth year of AVCA Girls and Women's Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week!



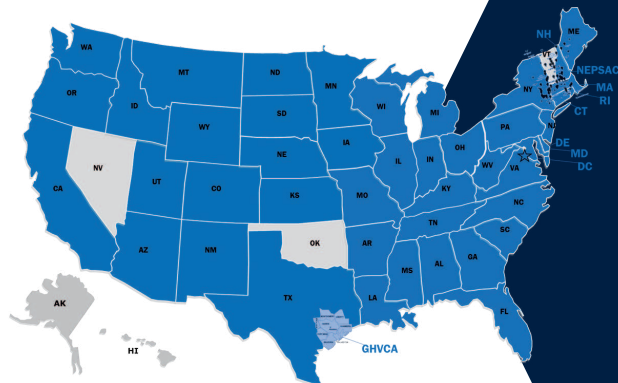
The girls and women combined with boys, men and beach saw almost 700 programs participate in #OFFICIATIONWEEK in 2023-24! Thank you for your support of this impactful initiative!

#OFFICIATIONWEEK and the new #InspireSportsmanship campaign launched in March 2024, through the AVCA High School Leadership Council demonstrate the Council's and the volleyball community's leadership in demonstrating respect and appreciation for officials and good sportsmanship.

The AVCA is excited about cultivating the relationship with our officials and promoting volleyball officiating as an avocation.

Help us reach all 50 states! We are only FIVE STATES away!

Since its start in 2021, #OFFICIATIONWEEK has become a proud tradition among over 1,000 high school and collegiate volleyball teams from 45 states plus D.C. **Is your team from ALASKA, HAWAII, NEVADA, OKLAHOMA or VERMONT?** If so, we especially hope your team will participate this year and help us achieve our goal to reach all 50 U.S. states!



Join us in continuing our celebration and appreciation for our officials.

The 2024 Girls and Women's Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week is September 27 – October 5. Read more about how to get involved in this toolkit and on our website.

HAPPY #OFFICIATIONWEEK! #WeAreAVCA

Kennedy D. Wells

AVCA Director of Membership

Officiating Initiatives State Liaison

September 27 - October 5, 2024



September 27 – October 5, 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 GIRLS & WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS APPRECIATION WEEK PARTICIPANTS LIST!!

**Note: This list will be updated during #OFFICIATIONWEEK.*

How Can You Engage? 4 STEPS

1

CHOOSE A MATCH during the week of September 27 - October 5. NOTE: Coaches/teams can participate in more than one match during the week. For example, you might 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 Girls & Women's 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, 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



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

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

■ [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: 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

■ [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

■ [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

■ [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 \(PAVO\)](#)

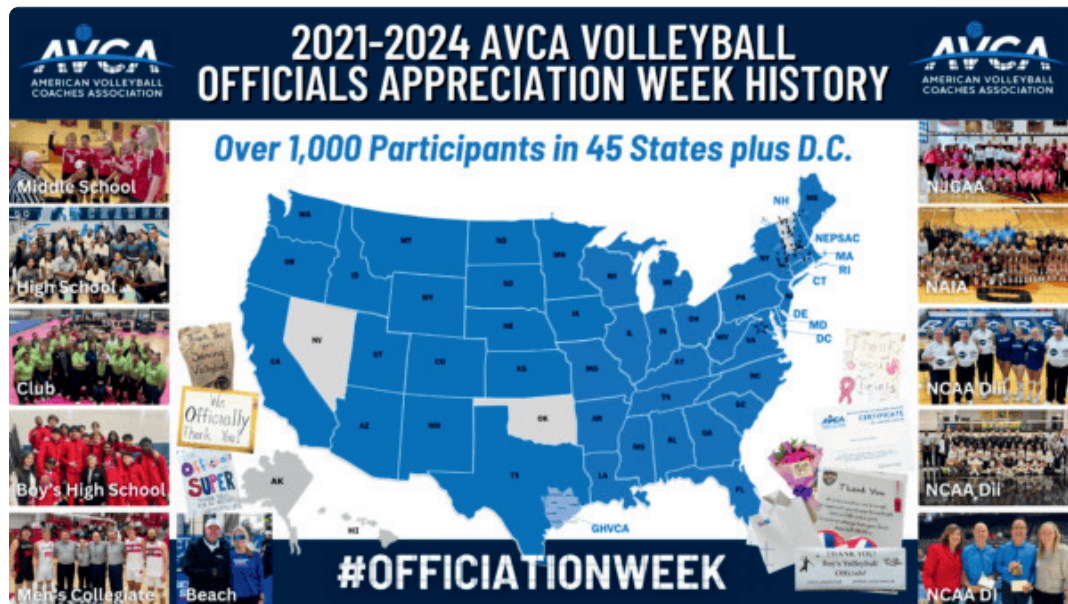
Information from the Professional Association of Volleyball Officials (PAVO) on how to become an official, receive training and advance one's career, and get certified.

2021-2024 #OFFICIATIONWEEK History



Now in its 4th year, #OFFICIATIONWEEK has become a proud annual tradition among a cumulative total of 1,000 boys, girls, beach, men's and women's volleyball teams from 45 states plus D.C. The events are 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.

- 2021-2024 AVCA #OFFICIATIONWEEK Report



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.

- **2022 Highlights Video**
- **2022 Participants List**

2021-2024 #OFFICIATIONWEEK History

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 Highlights Video](#)
- [2023 Participants List](#)



The banner features the AVCA logo on the left and right. The central text reads "2023 AVCA Men's/Boys Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week". Below this, a collage of photos shows officials from various states: ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, COLORADO, NEW YORK, CONNECTICUT, ILLINOIS, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, INDIANA, KANSAS, GEORGIA, KENTUCKY, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, MICHIGAN, OHIO, RHODE ISLAND, TEXAS, MASSACHUSETTS, MISSOURI, NEW JERSEY, and WISCONSIN. A map of the United States highlights the 23 participating states in red. Text on the right side of the map indicates "122 Participants in 23 States" and "April 1 - 16, 2023 #OFFICIATIONWEEK". At the bottom, a red button reads "CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE VIDEO OF PARTICIPANTS".

2021-2024 #OFFICIATIONWEEK History

2023 AVCA Girls and 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 event 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 Highlights Video](#)
- [2023 Participants List](#)



CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE FULL HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO!!





600 PARTICIPANTS IN 44 STATES





2021-2024 #OFFICIATIONWEEK History



2024 AVCA Boys, Men's and 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 Highlights Video](#)

- [2024 Participants List](#)

A promotional banner for the 2024 AVCA Boys, Men's & Beach Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week. The banner features the AVCA logo on the left and right. The central text reads "2024 AVCA Boys, Men's & Beach Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week". Below this, it states "96 Participants in 33 States" and includes a map of the United States with 33 states highlighted in blue. The text "#OFFICIATIONWEEK March 23 - April 7, 2024" is also present. The banner is decorated with a collage of photos of participants from various states, including Arizona, California, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Washington, JVA, and PAVO. At the bottom, there is a call to action: "CLICK HERE TO VIEW A VIDEO OF THE 2024 PARTICIPANTS".

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