



MEMORANDUM

Feb. 18, 2026

VIA EMAIL

TO: Head Coaches, Senior Woman Administrators and Sports Information Directors at
NCAA Institutions and Commissioners at NCAA Conferences that Sponsor
National Collegiate Beach Volleyball.

FROM: Kristin W. Fasbender
Director, Championships and Alliances.

Ashley Armstrong, chair
NCAA Women's Beach Volleyball Committee.

SUBJECT: 2026 National Collegiate Beach Volleyball Information.

The following is important information concerning the 2026 season:

1. Championship Format and Selection. For the 2026 season, the tournament field is 16 teams. The 16 teams will include eight automatic qualifiers and at-large eight teams. The following eight conferences have been awarded an AQ for the 2026 championship.

- Atlantic Sun Conference
- Big West Conference
- Conference USA
- Mountain Pacific Sports Federation
- Ohio Valley Conference
- Southland Conference
- Sun Belt Conference
- West Coast Conference

Conferences must notify the NCAA of their automatic qualifier by 6 p.m. Eastern time Saturday, April 25. All matches will be played in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

The tournament is a single-elimination tournament. It includes eight duals beginning Friday, May 1, four quarterfinal duals the morning of Saturday, May 2, and two semifinal duals Saturday afternoon. The national championship dual will be held Sunday, May 3.

2. Lineup Challenge Process. The committee will review challenges for only the national championship. Regular season challenges will need to be managed by conferences.

The NCAA regular season lineup form is available [here](#).

3. 2026 Pre-Championship Manual. The manual will be available by March 1 and can be accessed by clicking [here](#).
4. Selection Criteria. The committee will select eight teams at-large, using the following selection criteria:
 - a. Head-to-head competition.
 - b. Results versus common opponents.
 - c. Strength of schedule.
 - d. Overall record. (must be .500 or above).
5. 2026 Rules Modifications. The 2026 rules modifications are now available and can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Please direct any rules questions to rules coordinator Connor Lancashire at clancashire@ncaa.org and rules interpreter Katy Meyer at treenie.meyer@gmail.com.
6. NCAA Scoresheet. Institutions must use the NCAA scoresheet during competition. The scoresheet can be found [here](#).
7. Selection Show. The 16 teams for the championship will be selected at 1 p.m. Eastern time Sunday, April 26. Selections will be released on ncaa.com.

Please contact us with any questions, using the contact information listed below.

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