

2026 501 Volley Invitational Coaches Packet

February 21-22, 2026 (10s-14s)
February 28-March 1, 2026 (14s-18s)



Location:

Game Time @ The Grounds
300 Champions Drive
Cabot, AR 72

Warm-up balls and carts will be provided. (NO outside balls/carts allowed)

Seating is available, no portable folding chairs allowed.

A concession stand is available, but it is CASHLESS.

Please "SHARE the chairs.

Check in and Rosters:

Team check-in is required online on AES between 2/18/25-2/20/25

If you have made changes to your USAV roster since the time of submission, please provide a copy to the tournament site director. All rosters are set/final after the start of pool play.

You and your team are responsible for being at your assigned court ready to begin play/referee at the designated time; however, please know that other than 8:00 AM start times, all other times are approximate and matches may begin earlier or later than scheduled, so please stay attuned to your court's/bracket's actual schedule.

Admission

\$20.00 per person for both Saturday and Sunday. \$10.00 per person for Sunday only.

Children 10 and under- no charge

Cash, card, or Apple Pay accepted at the door.

there is processing fee for apple pay/card payments

Schedules

All schedules will be posted on AES. There will be no printed pool or bracket sheets. Please view all schedules on AES, updates will be made in real time on the AES website. Schedules will be posted on Wednesday or Thursday the week of play. Please double check your schedule Friday in case of changes.

Preparing for Play

Please note: teams having playing/refereeing times scheduled at 8:00 AM, should report no later than 7:30 AM for warm-up and preparing for scorekeeping and meeting with the R1. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, first serve should be whistled at 8:00 AM. Please have your teams ready to take the court immediately following the prior match; though, we will try to stay on the assigned schedule, it is at the discretion of the tournament director to begin play sooner if the R1 and scheduled refereeing team are ready.

Match Play Considerations

- Teams will NOT switch sides of the court between sets
- Tie-breakers will be eliminated, except in the case that there is a 3-way tie that CANNOT be broken by head-to-head, sets, OR points.

Match Time Penalties

If a team fails to play when called by the RI or does not have 6 players ready to play at match time, the first set is defaulted (resultant scores 25-0). If after a ten minute wait after the first default is declared, a team is still unable to field a team or is otherwise unavailable to play, the second set is defaulted (resultant score 25-0), and match is awarded to the other team. ***Exceptions:*** to these penalties are for scheduling conflicts of teams involved in playing or officiating other matches.

Paid R1s are provided. Each team must provide 1 down referee, 1 scorekeeper, 1 libero tracker, 1 score flipper/BallerTV score tracker, and 2 line judges for their assigned times.

Coach and Team Referee Duties: A rostered adult MUST PARTICIPATE in reffing duties- no longer allowed to just sit at the score table. All teams must have ref certified coaches and players to cover all aspects of being the ref team: R1, R2, S, 2-J and L. Official referees will be checking rosters for coach and player ref certifications, so please keep copies of your roster with you at all times.

Please NOTE: On Sunday bracket play, most losing teams will referee/scorekeep a match following their loss; **however**, there are instances where winners will be needed to referee/scorekeep- **please check the schedule closely.**

Team Referee/Scorekeeping Time Penalties: Please note that any team that fails to provide their officiating duties could result in the forfeiture of the first set of their next match; one point per minute from the scheduled start time will be deducted from the team's next set until forfeit. If the team is still not present at the forfeiture of the first set, the RI has the right to forfeit the offending team's next match without waiting. If it is the last match for the day, the forfeiture will carry forward to bracket play; if this offense occurs on the last match of bracket play, the team may incur a financial fine.

Awards

1st and 2nd in each bracket (Gold, Silver, and Bronze) will receive medals. A maximum of 12 medals per team will be awarded.

Rules of Play

All USAV rules will be enforced. No pursuit rule will be in effect.

Rally scoring is in effect. Four-team pool play will consist of best two out of three sets to 25 points with a cap at 30; 3rd set to 15 points, cap at 30. Play will begin at point 0. Three team pool formats may vary between age groups/divisions. Please refer to the respective age division pool sheet for bracket placement/seeding for Sunday play. Bracket play will guarantee two matches, best two out of three sets to 25, no cap, with the third set to 15, no cap. All championship matches will begin at point 0.

Rule Modifications Effective only in the Delta Region Events

SHORT TEAM PLAYERS? Due to the uncertainty of COVID, the region Board agreed to allow teams to play with four players in the event they have less than six players without any penalty. This is only effective in the Delta Region.

For teams that do not want to play short-handed with players, they have the option to pull a player (within the age requirement) from another team within their club-- even if the player has already participated in the event. As an example, a 13yr player plays on the AM wave can then play for the 15s team that is scheduled to compete in the PM wave. Only teams that have less than 6 players can use this rule modification. Please note that the player must wear the correct team uniform.

AGE WAIVERS: Age Waivers are back! 11s are 5th graders, 12s are 6th graders, etc. **PLAYER AGE WAIVER FORM** There isn't one. Club directors can just put the player on the roster. If the player's correct graduation year appears in her membership, it will be fine. Individual approvals will be required on any AES event by either the tournament director of the Region office.

NATIONAL WAIVER: A national waiver was added allowing girls 18's in their junior year of high school to compete on girls 17's teams. It will automatically be allowed on rosters in the member management system.

15 TEAM SUBSTITUTIONS are allowed in each set in Delta Region events. Rationale: This allows teams with larger rosters to play more players. This rule will go into effect nationwide in the 2025-26 season.

Boys may play in girls divisions 10s, 11s & 12s; boys age 13 may play in girls 14s division; boys age 14 may play in girls 16s division- as long as they fall into the age requirement guidelines (either coed or boys).

2-meter Step-in Serving rule for 12 & under will be used at all Delta Region events, except the Bid Qualifier.

Player Uniforms: Jerseys must be legal. Uniform bottoms must be the same color as the team, but shorts, skirts, pants, skorts, etc. may be worn. No uniform waiver is required.

PROCEDURES FOR BREAKING TIES TO DETERMINE TEAM POOL FINISHES

At the conclusion of a pool, the pool finish position of the teams is determined by their pool match records.

Tie-breakers will be eliminated, except in the case that there is a 3-way tie that CANNOT be broken by head-to-head, sets, OR points.