

## 2026 AAU info regarding referee selections

(emailed from aauvbrefs@gmail.com January 28, 2026 to all registered applicants and those on the waiting list)

This is some preliminary information regarding referee selections for the 2026 AAU National Volleyball Championships. Acceptances/wait list and declines will mostly be sent from January 30 until February 8. A note will be sent out to everyone registered in Volleysign once all selections have been completed. Make sure **info@volleysign.com** is on your list of accepted email senders.

I know each and everyone of you is excited about being at this tournament. Over 850 referees registered during the registration period, although in reality, there is only an average of a little less than 700 registered for each wave. There are over 100 referees currently on the waiting list (who for some reason did not register in time).

This message is to make sure you understand that I want every one of you to attend this event, but I will probably only be able to accept about 500 or so for each session. Right now, there are only 150 courts being used for the first 4 sessions and only 135 courts for the last 2 sessions. Some newbies might not get in, some who have attended for a few years might only get accepted for a couple of sessions and/or not all the sessions they applied for. I'm doing my best to balance the needs of the tournament with your requests.

Telling me how wonderful you are and sending me your resume does not really help your cause. It only holds up the process. I know you want to be here, otherwise you would not have registered. Some referees might be accepted conditionally this year, meaning there might have been a slight issue in the past, ie, late for a match, missing a match, crabby with your fellow refs, crabby with your teams/coaches, etc, etc, etc. Over 200 referees (might have) had a reported miscue last year, so if you are accepted conditionally this year, you will have a chance to redeem yourself. Those accepted conditionally could be dismissed for any subsequent violations. But some with serious miscues might not be selected this year at all.

Some of you might be wait-listed, which means you will be the first ones in, if we need additional referees. But I cannot give you a timeline for when that might be. And some of you might be denied outright. Hopefully this helps with your plans for the summer.

Thank you for your patience. While you are waiting, now is a good time to go into your Volleysign profile and make sure all your information is correct and up-to-date. Some of you are missing some information, ie city, state, etc.

If your AAU number says 'needs to be verified' and you already have an AAU membership number, you just need to re-enter the number in the appropriate space. If you do not already have an AAU membership number, once you are accepted, you have until **March 1** to acquire one and enter the information. After March 1, your spot is subject to be given to a referee on the wait list.

Acceptances might be hand-entered into Volleysign. If that is the case, not all referees will see their acceptance/wait-list/denial at the same time. An email will be sent out when all selections have been made. Expect that message on or around February 8. Be patient.

Once your final selection has been made, you will receive an email message from Volleysign for each session where your status has changed from 'pending'. There will be a 'button' for you to click to enter additional information, specifically housing requests and roommates. **Reminder:** if you are arriving anytime before the first day prior to the start of the session, you are responsible for acquiring your own housing. The hotels might have an option for you to get a room and check in early, but I do not have any special rates for early arrivals or late departures. If you can wait to book any early or late stays, I might have some better information in a couple of months.

Patience is a virtue. Go work some volleyball this weekend. This message is probably not as bad as it sounds. Most of you will get in (at least those who have attended in the past). But if your availability is limited (ie, sessions 1 and/or 2), I will see what I can do.

Cross your fingers, stay warm and look for more information coming soon.

SUE