

2026 AAU REFEREE PRE-TOURNAMENT INFORMATION #3

(May 31, 2026)

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PHONE NUMBERS to USE after June 11
OFFICIALS OFFICE PHONE – 531-772-3340
SCHEDULE/ASSIGNING ISSUES – 830-444-6069

Welcome to Orlando and the 2026 AAU National Championship tournament!! Bookmark the website address www.omnevb.net as that is where you can always view all documents, assignments and other important information needed for this tournament. If you need immediate attention, texting is preferred over calling. If you need to call and no one answers, please leave a message. Most likely you will receive a text in return.

PLAYING SITES

The main playing site will be the Orange County Convention Center (OCCC) –

1. North A/B (9400 Universal Blvd) and South A/B (9899 International Drive) Halls
2. West Concourse (9800 International Drive) – sessions 3, 4, 5 and 6

PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETINGS (all meetings held at OCCC room N330)

- MO June 15 – 2:00 pm **R2 Clinic** (optional) Reviews important R2 duties
EVERYONE WELCOME
- MO June 15 – 3:30 pm **Advancement Clinic** Reviews information on what is expected for the next level of certification EVERYONE WELCOME (optional)
- MO June 15 – 5:30 pm **First Time Attendees** (not mandatory, reviews tournament logistics)
Meet in OCCC room N322 at 5:30 m for a walk through of tournament procedures, etc.
- MO June 15 – 7:00 pm **All Referees** (requested attendance)
- MO June 15 – 8:00 pm **Puerto Rican and foreign guest referees** (requested mandatory attendance)
(Canadian Referees are exempt, if you attended the 7:00 pm meeting)
- TH July 2 – 8:00 pm **MANDATORY** meeting – all referees working boys session (mandatory, even if you have been working previous session)

There will be a pdf PowerPoint presentation sent out the week prior to June 15 for ALL referees to view.

OFFICIALS REGISTRATION

In addition to checking into the hotel, all officials need to register as an official on the day prior to the start of your first session. **ALL Officials Registration for the first session will be at the convention center in room N330 on Monday June 15** from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (do not come before 10). There will be a bus that runs from the hotel to the convention center on Monday June 15. The bus will leave the hotel at the top of the hour, starting at 10:00 am and will depart from the convention center back to the hotel on the half-hour. The bus will run from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm. [Session 1 bus schedule](#)

If you are unable to arrive in time to complete officials' check-in, you will have to come early the next morning to the convention center. If you do not arrive in time for check-in, you must text the AAU office phone number (531-772-3340) upon your arrival into Orlando, so we know that you have arrived and will be ready to work the next morning. You should arrive at the convention center the next morning no later than 7:30 am.

Check-in for subsequent sessions will be held at the Officials office (N322) at the convention center on the day prior to the start of each session from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. You only need to register once.

Registration for the boys session will be on Thursday July 2 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. **There will be a mandatory meeting for ALL referees working the boys session(s) on Thursday July 2, starting at 8:00 pm.**

At Officials Registration, every referee will be given a VIK (value in kind) package which will include an AAU jacket, and the first session shirt. This shirt, along with other shirts (that you must provide) will be worn on some days as the uniform shirt. You should also bring the certified officials gray, blue or white polo. If you do not have any of the certified officials shirts, you can wear a plain white polo that does not have ANY logos. If you want to order the certified officials shirts, you can do so at vbofficialsgear.com

If you are in attendance for a longer periods of time, you will get an additional item per session. These items can be picked up on the first day of that session.

TRANSPORTATION from the HOTEL to the CONVENTION CENTER

The officials offices are in the north halls (rm N322). We have our own bus system to get referees from the hotel to the convention center. Bus schedules for all sessions are posted on omnevb.net.

There is a specific area at each hotel where the buses will load, which will be the same as last year. The bus for the Sonesta hotel loads in the back by the back Lake St entrance. The bus for the Courtyard loads in front of the hotel. The buses take about 30-45 minutes to make one round trip. (Hint: if you have an 8:00 am match and you need to be at the convention center at least ½ hour in advance of the start of your first match and the bus takes ½ hour to get to the site and you need to walk to the officials room, you probably need to be on at least the 6:30 am bus.)

A bus will run continuously throughout the day. So, if you only work ½ day, there will be transportation for you. In the morning, there will be three to four buses from 6:00 am to 10:00 am. The first two buses will leave at 6:00 am, one dropping off at the **north** side and one dropping off at the **south** side. Additional buses will leave at 6:30 am. Starting at 10:00 am, the bus will leave the hotel at the top of the hour and then will leave the convention center at the ½ hour, running continuously until 10:00 pm. If you are still at the convention center after 10:00 pm, the staff will take you back to the hotel.

Make sure you get on the correct bus, otherwise you will have further to walk to your specific location.

During the sessions, when we are using the West concourse of the Convention Center, a bus will run from the hotel from 6:00 am until 10:00 am each day and again in the evening from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Parking passes for the convention center parking are no longer provided for those who have a car (unless you are not staying at the hotel), because we now have a continuous bus system. You can still drive your own car to the convention center, but you are responsible for any parking charges.

If you are a 'local' and are driving in each day, parking passes are no longer available. AAU is providing bus transportation for the tournament staff and all local referees from the AAU office. There is one bus that leaves from the office, starting at 5:30 am and continuing round-trips until 10 am. The address of the AAU office is 1910 Hotel Plaza Boulevard, Lake Buena Vista.

NAMETAGS

Each referee will receive a nametag that will be worn at **ALL** times (yes, even when you are officiating). It is impossible for anyone to remember all of you.

SHIRTS and VIK

Sizes are not guaranteed, but we try to make sure you get what you requested. If you want a different size, you can exchange an unworn shirt or jacket after noon on the second day of play in the office – N322.

REFTOWN REGISTRATION

All payments will be made through the RefTown system. If you live in the United States, you MUST create an account in Reftown at reftown.com. Some of you might already have a RefTown account. If so, I will accept you into the AAU group.

If you do not live in the United States, you will be given separate instructions for payment at officials check-in. You will need to complete a W-8 form. Every attempt will be made to provide you with a check a couple of days before your last day in attendance. The W-8 form should be completed when you arrive at officials registration.

REFEREE MATCH PAY

Referee match pay was increased for the 2024/2025 tournaments. First time attendees will be paid the 2024 rates. Returnees will be paid the 2025 rates.

There is a new payment category. If you are a provisional referee or a referee without a rating, you will receive the provisional payment. However, if you have been a provisional referee (verifiable), there is a new category called Provisional Plus, meaning that you have at least 3 years of experience.

In addition, the travel stipend was increased for the 2025 tournament. All referees will now receive the following amounts (in your final pay):

- \$20 per day for full day worked (both waves) plus an additional \$20 for each additional session worked.
- \$25 per day for JN/N for boys sessions

Match Pay	2024	2025
N	48	50
JN	47	48
R	44	45
P+	40	42
Prov <3yrs	36	38

All non-US referees must submit a copy of their referee certification level to your Volleysign account. It is preferable that this task be completed before you arrive in Orlando, but if not, you can bring a copy of your certificate to officials check-in.

FOREIGN REFEREE CERTIFICATION

Foreign referees (including those from Puerto Rico – any referee that does not live in the US) must verify your certification status. This process can be done before the tournament on Volleysign or you can bring a copy of your credential to check-in. If you are a USAV certified official, you can disregard this email.

To verify your certification, use the following steps:

1. Login to volleysign.com.
2. Click **Profile** on the left sidebar
3. Click the **Certifications** tab
4. Click **Add Certification** or the **pencil icon** on your existing certifications to edit
5. Ensure that your certification details are correct
6. Upload an image into the **Verification Image field**
7. Click **Save**

SHIRT of the DAY SCHEDULE

A specific shirt of the day will be designated for each day. The list is posted on the tournament website and on the assigning website. [You can view the daily shirt assignments here.](#)

Any **AAU** outerwear can be worn in the facility when not working. But the **ONLY** acceptable outerwear that **can be worn on the stand** is this year's new AAU jacket. **DO NOT** (at any time) wear other organizations (USAV, JVA, etc) clothing in the facility.

The rest of the required uniform is navy dress pants with a navy or black belt, ALL white athletic shoes and all white socks. No shorts are allowed to be worn by the referees.

OFFICIALS' LOUNGE at OCCC

There is an officials lounge at each site. You can leave your food, large bags and other items in the room.

1. The officials' lounge at OCCC North will be on the third floor in room N320.
2. The officials' lounge at OCCC South will be room S310.
3. The officials' lounge at OCCC West will be room ???

CONFLICTS and SCHEDULE CHANGES

If you know of a time conflict (church, etc) prior to arriving at the tournament or if you encounter a time conflict after arriving at the tournament, you must enter the conflict in your Volleysign account no later than 48 hours prior to the conflict time. **Conflicts can only be am or pm** (except for church). Conflicts are downloaded daily at least 2 days before an assignment date. If you failed to enter a conflict in a timely manner and cannot fulfill your current assignment, you will be removed for the entire day. If you have trouble entering your conflict, stop in the office – N322 and someone there can assist you.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING:

As you pack for this event, it's wise to bring a few things that you wouldn't normally bring.

- Umbrella (it rains almost every day in Orlando in the summer)
- A small portable cooler (to bring your lunch if you want)
- Line Judge flags (there will be some flags for sale at \$25)
- A reusable water bottle
- Laundry soap
- Ziploc bags

Line Judge flags are NOT provided by the tournament, so if you own flags, please bring them.

Starting on **Thursday June 11**, use the general phone number **531-772-3340** to reach the tournament Officials' staff. The tournament phone is available for use from 5 am to 11 pm. Put this number in your phone as – AAU Officials Office.

After June 15, all schedule/assigning issues or scheduling emergencies should be texted to the assigning phone – **830-444-6069**. Put this number in your phone as AAU Assigning.

Always include your name (or grid code) in your message. Be as succinct as possible.

During the tournament, there will be a phone number posted for each tournament desk (north, south and west). You will use this number to contact the lead refs in your area. When you call the specific number for your area, the desk lead referee will then contact the appropriate person to handle your issue. You should call/text regarding equipment issues, if you need a lead ref to come to your court, etc. Make sure to include your name and/or your court number.

DO NOT CONTACT LEAD REFEREES OR OTHER STAFF MEMBERS ON THEIR PERSONAL PHONES.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

The 2026 AAU tournament will continue to strictly enforce a ZERO TOLERANCE policy regarding inappropriate behavior towards referees. [A copy of the policy is linked here.](#) All coaches, players and ticket buyers at the event will be given a copy of the policy.