

# WHY NAIA VOLLEYBALL?

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**NAIA volleyball athletes can find a strong balance between athletics, academics, and personal life while attaining a high level of competition. This healthy, high-performing culture allows student-athletes to excel athletically while maintaining their academic focus and overall well-being.**

NAIA volleyball coaches have the flexibility to engage and recruit high school athletes at any time, removing the constraints of a dead period. The unrestricted access allows coaches to build relationships and provide support to potential student-athletes throughout their careers.

When a recruit visits campus, they practice with the team, providing them a look at the game pace and team dynamics. This firsthand experience immerses recruits in the culture of the volleyball program and help them make decisions about their athletic journey.

## PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

In NAIA volleyball, the focus is on athlete development over weeks rather than just hours. This allows for comprehensive and sustained growth, both during and outside of the volleyball season, ensuring athletes receive dedicated attention to maximize their potential.

## CULTURE

65% of NAIA institutions are Faith-Based, offering student-athletes a chance to integrate their faith into their collegiate experience.<sup>1</sup> This offers a unique opportunity for student-athletes to grow spiritually within a supportive environment.

## SPORTS COMMUNITY

NAIA campuses have a vibrant sports community with an average of 18 sport programs per school and 83,000 total NAIA athletes.<sup>1</sup> Athletes are surrounded by like-minded individuals who understand the dedication & commitment required to excel on the court and in the classroom.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

NAIA volleyball programs offer athletic scholarships ranging from partial awards to full scholarships, providing flexibility to support student-athletes at all levels. Whether an athlete is looking for a little help or a complete scholarship package, the NAIA allows the opportunity to pursue one's athletic and academic goals with financial backing.<sup>2</sup>

## ACADEMICS

Low faculty-to-student ratios at NAIA schools enhance academic success. Freshmen have an average 3.30 GPA, compared to the national average 3.11 GPA; and 50% of NAIA teams have a 3.0 GPA.<sup>3</sup>

## WELL-BEING

NAIA volleyball athletes are encouraged to be a well-rounded individual first, a dedicated student second, and an athlete third.

1. NAIA. (2023-24). *NAIA by the numbers* (PDF). Retrieved Feb. 18, 2025, from [https://www.naia.org/why-naia/pdf/NAIA\\_By\\_the\\_Numbers.pdf](https://www.naia.org/why-naia/pdf/NAIA_By_the_Numbers.pdf)

2. NAIA (October 9, 2024). *Financial Aid* (PDF). Retrieved February 18, 2025, from [https://www.naia.org/why-naia/pdf/NAIA\\_FinancialAid.pdf](https://www.naia.org/why-naia/pdf/NAIA_FinancialAid.pdf)

3. NAIA (2022, May 3). *Academic Success*. Retrieved January 10, 2025, from <https://www.naia.org/why-naia/academic-success>



This resource was developed by the AVCA's NAIA Head Coaches Committee.

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