



**2026 MLK Challenge
Tournament Guide
January 17th & 18th**

Thank you for your participation in the annual 2026 MLK Challenge tournament hosted by Inspired Athletics Volleyball!

We are looking forward to great competition and hope that you will find the event, facilities, and accommodations more than satisfactory. Below you will find the official 2026 MLK Challenge Guide. Please review this information carefully and share it with your players and families. This document can also be found on the tournament headquarters website:

<https://www.iavbfargo.com/hostedtournaments>.

Thank you to all the clubs, coaches, players & parents for supporting and making this a great event. Reach out if you have any questions. We look forward to a great tournament!

Inspired Athletics Volleyball Staff

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2026 MLK CHALLENGE GUIDE

Team Check-In

Teams will need to check-in online via AES by 12PM the Thursday before the tournament. You will do this by logging into your AES account. Player badges can be picked up Saturday before you play. Located at player entrance.

Coaches Meeting

There is no coaches meeting. Please read the entire guide and check-in with site director upon arrival.

Event Information

- **Locations**
 - Fargo Parks Sports Center - 6100 38th St S Fargo, ND 58104
- **Daily Schedule**
 - Facility Open for Entry: 1 Hour Prior To First Round of Play
 - **Player ONLY entrance located between courts 1 & 2. Players must use this entrance only to keep flow of tournament in check.**
 - Tournament Warm-Ups Begin– 10 Minutes Prior to Scheduled Tournament Start Time
 - See AES for Tournament Start Time
- **Volleyballs**
 - Volleyballs will NOT be provided. You WILL need to bring your own volleyballs for warm-ups and game ball.
- **Admission**
 - \$10 per/spectator (10 & under free). No ATM on site. Please bring exact change.
 - A separate fee will be charged each day. There are no weekend passes sold.
 - Entry fee will get you into all locations.
 - **There is one spectator entrance down the south hallway**
- **Streaming**
 - There is no official streaming platform that will be used. Teams are allowed to stream, but please be respectful where you set up your streaming devices and make sure they are out of the playing area. Cell phone and internet reception are not very good at this location.
- **Parking**
 - Free – parking lots fill fast. Be respectful when parking offsite.
 - Enter main entrance to be closest to courts.
- **Concessions/Outside Food**
 - Offered. No outside food or drink allowed in except water bottles and sports drinks.
 - Menus are posted on our website.
- **Tournament Apparel**
 - T-shirts onsite

- **Spectator Seating**
 - Bleachers are available at both locations. We try to limit camping chairs onsite.
- **Weather**
 - The tournament will be held through snow, cold, and rain so plan your travel accordingly as matches will begin on time each day. If a team is late, they run the risk of forfeiting sets, or the entire match, as determined by USAV rules.
 - If the facility closes due to weather that is the only reason we will cancel the tournament.
- **Sportsmanship**
 - Clean up your area before leaving.
 - Please abide by all tournament rules and requirements.
 - GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP is expected from ALL - any participants or fans who fail to show good sportsmanship may be removed from the tournament.
- **First Aid/Trainer**
 - It is recommended that teams bring their own first aid kit. There will be no trainer, first aid or ICE provided at the playing sites.

Tournament Information

- **Format**
 - Pool Play
 - All divisions will have 4-team pools when possible. There will be instances where 3 team pools are necessary.
 - No switching sides at all during play
 - To keep play on time, a match will begin 5 minutes after the previous match ends.
 - All matches in pool play will be best 2 out of 3 sets - sets 1 & 2 to 25 points (cap 27); set 3 to 15 points (cap 17).
 - There is a possibility of crossover matches during pool play. Please read the entire schedule.
 - Tournament Bracket Play
 - All teams will advance to bracket play which will be held Sunday.
 - Teams will be seeded in bracket play according to pool play results.
 - Bracket play will be best 2 out of 3 sets - sets 1 & 2 to 25 points; set 3 to 15 points, no cap.
 - The schedule for Sunday will be update as soon as all pools for your age division are complete.
 - There will be times the winning teams refs, check with site director before you leave.
- **Roster Requirements - USAV Official Rosters**
 - All NCR-USAV sanctioned events require valid rosters for the safety of all participants.
 - All rostered participants (players, coaches, team reps, etc.) must be current and verified USAV members.

- Teams must have a Head Coach (adult) on the bench.
 - All rostered adults must have a current USAV background screen and be SafeSport certified.
 - All rostered players 18 years of age must be SafeSport certified.
 - Teams must have a minimum of 6 players rostered and may have a maximum of 15 players.
 - Teams must be in full matching uniforms per USAV (unless a waiver has been provided in advance).
 - Any team that fails to comply with roster requirements may receive sanctions.
- Rosters must be submitted into AES from the SportsEngine Governing Season.
- **Bench Roster**
 - Team rosters must have one (1) adult head coach and a minimum of 6 players up to a maximum of 15 players. In addition, teams may have a maximum of three (2) assistant coaches. All these individuals may be on the bench during play. Note: Personnel listed on the official roster for the event will be admitted for free (this does not include photographers if they are not listed on approved roster).
- **Schedules / Scores / Results / Standings**
 - All schedules will be posted online on www.advancedeventsystems.com. Please check there for the most up to date information.
 - To access tournament schedules, scores, results, and standings on any device using a web browser:
 - Go to www.advancedeventsystems.com (use chrome for web browser)
 - Click on EVENTS at the top of the home page.
 - Search by the event name = MLK Challenge
 - Click on the SCHEDULE POSTED button to the right of the tournament you want to view
 - Click on Pool/Bracket, Teams, or Standings to view that information for the tournament division you want to view.
 - Bookmark this web page to access it when you want Scores and schedules will NOT be posted at the sites - all information will be online.
- **Warm-Up Procedures**
 - The first match of each pool will utilize a 10-minute warm-up (2-4-4 warm-up) - two minutes shared ball handling, followed by four minutes for each team on the court. After that, warm-ups are 5 minutes in length (1-2-2)
 - The Serving team will have the court first. There is to be NO shared hitting or serving.
 - Warm-ups and coin flips start immediately following the previous match.
- **Officiating Duties**
 - 12-14U Divisions the Coach MUST be R1. All ages coach must be R1 during Tournament play
 - Team must provide work team members who have completed age appropriate USAV officiating training.
 - Work Team positions include:
 - Down Ref (R2)
 - Line Judges (2)

- Scorekeeper
 - Scoreboard Operator
 - Libero Tracker
- Please make sure work teams are on time and ready to go.
- Teams should bring their own whistles. If whistles are forgotten site director will have whistles for sale.
- All work team participants must pay attention to play - **NO CELL PHONES OR FOOD** (phones will be taken away if seen at scoring table, please help enforce this rule as it has gotten out of hand)
- A work team schedule can be found online on advancedeventsystems.com.
 - To access the work team schedule, go to the tournament, click on your team's age division, and then click on your team's Pool Sheet – work teams will be listed to the far right on the pool schedule
 - Failure to provide the officiating crew for your assigned matches could result in the forfeit of the first set of your next match or further penalty if it is your final officiating assignment of the day.
- **Tie-Breaking Procedures**
 - There are NO tie-breaking sets played for this event. All ties will be determined as follows:
 - Tie-Breaker - final finish in the pool will be determined by match record.
 - If there is still a tie, the following criteria will be used in this order without repetition.
 - Set %
 - Point %
 - Head-to-Head (only if 2 teams are tied)
 - Coin Flip
- **Uniforms**
 - All team uniforms must comply with USA Volleyball Uniform Requirements. Please notify IA as soon as possible if uniform concerns.
- **Waivered Players**
 - Only players who fall out of the automatic approve filter on the SE Governing Seasons roster need approval from North Country Region. Waivered players may only participate in NCR hosted events which DO NOT have national bid implications. More information can be found at the following links:
 - Age Waiver-Grade Team Guidelines
 - Rostering: Age Waiver Players
 - Rostering: 11 and Under Membership Guidelines
- **Libero**
 - Will be allowed to serve in this event. Teams will be allowed to use 2 liberos in each match. Libero may be changed between sets if only 1 Libero is designated in the first set.
- **Division Rule Modifications**
 - 14s Teams Playing in 15s Division
 - The 14s team will NOT be allowed to re-toss serves.

- **Forfeits**
 - If a team does not have six players or a USAV verified coach at game time, they automatically forfeit the first set.
 - Should a team have 6 players or coach before 10 minutes has expired, the late team will be permitted use of the full court for a 4-minute warm-up before play begins.
 - If a 6th player or coach has not arrived by 10 minutes after the scheduled match start time, the entire match will be a forfeit.
 - During pool play, a team that has forfeited can “scrimmage” with five players against their opponent for the allotted time. However, the match will still count as a forfeit and no officiating team will be provided.
 - If a team forfeits any match other than their first, they will automatically finish fourth in their pool.
 - During bracket play-offs, no “scrimmage” time will be allowed. Score for a forfeit is 25-0, 25-0.
- **Rules Interpretation**
 - If there is a question on a rule interpretation, please direct the question to your facility Site Director. He/she can then contact NCR for clarification.
- **Team Camps**
 - Saturday Team Camps will be on Court 1
 - Sunday Team Camps can be upstairs in hallway along courts 1, 3 & 7.
 - All team camps should be cleaned up at the end of the day, and the trash from each team camp should be disposed of properly. Please be considerate of our site directors and focus on leaving facilities better than we found them.
- **Awards**
 - The first-place teams in each age division will receive an award.
- **Incident Reports**
 - Should a participant or spectator be injured at the facility during the tournament, please make sure to complete an Incident Report prior to leaving the premises. See the Tournament Site Director.
- **Lost and Found**
 - Any items left at a tournament location site will be kept at the site for up to 72 hours.
- **End of Tournament**
 - Before leaving the site check with Site Director to make sure your team has no other officiating or playing assignments. Site Directors will NOT be held accountable for miscommunications or schedule misinterpretations. The official tournament posting on the Internet is the only source that will be considered should a dispute arise. These results are updated every 5-10 minutes.