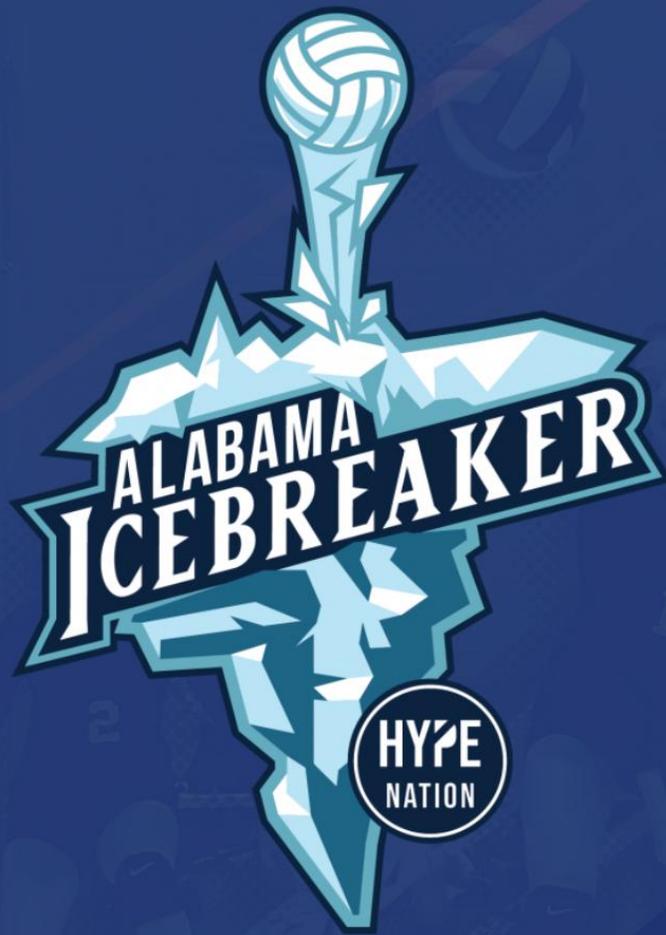


TOURNAMENT HANDBOOK



PRESENTED BY: **capelli**
SPORT



BIRMINGHAM

**JANUARY 3-4, 2026
FINLEY CENTER
HOOVER, AL**

We're excited to welcome your teams to the *Alabama Icebreaker* hosted by Hype Nation! This handbook will have all the information you need, presented by [Capelli Sport](#).

Please read carefully—**there will be no coaches' meeting prior to Saturday play.**

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

SCHEDULES:

All schedules and results will be posted on AES.

View the schedule here: [Alabama Icebreaker Schedule](#)

TEAM CHECK-IN:

Teams can check-in at the facility any time before their first match on **Saturday, January 3. If you have not loaded your roster into AES by Thursday, please bring a signed copy for check-in.**

One member will be allowed to check-in all teams and pick up the coach's wristbands.

PARKING:

Complimentary parking is available onsite. Please do not park in fire lanes or restricted areas—vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.

VENUE:

Finley Center
5508 Stadium Trace Parkway, Hoover, AL, 35244

GUEST & SPECTATOR INFORMATION

FOOD/CONCESSIONS:

No outside food, drinks or coolers will be allowed into the facility. Concessions are sold at the facility.

SEATING:

Spectator seating is provided on every court. Bleacher seats are permitted, but outside chairs or lawn chairs are not permitted inside the facility.

SPECTATOR TICKETS:

All spectators **11 & older** must purchase a wristband; ages **10 & under** are free.

- **Weekend Pass:** \$30
- **Single Day Pass:** \$20
- **Payment:** Credit/Debit card only – **No Cash**
- **Coaches:** Receive wristbands at team check-in (2 per team max)

Please allow enough time to purchase your tickets & enter the facility.

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

*Tickets purchased online will include an additional 10% processing fee. Tickets purchased at the venue **will not** be charged this fee.

WRISTBANDS:

The ticketing system only allows each ticket to be scanned once. **Do not remove your wristband for any reason.** Lost or removed wristbands will require purchasing a new one—no exceptions.

STREAMING:

All matches will be streamed live and available on-demand on **SportsEngine Play**.

Watch here: [SportsEngine Play - Alabama Icebreaker](#)



GAMEPLAY

AGE SPECIFIC RULES:

For **12s divisions**, athletes may use a step-in serve line located **6'6"** inside the end line.

If a player scores **three consecutive points** from the step-in line, they must move behind the end line for the remainder of that service rotation.

ATHLETIC TRAINERS:

Certified athletic trainers will be available to provide taping, address minor injuries, and respond to more serious incidents as needed. Please note that athletes must supply their own tape and pre-wrap for regular use; tournament supplies are limited to emergency situations.

OFFICIALS:

R1 officials will be provided for all courts and matches. Teams are responsible for supplying the remaining officiating crew.

POOL-PLAY FORMAT:

All matches will be played **best 2 of 3 sets**:

- Sets 1 & 2 to 25
- Set 3 (if needed) to 15
- All sets are win by 2, no cap

All teams are guaranteed **a minimum of 5 matches (or 10 sets)** for the weekend.

TIEBREAKERS:

There will be **no on-court playoff tiebreakers** (including Gold/Silver). All ties will be settled using the following protocol:

1. Match Percentage
2. Head-to-Head (only for 2-way ties)
3. Set Percentage
4. Point Percentage
5. Coin Flip

Please monitor AES throughout the day to ensure scores and calculations are accurate.

WARM-UP PROCEDURES:

Warm-up for all matches:

- 2 minutes shared ball-handling
- 4 minutes Team A
- 4 minutes Team B
 - Serving time should be incorporated into each team's individual 4-minute warm-up period

The team choosing to serve first will warm up first.

If a team is playing back-to-back, there will be no warm-up for that team.

AWARDS

BAG TAGS:

Athletes will receive a commemorative bag tag. Coaches will receive **12 bag tags per team** at check-in.

MEDALS:

Medals will be given to 1st place and 2nd place in the GOLD bracket of each division only.

CLUB DISCOUNTS

BADEN:

Baden Sports is proud to serve as Hype Nation's Official Volleyball Partner. [Click here](#) to enjoy 20% off your purchase.

CAPELLI SPORT:

Hype Nation is partnering with Capelli Sport to support athletes at every level. Capelli provides premium sportswear, custom teamwear, and high-performance training gear designed for speed, strength, and style. Enjoy 20% off using [this link](#).

KENDRA SCOTT:

We're excited to welcome Kendra Scott to the Alabama Icebreaker. Be sure to stop by and check them out!

PICTURE PROS:

Hype Nation is thrilled to have [Picture Pros Photography](#) on site delivering top-notch team photos and posters to parents and athletes.

SIMAX:

Hype Nation is proud to partner with Simax Sports. [Click here to shop event apparel](#). Athletes will also have two chances to win exclusive Simax gear throughout the weekend.

1. **Social Media Giveaway** - Check out our Instagram giveaway [@hypenation.vb](#) for a chance to win one of two Simax shirts. Winners will be announced Sunday via DM. Prizes are to be picked up at the Simax booth.
2. **"Clip to Win" Challenge (Athletes Only)**- Visit the Simax booth to enter the Clip to Win challenge. Add your clothespin - **labeled with your team name, club name, and name** - to the designated apparel or jar. Two winners will be selected and announced on our Instagram story. Your coach or club director will also be notified. Winners can pick up their prize at the Simax booth.

STACK ATHLETE:

Stack Athlete is the official recruiting partner of Hype Nation. Stack Athlete is a premier online collegiate sports recruiting platform that's helped over 3 million high school athletes connect directly with college coaches from all levels, build meaningful relationships, and manage their entire recruitment journey. To learn more, visit [stackathlete.com](#).

CONTACT

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HYPE NATION VOLLEYBALL'S 2026 SEASON

24 STATES | 50 FACILITIES | 92 TOURNAMENTS

