

# TOURNAMENT HANDBOOK



PRESENTED BY: **capelli**  
SPORT



JAN 31 - FEB 1, 2026  
EMERALD ACRES SPORTS CONNECTION  
MATTOON, IL

We're excited to welcome your teams to the **Central Illinois Challenge** 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: [Central Illinois Schedule](#)

Doors will open at 7 AM on Saturday and Sunday.

### **TEAM CHECK-IN:**

Teams can check-in at the facility any time before their first match on **Saturday, January 31**. **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:**

There is plenty of parking available at the facility. **Do not park in the fire lanes and do not park illegally. Violators will be towed at the owner's expense.**

### **VENUE:**

Emerald Acres Sports Connection  
1201 Wooddell Way  
Mattoon, IL 61938

## **GUEST & SPECTATOR INFORMATION**

### **FOOD/CONCESSIONS:**

Concessions will be available for purchase inside.

**No outside food, drinks, or coolers may be brought into 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.

**Doors open at 7 AM.**

## 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 - Central Illinois Challenge](#)



## 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 for 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 & 2nd place teams in the **gold** bracket of each division.

## **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](#).

### **PICTURE PROS:**

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

### **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

