



The JVA is committed to championing equity and fostering an environment where all members of the volleyball community are safe, valued, supported, and celebrated. As part of our commitment to anti-racism and inclusion we are launching the JVA Athletes of Color Alliance at the 2022 JVA World Challenge.

The Athletes of Color Alliance will be a space to celebrate and connect athletes of color along with their supporters. The first of many meetings will take place Saturday April 9, 2022 at the Kentucky Expo Center in B108-110 from 10:00am - 5:00pm. Here is the schedule of events:

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| 10:00am-12:00pm | Athlete meet and greet along with activities |
| 12:00pm | Keynote address from former USA National Player and current Alabama State Head Coach, Penny Lucas-White |
| 1:00pm | Panel discussion with some of the players from the University of Louisville Women's Volleyball Team |
| 2:30pm | Keynote address from former USA National Player and current Alabama State Head Coach, Penny Lucas-White at 12:00pm and 2:30pm. |

What is an affinity gathering? An affinity gathering is a congregation of individuals who share one or more common identities. Affinity gatherings allow people to come together and build connections based on these shared identities and experiences.

Why Athletes of Color? To increase equity and create a community where everyone can show up authentically, it is important to provide unique opportunities to folks with underrepresented identities. Athletes of color share a minority identity in the sport at large, and the JVA Athletes of Color Alliance gathering provides an opportunity for athletes with this shared identity to connect and celebrate each other.

Who is this event open to? The JVA Athletes of Color Alliance gathering is centered around celebrating athletes of color, but all supporters are also welcomed!