



2026 & 2027 NCAA MEN'S COLLEGE CUP

(Also known as the NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship)

SPORT SPECIFIC INFORMATION





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IN THE EVENT OF ANY CONFLICT OR INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE SPECIFICATIONS THAT FOLLOW AND ANY SUCH SPECIFICATIONS IN THE GENERAL BID SPECIFICATIONS DOCUMENT, THE FORMER SHALL PREVAIL AND GOVERN THE MATTER.

MEN'S SOCCER



SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

The National Collegiate Athletic Association ("NCAA" and/or "Association") is pleased to provide to member institutions/conferences the opportunity to submit a proposal to host one or more NCAA championships.

The information contained in this document and the accompanying attachments provides the minimum bid specifications for hosting any of these championships, as well as essential information that will provide assistance in the development of a creative, comprehensive and competitive bid proposal. The NCAA awards the privilege of hosting an NCAA championship several years in advance so those communities may work collaboratively with the NCAA to create positive experiences for its student-athletes, participating institutions, fans and the community.

A member institution or member conference of the NCAA must be designated as the host institution/conference for the championship. The administration of the championship is under the authority of the respective sports committee subject to final authority from the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee. All activities and events associated with the championship are to be approved by the sports committee.



SECTION II: CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE

DATE FORMULAS		
First Rounds (16):	THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO FINALS (THURSDAY)	
Second Rounds (16):	SUNDAY, IN BETWEEN THE FIRST AND THIRD ROUNDS	
Third Rounds (8):	TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO FINALS (SATURDAY OR SUNDAY)	
Quarterfinals (4):	ONE WEEK PRIOR TO FINALS (FRIDAY OR SATURDAY)	
Men's College Cup:	SECOND FULL WEEKEND IN DECEMBER (FRIDAY and MONDAY)	

	Semifinals/Finals (traditional)
2026	December 11 and 14
2027	December 10 and 13

In the event that there are changes to the format of the DI Men's Soccer Championship, this contract would be revised allowing the selected host first right of refusal to host the championship under the new parameters.

PLEASE NOTE: The Division I Men's Soccer Committee will consider bids for the 2026 and/or 2027 NCAA Men's College Cup along with other proposals. The committee also will consider multi-year bids.

Currently, the championship provides for a field of 64 teams. All preliminary round competitions will be conducted on the campuses of selected participating institutions with winners of each single elimination round advancing to the next round. The winners of the quarterfinal contests will advance to the Men's College Cup (finals).



SECTION III: GENERAL FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

- 1. The Americans with Disabilities Act, which went into effect January 26, 1992, requires that public establishments offer equal access and services to people who are physically and mentally disabled. The facility must agree that it will be in compliance with all applicable city, state or federal regulations concerning access and seating for people with disabilities.
- 2. The host institution or sponsoring agency agrees that the game and practice facilities shall be available for the exclusive use of the NCAA starting at Noon ET Tuesday until 3 hours after the conclusion of the championship game for the purpose of preparing for; practicing for and conducting the competition (currently, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday are practice days; Friday and Monday are competition days). During that period, the facility shall be clean and accessible and playing conditions and surrounding grounds must be safe and of championship caliber.
- The NCAA specifically disclaims any responsibility to investigate the safety or code compliance of the facilities, temporary bleachers and parking lots or the component products, equipment, materials, designs and constructions.
- 4. The facility must be modern, clean and accessible and have at least 8,000 permanent and/or temporary seats. The prospective host shall outline the number of permanent and temporary seats, the accompanying cost of any temporary seats and the maximum seating capacity for the stadium. In addition, the prospective host shall outline the number and location of food concession locations, merchandise stands and restrooms to accommodate spectators.
- 5. Field size and surface are a significant factor in considering bids. The committee prefers a grass field with the dimensions 75 X 120 yards and an established permanent barrier to separate the spectators from the field of play. The field must meet established NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Playing Rules requirements.
- 6. The game field shall be arranged in accordance with the NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules not later than 8 a.m. the day before the teams arrive for practice.
- 7. At least one grass practice field shall be arranged in accordance with the NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules not later than 8 a.m. the day before the semifinals. The men's soccer committee prefers that the practice facility is adjacent to the game facility; however, it recognizes that other/additional practice facilities may be identified that are on the host institution's campus or within the local community. The host also should have a natural grass field off site on-hold Thursday Sunday so that in the event of inclement weather, there is another option for team practices. The committee prefers access to an indoor or artificial grass-like surface in case of inclement weather.
- 8. The host shall provide an area of at least 100,000 square feet for a fan interactive area, if applicable, preferably adjacent to the championship game field.



- 9. The facility must have a comprehensive security and evacuation plan in case of emergencies and/or inclement weather.
- 10. All seats, including the press box, lounges, and suites in the facility shall be under the control of the NCAA for its exclusive use during the tournament. Seats in luxury boxes and suites must be accounted for at the face value of an adult ticket package for the duration of the championship.
- 11. At the discretion of the NCAA, practice sessions may be open to the public at no admittance charge. Programs, merchandise and concessions may be sold. Please note that practice sessions on the days between the semifinals and championship game are closed.
- 12. The facility must furnish the following locker room accommodations:
 - a. Four, separate, clean and equipped, team locker rooms. Each locker room should accommodate 30 individuals and have its own shower and toilet facilities.
 - b. Minimum of one locker room for the game officials, to accommodate eight individuals.
 - c. For all product placed in the locker rooms, please make best efforts to consider and utilize NCAA Corporate Champion/Partner product if applicable.
- 13. The facility must provide the following additional space at its expense with all areas subject to the approval of the NCAA:
 - a. An athletic training area adequately staffed and large enough to accommodate the four participating teams (22 student-athletes per team).
 - b. Press box media space for 50.
 - c. Media workspace for 50 with appropriate power, internet access, lighting, heat, air conditioning and toilet facilities. In addition, monitors shall be available to carry the television broadcast and postgame interviews.
 - d. Photographer space on the side of the field opposite of the team benches and/or end line that is monitored by photo marshals in accordance with NCAA championship guidelines.
 - e. Interview area for 50 with dais, podium and audio equipment. In addition, television platforms should be available in the rear of the room. An audio technician should be on-site for all press conferences. A video distribution area adjacent to the interview area to accommodate eight to ten people
 - f. One area of private office space for 10 that shall be used by the NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Committee.
 - g. One photocopy machine with capabilities for reproducing statistics and other material on bond paper with



a minimum per-copy speed of 75 per minute. The facility and/or host shall be responsible for the installation, service costs and paper for this machine during the championship. The machine also shall include a collator and automatic stapler. The facility and/or host also shall arrange for on-site equipment operators and technicians to be available Friday and Monday.

- h. Minimum of two scouting locations (indoor) for participating team head coaches.
- i. Minimum of two radio booths and a separate television booth.
- j. Two separate rooms for drug testing, each with a waiting area, toilet facilities and a minimum of 500 square feet of space.
- k. An on-site meal area for 50 television production crew members. Separate space for media and volunteer hospitality to accommodate up to 50.
- I. One room to secure all souvenir programs before, during and after each day of competition.
- m. One room, at least 1,500 square feet, to securely store souvenir merchandise before, during and after each day of competition.
- n. One room, at least 1,500 square feet, to securely store equipment, game balls, give-a-ways, awards, and other materials provided by the NCAA.
- 14. The facility shall provide, at its expense, tables, chairs, skirting, bunting, pipe-and-drape and platforms for all areas described herein as required by the NCAA.
- 15. The facility shall provide 50 complimentary parking spaces in prime locations to be used at the sole discretion of the NCAA. In addition, parking for television production vehicles -- a minimum of 250 linear feet for parking, immediately adjacent and accessible to the stadium, for two 60-foot trucks.
- 16. The facility shall provide, at no cost to the NCAA, sufficient internet access (wireless and/or wired Ethernet), electric power and a sufficient number of power outlets in broadcasting booths, in press locations and in identified working press areas for the operation and transmission of television and radio broadcasts and for the operation of computer terminals used by the working press. Therefore, the following shall be available:
 - a. 110-volt electrical outlets in all working press areas, with the minimum requirement being one outlet for every seat in the working press room and on press row.
 - b. 3-phase to other areas designated by the NCAA including, but not limited to the interview room, NCAA meeting room, NCAA soccer committee suite, television and radio booths, and other special media areas.
- 17. The NCAA owns the exclusive rights to broadcast the games on television and radio, to record the games and



broadcasts thereof and to photograph the games by means of still, videotape or other motion picture cameras. The NCAA shall have the sole right and authority to designate use of all broadcast, telecast and media locations and work areas.

- 18. If broadcast rights are obtained in the future, the NCAA will work with future hosts on the details of the requirements. For broadcast specific details please reference the General Section, Broadcast, Media and Internet. Please complete the power verification form and attach it with your bid (available in the bid portal).
- 19. The facility shall be responsible for and pay the costs of the coordination and installation of interior and exterior signage in coordination with the NCAA staff.
- 20. The facility shall provide at least one main scoreboard and videoboard. A visible clock shall be provided. A backup clock is mandatory and should be synchronized with the visible clock. The official clock shall be operational from the scorer's table. Air horns and secondary timepiece (for timeouts and penalties) also must be available at the scorer's table.
- 21. The NCAA shall control all meeting rooms, private clubs and restaurant space whose patrons have access into the stadium without passing a ticket- or credential-checking station during the term of this lease, and all such space shall be provided at no cost to the NCAA. The venue or its official concessionaire will provide food and beverage (and related services) to the NCAA and its designated agents at costs not greater than the most favorable pricing that the venue (or its official concessionaire) offers or makes available to other clients that have used, or will use, the venue.
- 22. Separate areas in the facility for the selling of concessions, programs and championship merchandise.
- 23. The facility agrees that the NCAA will be paid the predetermined ticket admission rate for each suite admission, not to exceed the cost of tickets in the general seating area. The host agrees championship receipts shall include the predetermined ticket admission rate for each suite admission and that all users of the suites shall purchase tickets to access suites for attendance of games played in the championship.
- 24. At no charge, the NCAA will have full access to, and control of, any and all LED and other digital signage inventory, both internal and external to the competition venue. This includes TV monitors, video screens, video walls, LED fascia, and all external signage, digital or otherwise. This includes any and all digital inventory at the time of the championship, and is inclusive of any new inventory that may be added by the venue after this bid document is signed.
- 25. The competition venue, at its expense, shall provide video boards, LED boards, video camera equipment, green screens, lighting equipment (gobos, spotlights, lighting kits, etc.), audio equipment (to include wireless microphones, boom mics, IFB's, etc.), clear com/radio communications, closed captioning, etc. for NCAA use. The NCAA shall provide and control all content displayed on the boards. The competition venue, at its expense, shall provide a full in-venue production / control room staff for all NCAA load-in and event days (e.g. game days, open practice days, ancillary event days). In addition, the host shall provide access to and use of control room



equipment & staff prior to the Division I Men's Soccer Championship for any pre-production needs. Any new technologies or additional staffing resources that the competition venue possesses that are not listed in the aforementioned production requirements should also be incorporated into the in-venue production.

26. The NCAA and its designated representatives shall have the right, with no obligation to make payments of any kind to the competition venue and surrounding areas/facilities that are to be used or their concessionaire or any other third parties, to provide food and beverages of its choice in any areas other than those for general fan concessions including, but not limited to, the locker rooms, media refreshment area, other working areas, private suites or gathering areas, hospitality space and office space as noted herein. If NCAA Corporate Champion/Partner requests to sample/sell product within venue footprint for general fan consumption, the competition venue agrees to make best efforts to accommodate or negotiate the parameters.

The prospective host that is bidding on this championship agrees to all terms and conditions as outlined above in this Championship Bid Specifications Agreement. We agree to comply with all the requirements listed in this document and to administer the designated championship in accordance with the policies of the NCAA and the applicable NCAA sports committee. Prospective hosts that agree with all the requirements listed in this document for the designated championship shall signify agreement by selecting "Yes" below.

YES

NO with Exception

Prospective hosts who do not agree with all requirements in this document shall select either "No" or "No with Exception" and declare any issues and/or exceptions regarding the aforementioned terms. Please note: any proposed revisions to the language in this document must be specified in the bidding portal to be considered.



SECTION IV: EVENT HISTORY

The chart below contains information on previous hosts, attendance and ticket price history since the 2018-19 season.

Year	Host	Attendance	Ticket Prices
2018	University of California, Santa Barbara	9,657	All-Session: \$40
2019	Town of Cary and Campbell University	17,968	All-Session: \$43
2020	Town of Cary and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	3,797	All-Session: \$56
2021	Town of Cary and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	15,592	All-Session: \$40 *Note: Pandemic restrictions affected ticket sales plans.
2022	Town of Cary and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	14,062	All-Session: \$42
2023	University of Louisville		
2024	Town of Cary and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill		
2025	Town of Cary and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill		



SECTION V: LODGING

The NCAA has partnered with On Location. to manage the NCAA Championship Housing Program and all championship housing needs. On Location serves as the housing partner for hundreds of events annually and, through strong relationships with various hotel brands, can deliver the appropriate mix of amenities, location and price for hundreds of thousands of room nights each year. Utilizing their expertise, On Location will be responsible for managing the selection and contracting process for all championship housing accommodations.

Housing will be required for all participating teams, NCAA staff, committee members, media, game officials, and other special guests as designated by the NCAA. Separate hotels are needed for the NCAA, media, officials, and participating teams unless specified otherwise by the NCAA. It may be permissible for the media or game officials to be assigned to the same property as the NCAA headquarters hotel. (Game officials and teams may not stay in the same hotel.) Efforts will be made to provide some preference to the official corporate champion/partner in the hotel category (should one exist at the time of contracting) of the NCAA. While hotels are the primary housing offerings that will be contracted, alternative options may be considered in certain situations.

Bids will be awarded contingent upon the successful negotiation of housing needs at reasonable rates. Failure to secure such reasonable rates and properties may result in rescinding of the bid award.

The host institution/conference or sponsoring agency must guarantee sufficient housing is available to meet the room block needs identified in the sport specific bid specification. Properties must meet the required service levels and be in reasonable proximity to the event venues. Rooms should not be secured or contracted nor should rates be discussed with specific properties, unless requested to do so by the NCAA.

Bid responses may highlight any recommended properties On Location should consider when contracting. Specifications should also disclose any special relationships, agreements and/or financial arrangements you may have in place with the recommended properties. On Location will take into consideration all recommendations when selecting hotels; however, guarantees cannot be made that contracts will be secured with these properties.

All hotels contracted must have experience with and understand the needs of large sports related groups. For certain championship events, additional room blocks may be required for fan travel.

The NCAA or its designees shall have the exclusive right to sell products licensed by the Association for merchandising at the selected hotels (inside and outside the premises controlled by the hotels). The hotel will provide adequate space in its lobby for such sales.

Contracted properties will be responsible for complying will all requirements in the contract terms as presented in the sample contract.



Hotel Room Block

	Number of Hotels	Service Level	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Notes
Teams ¹	4	Full	54	108	108	108	54	54	54	25 doubles per team plus two suites per team.
Headquarters	1	Full	8	30	30	30	30	16	16	
Officials	1				8	8	5	5	5	Can be same as Headquarters.
Media-approx										
CCP										
Total			62	138	146	146	89	75	75	

¹ **Room Types:** ____ Doubles, ____ Kings, ____ Suites, ____ Other (please explain)

The host institution is financially responsible for the official accommodations to be reimbursed by the NCAA.

All hotels shall be in close proximity (ideally within walking distance) from the competition venue. The team hotel(s) must be of comparable quality and distance from the competition venue.

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YES



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SECTION VI: NCAA/HOST RESPONSIBILITY

NCAA PROVIDES:

- 1. Transportation and per diem reimbursement for the participating teams.
- 2. Transportation, lodging (room and tax), per diem and game fee for all officials.
- 3. Transportation, lodging (room and tax) and per diem for the NCAA men's soccer committee.
- 4. Championship awards for the participating teams.
- 5. Official souvenir program and championship merchandise.
- 6. Assistance with signage and décor.
- 7. Credentials.
- 8. Participant memento's for official traveling parties of the participating teams.
- 9. Funding for volunteer apparel.
- 10. Funding for promotional efforts.
- 11. On-field hydration product and equipment.
- 12. Soccer practice/game balls, banquet gifts, ball bags and apparel (provided by supplier).

HOST INSTITUTION/CONFERENCE AND/OR SPONSORING AGENCY PROVIDES:

- 1. Facilities.
- 2. Volunteers/ball persons.
- 3. Public relations coordination.
- 4. First aid/medical services/AED on-site/ambulance on-site/athletic training staff.
- 5. Championships hospitality and banquet.



- 6. Food/beverage concessions.
- 7. Public address system.
- 8. Support personnel ushers, ticket takers, media runners, team ambassadors, etc.
- 9. Security.
- 10. Media room (fully equipped).
- 11. Media seating/work area with constant refreshments.
- 12. Tickets.
- 13. All computers, printers, video equipment, photocopy machines, etc. necessary to administer the championships, and as may be required by the NCAA.
- 14. Appropriate directional signage within and outside the venue.
- 13. Head table personnel (e.g., public address announcers, official scorer, spotters, etc.)
- 14. Other items as later requested by the NCAA.

above in this Champion listed in this document a the NCAA and the ap	ship Bid Specif and to administ plicable NCAA	ications Agreeme er the designated sports committ	hip agrees to all terms and conditions as outlined ent. We agree to comply with all the requirements d championship in accordance with the policies of ee. Prospective hosts that agree with all the championship shall signify agreement by selecting
	YES	□ NO	□ NO with Exception
•	•		ts in this document shall select either "No" or "No

with Exception" and declare any issues and/or exceptions regarding the aforementioned terms. Please note: any proposed revisions to the language in this document must be specified in the bidding portal to be considered.

MEN'S SOCCER

NCAA[®] SITE SELECTION PROCESS AND INFORMATION



SECTION VII: TRANSPORTATION

There are no additional transportation requirements from the host for the Division I Men's College Cup outside of the parking requirements listed in Section III.

SECTION VIII: MARKETING

- 1. **Marketing Plans.** Upon selection, the host is required to submit a marketing plan for review and approval prior to activation by the NCAA marketing staff. Please refer to the appropriate marketing plan template as a guide.
- Budgets. When the proposed budget is submitted, a minimum of \$12,000 should be allocated for these purposes. The marketing budget should only include items needed for: marketing, advertising, printing costs, grassroots opportunities and promotions.
- Creative Process. A creative marketing assistance website is available to the host for their marketing needs. This marketing website, <u>NCAAChampsPromotion.com</u>, is a comprehensive tool designed to help hosts create marketing pieces which will generate awareness and promote tickets and or attendance for the championship.

Hosts should customize and download all necessary artwork to promote the championship. Every effort should be made to use the online marketing templates, produce the items locally and obtain reimbursement for production costs, up to the reimbursable allocation provided.

All artwork and reimbursement requests must be approved by the NCAA prior to proceeding with production. Artwork requests and approvals will be managed through the website. Should you not have a local vendor, a list of preferred NCAA vendors is available on the website.

- 4. Radio/TV. The NCAA will provide the following television and radio elements to assist in promoting and selling tickets to the championship. Several formats will be provided in order to allow for use over a variety of platforms (e.g., websites, tv commercials, videoboards). All spots will be made available for download via the online marketing website <u>NCAAChampsPromotion.com</u>.
- Support Documents. Hosts should refer to the following support documents when developing marketing plans and budgets: NCAA Ticket Promotional Use Guidelines, NCAA Sales Commission Guidelines, and NCAA Micro-Site Guidelines.



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listed in this document and to administer the designated championship in accordance with the policies of the NCAA and the applicable NCAA sports committee. Prospective hosts that agree with all the requirements listed in this document for the designated championship shall signify agreement by selecting "Yes" below. YES NO NO with Exception

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SECTION IX: TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

W	edr	nes	day	

4 – 6:30 p.m. NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Committee/ Local Organizing Committee (LOC) meeting.

7:30 – 9 p.m. Championship banquet

Thursday

9 – 10 a.m.

n.	Administrative/Coaches Meeting.	

	First Obligation	Second Obligation	Third Obligation	Fourth Obligation
Game 1	10 - 11:30 a.m.	11:40 - 12:10 p.m.	12:15 - 12:45 p.m.	12:50 - 1:50 p.m.
(home)	Practice	(Stadium Walk-through)	(Press conference)	(ESPN Interviews)
Game 1	10:40 - 11:40 a.m.	11:45 - 1:15 p.m.	1:25 - 1:55 p.m.	2 - 2:30 p.m.
(visitor)	(ESPN Interviews)	Practice	(Stadium Walk-through)	(Press conference)
Game 2	12:50 - 1:20 p.m.	1:30 - 3 p.m.	3:10 - 3:40 p.m.	3:45 - 4:45 p.m.
(home)	(Press Conference)	Practice	(Stadium Walk-through)	(ESPN Interviews)
Game 2	1:25 - 1:55 p.m.	2 - 3 p.m.	3:15 - 4:45 p.m.	4:50 - 5:20 p.m.
(visitor)	(Press Conference)	(ESPN Interviews)	Practice	(Stadium Walk-through)

	Friday
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. (estimate)	Youth Tournament (if applicable) – Various locations
9 – 10 a.m.	Television Production meeting
10 - 11 a.m.	Meeting with game officials.
6 p.m.	SEMIFINAL GAME #1: VISITING TEAM vs. HOME TEAM.



(45 minutes allocated between games)

After Game	Press Conference.	
8:30 p.m.	SEMIFINAL GAME #2: VISITING TEAM vs. HOME TEAM.	
After Game	Press Conference.	
Saturday/Sunday		
1 – 2 p.m.	SEMIFINAL #1 WINNER practice.	
1:30 – 2 p.m.	SEMIFINAL #2 WINNER press conference.	
2:15 – 3:15 p.m.	SEMIFINAL #2 WINNER practice.	
2:15 – 2:45 p.m.	SEMIFINAL #1 WINNER press conference.	

Monday

- 1 p.m. CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.
- After Game Awards ceremony
- After Game Press Conference.



SECTION X: ANCILLARY EVENTS

The United Soccer Coaches is involved with the various activities during the championships week. All coaches association activities held in conjunction with the championship are conducted at the discretion of the NCAA and are subject to NCAA approval. Please note, however, that at this time, the coaches association does not sponsor its annual convention in conjunction with the championships.

Banquet space should be secured per NCAA approval and direction. This space should be able to hold up to 250 individuals. Ideally within close proximity of the hotels.



SECTION XI: VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Approximately 75 volunteers per day will be needed for assignments, including scoreboard operations, scoring control, spotters, hospitality, media and merchandise/program sales.

- 1. Media runners.
- 2. Public address announcer and Spotters.
- 3. Merchandise and game program sales.
- 4. Hospitality coordinator.
- 5. Ticket sellers/takers/ushers.
- 6. Game day manager and assistants to help with pregame activities and awards ceremony.
- 7. Media room attendants, interview room personnel and photo marshals.
- 8. Drug-testing couriers, if applicable.
- 9. Game Presentation.
- 10. Volunteers to help set-up various in-game promotions, staff autographs sessions, fan activities and gate giveaways.
- 11. Autograph Sessions and / or Fan Activities.
- 12. Ball runners (6 per game).
- 13. Other duties to be determined.

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YES 🗌 NO

NO with Exception

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SECTION XII: BUDGET HISTORY

The chart below contains the three-year average of expenditures for the championships.

Expenditures Three-Year Average		
Total Expenses	\$122,045	
Promotion	\$7,568	
Tickets	\$1,600	
Facility	\$ 34,883	
Personnel	\$60,382	
Entertainment	\$15,960	
Equipment	\$828	
Officiating Expenses	\$824	