



# **NCAA SITE SELECTION PROCESS**





2026 & 2027  
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY REGIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS (All Regions)

SPORT SPECIFIC INFORMATION



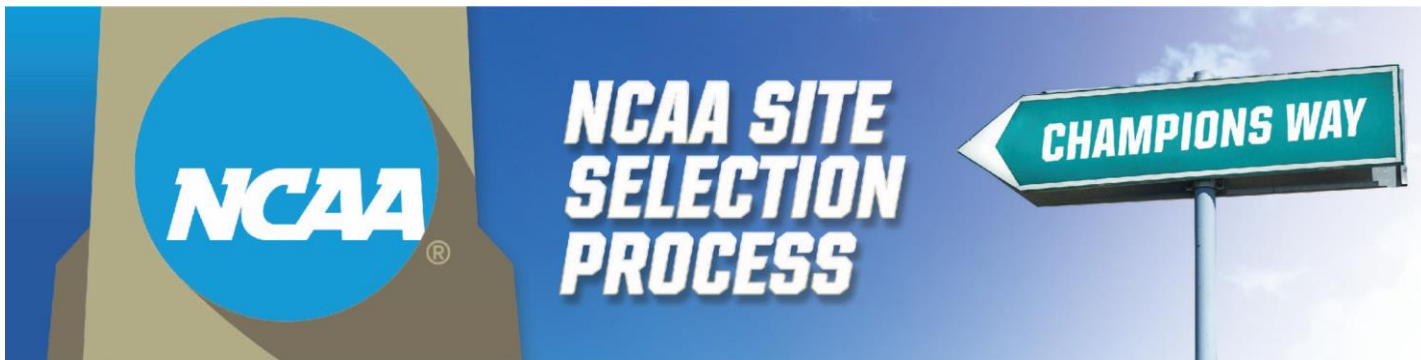
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**IN THE EVENT OF ANY CONFLICT OR INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE SPECIFICATIONS THAT FOLLOW AND ANY SUCH SPECIFICATIONS IN THE GENERAL BID SPECIFICATIONS DOCUMENT, THE FORMER SHALL PREVAIL AND GOVERN THE MATTER.**



## SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

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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 and Division II and Division III Championships Committees. All activities and events associated with the championship are to be approved by the sports committee.





**SECTION II: CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE (FUTURE DATES/DATE FORMULA)**

DATE FORMULAS	
Regionals (9)	Eight days prior to the national championships (Friday)
2026	November 13
2027	November 12

The Division I Men’s and Women’s Cross Country Regional Championships provide an opportunity for all institutions within a particular region to compete at the championships. For a complete list of institutions within a region, refer to the Division I Men’s and Women’s Cross Country Pre-Championships Manual – [www.NCAA.org](http://www.NCAA.org), select Membership, Division I, Division I Championships Home, fall sports, cross country.

The Division I Men’s and Women’s Cross Country Championships provide for a maximum of 31 (five-seven person) teams and 38 individuals per gender for a total of 255 competitors per gender. To be eligible to participate in the championships, teams and individuals must qualify through participation at their respective regional championship sites.

Eighteen teams automatically qualify to the championships races by finishing as one of the top two teams at any of the nine regional championship races. The remaining 13 at-large teams are selected by the NCAA Division I track and field/cross country subcommittee. Thirty-six individuals automatically qualify to the championships races by being one of the top four regional finishers not on an advancing team. Two additional individuals are selected at-large by the committee. Men’s championship races will be 10,000 meters while women’s championship races will be 6,000 meters. However, courses should have the capabilities to run 6,000 meters, 8,000 meters and 10,000 meters.

## SECTION III: GENERAL FACILITY/COURSE 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 cities, state or federal regulations concerning access and seating for people with disabilities.
2. The facility must be available from 7 a.m. Thursday preceding the competition through the day after the championships (Saturday) for the purpose of preparing for, practicing for, conducting the competition (Friday is competition day – the women will race first followed by the men) and in the case of inclement weather that may require the championships to carry over to Saturday. During that period of time, the facility will be clean and accessible, and racing conditions must be safe and of championships caliber. The facility shall be set with all course markings (i.e. mile/km marks, start line, etc.) in place prior to the start of practice.

The host site must also provide assurance that there will be no large-scale competing events (e.g., home football game, convention, conference, etc.) within the host city that would negatively impact the student-athlete and spectator experience. This includes assurance of adequate hotels, rental cars, travel accommodations (flights in/out of host city), support staff/personnel, availability and access to dining/restaurant options, and access to championship resources and infrastructure items (e.g., tents, scaffolding, generators, security, parking/traffic control, etc.).

3. The NCAA specifically disclaims any responsibility to investigate the safety or code compliance of the facility and parking lots or the component products, equipment, materials, designs and constructions.
4. The championships courses must conform to specifications outlined in the NCAA Cross Country/Track and Field Rules Book. Special attention must be paid to the following:
  - Course Distance: Men – 10,000 meters; Women – 6,000 meters. (Note: Course should be capable of running an 8,000 meter race distance as well).
  - The starting line shall be wide enough to provide at least a 50-centimeter space for each of four front-line team starters and a 50-centimeter space for each individual starter.
  - The optimal distance to the first turn is 600 meters (800 meters preferred).
  - The preferred width of the course is not less than 10 meters throughout.
  - Should the course change after the bid is awarded or deemed that the course does not meet the noted specifications, the track and field/cross country committee reserves the right to withdraw the bid.
5. During competition, the facility must be equipped to relay key split marks throughout the course (e.g. every mile or kilometer) to competitors (e.g. read aloud or make electronic clocks visually available). Additionally, all course

markings (i.e. mile/km marks, start line, etc.) must be in place prior to the start of practice.

6. The facility/course must have a comprehensive safety and security plan in case of inclement weather conditions or emergencies.
7. 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 during practice sessions, if applicable.
8. The facility must provide the following additional space at its expense with all areas subject to the approval of the NCAA:
  - a. A sports medicine area for student-athletes.
  - b. Media work space for 30 with appropriate power, Internet access, lighting, heat, air-conditioning and toilet facilities.
  - c. One area of private meeting space for use of the games committee/NCAA site representative.
  - d. A results control area containing one photocopy machine with capabilities for reproducing results and other materials with a minimum per-copy speed of 75 per minute. The copy machine also shall include a collator and automatic stapler. The facility shall be responsible for the installation, service costs and paper for these machines during the championships.
  - e. A room for drug testing, with a waiting area, separate toilet facilities (one for each gender) and a minimum of 500 square feet of space.
  - f. A location to conduct packet pickup the day prior to the regional championships.
9. The host must secure the primary timing and live results group for the regional championships and ensure that the necessary timing technology is in place to conduct the championships. In addition, note the following requirements for meet management: 1) Employ three methods of timing and recording places (bib chip timing, FinishLynx, and video – emphasis placed on the use of FinishLynx); 2) split timing with a minimum of 2 splits for the women’s race and 4 splits for the men’s race; 3) Supply and ensure application of hip numbers and bibs with chips attached for all student-athletes; and 4) Conduct a complete review of the finish. The host will recommend within the bid submission the timing group by attaching a contract. **The NCAA committee must approve all timing groups before a contract is signed.**
10. The facility/course shall provide tents, tables, chairs, skirting, bunting, pipe-and-drape and platforms for all areas described herein as required by the NCAA. Areas include, but may not be limited to merchandise, clerking, medical and protest area.
11. The facility/course shall provide complimentary parking spaces for the participating teams, NCAA site representatives, timing and officials in prime locations. Sufficient parking spaces must also be made available

to attending spectators. If there is any cost associated with securing adequate parking, that cost shall be the responsibility of the host.

12. A traffic support plan for all spectator and participant vehicles shall be provided.
13. The facility/course shall be responsible for and pay the costs of the coordination and installation of all signage/decorations at the course and ancillary events. NCAA will provide a basic signage package for each regional site.
14. The facility/course shall provide at least one main results area and a protest area for coaches that is separated from the public.
15. Ability to conduct a virtual coaches meeting prior to institutions arriving onsite.
16. A full complement of facility/course crew personnel must be on site at all times during practice and competition.
17. The facility/course will provide a public-address system. It is also preferred to have a video board and associated equipment to display meet results, live action, and NCAA messaging. Plans to accommodate the video board should be detailed in the facility/course questionnaire. Preference may be given to hosts willing to provide a video board for the regional championships – please note videoboards are non-reimbursable items for the cross country regional championships and should not be included in your proposed budget.
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. Host should be able to secure meet personnel as outlined in the NCAA Cross Country/Track and Field Rules Book. The host will submit to the NCAA their recommendations for referee and starter, but final approval is with the NCAA committee. Both of these positions are paid. The host will need to secure additional officials to include clerks, finish line judge, marshals, umpires and required assistant/recall starters as outlined in the NCAA Cross Country/Track and Field Rules.

The host institution/conference/sponsoring agency must submit a facility diagram with bid materials which indicates the location of the areas noted below. In addition, include a written description of the course [e.g. start rolls out flat for 860 meters before a gradual right hand turn. A rise in elevation (approximate 3% grade) occurs at one kilometer mark, etc.].

Facility diagram to include:

- Men's and women's course layout with start and finish lines marked
- Awards area
- Team tent areas





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- Locker rooms/shower access (if any)
- Concessions
- Merchandise
- Restrooms
- Media area
- Drug testing
- Sports Medicine area
- Public flow
- Parking
- Clerking
- Video board (if applicable)
- Results area
- Protest area

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       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

Past/Future Hosts	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Great Lakes Regional</b>	Indiana State University	University of Wisconsin	Greater Cleveland Sports Commission and Mid-American Conference	Evansville Sports Corporation/University of Evansville
<b>Mid-Atlantic Regional</b>	Penn State University	Lehigh University	Penn State University	Lehigh University
<b>Midwest Regional</b>	Missouri	Oklahoma State University	Bradley University	Oklahoma State University
<b>Mountain Regional</b>	University of New Mexico	Texas Tech University	Reno Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority/University of Nevada, Reno	University of Utah
<b>Northeast Regional</b>	Columbia University	Columbia University	Boston College	University of Massachusetts Lowell
<b>South Regional</b>	Huntsville/North Alabama	University of Florida	Florida State University	Huntsville Sports Commission/University of North Alabama
<b>South Central Regional</b>	Texas A&M University, College Station	University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	Texas A&M University, College Station	University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
<b>Southeast Regional</b>	University of Louisville	Spartanburg Convention and Visitors Bureau/University of South Carolina Upstate	Visit York County/Winthrop University	University of Virginia
<b>West Regional</b>	University of Washington	Sacramento Sports Commission/California State University, Sacramento	Washington State University	Sacramento Sports Commission/California State University, Sacramento



**Attendance History and Ticket Pricing:** The NCAA cross country regional championships will vary in attendance size based on the size of the region. Host can anticipate anywhere from 500-2,000 spectators depending on the region. If tickets are sold for the event, the NCAA and host will mutually agree on ticket pricing. Typical pricing for the regional championships has been \$5-10 per person.

**Media Attendance:** Media attendance varies, but typically consists of popular running media outlets and the high majority of media being institutional sport information directors, team content personnel and photographers.

## SECTION V: LODGING

The host institution/conference/sponsoring agency is responsible for securing non-risk/attrition free hotel blocks as options for all participating teams. All efforts should be made to provide some deference to the NCAA's official corporate partner in the hotel category (should one exist at the time of the bid). All hotels shall be in close proximity to the competition venue. The team hotels must be of comparable quality and distance from the venue. All hotels contracted must have experience with and understand the needs of large sports related groups. Teams are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements and are not required to stay in any host secured blocks.

Efforts should be made to assist teams in securing sleeping rooms for each participating team at favorable rates for the duration of the championships (early check-in on Wednesday and check out on Friday). Refer to the Division I Men's and Women's Cross Country Pre-Championships Manual for a list of eligible institutions in each region.

In addition, the host is responsible for securing hotel accommodations for the NCAA site representative and the meet starter and referee, if necessary (check-in on Thursday and check out on Friday). The host institution is financially responsible for these accommodations to be reimbursed by the NCAA.

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**SECTION VI: NCAA/HOST RESPONSIBILITY**

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**NCAA PROVIDES:**

1. Transportation, lodging and per diem for the NCAA site representative as outlined in the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Cross Country Host Operations Manual. Host pays for the lodging expenses (room and tax) and will be reimbursed by NCAA through the online host reporting system budget.
2. Transportation, per diem, and game fee for the meet referee as outlined in the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Cross Country Host Operations Manual. Host will pay for these expenses and will be reimbursed by the NCAA through the online host reporting system budget.
3. Game fee for the meet starter and allotment of \$500 dollars to cover additional officials at the discretion of the host and as outlined in the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Cross Country Host Operations Manual. Host will pay for these expenses and will be reimbursed by the NCAA through the online host reporting system budget.
4. Funding for promotional efforts.
5. Funding for championship operational expenses as approved in the bid process (see Financial Administration document for more details)
6. Basic signage package.
7. Merchandise.

**HOST INSTITUTION/CONFERENCE AND/OR SPONSORING AGENCY PROVIDES:**

1. Facilities (including complimentary participant and championship staff parking).
2. Volunteers.
3. Media coordination.
4. First aid/medical services/AED on-site/ambulance on-site.
5. Championships hospitality (limited allowance in operational budget).
6. Food/beverage concessions.





7. Hydration for student-athletes at practice and meet.
8. Public address system.
9. Support personnel –ticket takers, media runners, etc.
10. Security.
11. Media area.
12. Tickets, if applicable.
13. All computers, printers, video equipment, photocopy machines, internet, etc. necessary to administer the championships, and as may be required by the NCAA.
14. Appropriate directional signage within and outside the venue.
15. Creation and maintenance of regional microsite. (See NCAA microsite guidelines)
16. Meet personnel (e.g., public address announcers, support for timing system, etc.)
17. Securing of timing personnel. (Must be approved by NCAA committee before signing contract)
18. Ordering of bibs, pins and hip numbers.
19. Other items as later requested by the NCAA.

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## SECTION VII: TRANSPORTATION

There are no additional transportation requirements from the host for the Division I Cross Country Regional Championships outside of the parking requirements listed in Section III.

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## 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.
2. **Budgets.** When the proposed budget is submitted, a maximum of \$500 should be allocated for these purposes. The marketing budget should only include items needed for: marketing, advertising, printing costs, grassroots opportunities and promotions.
3. **Creative Process.** A creative marketing assistance website is available to the host for their marketing needs. This marketing website, [NCAACHampsPromotion.com](http://NCAACHampsPromotion.com), 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.** Host institutions/conferences may create television and/or radio advertisements, if approved in advance by NCAA staff. The following must be submitted for approval:
  - a. Script and footage for television ads.
  - b. Script for radio ads.
5. **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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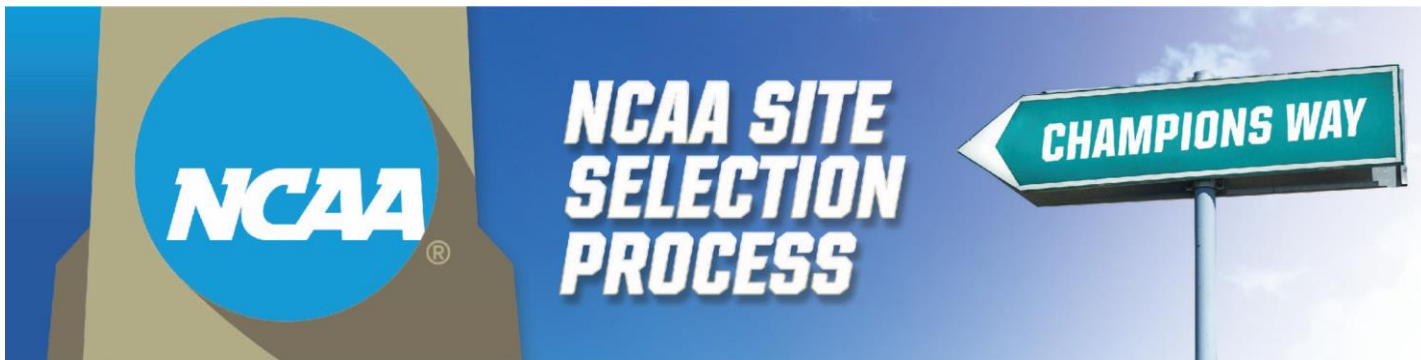
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## SECTION IX: TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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### **Tuesday**

Mandatory virtual coaches meeting.

### **Wednesday**

Course preparation.

### **Thursday**

Course preparation.

Course walk-through with NCAA site representative.

Course review and practice by participants.

Packet pick-up.

### **Friday**

Course preparation.

Course review and warm-up by participants.

Women's race – race start time to be determined.

Men's race – race start time to be determined.

Post-competition recognition ceremony.

\*Start times are subject to the approval of the track and field/cross country committee.





## **SECTION X: ANCILLARY EVENTS**

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A virtual coaches meeting will be held on the Tuesday prior to the regional championships at a time agreeable between the NCAA and the host.

The United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) may conduct a business meeting following the mandatory virtual coaches meeting and presents awards following the conclusion of the NCAA regional championships. All coaches association activities held in conjunction with the championship are conducted at the discretion of the NCAA and are subject to NCAA approval.



**SECTION XI: VOLUNTEER NEEDS**

Approximately 75-150 volunteers on competition day will be needed for assignments, including course safety, team basket/gear crew, finish chute, concessions, parking, media and merchandise sales.

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<p><input type="checkbox"/> YES      <input type="checkbox"/> NO      <input type="checkbox"/> NO with Exception</p>
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## SECTION XII: BUDGET HISTORY

Expenditures Three-Year Average	
Total Expenses	\$22,000.00
Promotion	\$200.00
Tickets	\$100.00
Facility	\$1,500.00
Personnel	\$11,200.00
Entertainment	\$700.00
Equipment	\$7,300.00
Officiating	\$1,000.00