



NCAA SITE SELECTION PROCESS





2026 & 2027 NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY
REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SPORT SPECIFIC INFORMATION

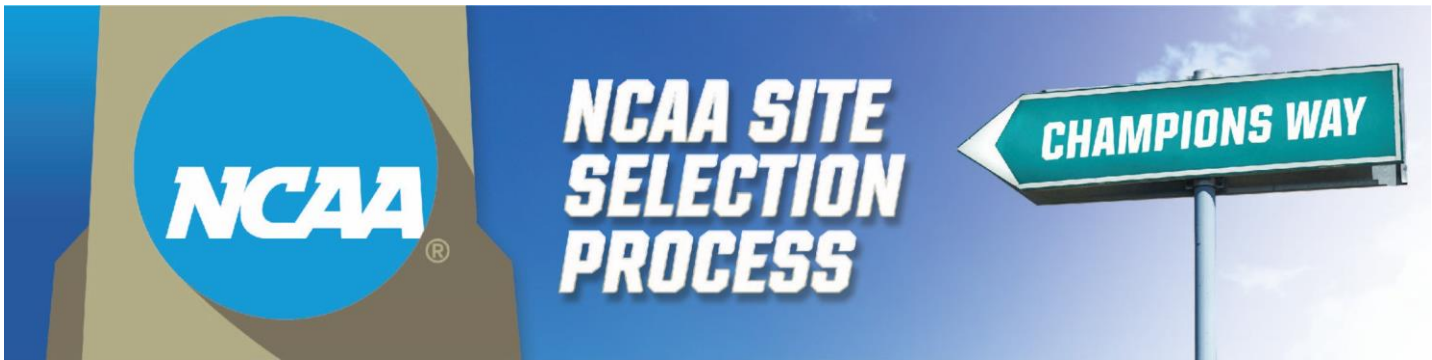


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IN THE EVENT OF ANY CONFLICT OR INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE SPECIFICATIONS THAT FOLLOW AND ANY SUCH SPECIFICATIONS IN THE GENERAL BID SPECIFICATIONS DOCUMENT, THE FORMER SHALL PREVAIL AND GOVERN THE MATTER.



SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

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 to institutions’ 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 DII Championships Committee. All activities and events associated with the championship are to be approved by the sports committee.



SECTION II: CHAMPIONSHIP STRUCTURE

DATE FORMULAS	
Regionals (8)	*Saturday two weeks prior to the national championships
National Championships	*Saturday prior to the Thanksgiving holiday

DATES AVAILABLE FOR BID	
2026	November 21, 2026*
2027	November 6, 2027

*Please note that the date formula is different for years in which the championships are part of the NCAA Division II National Championships Festival.

The Division II Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships provide for a maximum of 34 (five, seven person) teams and minimum of 24 individuals per gender for a total of approximately 262 competitors per gender. To be eligible to participate in the championships, teams and individuals must qualify at their respective regional meets.

Twenty-four teams automatically qualify to the championships by finishing as one of the top three teams at their regional meet. The remaining 10 at-large teams are selected by the NCAA Division II Cross Country Committee. The top two individual finishers per region who are not part of a selected team automatically qualify to the championships, as well as any other individuals who finish in the top five at the regional meet and are not part of a selected team. Men's races will be 10,000 meters while women's races will be 6,000 meters. However, courses should have the capabilities to run 6,000 meters, 8,000 meters and 10,000 meters. Men will run first in even years and women will run first in odd years.

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 cities, state or federal regulations concerning access and seating for people with disabilities.
2. The facility must be available 6 a.m. two days prior to competition through the conclusion of the final race for the purpose of preparing, team practice and conducting the competition. During that period of time, the facility will be clean and accessible, and racing conditions must be safe and of championships caliber. The NCAA site representative will conduct an official walk-through the day prior to the races to ensure that the course is competition ready.
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 Track and Field/Cross Country Rules Book. Some rules and championships specifications to note are:
 - 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).
 - Both courses' optimal width is not less than 10 meters wide at all points. Cart paths and concrete thoroughways should be covered.
 - Entire course shall be clearly marked using either natural or artificial boundary markers.
 - The start line must be surveyed to permit each competitor to line up equidistantly from the first turn.
 - The starting line shall be wide enough to provide at least a 50-centimeter space for each of the four front-line team starters and a 50-centimeter space for each individual starter.
 - The optimal first turn should be at a minimum of 600 meters (800 meters or more preferred).
 - The finish straightaway should not narrow and be a minimum of 10 meters during the last 200 meters (300 meters preferred).
 - Finish line shall be located at right angles to the course line.
5. During competition, the facility must be equipped to relay key split marks throughout the course to competitors. Every mile should be marked and significant kilometers throughout the race should be marked, in particular the halfway point of each race. Times should be announced or presented on a clock throughout the race as well.
6. The facility must have a comprehensive safety and security plan in case of inclement weather conditions or emergencies.
7. The games committee (approximately 4-5 people) shall be provided exclusive use of meeting space in a private area during the championships.

8. 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.
9. The host/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. An area designated for the timing company at the finish line, with adequate space, power, Internet access, lighting, heat/air, and toilet facilities.
 - c. Media workspace with appropriate power, Internet access, lighting, heat, air-conditioning and toilet facilities.
 - d. One area of private meeting space for use of the games committee.
 - e. A statistics control area containing one photocopier machine with capabilities for reproducing statistics and other material 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 four different colors of paper for these machines during the championships.
 - f. 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.
 - g. An additional practice area, if possible, to allow teams to practice off the course to protect the race course in the case of inclement weather.
10. The host must secure the primary timing group for the regional championships and ensure that the necessary timing technology is in place to conduct the championships, according to the current NCAA Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Book. In addition, note the following requirements for meet management: 1) Employ three methods of timing and recording places (chip timing, FinishLynx, and video – emphasis placed on the use of FinishLynx); 2) Provide split times for competitors at recommended distances provided by the DII Cross Country Committee 3) Supply and ensure application of hip number and bibs on participating student-athletes; and 4) Conduct a complete review of the finish.
11. The host/facility shall provide tents, tables, chairs, skirting, bunting, pipe-and-drape and platforms for all areas described herein as required by the NCAA. Areas include merchandise and program sales, results posting, and protest area.
12. The host/facility shall provide complimentary parking spaces for the participating teams, NCAA representatives and officials in prime locations.



13. The host/facility shall be responsible for and pay the costs of the coordination and installation of interior and exterior decorations (i.e. hanging banners, directional signage, etc.).
14. The facility shall provide at least one main results area and a protest area that is separated from the public.
15. 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
 - Post-competition awards area
 - Team tent areas
 - Locker rooms/restrooms
 - Concessions
 - Merchandise
 - Media area
 - Drug testing
 - Sports Medicine area
 - Public flow
 - Videoboard (if applicable)
 - Results area
 - Protest area
 - Clerking tent area
16. 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).



NCAA SITE SELECTION PROCESS



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
Atlantic Region	Mansfield University of Pennsylvania	Lockhaven University of Pennsylvania	Lockhaven University of Pennsylvania	Lockhaven University of Pennsylvania
Central Region	Missouri Southern State University	Missouri Southern State University	Missouri Southern State University	Missouri Southern State University
East Region	Adelphi University	Franklin Pierce University	Roberts Wesleyan University and Rochester NY Sports Commission	Franklin Pierce University
Midwest Region	University of Wisconsin, Parkside	Evansville Sports Corporation	Lewis University	University of Wisconsin, Parkside
South Region	Florida Southern College, Central Florida’s Polk Country Sports Marketing	University of Montevallo	University of Alabama Huntsville	Florida Southern College, Central Florida’s Polk Country Sports Marketing
South Central Regional	Metropolitan State University of Denver	Lubbock Christian University and Visit Lubbock	Metropolitan State University of Denver	West Texas A&M University
Southeast Regional	Wingate University	University of North Georgia	Converse University and Spartanburg CVB	TBD
West Regional	Montana State University Billings	Western Oregon University	Montana State University Billings	Western Oregon University



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 II 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

NCAA PROVIDES:

1. Transportation and per diem for the NCAA site representative. (Lodging should be paid by the host and reimbursed by the NCAA through the financial report.)
2. Approved lodging, transportation, per diem, and fees for the meet referee and starter. All approved expenses should be paid by the host institution and reimbursed by the NCAA through the financial report.
3. Basic signage package.
4. Merchandise from Event1.
5. Funding for promotional efforts.
6. Funding for championship operational expenses as approved in the bid process.

HOST INSTITUTION/CONFERENCE AND/OR SPONSORING AGENCY PROVIDES:

1. Facilities.
2. Appropriate personnel and 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. Security.
10. Timing personnel and equipment.
11. Media area (fully equipped).



12. Tickets and credentials for participating teams, if applicable.
13. All computers, printers, fax machines, video equipment, photocopy machines, DSL lines, etc. necessary to administer the championships, and as may be required by the NCAA.
14. Appropriate directional signage within and outside the venue.
15. Other items as later requested by the NCAA.
16. Meet personnel (e.g., public address announcers, support for timing system, chief of operations, etc.)
17. Bibs and hip numbers.
18. Necessary meeting rooms and areas as outlined in this document.
19. Creation and maintenance of regional website.

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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.

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 minimum of \$4,000 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, 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 NCAACHampsPromotion.com.
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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SECTION IX: TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Two days prior to meet

Course preparation
Course available for practice

Day prior to meet

Course preparation
Course walk-through with NCAA site representative
Course available for practice
Declarations/packet pick-up
Mandatory coaches meeting

Race day

Course preparation
Course available for practice
Races – times to be determined by regional host, subject to the approval of the NCAA committee
Post-competition awards ceremony



SECTION X: ANCILLARY EVENTS

No banquet or social should be conducted as part of the regional meets. 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.



SECTION XI: VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Approximately 75 volunteers on competition day will be needed for assignments, including course safety and security, finish chute, concessions, parking, media and merchandise sales. For full details, please refer to the Host Operations Manual, which outlines general personnel needs, and the NCAA Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Book, which outlines officiating needs and responsibilities.

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CHAMPIONS WAY

SECTION XII: BUDGET HISTORY

Expenditures Three-Year Average	
Total Expenses	\$37,943.00
Promotion	\$516.00
Tickets	\$328.00
Facility	\$717.00
Personnel	\$16,025.00
Entertainment	\$519.00
Equipment	\$10,689.00
Officiating Expenses	\$2,149.00