2024-25 NCAA®
SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES

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PREAMBLE

The NCAA Best Practices Guide is a broad set of recommendations, suggestions, and guidance for host venues supporting NCAA championship events. Each year the NCAA helps facilitate 90 sport championships for over 500,000 student athletes across all three divisions of competition. We are grateful to our gracious hosts, venues, and supporting public safety staff at the university, local, state, and federal level who help us keep our events safe and secure.

Any sporting event should be approached with an all-hazards mindset for venue managers to consider preparation and executive of each competition. NCAA championship events vary in scope, size, and scale across the country and require a wide range of approaches and strategies to foster a safe and secure environment while also balancing and encouraging a positive fan experience. The NCAA Best Practices Guides seeks to provide specific assistance for some of the many topics that should be covered when hosting an NCAA event.

This guide is a working document designed to provide the most up-to-date and effective information for hosts to reference when supporting our championship events from preliminary to final rounds. As new information, tactics, or technology become available the NCAA will consider how this may positively impact the safety of our events.

This book is presented with a review of topic specific information sheets as well as a sample checklist related to each focus area for assistance in preparation and operation. We hope this aids in the development of your safety and security plan.

BEST PRACTICES – ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Service Animals – American Disabilities Act	
Definition A service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.	**Inquiries** When a person with a service animal enters a public facility or place of public accommodation, the person cannot be asked about the nature or extent of their disability. Only two questions may be asked: 1. Is the animal required because of a disability? 2. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform? Questions should be avoided if it obvious that is a service dog (e.g., blind person with service dog).
Control A service animal must be under the control of its handler. Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed or tethered, unless the individual's disability prevents using these devices or these devices interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of tasks.	
Additional Under Titles II and III of the ADA, service animals are limited to dogs. However, entities must make reasonable modifications in policies to allow individuals with disabilities to use miniature horses if they have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for individuals with disabilities.	**Resources** • Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals | ADA National Network (adata.org) • Service Animals | ADA.gov • Miniature Horses as Service Animals | The Northeast ADA Center

- The ADA does not require service animals to wear a vest, ID tag or specific harness.

- Covered entities may not require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained or licensed as a service animal, as a condition for entry.

- Outdoor open venues such as golf, cross country or skiing may be less restrictive to domestic animals in attendance.

- Local laws, city ordinances or university policies may provide additional guidance related to service animals and should be reviewed as needed.

Host Operations Manual Language – American with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act, Title III prohibits private places of public accommodation (e.g., sports arenas) from discriminating against individuals with disabilities. The host institution/conference is required to confirm that each facility in which an NCAA championship or ancillary event occurs is in compliance with the ADA. The host institution/conference is responsible for determining if the competition site will be in compliance as of the dates of the championship. If the host institution/conference becomes aware that a competition site hosting an NCAA championship event will not be in compliance, it shall immediately notify the NCAA national office staff member with responsibility for the event in order to discuss the issue.

If the host institution/conference receives a request for an accommodation, which may require input from the NCAA, the host institution/conference shall immediately notify the NCAA national office staff member with responsibility for the event in order to address the request.

Emotional Support Animals (ESA)

- Mental health professionals prescribe emotional support animals under the law.
- ESA's are <u>not</u> offered the same access as service animals under the ADA. In general, emotional support animal protections are focused on fair housing. However, different states, localities and venues may include language related to sporting venues.
- There is no federal law that requires accommodations for animals to be granted access into a venue for an event. Venues <u>may</u> develop language addressing emotional support animals but are not required to.
- Airlines are <u>not</u> required to accommodate emotional support animals.
- Staff should work with host locations as needed to understand language surrounding emotional support animals and be aware of what is or is not allowed.

Live Animal Mascots – NCAA Regulations

- Division I and National Collegiate Championships

Men's Baseball MCWS FCS Football	Live mascots are also permissible, provided there is institutional control, at the discretion of the NCAA national office.
Men's/Women's Track/Field (Indoor & Outdoor) Men's/Women's Cross Country Men's/Women's Volleyball Men's/Women's Rowing Women's Softball Women's Soccer	Expressly prohibit mascots.
Remaining (19) are silent on subject in the host operations manual	Consider how you would handle that inquiry if approached.

- Division II and Division III Sports
    - All live animal mascots prohibited per policy.

BEST PRACTICES – COMMITTEE THREATS

<u>Acknowledgements</u>

The current climate of social media combined with the intense enthusiasm, passion and emotion attached to college sports can create situations in which membership athletics department members may face public pointed, and directed criticism for choices made stemming from their roles on NCAA committees. It is important to recognize responses can and do have varying impacts on the people they are directed toward. Those who have been subjected to any type of harassment or threat should be supported and empowered to take action they feel is most appropriate and helpful to their situation.

<u>Types of Communications</u>

Any of these may occur in person, via phone, text or online social media platform and can include any or all of the following classifications:

- **Inappropriate** – Unsolicited communication that is unwanted, incoherent or excessively repetitive.
- **Harassment** – Unsolicited communication that may be obscene and causes a reasonable person to feel intimidated, scared and demeaned.
- **Extortion** – Messages attempting to generate a specific action in through coercion.
- **Threatening** – Communication that causes a reasonable person to fear danger for themselves or others, including family and friends.

<u>Reporting Options</u>

If anyone ever fears for the immediate safety of themselves or others, call 911 directly for emergency response and investigation

Law Enforcement: *Local/Campus*	• Easiest and quickest way to generate a police report associated with the communication in your home jurisdiction. • Local law enforcement can create a criminal or information report with relevant information to consider for investigation or for documentation in the event of reoccurring unwanted communications and can provide victim services and share with other state and federal partners. • Online investigations can be challenging depending on the source of the threat or the interpretation of the language being used.
Law Enforcement: *Federal*	• Able to report items but investigations generally revolve around larger issues and patterns such as out of state/country or several committee members impacted. • Has specialized resources available for investigation but federal agencies (i.e., FBI) are not generally as focused on the immediate response.
Member Institution	• Sharing with institution helps communicate information to athletics office and human resources, which can assist in support associated with the issue. • Documents the information for internal monitoring and tracking.
NCAA	• Shares information with national office, which can help liaison with law enforcement partners across the country. • National office championship managers can help support committee members in using this and other references for navigating the issue.

Social Media Considerations

- Report user to the appropriate platform for community guidelines violations and take steps to flag or remove the user.
- Block the contact to eliminate any future communication.
- Interaction settings can be modified to prevent comments or responses to public facing posts.
- Privacy Settings - Individual
    - Consider what is accessible to the public, what can be limited beyond family and friends.
- Privacy Settings – Family
    - Consider what exposure immediate family and friends may have as it relates to the member relationship.

Consider the information available on institutional websites for contact information and consider how this should be displayed and directed.

Helpful questions (NCAA Staff)

If you are made aware of any inappropriate, harassing or threatening communication directed at any committee or other championship affiliated staff members consider the following questions:

- What can I do to help you right now?
- Have you reported it anywhere else?
- Has this happened before you to or anyone else you know of?
- Did this involve a specific competition or contest?

Summary

As committee members help serve our office and the membership, it is important to support them if they become exposed to harmful and potentially dangerous communications. Encouraging members to report these unwanted communications and help support them strengthens the relationship between the national office and those who help serve.

BEST PRACTICES – EVENT ACTION PLAN (EAP)

Safety and Security Plan Review

Championship venues and events should have a safety and security plan to help the NCAA be appropriately ready to prepare for and respond to minor and major incidents. Championship sites vary in terms of size, scale and personnel, as well as having different geographic and human risk factors due to location, sport and available resources. The goal of a safety and security plan is to consider an all-hazards plan to help those working, attending and playing in an NCAA championship event be prepared and safe for their specific event.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Protective Security Advisors (PSA) should do regular reviews of host venues. Additional state and local resources may assist in venue assessments.

Basic Information	Everyone should have information including the actual physical address, a link to venue information, and FAQs.
Contact Information	Names, roles and contact details of key personnel and organizations that engage in the EAP, such as the involved NCAA staff, event organizers, emergency responders, communication team, medical team, security team and venue operations staff. Information from the bid portal for the Critical Incident Response Team shall be shared with all involved, the contact information should be verified and up to date.
Event Briefing	Schedule a time before each day of competition for key stakeholders to meet, introduce themselves, identify positions, discuss anticipated issues, key topics, and other information prior to the event. This is a small but particularly helpful step in the planning and response process.
Communication Plan	Outline of alert process for event participants, staff and guests regarding emergency and non-emergency situations and actions they need to take. The plan should specify frequency of communication, methods and channels, and specify the roles and responsibilities of the communication team.
Evacuation Procedures	Information should clearly describe how to exit the event venue in case of an emergency. Plans should include maps or diagrams of the event layout, locations of exits, emergency equipment and assembly points. Evacuation procedures should specify who is responsible for initiating, directing and assisting the evacuation.
Medical Duties	Overview of first aid, rescue and medical assistance response to event participants and guests who are injured or in need of assistance during an emergency. It should include how information on location of the emergency equipment and supplies, such as defibrillators, fire extinguishers, and first aid kits, etc. The medical plan should specify who is trained and able to perform these tasks, and how to contact additional emergency services.
Review/Updates	Regular review and updates of the safety and security plan is expected to maintain consistent with new or emerging risks and best practices, standards. The review and updates should involve the collaboration of the event organizers, emergency responders and other stakeholders.

Additional Considerations	The following topics are encouraged additions to include in the Event Action Plan to further enhance the Safety and Security plan.
Ancillary Events	Consider any other relevant events proximate to the venue and the championship and what assets and support are needed. Consider these events in larger safety planning such as evacuation, medical response, traffic flow and security screening. Include appropriate stakeholders in this discussion to ensure common communication and consistent information.
Threat Response	Discuss the process of managing a threat to a participant, coach, staff or venue. Consider who will be the lead responding agency and decision maker. Members of the Critical Incident Response Team should be included and aware and know how and when to mobilize.
Weather Monitoring	Identify a weather monitor who is responsible for severe weather observation and notification. Review monitoring method, anticipated issues, relevant guidelines, and communication methods for severe weather response.
Drone/UAS Response	Review federal, state and local guidelines for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) permissions and use. Discuss planned UAS usage, include flight path plan and pilot information. Review response in the event an unauthorized UAS system is observed and/or impacting competition. Consider local law enforcement resources and FAA.
Utility Failure	Determine what vulnerabilities and backup systems exist in the event of utility disruption and which people should be contacted to help.
VIP Attendance	Communicate if there are any anticipated VIP guests (NCAA, political, university, celebrity) and what impacts this may have on operations. Identify point of contact for each VIP for communication. Consider the review of the VIP Best Practice document.
Cyber Security	Include contact information and support plan in the event of a cyber or IT related issue impacting the competition and operations.
Freedom of Expression	Consider any inclusion related issues occurring nationally, locally, institutionally, or if there any participants are connected to any divisive issues. If any one of these exist, consider what options may exist for freedom of expression or protests and what response plans are needed. Assess the need of the Inclusion Operations Support Team
Training	Review records describing the type and frequency of the training provided to the event staff and volunteers to prepare them for the emergency situations and the actions they need to take. The training should include the review and practice of the EAP components, such as evacuation procedures, communication plan, rescue, medical duties, etc.
Debrief	Consider a process for obtaining information and feedback from the event to be reviewed and considered for improvement next time.

BEST PRACTICES – INCLUSION IMPACT

<u>Championship Inclusion Operations Support Group</u>

- <u>Goal</u>: This group is a collection of partners within the NCAA National Office who have helped developed this best practices resource and are connected in a way to assist championship events impacted (or may be impacted) by an inclusion related issue. The goal is to support championship managers by assisting with tasks related to inclusion impacts and allow them to focus on running the operations of the championship event. Representatives include Championship Operations, Championships External Operations, Office of Inclusion, Legal Affairs and communications. Additional ad hoc resources are available from Government Relations, Sport Science Institute, and Internal Audit.

- <u>Scope</u>: The Office of Inclusion is a ready and willing partner to help championship managers best set up events for success for student athletes, coaches, officials, administrators and fans in attendance and navigate sensitive and potentially divisive issues. They are a resource for specific issues or questions. This support group serves as a larger resource option for matters expanding beyond these single questions and those that could impact championship operations.

  Sometimes inclusion-related issues can be anticipated or known well before the championship event. Other times, there is little or no warning from an event, action, person or community that may have on a championship event. In either situation this team can be activated to respond to and support the event.

<u>Preplanning.</u>

- Safety is the number one priority. If there is any concern about the safety of a school, team, athlete or NCAA representative, contact 911 immediately.

- Be aware of sport/championship trigger areas. Examples include:
  - Participants, coaches and officials.
  - Local/host area inclusion climate.
  - State/local legal positions.
  - Current events/hot topics.

- If a concern is identified, consider notifying a supervisor, then evaluate who else to include in further planning actions such as the activation of this group. Supervisors should be included in all further communication and planning. The Office of Inclusion can be used to help navigate the issue through education, information and guidance related to each issue.

- Deliberately engage with hosts related to relevant topic, consider discussion outside of routine meetings/calls. Identify ways of support for hosts and the associated campus and/or venue.

Communications	Security

• Identify lead NCAA communications point of contact.
• Identify local sports information director (SID).
• Generate talking points for media interactions, consider:
   o Rules of engagement.
   o Press conferences.
   o Athletes/coaches.
   o Committee members.
   o Officials, playing rules staff.
• Strategize social media posts.
• Update all other teams/coaches not directly involved.
	• Identify lead host law enforcement/ security point of contact.
	• Engage with local intelligence fusion centers.
	• Review staffing plan and levels.
	• Obtain geographic layout, facility blueprints.
	• Consider outside venues, ancillary events (hotels, transport, fan experience).
	• Identify security rules of engagement (signs, chants, rules/laws).
	   o Who will interact with groups at what times?

Reminders

• There is an important distinction between issues with people and issues with rules/policy; be clear on this source in messaging and planning.

• Daily and event briefing and information contact sheets are highly recommended to enable accurate contact information, event assignments and uniform communication.

• Championship managers need to focus on managing the championship; others can help backfill with appropriate responsibilities.

• Consider resources included in other Best Practices (e.g., risk assessment, VIP visits, threats).

BEST PRACTICES - POSTGAME OPERATIONS

After the conclusion of competition and the whistle has sounded, the sporting event moves into the next, and final, stage of operations, postgame. While the competition is complete there are still operational requirements and considerations needed before the event is truly over. Examples of postgame items include on field incursions or access, fan and participant exit planning, media engagements, team and individual awards, and locker room access.

Planning

The conclusion of an athletic competition consistently creates two sets of emotions depending on the outcome for each team, athlete, and coach. These emotions are magnified during post season play and especially during final championship rounds. Postgame planning and response should be included in the Event Action Plan (EAP). Consider the following items:

- Event organizers, law enforcement, and private security are encouraged to perform a robust threat assessment before each event. In addition to the assessment leading up to the event the anticipated makeup of fans, competition matchup, and recent events should be considered for post-game preparation.
- Some staffing should remain in place to assist in facilitating crowd movement and as a resource to address any anticipated issues.
- A postgame medical response plan should be considered, or an appropriate transition of authority needs to be clearly and readily known.
- Movement plans for fans, teams and athletes, and officials should be planned and known.

Access Control

- Victory will generate a source of team celebration of accomplishment and there may be a desire for those not directly involved in the team to also be involved. Not all spontaneous celebration is dangerous, but it should be considered in the planning stage depending on team, sport, matchup, size and scope of venue, and resources. It is helpful when venue managers, game operations and administrators identify situations through which a specific outcome will motivate postgame competition area access.
- Recognition is the first step in mitigation. Ongoing assessments should be made based on crowd size, matchup, emotional tenure, and venue design, not just in the final seconds.
- Consider the use of preplanned messaging inside the venue related video boards and the use of the Public Address (PA) announcer to help guide actions before the conclusion and during postgame.
- Staff and other resources should be deployed, informed, and educated about what actions should or should not be taken after the game concludes. It is highly encouraged to discuss this plan before the game with key staff at the venue, third party staffing, ushers, security, officials and game operations.
- If access to the playing surface is allowed, ensure crowd movement is done in a safe manner with clear direction and secure route.
- Consider the exit plan and messaging for people if they enter onto the field of play and how to remove them safely after postgame.

Postgame Movement Plan Needs. A plan must include a response for each of the following categories of individuals so that all may safely exit the venue.

- Student-athletes and coaches (both teams).
- Officials.
- Spirit squads/bands.
- Staff.
- Fans.
- Equipment.

Secondary Access

- Credentials and credential expectations should be known and publicized so staff are aware who and who cannot access postgame areas.
- A pre-arranged postgame credential access is encouraged (i.e. Colored Wrist Bands) to allow for easy observation and access.
- Media members should have visible credentials and be briefed on areas of access and areas of restriction.
- Consider press conference timelines and individual movement to and from the media interview area.
- Locker room access should be highly restrictive and monitored.

Resource Consideration

- Establish the appropriate staffing placement for postgame and ensure appropriate positions are addressed based on size, scope, venue, and crowd.
- Medical response should remain an integrated part of the operations plan to include postgame responsibilities and timing.
- Use all camera options available to monitor and record postgame actions. The concourse area can generate conflict based on opposing fans in close proximity.

Conclusion

- As part of the operation plan, the transition of authority should be reviewed, identified, and communicated. As an event ends and people transition away from the venue the need for resources will slowly decrease and the resource need will reduce to normal operating staff. This transition is important to establish and subsequently communicate when the special event is complete.

BEST PRACTICES - PREGAME OPERATIONS

All events occurring prior to the start of the Championship contest should be deemed pregame activities and considerations should be made to mitigate potential hazards while supporting the fan experience. Examples of pregame activities include tailgating, fan fest engagements, and corporate relations activations.

Planning

Pregame environments are generally created to offer an enhanced fan experience prior to attending competition and are usually proximate to the venue. Consider this an extension of the game day operational plan and work to integrate these activities into the overarching Event Action Plan (EAP). Consider the following items for review:

- Event organizers, law enforcement, and private security are encouraged to perform a robust threat assessment before each event. In addition to terrorism risks, threat assessments may highlight recent criminal trends, geographic footprint, and cyber security assessments. Consider the anticipated makeup of fans, competition matchup and recent events.
- Develop a pregame medical response plan for incidents occurring outside of the venue.
- Managing Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and response.
- Those events generating large attendance of minors should include response planning for lost, missing, or found children.

Vehicle/Traffic Safety

As pregame events are often outside of the venue perimeter, they are more likely near incoming traffic and emphasis should be placed on maintaining vehicle and pedestrian safety while also facilitating efficient traffic flow. Consider the following:

- Create a traffic plan for fans attending the event and publicize closed streets and encourage best routes of traffic. Utilize signage and personnel to help guide traffic.
- Close adjacent streets, travel lanes, and parking areas to restrict the potential for unscreened vehicles near any potential target(s) and protect pedestrian movement while increasing standoff distances.
- Install barriers and designate marshaling locations to ensure adequate standoff distances from Vehicle Born Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIEDs). Strategically place objects, such as large planter boxes or bollards that can provide extra protection and space from unauthorized vehicle intrusion.
- Create safety zones between pedestrians and general vehicular traffic using barriers, fencing, bollards, staged vehicles, or large planters, while maintaining accessible ingress and egress routes for emergency response vehicles.
- Maintain open, clear emergency lanes throughout pregame event and tailgate areas.

Access Control

There is significant variance among pregame events from open air walk through up to separate ticket required for entry. If feasible identify and create an access control point for transition into the pregame event and for exiting. Consider a prohibited item list consistent with venue entry.

Tailgating

Pregame friend and family gatherings are a common addition to sporting events. Strategies, rules, and guidelines should be reviewed to create and maintain a positive experience and environment with the following topics:

- Establish policies, rules, and a code of conduct for tailgating addressing
    - Who, when, and where to tailgate.
    - If a game/event ticket is needed to tailgate.
    - If tailgaters can stay in the tailgating area after the game starts.
    - If alcohol is permitted and how will underage drinking be controlled.
    - Establish sound volume controls if not addressed under law or ordinance.
- Identify prohibited and permitted item list and publish online and around the tailgating areas such as glass, open flame, grills, tents, vehicles, RVs, and alcohol.
- Parking planning to require permit only, paid parking, open parking assigned spots or open parking festival style first come first serve options.
- Utilize raised platforms or camera technology to monitor tailgating crowd areas.
- Depending on geographic limitations consider portable restroom options.
- Work with local jurisdictions to regulate non-venue tailgating lots (i.e., rules, safety, and behavior) for consistent regulations, safety measures, and attendee behavior.

Volunteer Management

Many pregame activities require volunteers for staffing to help facilitate, inform, guide, support, and encourage fans. Maintaining a strong and safe volunteer corps can aid in a positive event. Managing these people and groups should incorporate the following ideas

- Develop a structured volunteer recruitment program to organize the recruitment, registration, training, and confirmation process.
    - An appropriate background check process should be applied.
    - Identify event volunteer roles and organization structure.
    - Determine minimum and maximum volunteer requirements by area.
    - Work with insurance providers and legal counsel to understand restrictions.
- Provide volunteer training.
    - Develop a version of operations documents for volunteers relevant to their roles.
    - Include volunteers in basic safety and security orientation.
    - Consider assembling a volunteer handbook available for reference.
    - Ensure that all volunteers sign a waiver and acknowledge a code of conduct before starting their roles.
    - Verify the medical licenses of all volunteers performing medical services.
- Establish volunteer check-in procedures.
    - Create centralized staff and volunteer check-in points close to the area of operations and require volunteers to check-in, verify identity, and receive credentials in a consolidated location.

BEST PRACTICES – RISK/THREAT ASSESSMENT

Information

- Risk Assessment Approach: Plan, Prepare, Test, Update, Monitor

- [Protective Security Advisor (PSA) Program | Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency](#)

  o The PSA Program's primary mission is to proactively engage with federal, state, local, tribal and territorial government mission partners and members of the private sector stakeholder community (NCAA) to protect critical infrastructure.

  o PSAs are able to assist with the CISA [Security at Safe Entry](#) assessment tool.

  o Venues should regularly meet with their local PSA and use the [Infrastructure Survey Tool](#) to best understand vulnerabilities and mitigation strategies.

  o Advanced level options include the [Infrastructure Visualization Platform.](#)

Preparation

- Establish a risk assessment team.

  o Determine clear lines of leadership and decision-making.

Risk assessment team members	
Venue/event – All key personnel such as security, operations, maintenance, technology, communications, concessions, marketing, business affairs, coaches, league or governing association, custodial services, legal, financial, insurance, medical, equipment staff, etc.	
Local/state/federal law enforcement	**Transportation providers**
Fire department/fire marshal	**Weather resources/meteorologists**
Emergency management agency	**Community stakeholders**: airport, medical centers, mass transit
Emergency medical services	*As applicable* – **Host intercollegiate athletics senior and ops staff**
Athletic medicine	
Utilities/public works	*As applicable* – **Host school housing, student affairs, senior staff**

- The Critical Infrastructure Risk Management Framework includes the following steps:

  o Set security goals.

  o **Risk=Threat x Vulnerability x Consequence (R = T x V x C)**

    - Consider how likely a threat is to occur, how vulnerable your critical infrastructure is to the threat, and the possible negative outcomes if the threat were to take place.

  o Prioritize areas of risk and mitigation options.

  o At a minimum, annually update and disseminate the risk assessment report to leadership, key staff and partners. Use the last assessment as a starting point for future assessments.

- Consider the following areas when determining the likelihood of a threat occurring:
  - Historical Data - What types of incidents have occurred in the community, in the facility/event space, at other events in the area, and at other like-type events?
  - Geography – What can happen as a result of the actual physical location of the event?
  - Physical – What can result from design/construction issues with facilities, utilities, tents, stages or auxiliary events?
  - Technology – What can result from a process, system or equipment failure?
  - Human Error – What can be caused by a staff error? Has staff been adequately trained?
  - Protocols for threat assessment including (but not limited to) bombs, persons with firearms, threats against specific persons, severe weather/natural disasters.

- Identify external resources to support the risk assessment and mitigation efforts.
- Intelligence Fusion Center Info
  - Engage state and local fusion centers and Joint Terrorism Task Forces for lawfully gathered crime, hazard and terrorism information. Inputting information to local fusion centers allows for accurate monitoring and communication related to the event and venue. This is highly beneficial when teams are traveling from distance outside of the venue where teams/names are likely not being actively engaged or monitored in the fusion center.

- Review the competition venue's emergency procedures and protocols:
  - Establish protocols for both event day and non-event day situations.
  - Encouraged to conduct at least one discussion-based tabletop or exercise 30+ days before the NCAA license period and record the results, findings, recommendations, and agreements.
  - This tabletop/exercise should validate and assess all key personnel's understanding of the following:
    - Management and decision-making processes for emergency situations and event-day related incidents (command and control).
    - Flow of communication between the NCAA personnel, facility management and the first responders (police, fire, EMS, emergency management and public works).
    - A review of all members' roles and responsibilities.
    - Specify persons to be notified and order of notification distributed to appropriate staff.
    - Establish an "Incident Briefing" before each of the designated rounds of competition hosted at the venue.
- Complete an After Action Report at conclusion of each event noting incidents impacting the operation for consideration for subsequent events

BEST PRACTICES - TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

The first step a fan takes in attending an event is to travel to the venue and likely parking a vehicle. Waiting in traffic or for parking is often a source of dissatisfaction in event attendance. Effective planning and performance can help mitigate this and increase safety outcomes for all.

Traffic Management Plan Considerations

- Fan vehicles
- Emergency vehicles
- Parking
- Tailgate Areas
- Mass Transit. Fan Shuttles, and Rideshare
- Pedestrians

Define and agree upon the event traffic perimeter and area of responsibility or oversight in the planning process, this addresses the most disruptive aspect of the event on the community. Develop a detailed plan for vehicular flow into and out of the venue, including staging and entry/exit of responding emergency vehicles. Vehicle access should be increasingly limited as they move closer to a venue. Utilize a graphic map to highlight direction and flow.

Information Sharing Options	Signage/Direction Options
Fan Guide	Roadway and Interstate Signs
Social Media Platforms	Small/Large Digital Portable Changeable Message Boards
Host Web Site	Barricades, cones, barriers
Local News Media	A Frame Signs, Yard Signs
Ticket Purchase Attachments	Law Enforcement Officers
Event App Platform	Parking Staff, Volunteers

Emergency Vehicles

Consider the venue risk assessment and medical response plan for event both participants and fans when designing emergency vehicle response. Ensure available and accessible route for emergency vehicle response and possible exit. Maintain open clear emergency lanes throughout tailgate areas. Tailgaters tend to migrate into traffic lanes with chairs, tables, grills, and other paraphernalia once the tailgating area is full.

Parking

Close parking is highly desirable for fans who will often attempt to locate the closest space first and move outwards. A layered communication approach involving multiple and repeated sources of communication can help guide people to appropriate parking areas.

When creating the parking plan and appropriate graphic consider the following:

- Parking lot opening times.
  - Earlier open times will lessen acute traffic but require more staffing hours
- Encouraged use of prepaid parking and visible permits.
- Tailgate Areas.
- Mass Transit, Fan Shuttles, and/or Rideshare.
- ADA parking locations and access points
- Pedestrian routes.
- Night or low light illumination for parking lots and staff working.
- Cash v card swipe benefits (requires connection), process parking OFF roadway

Pedestrian Safety

An area most susceptible to injuries involve vehicles versus pedestrian accidents (malicious and accidental). Taking steps in the planning stages to limit the overlap of vehicles and pedestrians is best approach. Consider ways to protect pedestrians using barriers, road closures, staffing, and ingress and egress design. The area around a venue should have an appropriate buffer area to accommodate and protect the pedestrians approaching and exiting the area. Areas of focus include higher speed roadways, pedestrians crossing roadways, and low light or obstructed locations.

Incorporate strategies to address pick up and drop off riders. Identify and communicate pick up and drop off locations, shuttle times (if applicable), and create specific space for these actions.

Flow

In general, the more consistent the traffic flow the less likely incidents are to occur. Steady pacing and movement, combined with consistent and visible messaging reduces the need to stop and start and look down at phones or maps.

With the prominent use of cell phone maps consider creating an appropriate online location or address to direct people to the right place (Not just the stadium address). Integrate appropriate construction and other event information to anticipate and adjust traffic movement.

Any negative traffic incident can have cascading impact and a quick response to resume normal flow is important, consider building a specific traffic response plan for disabled vehicles, illegally parked or abandoned vehicles.

Monitor traffic status through online metrics, field reports, and traffic cameras to adjust staffing and response plans as dictated by the traffic movement.

BEST PRACTICES – VIP ATTENDEES

For the purpose of this guidance consider the term Very Important People (VIPs) to be inclusive of a wide range of fans coming to events ranging in levels of notoriety and prestige, from local to national and even international. VIPs can include representatives from the national office, participating university/college administrators, conference commissioners, politicians, athletics and entertainment celebrities, and other dignitaries. Support and accommodation for VIPs varies across a spectrum depending on the status of the VIP and the event. Note the items below may not apply in all situations but serve as a guide to balance the VIP visit and the event.

NCAA Political Invitations

- The NCAA's governmental relations office maintains contacts with those involved in the political arena related to championship events. They may invite or communicate with staff members about attending a championship event. As information is known, they will share with the appropriate championship staff member.

Preplanning

- Often the notification of attendance by a VIP has a short lead time due to scheduling and security-based concerns. Getting a late notice is not abnormal.
  - If VIP attendance is announced before the event, take extra precautions based on an intelligence assessment.
- Even if not previously known or planned, identify a coordinator to handle and support VIP attendance. VIP attendance may require staff effort beyond original capacity, so alternative options should be considered and identified.
- The coordination between law enforcement, event operations and VIP staff/security requires effective communication and management. VIP security staff are often armed and discussions before the event to process security expectations, rules and regulations is essential.
  - VIP security teams may look to do additional venue walkthroughs prior to the event.

- Establish a singular primary and consistent point of contact in both directions: **NCAA ↔ VIP** Identifying this communication flow as soon as possible creates a clear understanding of responsibilities, expectations and informational details for both parties.

  - Consider if the event attendance will be impacted based on the guest in attendance.

Operations

- In reviewing logistics, one way to help manage VIP attendance is to consider what options exist and provide a finite number of choices for VIP teams to select from rather than unlimited options.
- Review transportation and parking needs to include escorts, access, passes and exposure.
- Designate a VIP entrance area (e.g., loading dock, service area, secured entry)
- Confirm timeline of entry and exit.
- Ensure appropriate tickets and credentials are in place and align with security plan. Note VIPs often travel with groups (family, friends, business associates).
- Review pregame and postgame expectations and accessibility before the game.
- Review press/media access and availability (if applicable).

Considerations

- Not everything needs to be accommodated.
  - Non-Negotiable items.
    - Student athlete schedule.
    - Pre-Game script.
    - Game timeline.
- NCAA President and Senior Leadership Team
  - Clearly identify point of contact from the executive office who will facilitate the visit.
  - Use the Presidential Visit Checklist (resource available).

Challenges

- Federal executive protectees, such as President, Vice President, U.S. Cabinet members and heads of state, require extra consideration and partnership with appropriate federal law enforcement agencies.
- A VIP may be dismissive of the operations plan and security staff and chooses their own course of action. This can impact crowd dynamics, timelines and policies. It is important to work with the best point of contact to identify a mutual level of understanding and expectations.
- Except for high-level federal executives, it is expected that VIPs obtain tickets for attendance either through the competing university, local organizing committee or through the general ticket office. Credentials for law enforcement or security staff should be extremely limited, with the expectation that security details obtain tickets for entry.
- Travel backups.
  - Traffic impacts arrival times for teams, officials, workers.
  - Issues with people (workers) getting stuck in a specific spot during dignitary movement.
- Communication planning may require an extra layer by adding a VIP to the event. Consider how you will continue to communicate with the VIP (and team) and how that will be disseminated to the rest of the impacted operational staff.
- Postgame access such as on field/court or locker room may be something considered. The first question should be directed toward the team, coaches, administrators to decide if they want the VIP to have that access. Then consider what options (if any) exist for this to happen.

Safety and Security Handbook

BEST PRACTICES – WEATHER

- The Event Action Plan should identify potential weather risks, establish precautions and identify procedures for response. This includes evacuation, sheltering in place, re-entry, and cancelation or postponement.
    - Develop trigger points and preplanned responses for sport and venue, allowing for appropriate and timely action.
    - Identify decision authority based on event.
    - Make sure warnings are time-driven and not triggered only by a certain radius. Ensure warnings are designed to give decision-makers enough time to decide the plan and fans to react.
        - *For example, if storms are moving fast, triggering an alert at 12 miles might not provide enough time to enact the plan.*
- Weather Monitoring.
    - Identify and be in communication with a designated person responsible for noting weather conditions during the championship event. Identifying severe weather with appropriate lead time greatly enhances the ability to execute response actions safely.
    - Identify information sharing and communications plan with the operational group.
    - Consider the use of weather resources such as enhanced weather monitoring software, National Weather Service (NWS), local meteorologists and host institution expert staff.

- Evacuation Planning.
    - Evacuation plan should be known, and staff must be prepared and informed.
    - Before each event, discuss and practice shelter-in-place/evacuation procedures.
    - Ensure messaging exists for venue visible display, PA scripts and staff instructions.

- Severe Weather Shelter Locations.
    - DO include permanent structures that are fully enclosed.
    - DO NOT include dugouts, refreshment stands, open press boxes, rain shelters, golf shelters, and picnic shelters, even if they are properly grounded for structural safety.
    - Identify adjacent and alternative options to the venue. Consider the time needed for crowd movement as part of the decision model.

Weather Terminology	
ADVISORY	An advisory is issued when a hazardous weather event is occurring, imminent or likely. Advisories are for less serious conditions than warnings and cause significant inconvenience and if caution is not exercised, could lead to situations that may threaten life or property.
WATCH	A watch is used when the risk of a hazardous weather or has increased significantly, but its occurrence, location or timing is still uncertain. It is intended to provide enough lead time so those who need to set their plans in motion can do so. A watch means that hazardous weather is possible. People should have a plan of action in case a storm threatens, and they should listen for later information and possible warnings especially when planning travel or outdoor activities.
WARNING	A warning is issued when a hazardous weather or is occurring, imminent or likely. A warning means weather conditions pose a threat to life or property. People in the path of the storm need to take protective action.

Other Weather Issues	Considerations
Tornado, Severe Wind (Straight line, Gusts, Microbursts)	Prompted by tornado/severe wind watch/warning by the National Weather Service Like lightning, be sure to monitor and prepare for evacuations and have appropriate shelters available. It is important to consider structural tolerances within venue related to wind severity.
Winter Weather	Identify hazards within venue, traffic impacts, see cold weather.
Hot Weather	Consider extra medical treatment options (i.e., water, shade, cooling shelters). Consult NWS HeatRisk (noaa.gov)
Cold Weather	Consider extra medical treatment options (i.e. warming shelters). Consult National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration wind chill chart
Environmental, Air Quality	Review appropriate thresholds and testing that could impact competition plans. Use Safeguards Committee reference sheet and NWS website airnow.gov as information sources for consideration

Lightning Safety - *Information is available on lightning safety and in the Sports Medicine Handbook*

- Yellow (Initial) - Within **30 miles.**
  - o Prompt internal discussion and planning.
- Orange (Monitoring) - Within **12 miles**
  - o Initiation, be prepared.
  - o Options Messaging – Visual (Video Radar), PA, staff assignments.
- Red (Threat) Within **8 miles.**
  - o Activities suspended.
  - o Venue shall be cleared at this time.
  - o Evacuation Messaging – Visual, PA, staff.
- Adjust radius to account for sport, venue, and timing.

BEST PRACTICES – WEATHER: LIGHTNING RESUMPTION

- *UPDATE: Resuming play related specific to Lightning Only*
- Source/Endorsement: [NOAA/NWS Outdoor Venue Lightning Safety Lightning Tool Kit](#)

The Emergency/Event Action Plan should identify potential weather risks, establish precautions and identify procedures for response. This includes evacuation, sheltering in place, reentry, and cancelation or postponement.

- o Develop trigger points and pre-planned responses for sport and venue, allowing for appropriate and timely action.
- o Identify decision authority based on event.

If the venue is consulting with a professional meteorologist that is using real-time lightning cloud-to-cloud and cloud-to-ground data, the event may resume only if all the following conditions are met:

- o Lightning has moved beyond eight (8) miles of the venue.
- o The storm motion is taking the lightning activity away from the venue.
- o The threat of new lightning strikes within eight (8) miles of the venue has ended.
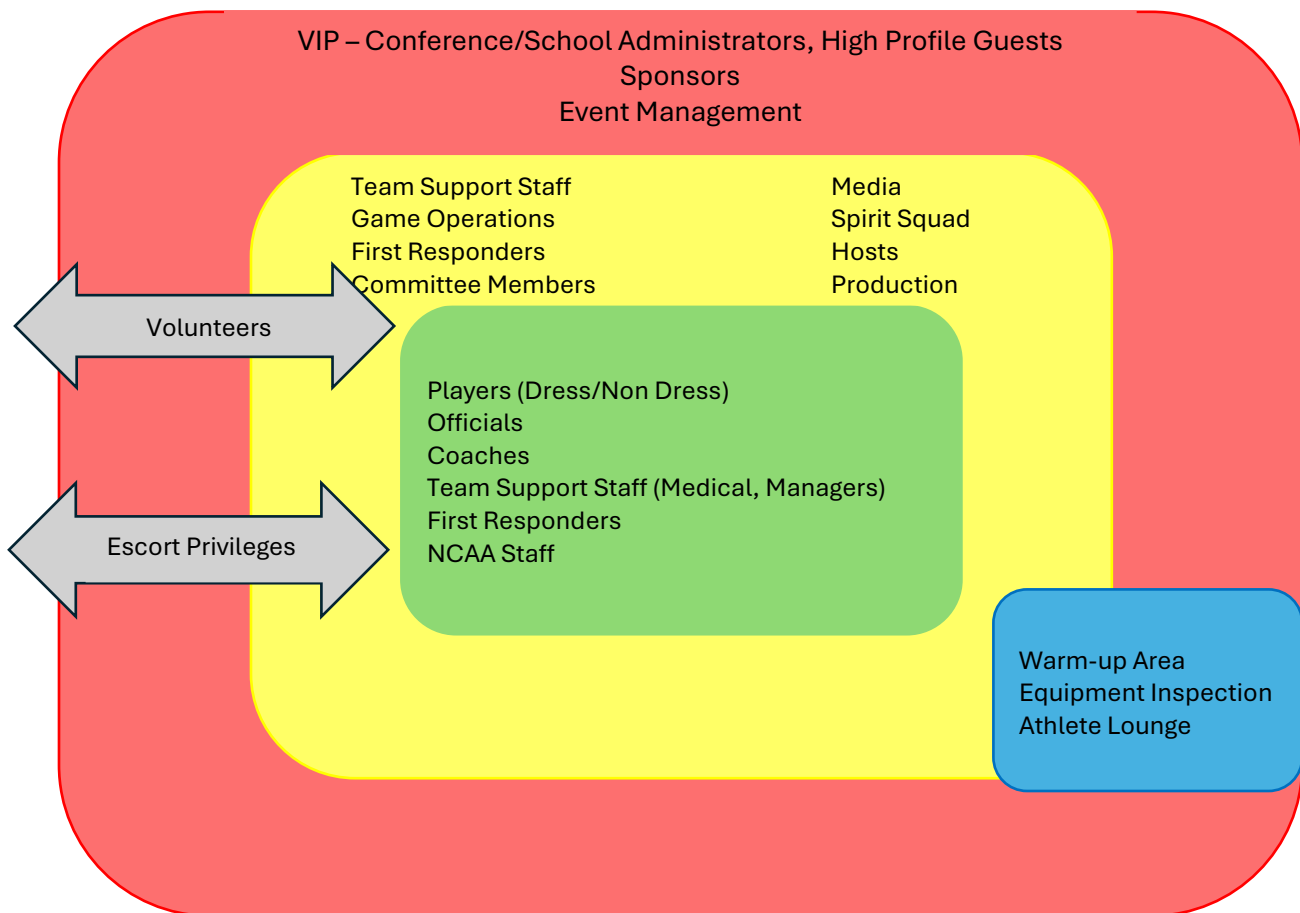
If the venue is not consulting with a professional meteorologist that is using real-time lightning data, the venue will wait 30 minutes after no observed thunder or lightning strikes.

- This provides an OPTION to resume competition in a shorter time span than currently practiced via the 30 minutes after last lightning strike guideline.

  - o SAFETY remains paramount; there are no requirements to resume play before 30 minutes after the last strike. If there is any concern, choose time and distance to allow for a safe environment for athletes, coaches, officials, fans and staff.
  - o This update shall NOT supersede any existing venue related policies for weather return to play.
  - o Play resumption is a two-prong test:
    - Venue/host MUST consult with a professional meteorologist. The communication may be in person or via phone, but it MUST be with a pre-identified direct contact **AND**
    - Lightning has moved beyond eight (8) miles of the venue, the storm is taking the lightning activity away, and the threat of new lightning has ended.
  - o The timing of return to competition is associated with field access, and discussions should include timelines associated with any groundskeeping, warmup, or other actions needed before actual competition resumes.

BEST PRACTICES – ZONE ACCESS

Zones and Access

Zone 1	Green	Competition area, locker rooms, team/participant areas
Zone 2	Yellow	Working function area around the competition area
Zone 3	Red	Access to the venue; no access to competition area
Zone 4-9,0	Various	Additional areas adjustable to championship and venue needs; there should not be more than 10 zones
Zone E	Various	Escort privileges across all zones for select credentialed individuals

VIP – Conference/School Administrators, High Profile Guests
Sponsors
Event Management

Team Support Staff   Media
Game Operations   Spirit Squad
First Responders   Hosts
Committee Members   Production

← Volunteers →

Players (Dress/Non Dress)
Officials
Coaches
Team Support Staff (Medical, Managers)
First Responders
NCAA Staff

← Escort Privileges →

Warm-up Area
Equipment Inspection
Athlete Lounge

- Designate a specific gate or area where third-party employees, staff, media and other groups can receive their credentials and relevant documentation and materials.
- Always require credentials to be worn over the outer layer of clothing and displayed. A lanyard that allows the credential to lay flat is effective.
- Prohibit sponsors, partners and vendors from issuing their own identification passes that grant access to the event.
- Display credential boards at access points to restricted areas and train staff on their use.

BEST PRACTICES CHECKLIST – ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

☐ Venue is following ADA Language.
☐ Service dogs can access the venue.
☐ Review of local laws and ordinances.
☐ Review university polices (If applicable).
☐ Know follow up questions available to ask.
    ☐ Is the animal required because of a disability?
    ☐ What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?
☐ Review language related to Emotional Support Animals (if applicable).
☐ Review live animal mascot language for relevant sport and division.

BEST PRACTICES CHECKLIST – EVENT ACTION PLAN

☐ Venue safety and security plan exists.

☐ Recent DHS Protective Security Advisor (PSA) assessment.

☐ Confirm street address of venue.

☐ Satellite overview and blueprint/layout of venue.

☐ Critical Incident Response Team Contact Information.

NCAA staff/NCAA site rep	Information in bid portal shared with all parties involved and any additional representatives
Tournament Manager	
Facility Director	
On-site first responders	
Event Athletic Medicine contact	

☐ Communication plan.

☐ Evacuation plan.

☐ <u>Athlete</u> and <u>non-athlete</u> medical response plan.

☐ Daily event briefing.

☐ Ancillary event review and inclusion.

☐ Threat response.

☐ Re-entry policy.

☐ Weather monitoring plan.

☐ Drone response plan.

☐ Utilities failure response.

☐ Inclusion considerations (community, sport, athlete).

☐ VIP attendance.

☐ Cyber security response.

☐ Debriefing Plan.

BEST PRACTICES CHECKLIST – INCLUSION IMPACT

- ☐ Review possible trigger areas.
    - ☐ Participants.
    - ☐ Coaches.
    - ☐ Officials.
    - ☐ Local/Host inclusion climate.
    - ☐ State/Local legal and political environment.
    - ☐ Current events.
- ☐ Notify supervisor of concern.
- ☐ Contact Office of Inclusion for guidance/education.
- ☐ Engage with host.
- ☐ Notify representative(s) from Inclusion Operations Support Team.

Jeff Stoll	Jean Merrill	Greg Johnson	Gretchen Miron
Randy Buhr	John Bugner	Michelle Watsky	Jared Tidemann

- ☐ Consider operational accommodations.
- ☐ Identify lead point of contact(s).
    - ☐ Internal/External communications.
    - ☐ Law Enforcement/Security.
    - ☐ Venue manager.
    - ☐ Head Official.
    - ☐ Committee.
    - ☐ Additional championship staff.
    - ☐ Office of Legal Affairs.
    - ☐ Office of Inclusion.

BEST PRACTICES CHECKLIST – POSTGAME OPERATIONS

☐ Perform an event threat assessment.

☐ Identify postgame activities and timeline.

☐ Include postgame activities into the Event Action Plan (EAP).

☐ Consider competition area postgame access and security posture.

☐ Develop messaging for postgame communication.

☐ Create postgame medical response plan.

☐ Identify postgame access control points and credentials required

☐ Postgame movement planning.

- ☐ Student Athletes and Coaches (All included).
- ☐ Officials.
- ☐ Spirit Squads/bands.
- ☐ Staff.
- ☐ Fans.
- ☐ Equipment.

☐ Resource deployment assignments for fan exit and support for any incident.

☐ Develop end of event transition plan, communicate when event is over.

BEST PRACTICES CHECKLIST – PREGAME OPERATIONS

- ☐ Identify pregame activities and timeline.
- ☐ Perform an event threat assessment.
- ☐ Include Pregame Activities into the Event Action Plan (EAP).
- ☐ Create pregame medical response plan.
- ☐ Review vehicle safety planning.
    - ☐ Consider pedestrian safety.
    - ☐ Consider use of physical control protections (bollards, vehicles, fencing).
- ☐ Maintain emergency traffic route.
- ☐ Create response for lost, found and missing children.
- ☐ Identify access control requirements (if any).
- ☐ Tailgate
    - ☐ Create and publicize tailgate rules and policies.
    - ☐ Create permitted and prohibited item list.
    - ☐ Define parking requirements (Pass, Paid, Free).
    - ☐ Offer adequate restroom facilities.
    - ☐ Partner with other non-venue areas for consistent regulations and safety measures.
- ☐ Volunteers
    - ☐ Perform appropriate background checks.
    - ☐ Establish consistent check in procedure.
    - ☐ Review roles and organizational structure.
    - ☐ Provide appropriate training information and references.

BEST PRACTICES CHECKLIST – TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

☐ Consider traffic impact starting closest to venue and zoom out.
    ☐ Local Streets.
    ☐ Arterial Roads.
    ☐ Highways and Freeways.
    ☐ Area construction, other event impacts.
☐ Identify main bottleneck or challenging locations.
☐ Address ingress and egress flows separately.
☐ Determine appropriate staffing and equipment needs (e.g. People, Traffic Barriers, Signage).
☐ Communicate with traffic plan stakeholders.

☐	Staff	☐	Teams, Athletes, Coaches
☐	Media	☐	Emergency vehicles/support
☐	Fans	☐	VIPs/Special Designation/Police Escort
☐	*All jurisdictions involved in traffic plan*		

☐ Parking assignments and designations
    ☐ Process transactions off the roadway.
☐ Parking/Traffic information communication plan.
☐ Drop off and pick up locations for Mass Transit, Fan Shuttles, and/or Rideshare.
☐ Consider pedestrian Safety.
    ☐ Limit vehicle/pedestrian conflicts.
☐ Ensure appropriate ADA accommodations.
☐ Consider quick traffic incident response for accidents or disabled/abandoned vehicles.

BEST PRACTICES CHECKLIST – WEATHER

- ☐ Consider weather impacts for sport, venue, and time of year.
    - ☐ Rain.
    - ☐ Severe Wind/Tornado.
    - ☐ Winter/Cold Weather.
    - ☐ Hot Weather.
    - ☐ Environmental/Air Quality.
- ☐ Consider local meteorologist for weather support.
    - ☐ REQUIREMENT for lightning play resumption option.
- ☐ Weather Sentry/DTN app is downloaded on phone.
- ☐ Weather check – 15 Days (DTN Max).
- ☐ Identify weather monitor, share contact info.
- ☐ Confirm weather pin location designation is at venue.
- ☐ Consider local meteorologist for weather support.
- ☐ Confirm evacuation plan is clear, known, and staff are informed of exiting process.
- ☐ Confirm shelter locations in and around venue.
- ☐ Weather Check – 7 Days.
- ☐ Review lightning safety information with venue staff.
- ☐ Confirm venue messaging is pre-loaded.
- ☐ Weather Check – 3 Days.
- ☐ Weather Check – Morning of competition.

BEST PRACTICES CHECKLIST – RISK ASSESSMENT

- ☐ Submit event Department of Homeland Security for a Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) by local venue.
- ☐ Review venue Emergency Procedures.
  - ☐ Follow up if concerns/questions.
- ☐ Use Risk Assessment Tool.
  - ☐ Threat x Vulnerability x Consequence (R = T x V x C).
- ☐ Use DHS/CISA tools within past 4 years.
  - ☐ Protective Security Advisor (PSA) visit.
  - ☐ Security at Safe Entry assessment tool.
  - ☐ Infrastructure Survey Tool.
  - ☐ Advanced Infrastructure Visualization Platform.
- ☐ Identify Risk Assessment Team.
  - ☐ Venue Staff
  - ☐ Law Enforcement
  - ☐ Private Security
  - ☐ Fire Department
  - ☐ Host Staff
  - ☐ Athletic Medicine
  - ☐ Emergency Medical Services
  - ☐ Utilities/Public Works
  - ☐ Parking/Mass Transit/ Transportation
  - ☐ Weather Support/Meteorologists
  - ☐ Community Stakeholders
- ☐ Share information passed with appropriate Fusion Center.
- ☐ Identify most recent training exercise completion.
- ☐ Complete Briefing Sheet.

BEST PRACTICES CHECKLIST – VIP ATTENDEES

- ☐ NCAA executive travel, use checklist document.
- ☐ Assign staff member who will assist with VIP attendance and coordinate support.
- ☐ Identify point of contact for NCAA and for VIP for information sharing and communication.
- ☐ Utilize government relations team as applicable.
- ☐ Review impact of VIP attendance for event as a whole.
- ☐ Consider security meeting and/or walkthrough with NCAA, venue and VIP team.
- ☐ Review weapons laws, ordinances, and policies with any protective detail, venue and supporting law enforcement.
- ☐ Review transportation, parking plans.
- ☐ Identify entry and exit location.
- ☐ Confirm appropriate tickets and credentials are obtained and used for all members of VIP party.
- ☐ Review any media/press interactions.
- ☐ Consider pregame and postgame access and inform teams of process.

Appendix B - Acronyms

- **AAR:** After Action Report
- **AED:** Automated External Defibrillator
- **CCTV:** Closed Circuit Television
- **CISA:** Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
- **CP:** Command Post
- **CPTED:** Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- **DHS:** Department of Homeland Security
- **DVE:** Domestic Violent Extremist
- **EAP:** Emergency Action Plan
- **EAP:** Event Action Plan
- **EM:** Emergency Management
- **EMS:** Emergency Medical Services
- **EMT:** Emergency Management Technician
- **EOC:** Emergency Operations Center
- **EOD:** Explosive Ordinance Disposal
- **EOP:** Emergency Operations Plan
- **EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency
- **FAA:** Federal Aviation Administration
- **FBI:** Federal Bureau of Investigation
- **FEMA:** Federal Emergency Management Agency
- **FTO:** Foreign Terrorist Organizations
- **FOUO:** For Official Use Only
- **GIS:** Geographic Information System
- **HAZMAT:** Hazardous Materials
- **HIPAA:** Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
- **HSIN:** Homeland Security Information Network
- **HVAC:** Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning
- **IAP:** Incident Action Plan
- **IC:** Incident Commander
- **ICS:** Incident Command System
- **IED:** Improvised Explosive Device

Appendix B - Acronyms

- **Intel:** Intelligence
- **IST**: Infrastructure Survey Tool
- **JIC:** Joint Information Center
- **JTTF:** Joint Terrorism Task Force
- **LE:** Law Enforcement
- **LEO:** Law Enforcement Officer
- **LPR:** License Plate Readers
- **MOU:** Memorandum of Understanding
- **NCS4:** National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security
- **NIMS:** National Incident Management System
- **NOAA:** National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration
- **NWS:** National Weather Service
- **PA:** Public Address System
- **PIO:** Public Information Officer
- **PSA:** Protective Security Advisor
- **PTZ:** Pan-Tilt-Zoom
- **RFID:** Radio Frequency Identification
- **SME:** Subject Matter Experts
- **SPR:** Stakeholder Preparedness Review
- **TEEX:** Texas A&M Engineering Extension Services
- **TFR:** Temporary Flight Restriction
- **THIRA:** Threat and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment
- **TLP:** Traffic Light Protocol
- **TTX:** Tabletop Exercise
- **UAS:** Unmanned Aerial System
- **UAV:** Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- **VBIED:** Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device
- **WMD:** Weapons of Mass Destruction
- **WPS:** Wireless Priority Service
- **WTMD:** Walk-Through Metal Detector