



2026-27 Championships Eligibility in Sports Other than Basketball or Football

Overview.

This document summarizes the championships eligibility requirements for Division I and National Collegiate championships other than basketball or football, including frequently asked questions.

Sport	2026-27 Minimums for At-Large Selection	2026-27 Minimum Participant Requirements
Cross Country	4*	5
Field Hockey	11	-
Soccer	11	-
Women's Volleyball	19	19
Men's Water Polo	15	-
Bowling	15 (dates of competition)	5
Fencing	30 bouts with W/L percentage of .333	1
Gymnastics (Men's)	5	1 - Ind. 5 - Team
Gymnastics (Women's)	9	1 - Ind. 5 - Team
Men's Ice Hockey	25	-
Women's Ice Hockey	20	-
Indoor Track and Field	4*	14
Rifle	4	1 - Ind. 4 - Team
Skiing	5 event starts per discipline	5
Swimming and Diving	1 (qualifying mark)	1
Men's Wrestling	8 matches at the designated weight class	1
Women's Wrestling	7	6
Acrobatics and Tumbling	6	18
Baseball	27	-
Beach Volleyball	8	-
Golf	15 eighteen-hole stroke-play rounds (8 in spring) with a W/L percentage of .500	1 - Ind. 4 - Team
Lacrosse	10	-
Women's Rowing	6	23
Softball	27	-
Stunt	12	16
Tennis	1 - Singles 1 - Doubles 12 - Team	1 - Singles 2 - Doubles 4 - Team
Outdoor Track and Field	4*	14
Men's Volleyball	19	19
Women's Water Polo	10	-

*For Cross Country, Indoor Track and Field and Outdoor Track and Field, institutions must follow [Bylaw 18.4.2.2](#), [Bylaw 20.9.6.3.3.2](#) and [Bylaw 20.9.6.3.7](#).

An institution must participate in a minimum amount of competition with a minimum number of participants and have at least a .500 win/loss percentage to qualify for selection as an at-large team in the NCAA Division I and National Collegiate Championships. Institutions may count all conference tournament competition in which the team participates towards their minimum number of required games.

Frequently Asked Questions.

Question No. 1: Does the minimum number of contests/dates of competition for championship eligibility apply to both automatic qualifiers and at-large selection?

Answer: **No**, the minimum requirements only apply to at-large selection. Institutions should contact their conference office for guidance on automatic qualification requirements.

Question No. 2: Can conference tournament games count toward the minimum number of contests/dates of competition for at-large selection?

Answer: **Yes**, institutions may count any and all conference tournament competition towards the minimum competition requirement. Institutions should contact their conference office for guidance regarding conference tournament participation.

Question No. 3: Do the minimum number of contests/dates of competition need to be against Division I opponents?

Answer: **Yes**, the minimum number of contests/dates of competition must be against Division I opponents (except in National Collegiate Championship sports). Institutions are permitted to compete against non-Division I opponents; however, those competitions may not be used to meet the minimum competition requirement for selections.

Question No. 4: Is there a waiver opportunity should a team not meet the minimums for at-large selection?

Answer: **Yes**, the governing sport committee has the authority to waive the minimum competition, minimum participant and .500 rule requirements when an institution is unable to meet the championship eligibility minimum(s). The decision to approve any waivers will be based on objective evidence that the team's inability to meet the minimum requirement was outside the institution's control. All such requests will be reviewed by the governing sport committee and the NCAA national office staff. The decision of the committee shall be final and shall not be subject to further review. **Waivers will not be accepted until 30 days prior to selections and must be submitted to the staff contact listed below no later than seven days prior to selections.**