



MEMORANDUM

Nov. 3, 2025

TO: NCAA Division III Conference Commissioners.

FROM: Lynda Tealer
Senior Vice President of Championships and Alliances.

SUBJECT: 2026-27 Automatic-Qualification Online Process.

NCAA Division III conferences eligible for automatic qualification for future championships are required to submit an automatic-qualification form for all seasons by **Feb. 1, 2026**.

The NCAA currently grants automatic qualification to the following Division III championships:

Baseball

Men's and Women's Basketball

*Women's Beach Volleyball

*Women's Bowling

Field Hockey

Football

Men's and Women's Golf

*Men's Gymnastics

Men's and Women's Ice Hockey

Men's and Women's Lacrosse

Women's Rowing

Softball

Men's and Women's Soccer

Men's and Women's Tennis

Men's Volleyball

Women's Volleyball

*Men's Water Polo

*Women's Water Polo

* Denotes a National Collegiate Championship.

Before completing the forms, please review the legislative provisions outlined in NCAA Bylaws 18.5 and 31.3.3 pertaining to automatic qualification. Links to these bylaws are embedded in the online form for your convenience.

The AQ Forms application may be accessed via [My Apps](#), requiring single-source sign-on credentials. Users who do not have access to the AQ Forms application in their My Apps account should contact their conference's NCAA Application Administrator and request the app be added to their menu options. In addition to submitting the automatic qualification applications, the app allows for the following:

- Request to have a sport added to the existing list of sponsored sports.
- Request late access to the previous year's automatic qualification forms.
- Request late access to the current year's automatic qualification forms.

Please complete the necessary information for all your sports, then fill out the final confirmation and contact section. Submission of this final section will complete the process for all sports. You are not required to complete the form at one time; you may save at any point and continue later. A progress bar, as well as checkmarks next to completed sports, will assist you in keeping track of where you are in the process. You may access and, if necessary, edit the form at any time before the due date.

All automatic-qualification data is retained at the national office. Therefore, for previously submitted applications, most questions will populate with last year's responses. Please confirm information copied from the previous year and adjust as necessary.

Additional information for single-sport conferences. Per NCAA Bylaw 31.3.3.1.2, a waiver form for eligible Division III single-sport conferences also is available in the AQ Forms application. This form is separate from the standard declaration form. Please note that **waiver forms need to be submitted only once** for the purpose of granting initial automatic qualification, unless the makeup of the conference changes or other issues change the status of the waiver approval. In these instances, the conference must reapply for the waiver exception. Single-sport conferences **that already have been granted automatic-qualification privileges via the waiver in a previous year should complete the standard automatic-qualification declaration form on an annual basis as outlined above.**

REMINDER: Conferences should now use the AQ Forms application to notify the NCAA of their automatic qualifier by sport. To do so, click on the button entitled Report AQ for 2025-26 at the top of the home page. Scroll to the appropriate sport and click on the Report AQ link next to it. Select the appropriate school from the drop-down menu. Note: If the AQ has already been captured in our statistics application, the AQ team will prepopulate. Otherwise, select from the drop-down menu. Click Report.

Also attached for planning purposes is a summary of selection dates and automatic qualifier notification due dates for 2026-27. Specific information regarding each championship's reporting timeline also can be found in the respective prechampionships manual. Selection and notification dates for future years also are available via the [NCAA Championships Schedule](#) application on ncaa.org.

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Please contact Kerstin Hunter, coordinator for championships and alliances, at 317-917-6222 or khunter@ncaa.org if you have any questions regarding this process or access to the application.

LT:kh

Attachment

cc: Selected NCAA Staff Members



Division III Championships

2026-27 Automatic Qualification

Championship	Selection Announcement Date	Notification Due Date
Baseball	May 10, 2027	May 9, 2027
Men's Basketball	March 1, 2027	Feb. 28, 2027
Women's Basketball	March 1, 2027	Feb. 28, 2027
*Women's Bowling	March 24, 2027	March 21, 2027
Field Hockey	Nov. 8, 2026	Nov. 8, 2026
Football	Nov. 15, 2026	Nov. 14, 2026
Men's Golf	May 10, 2027	May 9, 2027
Women's Golf	May 3, 2027	May 2, 2027
*Men's Gymnastics	April 6, 2027	April 4, 2027
Men's Ice Hockey	March 8, 2027	March 7, 2027
Women's Ice Hockey	March 7, 2027	March 7, 2027
Men's Lacrosse	May 9, 2027	May 9, 2027
Women's Lacrosse	May 3, 2027	May 2, 2027
Women's Rowing	May 10, 2027	May 9, 2027
Men's Soccer	Nov. 9, 2026	Nov. 8, 2026
Women's Soccer	Nov. 9, 2026	Nov. 8, 2026
Softball	May 17, 2027	May 16, 2027
Men's Tennis	(Team) May 10, 2027 (Individuals) May 12, 2027	(Team) May 9, 2027 (Individuals) May 9, 2027
Women's Tennis	(Team) May 10, 2027 (Individuals) May 12, 2027	(Team) May 9, 2027 (Individuals) May 9, 2027
Men's Volleyball	April 12, 2027	April 11, 2027
Women's Volleyball	Nov. 16, 2026	Nov. 15, 2026
*Men's Water Polo	Nov. 23, 2026	Nov. 22, 2026
*Women's Water Polo	April 12, 2027	April 11, 2027

*Denotes National Collegiate Championship.

**Note: A conference that cannot meet the notification due date must notify the respective sports committee of its automatic qualifier no later than 6 p.m. local time of the competition on the date of selections [per NCAA Bylaw 31.3.3.1-(a)].