MEMORANDUM

Nov. 2, 2026

TO: NCAA Division III Conference Commissioners.

FROM: Anthony Holman
Vice President of Championships Operations.

SUBJECT: 2027-28 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, 2027**.

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.

Detailed instructions on how to add a sport, request late access and report conference automatic qualifiers are available here.

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 2026-27 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 2027-28. 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.

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.

AH:kh

Attachment

cc: Selected NCAA Staff Members

Division III Championships

2027-28 Automatic Qualification

Championship	Selection Announcement Date	Notification Due Date
Baseball	May 14, 2028	May 14, 2028
Men's Basketball	Feb. 28, 2028	Feb. 27, 2028
Women's Basketball	Feb. 28, 2028	Feb. 27, 2028
*Women's Beach Volleyball	April 30, 2028	April 29, 2028
*Women's Bowling	March 28, 2028	March 26, 2028
Field Hockey	Nov. 7, 2027	Nov. 7, 2027
Football	Nov. 14, 2027	Nov. 13, 2027
Men's Golf	May 1, 2028	April 30, 2028
Women's Golf	May 8, 2028	May 7, 2028
*Men's Gymnastics	April 4, 2028	April 2, 2028
Men's Ice Hockey	March 5, 2028	March 5, 2028
Women's Ice Hockey	March 5, 2028	March 5, 2028
Men's Lacrosse	May 7, 2028	May 7, 2028
Women's Lacrosse	May 8 2028	May 7, 2028
Women's Rowing	May 8, 2028	May 7, 2028
Men's Soccer	Nov. 8, 2027	Nov. 7, 2027
Women's Soccer	Nov. 8, 2027	Nov. 7, 2027
Softball	May 15, 2028	May 14, 2028
Men's Tennis	(Team) May 8, 2028 (Individuals) May 10, 2028	(Team) May 7, 2028 (Individuals) May 7, 2028
Women's Tennis	(Team) May 8, 2028 (Individuals) May 10, 2028	(Team) May 7, 2028 (Individuals) May 7, 2028
Men's Volleyball	April 17, 2028	April 16, 2028
Women's Volleyball	Nov. 15, 2027	Nov. 14, 2027
*Men's Water Polo	Nov. 22, 2027	Nov. 21, 2027
*Women's Water Polo	April 17, 2028	April 16, 2028

*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)].