



Minimum Game Requirement for NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Championship Eligibility

This document contains information regarding the minimum game requirement for championship eligibility to assist the NCAA membership in its understanding of the championship policy.

The NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Committees respectively have the authority to waive the minimum regular season game requirement when a basketball team is unable to meet the championship eligibility minimum.

Championship Policy: An institution must have a minimum of 25 games to qualify for team selection in the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Championships. A maximum of four games can be played against non-Division I institutions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question No. 1: Does the minimum number of required games (25) for championship eligibility apply to both automatic qualifiers and at-large selection?

Answer: Yes, the minimum game requirements apply to both automatic qualifiers and at-large selection.

Question No. 2: Can conference tournament games count toward the minimum number of required games (25)?

Answer: Yes, institutions may count one conference tournament game in which the team participates towards their minimum number of required games (25). Institutions should contact their conference office for guidance regarding conference tournament participation.

Question No. 3: Do the minimum number of required games (25) need to be against Division I opponents?

Answer: No, the minimum number of required games (25) can be against Division I and non-Division I institutions; however, only a maximum of four games can be played against non-Division I institutions.

Question No. 4: What are some instances when an institution should submit a waiver to the championship policy?

Answer: Institutions should submit a waiver when their team fails to reach the threshold for minimum number of required games (25) despite a good-faith effort. Additionally, a waiver should be submitted when conditions arise that prevent the continuation or completion of a game based on the interrupted game rule (Rule 5-4).

Question No. 5: How often should institutions submit waivers?

Answer: Institutions should only submit one waiver request and, therefore, should keep all supporting documentation needed during the season in preparation for the waiver submission timeline between February 14 and February 25, 2022.

Question No. 6: What type of documentation is acceptable?

Answer: All such institutional requests must provide written documentation and be signed by the requesting school's director of athletics and include a letter of support from the conference office. Other supporting documentation could include for example the opponent's athletics director providing rationale for cancelled game and inability to reschedule during the 2021-22 season, a statement from the requesting school's athletic trainer, school or conference's medical advisory group or local public health officials and/or the press release announcing the game reschedule or cancellation.

Question No. 7: Is there an appeal process?

Answer: No. The decision of the Men's and Women's Basketball Committees respectively shall be final and shall not be subject to further review. However, the institution may ask the committees to reconsider their previous decision if the institution submits new or additional relevant information.

Question No. 8: Can a waiver be sent after the February 25 deadline?

Answer: Yes. The Men's and Women's Basketball Committees would consider a waiver only if a scheduled conference tournament is cancelled after the February 25 deadline. This would only apply for institutions that had completed 24 games and were counting on the conference tournament to fulfill the 25-game minimum requirement.

Question No. 9: May a conference submit a waiver on behalf of its member institutions?

Answer: Yes. The conference must follow the established process and application procedures.