



PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP 2018-19 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

Contents

Section 1 • Introduction	2
Section 1•1 Definitions	2
Section 2 • Championship Core Statement	2
Section 3 • Concussion Management	3
Section 4 • Conduct	3
Section 4•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability	3
Section 4•2 Drug Testing	4
Section 4•3 Honesty and Sportsmanship	
Section 4•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies	
Section 4•5 Sports Wagering Policy	4
Section 4•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey	5
Section 5 • Elite 90 Award	5
Section 6 • Fan Travel	5
Section 7 • Logo Policy	5
Section 8 • Research	6
Section 9 • Religious Conflicts	6

THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 6222 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222 317-917-6222 www.ncaa.org October 2018

NCAA, NCAA logo, National Collegiate Athletic Association and Elite 90 are registered marks of the Association and use in any manner is prohibited unless prior approval is obtained from the Association.

Section 1 • Introduction

During the 2018-19 academic year, the Association will sponsor 90 national championships – 42 for men, 45 for women, and three for both men and women. Of the men's championships, three are National Collegiate Championships, 13 are Division I championships, 12 are Division III championships and 14 are Division III championships. Of the women's championships, six are National Collegiate Championships, 12 are Division I championships, 13 are Division III championships and 14 are Division III championships. The combined men's and women's championships are National Collegiate Championships.

The Pre-Championship Manual will serve as a resource for institutions to prepare for the championship. This manual is divided into three sections: General Administrative Guidelines, Sport-Specific Information, and Appendixes.

The first section applies to policies applicable to all 90 championships, while the other two sections are sport-specific.

Section 1.1 Definitions

Pre-championship Manual. Resource for institutions to prepare for the championship.

Administrative Meeting. Pre-championship meeting for coaches and/or administrators.

Appendixes. Any supplemental documents to be provided and distributed through the various resources.

Championship Manager. The NCAA staff member(s) responsible for the operational oversight of the championship.

Games Committee. The committee assigned to supervise the conduct of each championship session at a specific site. For finals sites, the games committee is typically the NCAA national committee.

NCAA National Committee. The sport committee with direct oversight responsibilities for the championship.

Non-predetermined Sites. Those sites that are selected to host at the time of the participant/team selections announcement.

Playing Rules. The rules under which the competition will be conducted.

Predetermined Sites. Those sites that are selected to host before the participant/team selections announcement.

Preliminary Rounds. The rounds of the championship before the final or championship round.

Regional Alignment. The geographic location of institutions or regional advisory committees.

Schedule of Events. Official event schedule – includes all required activities (e.g., practices, banquets, etc.).

Selection Criteria. Policies and procedures in place to guide the team selection process.

Site Selection Criteria. Policies and procedures in place to guide the site selection process.

Squad Size. Number of student-athletes per team allowed to dress in uniform and participate at the championship.

Tournament Physician. The physician designated by the host institution/conference to serve as the chief medical advisor for the championship.

Section 2 • Championship Core Statement

The championships and alliances staff strives to administer competition in a fair, safe, equitable and sportsmanlike manner so that the experience of the student-athlete is paramount.

This is attained by:

Ensuring student-athletes' optimal experience.

Executing championship events reflecting appropriate quality and values to/for stakeholders — student-athletes, coaches, administrators, member institutions, sport committees, fans, broadcast partners and corporate champions/partners.

Coordinating all aspects of the championship in an efficient, effective manner through common operating policies and practices, using internal and external resources.

Integrating championships with broadcast and corporate relationships in a manner that maintains the integrity of the championship.

Assuring effective management of the business aspects of the operation.

Enhancing the assets of the NCAA and their value by collaborating with internal and external expertise to achieve heightened exposure (e.g., community programs, fan events, banquets, anniversaries, etc.).

Section 3 • Concussion Management

[Reference: Concussion Management in Constitution 3.2.4.18 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Constitution 3.3.4.16 in the NCAA Division II Manual, and Constitution 3.2.4.16 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

The NCAA has adopted legislation that requires all active member institutions to have a concussion management plan for their student-athletes. Traveling institutions shall follow their concussion management plan while participating in NCAA championships. If a participating team lacks appropriate medical staff to activate its concussion management plan, the host championship concussion management plan will be activated.

The legislation notes, in part, that a student-athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be removed from athletics activities (e.g., competition, practice, conditioning sessions) and evaluated by a medical staff member (e.g., sports medicine staff, team physician) with experience in the evaluation and management of concussions; a student-athlete diagnosed with a concussion is precluded from returning to athletics activity for at least the remainder of that calendar day; and medical clearance for return to athletics activity shall be determined by the team physician or the physician's designee from the student-athlete's institution. In the absence of a team physician or their designee, the NCAA tournament physician will examine the student-athlete and will determine medical clearance. Within the rules of the sport and policies established for the championship, medical staff should have access to the injured student-athlete without interference (e.g., coach).

A concussion is a brain injury that may be caused by a blow to the head, face, neck or elsewhere on the body with an "impulsive" force transmitted to the head. Concussions can occur without loss of consciousness or other obvious signs. A repeat concussion that occurs before the brain recovers from the previous one (hours, days or weeks) can slow recovery or increase the likelihood of having more severe and/or long-term problems. In rare cases, repeat concussions can result in brain swelling, permanent brain damage and even death.

For further details, please refer to the NCAA Sports Sport Science Institute website for additional guidance.

Section 4 • Conduct

Section 4.1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability

[Reference: Certification of Eligibility/Availability in Constitution 3.2.4 and Bylaws 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 31.2.1.7.1, 31.2.1.7.1.2 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Constitution 3.3.4 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Bylaws 31.2.2 and 31.2.1.5 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

Only student-athletes eligible under Bylaws 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 may compete in NCAA championships. Member institutions are required to certify the eligibility of their student-athletes before the beginning of each academic year and to withhold ineligible student-athletes from all intercollegiate competition.

Member institutions are reminded to notify the NCAA national office before the selection date for each championship of any student-athlete who may have participated in regular-season competition but subsequently is determined to be ineligible or unavailable for NCAA championship competition.

DISCOVERY OF INELIGIBILITY OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE AFTER SELECTION

If an institution fails to report an ineligible student-athlete and the omission is not discovered until after the institution is selected to participate in the championship, necessitating the institution's withdrawal from the championship, that withdrawal shall be considered as one of the years of ineligibility, provided another institution participates in the championship in place of

the disqualified institution. If the discovery of the ineligible student-athlete occurs so near the beginning of the championship that the governing sport committee does not have a reasonable period of time to replace the disqualified institution in the bracket, that fact shall be taken into consideration in determining the number of years the disqualified institution shall be ineligible to participate.

Section 4.2 Drug Testing

[Reference: Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.3 in the NCAA Divisions I and II Manual and Bylaws 18.4.1.5 and 31.2.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

Student-athletes who compete in NCAA championships may be subjected to drug tests in accordance with Bylaws 18.4.1.4 (Divisions I and II), 18.4.1.5 (Division III) and 31.2.3, and may be determined to be ineligible as a result thereof. Only student-athletes who have consented in writing to such testing are initially eligible for these championships; and thereafter, student-athletes who are tested shall remain eligible only if they test negative.

Section 4.3 Honesty and Sportsmanship

Individuals employed by (or associated with) a member institution to administer, conduct or coach intercollegiate athletics and all participating student-athletes shall act with honesty and sportsmanship at all times so that intercollegiate athletics as a whole, their institutions and they, as individuals, shall represent the honor and dignity of fair play and the generally recognized high standards associated with wholesome competitive sports.

Section 4.4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies

MISCONDUCT

Misconduct in an NCAA championship is any act of dishonesty, unsportsmanlike conduct, unprofessional behavior or breach of law, occurring from the time the championship field is announced through the end of the championship, which discredits the event or intercollegiate athletics. Each games committee shall hold an administrative meeting with the representatives of participating institutions to review and explain the policies related to misconduct.

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A governing sport committee may assess a financial penalty against an institution for failure of any of its representatives to adhere to the policies and procedures governing the administration of the competition. This includes, but is not limited to, failure to comply with the procedures and deadlines for submitting scores, score sheets, schedules, rosters and entry/marchin forms for qualification and other materials necessary for the efficient administration of the competition. Click here to see the full misconduct/failure to adhere to policies and procedures outline.

Section 4.5 Sports Wagering Policy

Sports wagering includes placing, accepting or soliciting a wager (on a staff member's or student-athlete's own behalf or on the behalf of others) of any type with any individual or organization on any intercollegiate, amateur or professional team or contest. Examples of sports wagering include, but are not limited to, the use of a bookmaker or parlay card; internet sports wagering; auctions in which bids are placed on teams, individuals or contests; and pools or fantasy leagues in which an entry fee is required and there is an opportunity to win a prize.

The current NCAA legislation against sports wagering prohibits NCAA student-athletes, member institutions' athletics staff and non-athletics staff with athletics responsibilities, and conference office staff from participating in sports wagering activities or providing information to individuals involved in or associated with any type of sports wagering activities concerning intercollegiate, amateur or professional athletics practice or competition in a sport in which the NCAA conducts championship competition, in bowl subdivision football and in emerging sports for women.

A wager is any agreement in which an individual or entity agrees to give up an item of value (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner, etc.) in exchange for the possibility of gaining another item of value.

STUDENT-ATHLETES

A student-athlete found in violation of the prohibition against knowingly participating in any sports wagering activities or providing information to individuals involved in or associated with any type of sports wagering activity that involves intercollegiate, amateur or professional athletics competition shall be ineligible for further intercollegiate competition, subject to appeal to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of eligibility.

POSTSEASON

In championships in which a bracket format is used, student-athletes, coaches and administrators may not participate in bracket competitions when there is both a required entry fee and an opportunity to win a prize. Student-athletes and administrators may participate under current NCAA rules in bracket contests when there is no entry fee but a possibility of winning a prize. Some NCAA member schools, however, have chosen to ban student-athletes from participating in these types of bracket contests.

HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

On May 16, 2018, the Board of Governors voted to suspend the NCAA championships policy related to sports wagering and to allow for championships to be hosted in locations regardless of whether a state is considering, or has legalized, sports wagering. The board's decision provides championship location continuity as states contemplate whether to allow legalized sports betting.

Section 4.6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey

After each championship, institutional administrators, coaches and student-athletes will be asked to participate in a postevent survey intended to capture feedback on their recent championship experience. Institutional administrators and coaches will receive an email containing a link to the survey and will be asked to ensure participation from all student-athletes.

Section 5 • Elite 90™ Award

The Elite 90 award was created to recognize the true essence of the student-athlete by honoring the individual who has reached the pinnacle of competition at the national championship level in his or her sport, while also achieving the highest academic standard among his or her peers. The award is presented in every sport, every division, and goes to the student-athlete who has the highest cumulative grade-point average of all student-athletes on all teams competing at the finals site. Each institution that has at least one student-athlete qualify for the final round/site is eligible to nominate a student-athlete for the award. One student-athlete per championship will receive the award, and the announcement of the winner will be made at the finals site.

Institutions that wish to nominate a student-athlete must do so through an online nomination process. To receive more information or access the online form and submit a nomination, go to ncaa.org.

Section 6 • Fan Travel

NCAA Travel provides an easy and affordable way for family and fans to follow their favorite student-athlete(s) and team(s) as they participate in NCAA championships competition. Travel arrangements completed through NCAA Travel help support NCAA student-athletes. Please direct your fans to NCAA.com/travel to search and book online hotel, car and air travel, all in one easy transaction.

Section 7 • Logo Policy

[Reference: Bylaws 12.5.4, 31.1.7 and 31.1.8 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Bylaw 12.5.4 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Bylaw 12.5.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

A student-athlete may use athletics equipment or wear athletics apparel that bears the trademark or logo of an athletics equipment or apparel manufacturer or distributor in athletics competition and pre- and postgame activities (e.g., celebrations on the court, pre- or postgame press conferences), provided the following criteria are met:

- Athletics equipment (e.g., shoes, helmets, baseball bats and gloves, batting or golf gloves, hockey and lacrosse sticks, goggles and skis) shall bear only the manufacturer's normal label or trademark, as it is used on all such items for sale to the general public; and
- 2. The student-athlete's institution's official uniform (including numbered racing bibs and warm-ups) and all other items of apparel (e.g., socks, head bands, T-shirts, wrist bands, visors or hats, swim caps and towels) shall bear only a single manufacturer's or distributor's normal label or trademark (regardless of the visibility of the label or trademark), not to exceed 2-1/4 square inches in area (rectangle, square, parallelogram) including any additional material (e.g., patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo. The student-athlete's institution's official uniform and all other items of apparel shall not bear a design element similar to the manufacturer's trademark/logo that is in addition to another trademark/logo that is contrary to the size restriction.

Section 8 • Research

It is essential that all research efforts be coordinated by a single entity within the national office structure in order to ensure maximum efficiency and quality, avoid unnecessary duplication of effort on the part of staff and membership, allow the NCAA to prioritize research efforts given the limited time and resources of our members and adhere to federal guidelines on the responsibilities of researchers to properly protect research participants from harm.

For the purpose of this policy, "research" is defined as any systematic collection of data for the purpose of drawing generalized conclusions.

Any proposal to conduct research must be submitted to the NCAA research staff for review at least six weeks before the project begins. Research to be conducted during NCAA championships or related events, and which involves competing student-athletes or attendees, is also subject to review. This includes all research, including that conducted by or under the direction of any employee, contractor or paid consultant of the NCAA. It also includes any research conducted by other persons, but funded totally or in part by the NCAA. Any research that detracts from the student-athlete experience or requires physical activity may not be permitted at the championships (preliminary rounds and finals sites). The NCAA retains sole discretion as to whether to allow such research.

Examples of activities considered research include: Conducting surveys of athletics administrators, college presidents, faculty, coaches and student-athletes; leading an organized focus group; funding an outside study under the auspices of the NCAA; conducting market research at championship events; secondary analysis of data originally collected by the NCAA from people for other purposes; any systematic collection of data from the membership or other entities; etc.

Section 9 • Religious Conflicts

[Reference: Bylaws 31.1.4.1 and 31.1.4.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual.]

Institutional Policy. If a participating institution has a written policy against competition on a particular day for religious reasons, it shall inform the NCAA national office on or before Sept. 1 of each academic year in order for it or one of its student-athletes to be excused from competing on that day. The championship schedule shall be adjusted to accommodate that institution. (Adopted: 4/22/98, Revised: 8/11/98, 10/28/99, 5/2/13)

Individual Championships. In individual championships, an athlete must compete according to the institution's policy regarding Sunday competition (if the institution has no policy against Sunday competition, the student-athlete shall compete on Sunday if required by the schedule).

.

Division I Women's Basketball

Contents

Section 1 • General Administration	8
Section 1-1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information	8
Section 1•2 Women's Basketball Oversight Committee	8
Section 1•3 National Sport Committee	9
Section 1-4 Regional Advisory Committees	9
Section 1•5 Important Dates	11
Section 1•6 Equipment_	11
Section 1•7 Rules	11
Section 1•8 Uniforms	11
Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation	12
Section 2•1 Championship Format	12
Section 2•2 Results	12
Section 2•3 Selection Information	14
Section 2•4 Site Selection	15
Appendix A • Bracket	18
Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship	19
Appendix C • Selections Principles and Procedures	24

Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1.1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

Lynn Holzman

Vice President, Championships and Alliances P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222 317-917-6805 / Iholzman@ncaa.org

Amy Reis

Director, Championships and Alliances P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222 317-917-6416 / areis@ncaa.org

Rick Nixon

Associate Director, Championships and Alliances P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222 317-917-6539 / rnixon@ncaa.org

Daress McClung

Coordinator, Championships and Alliances P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222 317-917-6333 / dmcclung@ncaa.org

Andrea Gaither

Executive Assistant, Championships and Alliances P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222 317-917-6713 / agaither@ncaa.org

Tina Krah

Director, Championships and Alliances P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222 317-917-6648 / tkrah@ncaa.org

Meredith Cleaver

Director, Championships and Alliances P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222 317-917-6510 / mcleaver@ncaa.org

Rachel Kay

Assistant Director, Championships and Alliances P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222 317-917-6549 / rkay@ncaa.org

Kyani White-Tate

Postgraduate Intern, Championships and Alliances P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222 317-917-6908 / kwhite-tate@ncaa.org

Section 1.2 Women's Basketball Oversight Committee

Current voting members of the Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee are:

Courtney Banghart

Head Women's Basketball Coach Princeton University

Jamie Boggs

Senior Woman Administrator/Deputy Athletics Director Grand Canyon University

Cori Close

Head Women's Basketball Coach University of California, Los Angeles

Irma Garcia

Director of Athletics St. Francis College Brooklyn

Dru Hancock

Senior Associate Commissioner Big 12 Conference

Jennifer Strawley

Senior Woman Administrator/Deputy Athletics Director University of Miami (Florida)

Allazia Blockton

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Marquette University

Lisa Campos

Director of Athletics University of Texas at San Antonio

Rich Ensor

Commissioner
Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference

Heather Gores

Senior Associate Athletics Director/SWA Gonzaga University

Kathleen Meehan

Senior Woman Administrator/ Associate VP for Athletics St. John's University (New York)

Ingrid Wicker-McCree

Director of Athletics

North Carolina Central University

Current non-voting members of the Women's Basketball Oversight Committee are:

Rhonda Bennett

Senior Associate Athletics Director/SWA

University of Nevada, Reno

Chris Davis

Faculty Athletics Representative

Gardner-Webb University

Danielle Donehew

Executive Director

Women's Basketball Coaches Association

Jocelyn Willoughby

Student-Athlete

University of Virginia

Section 1.3 National Sport Committee

Current members of the Division I Women's Basketball Sport Committee are:

Rhonda Bennett, Chair

Senior Associate Athletics Director/SWA

University of Nevada, Reno

Ken Bothof

Director of Athletics

Northern Kentucky University

Leslie Claybrook

Assistant Commissioner

Southeastern Conference

Nina King

Senior Deputy Director of Athletics

Duke University

Debbie Richardson

Senior Associate Commissioner

Atlantic 10 Conference

Ceal Barry

Deputy Athletics Director/SWA University of Colorado, Boulder

DeJuena Chizer

Senior Associate Athletics Director/SWA

University of Houston

Tamica Smith Jones

Director of Athletics

University of California, Riverside

Teresa Phillips

Director of Athletics

Tennessee State University

Diane C. Turnham

Senior Associate Athletics Director

Middle Tennessee State University

Section 1.4 Regional Advisory Committees

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE	
EAST REGION			
Debbie Richardson, Chair	Atlantic 10 Conference	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member	
Nina King	Duke	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member	
Caroline McCombs	Stony Brook University	America East Conference	
Jeff Walz	Louisville	Atlantic Coast Conference	
Cindy Griffin	Saint Joseph's	Atlantic 10 Conference	
Kelly Cole	Northeastern	Colonial Athletic Association	
Kathy Delaney-Smith	Harvard	The Ivy League	
Lynn Milligan	Rider	Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference	
Pete Cinella	Fairleigh Dickinson	Northeast Conference	
Dave Magarity	U.S. Military Academy	Patriot League	

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
MIDWEST REGION		
Teresa Phillips, Chair	Tennessee State	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member
Ken Bothof	Northern Kentucky	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member
Jim Flanery	Creighton	Big East Conference
Brenda Frese	Maryland	Big Ten Conference
John Barnes	Youngstown State	Horizon League
Brady Sallee	Ball State	Mid-American Conference
Cindy Stein	Southern Illinois	Missouri Valley
Dawn Plitzuweit	South Dakota	The Summit League
SOUTH REGION		
Diane C. Turnham, Chair	Middle Tennessee	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member
Brandon Schneider	Kansas	Big 12 Conference
Cara Consuegra	Charlotte	Conference USA
Greg Todd	Morehead State	Ohio Valley Conference
Royce Chadwick	Texas A&M-Corpus Christi	Southland Conference
Jessica Kern	Tennessee State	Ohio Valley Conference
Zenarae Antoine	Texas State	Sun Belt Conference
SOUTHEAST REGION		
DeJuena Chizer, Chair	Houston	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member
Leslie Claybrook	Southeastern Conference	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member
Melissa McFerrin	Memphis	American Athletic Conference
Karl Smesko	FGCU	Atlantic Sun Conference
Rebecca Tillett	Longwood	Big South Conference
Fred Batchelor	UMES	Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference
Cameron Newbauer	Florida	Southeastern Conference
Susie Gardner	Mercer	Southern Conference
WEST REGION		
Ceal Barry, Chair	Colorado	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member
Tamica Smith Jones	UC Riverside	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member
Lynn Kennedy	Portland State	Big Sky Conference
Jason Flowers	CSUN	Big West Conference
Amanda Levens	Nevada	Mountain West Conference
Scott Rueck	Oregon State	Pac-12 Conference
Lisa Mispley Fortier	Gonzaga	West Coast Conference
Jacie Hoyt	UMKC	Western Athletic Conference

Section 1.5 Important Dates

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

Monday, March 18	Selection Monday
Friday-Saturday, March 22-23	First-round games
Sunday-Monday, March 24-25	Second-round games
Friday-Saturday, March 29-30	Regional semifinals
Sunday-Monday, March 31- April 1	Regional finals
Friday, April 5	National semifinals at Amalie Arena in Tampa, Florida.
Sunday, April 7	National championship at Amalie Arena in Tampa, Forida.

Section 1.6 Equipment

The Wilson Solution B0701R basketball shall be used for all of the 2019 tournament games.

Section 1.7 Rules

The Women's Basketball Rules Book, operating manual policies, team manual and championship guidelines shall be strictly enforced. Details pertaining to games management shall be administered by the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee. These documents can be accessed by visiting www.ncaa.org.

Section 1.8 Uniforms

The higher-seeded team will wear its light uniforms. If the higher-seeded team's light uniforms are not in a color contrasting with the lower-seeded team's uniforms, the lower-seeded team must adjust and wear a contrasting color.

LOGOS

Refer to Logo Policy in General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7.

Section 2 • Determination of **Championship Participation**

Section 2.1 Championship Format

The Division I Women's Basketball Championship provides for a field of 64 teams. Automatic qualification is granted to 32 conferences and the remaining 32 teams will be selected at large.

Sixteen first- and second-round sessions will be conducted Friday and Sunday (March 22 and 24) or Saturday and Monday (March 23 and 25) at the home institutional sites of the top-16 seeded teams. Winners will advance to four neutral, predetermined regional sites (Albany, New York; Chicago, Illinois; Greensboro, North Carolina; Portland, Oregon), March 22 and 24, or March 23 and 25, which will be comprised of four teams each. The four regional winners will meet for the national championship in Tampa Bay, Florida, on April 5 and April 7.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Refer to the participant manual (available January 2019) on www.ncaa.org for the schedule of events.

START TIMES

The NCAA will confirm starting times and sequence of games for the first round when the tournament bracket is announced on Selection Monday, March 18, at 7 p.m. Eastern time on ESPN. Second-round game times will be announced after the first round has concluded. Regional-round game times will be announced after the previous round has concluded. The national semifinal game times are 7 and 9:30 p.m. ET, and the national championship game time is 6 p.m. ET.

TRAVEL PARTY

The official travel party for all preliminary rounds (i.e., those for whom transportation and per diem expenses will be reimbursed by the NCAA) is 75 individuals. If the host institution's team is participating, the official travel party is 52 individuals. The official travel party for the Women's Final Four is 100 individuals.

BENCH SIZE

A total of 20 chairs shall be set for each team bench and the BENCH PASS GATE LIST will include 25 individuals (20 bench chairs plus the 5 student-athletes on the court).

Section 2.2 Results

RPI

The Rating Percentage Index was created in 1981 to provide supplemental data for the Division I Men's Basketball Committee in its evaluation of teams for at-large selection and seeding of the championship bracket. The Division I Women's Basketball Committee began using the RPI in 1984.

The RPI never should be considered anything but an additional evaluation tool. The RPI is just one of many factors reviewed by the committee. Each committee member analyzes information differently and may, in fact, weigh factors differently than another member. The committee evaluates what a team did during the regular season to warrant selection to the tournament field. The committee members must combine the knowledge they have gained throughout the season by watching numerous games, along with the data available, and evaluate each team based on its success throughout the season.

An institution's RPI ranking consists of three factors that are weighted as follows:

- 1. Division I Winning Percentage 25 percent of the RPI
- Opponents' Winning Percentage 50 percent of the RPI
- 3. Opponents' Opponents' Winning Percentage 25 percent of the RPI

The committee modified the existing RPI calculations for the 2011-12 season to mirror those currently used by the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee. The RPI formula will count each road victory as 1.4 in the win column instead of 1.0. Each road loss will be valued at 0.6. Conversely, each home victory will be valued at 0.6 and each home loss at 1.4 in the win or loss column. Neutral-site games will remain the same with a value of 1.0.

Effective for the 2018-19 Division I Men's Basketball Championship, the NCAA Evaluation Tool ("NET") will replace RPI.

Section 2.3 Selection Information

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

The 2019 Division I Women's Basketball Championship bracket provides for a field of 64 teams, 32 of which automatically qualify as conference champions. Conferences that will automatically qualify for the 2019 championship are:

America East Conference	Mid-American Conference
American Athletic Conference	Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference
Atlantic Coast Conference	Missouri Valley Conference
ASUN Conference	Mountain West Conference
Atlantic 10 Conference	Northeast Conference
Big East Conference	Ohio Valley Conference
Big Sky Conference	Pac-12 Conference
Big South Conference	Patriot League
Big Ten Conference	Southeastern Conference
Big 12 Conference	Southern Conference
Big West Conference	Southland Conference
Colonial Athletic Association	Southwestern Athletic Conference
Conference USA	Sun Belt Conference
Horizon League	The Summit League
The Ivy League	West Coast Conference
Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference	Western Athletic Conference

AT-LARGE SELECTION

Selection of at-large teams is made by the Division I Women's Basketball Committee, which receives reports from the regional advisory committees comprised of coaches from the 32 Division I conferences.

The committee will select the 32 best teams to fill the bracket, regardless of conference affiliation.

Bylaw 31.3.3 will be followed by the Women's Basketball Committee in selecting at-large teams for the championship. The Women's Basketball Committee will not notify institutions of their placement in the bracket. Institutions are encouraged to watch the televised announcement of the bracket on Monday, March 18, at 7 p.m. Eastern time on ESPN and visit www.ncaa.com for more information.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Air Travel

Institutions have been assigned a username and password for the travel system that was sent to the director of athletics. Before the tournament field is selected, team administrators should go online to www.shortstravel.com/ncaachamps and submit the following:

- Contact information for the person responsible for arranging all travel. This is the primary person Short's Travel will work
 with to finalize all travel arrangements.
- Contact information for the director of athletics, senior woman administrator, primary team administrator, sports information contact, head women's basketball coach and director of basketball operations.
- The manifest should include all individuals who may be a part of the travel party, including student-athletes, coaches, band members, cheerleaders and mascots. Institutions should indicate each individual's status (i.e., student-athlete, coach, athletics administrator), as well as the approximate weight of each traveler. Institutions should also submit a list of cargo, game equipment and band equipment, if applicable.
- Institutions should list their preferred day, time and place of departure for both their outbound and return trips. Preferences for both win or lose scenarios should be included. It is very important to include this information as Short's Travel will begin working to arrange travel immediately upon release of the bracket.

Upon announcement of the tournament field, Short's Travel will email a confirmation to the primary travel contact. If the institution has not already done so, the institution's primary travel contact should log onto the website and submit the official travel party manifest, request departure cities, dates, times, etc., and finalize any preliminary information they have submitted. Short's Travel will begin securing flight arrangements for the team immediately upon release of the bracket, if the requested information has been submitted. Teams should contact Short's Travel at 866-655-9215 to confirm their information.

Ground Transportation

Participating institutions SHALL BE REQUIRED to make all ground transportation arrangements with the official NCAA provider, GO Ground Options. The NCAA will be directly billed for all ground transportation expenses; therefore, institutions will not be reimbursed directly for the ground transportation costs that are reimbursable under the NCAA travel policy.

The NCAA will pay the actual costs for charter buses. The number of buses paid for is determined by the travel party size.

Per the transportation policies, the NCAA will reimburse the following:

For teams that are required to drive to the site of competition, the NCAA will pay the actual costs of the bus for the round trip from campus to the site of competition, including all days at the site. Teams must use GO Ground to secure ground transportation when they drive to the site of competition.

Section 2.4 Site Selection

FIRST AND SECOND ROUNDS

First- and second-round sites will be awarded to the top-16 seeded teams that submit a bid that meets the requirements for hosting.

In the event that a top-16 seeded team does not submit a bid or its bid does not meet requirements for hosting, the Division I Women's Basketball Committee will select a host from the remaining submitted bids that meet the requirement for hosting.

In order to adhere to the bracketing principles, it may not be possible to select the next-highest seed to host. Therefore, any institution that wants to host is encouraged to submit a bid.

HOSTING EXCEPTION

If a top-16 seeded team has a conflict at its regular-season women's basketball home facility, it will be permitted to submit a bid to host at an alternate location if the following requirements are met:

- This exception is only allowed if the participating team's home facility is not available.
- The proposed facility is within a maximum of 30 miles from the participating institution's campus.
- Any additional cost above and beyond the expected cost of hosting at the regular home site will be at the expense of the host institution, not the NCAA.

Additional notes:

- The host institution is not required to play a game in the proposed facility during the 2018-19 regular season for it to be used for the 2019 NCAA championship.
- The Division I Women's Basketball Committee retains flexibility to make an exception to this policy when necessary.

Now	Confirm availability and reserve competition venue. Complete the form available at http://www.ncaa.org/championships/division-i-womens-basketball.
Nov. 30	Bid checklist posted on http://www.ncaa.org/championships/division-i-womens-basketball.
Jan. 18	Bid submission deadline
February	Bid review
March 18	Selection Monday: Sites announced

REGIONAL ROUNDS

Regional competition will be hosted at predetermined, neutral sites.

Regional hosting parameter: A team may be assigned to a regional site where its institution is hosting, provided the team has not played more than three regular-season games, not including conference postseason tournaments, in the arena.

Regional sites and hosts for 2019 are: Albany, New York (Times Union Center), Chicago, Illinois (Wintrust Center), Greensboro, North Carolina (Greensboro Coliseum) and Portland, Oregon (Moda Center)

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the bid process, please contact Meredith Cleaver at mcleaver@ncaa.org.

SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

Based upon a review of current and future championships competition venues, discussions with safety and security experts, and its own expertise and knowledge, the NCAA has established a Safety and Security Advisory Group (SSAG) to develop a compilation of Best Practices for NCAA Championships, which can be found in the "Help/Other Resources" tab in the championship host portal. We urge each competition venue to take these Best Practices into account when developing its safety and security program.

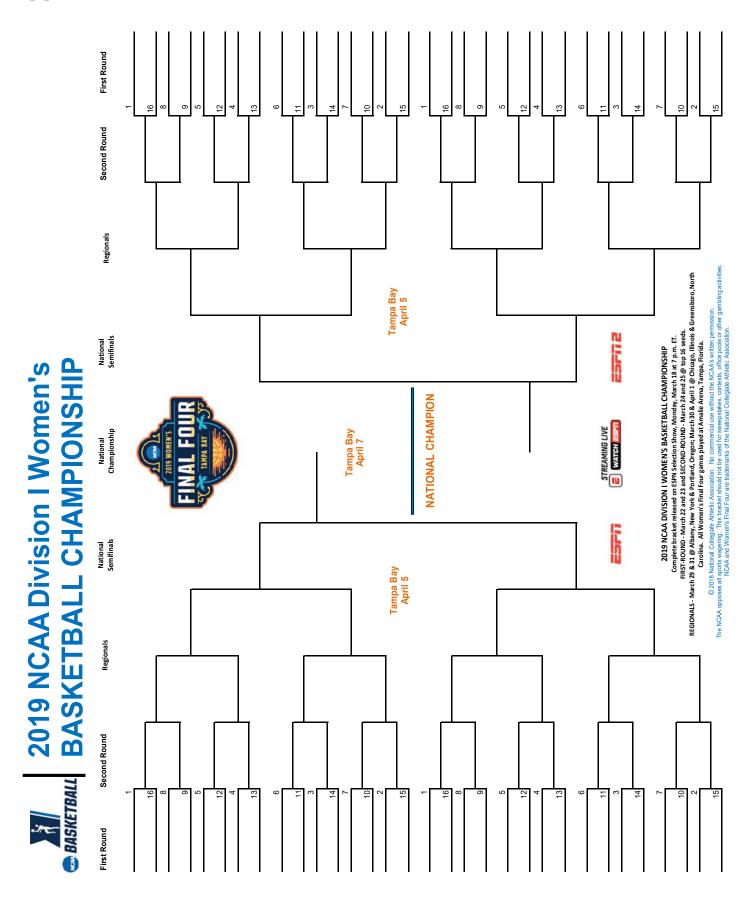
Host institutions have submitted a safety and security plan for their venue, which would be inclusive of the NCAA Championships Safety and Security Team contact information form, located in Appendix A of the Best Practices document.

Appendixes

Contents

Appendix A • Bracket	18
Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship	19
Appendix C • Selections Principles and Procedures	24

Appendix A • Bracket



Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

EAST REGION

America East Conference (9)

University at Albany Binghamton University University of Hartford University of Maine, Orono

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

University of Massachusetts Lowell University of New Hampshire Stony Brook University University of Vermont

American Athletic Conference (12)

University of Cincinnati University of Connecticut East Carolina University University of Houston University of Memphis Southern Methodist University

Temple University **Tulane University** The University of Tulsa University of Central Florida Wichita State University

University of South Florida

Atlantic 10 Conference (14)

Davidson College University of Dayton **Duquesne University** Fordham University George Mason University George Washington University La Salle University

University of Massachusetts, Amherst University of Rhode Island University of Richmond St. Bonaventure University Saint Joseph's University Saint Louis University Virginia Commonwealth University

Atlantic Coast Conference (15)

Boston College Clemson University **Duke University** Florida State University Georgia Institute of Technology University of Louisville University of Miami (Florida) North Carolina State University

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill University of Notre Dame University of Pittsburgh Syracuse University University of Virginia Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Wake Forest University

The lvy League (8)

Brown University Columbia University-Barnard College Cornell University Dartmouth College

Harvard University University of Pennsylvania Princeton University Yale University

Big East Conference (10)

Butler University Creighton University **DePaul University** Georgetown University Marquette University

Providence College Seton Hall University St. John's University (New York) Villanova University **Xavier University**

Big South Conference (11)

Campbell University Charleston Southern University Gardner-Webb University Hampton University **High Point University** Longwood University

University of North Carolina Asheville University of South Carolina Upstate Presbyterian College Radford University Winthrop University

Colonial Athletic Association (10)

College of Charleston (South Carolina)

University of Delaware Drexel University

Elon University

Hofstra University

James Madison University

University of North Carolina Wilmington

Northeastern University

Towson University

College of William and Mary

Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (11)

Canisius College Fairfield University

Iona College

Manhattan College

Marist College

Monmouth University

Niagara University Quinnipiac University Rider University Siena College St. Peter's University

Northeast Conference (10)

Bryant University

Central Connecticut State University

Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus

Long Island University-Brooklyn Campus

Mount St. Mary's University

Robert Morris University Sacred Heart University St. Francis College Brooklyn

Saint Francis University (Pennsylvania)

Wagner College

Patriot League (10)

American University

Boston University

Bucknell University

Colgate University

College of the Holy Cross

Lafayette College Lehigh University

Loyola University Maryland

U.S. Military Academy

U.S. Naval Academy

MIDEAST REGION

ASUN Conference (9)

Florida Gulf Coast University Jacksonville University

Kennesaw State University

Liberty University

Lipscomb University

New Jersey Institute of Technology *University of North Alabama University of North Florida Stetson University

Conference USA (14)

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Florida Atlantic University

Florida International University

Louisana Tech University

Marshall University

Middle Tennessee State University

University of North Texas

Old Dominion University

Rice University

University of Southern Mississippi

University of Alabama at Birmingham

University of Texas at El Paso

University of Texas at El Faso

Western Kentucky University

Mid-American Conference (12)

University of Akron

Ball State University

Bowling Green State University

University at Buffalo, the State University of New York

Central Michigan University

Eastern Michigan University

Kent State University Miami University (Ohio) Northern Illinois University Ohio University

University of Toledo

Western Michigan University

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (12)

Bethune-Cookman University Coppin State University **Delaware State University** Florida A&M University **Howard University** University of Maryland Eastern Shore Morgan State University Norfolk State University North Carolina A&T State University North Carolina Central University Savannah State University South Carolina State University

Ohio Valley Conference (12)

Austin Peay State University Belmont University Eastern Illinois University Eastern Kentucky University Jacksonville State University Morehead State University

Murray State University Southeast Missouri State University Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Tennessee State University Tennessee Technological University University of Tennessee at Martin

Southeastern Conference (14)

University of Alabama University of Arkansas, Fayetteville **Auburn University** University of Florida University of Georgia University of Kentucky Louisiana State University

University of Mississippi Mississippi State University University of Missouri. Columbia University of South Carolina, Columbia University of Tennessee, Knoxville Texas A&M University, College Station Vanderbilt University

Southern Conference (8)

East Tennessee State University **Furman University** Mercer University The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Samford University University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Western Carolina University Wofford College

Sun Belt Conference (12)

Appalachian State University Arkansas State University University of Arkansas at Little Rock Coastal Carolina University Georgia Southern University Georgia State University

University of Louisiana at Lafayette University of Louisiana at Monroe University of South Alabama University of Texas at Arlington Texas State University Troy University

MIDWEST REGION

Big 12 Conference (10)

Baylor University Iowa State University University of Kansas Kansas State University University of Oklahoma

Oklahoma State University Texas Christian University Texas Tech University University of Texas at Austin West Virginia University

Big Ten Conference (14)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Indiana University, Bloomington University of Iowa University of Maryland, College Park University of Michigan Michigan State University University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

University of Nebraska, Lincoln Northwestern University The Ohio State University Pennsylvania State University Purdue University **Rutgers University** University of Wisconsin-Madison

Horizon League (10)

Cleveland State University University of Detroit Mercy University of Illinois at Chicago Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Northern Kentucky University Oakland University Wright State University Youngstown State University

Missouri Valley Conference (10)

Bradley University Drake University University of Evansville Illinois State University Indiana State University

Loyola University Chicago Missouri State University University of Northern Iowa Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Valparaiso University

Southland Conference (13)

Abilene Christian University University of Central Arkansas **Houston Baptist University** University of the Incarnate Word Lamar University McNeese State University University of New Orleans

Nicholls State University Northwestern State University Sam Houston State University Southeastern Louisiana University Stephen F. Austin State University Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Southwestern Athletic Conference (10)

Alabama A&M University Alabama State University Alcorn State University University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff **Grambling State University**

Jackson State University Mississippi Valley State University Prairie View A&M University Southern University, Baton Rouge Texas Southern University

The Summit League (9)

University of Denver Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne University of Nebraska, Omaha University of North Dakota

Oral Roberts University University of South Dakota South Dakota State University Western Illinois University

WEST REGION

Big Sky Conference (11)

California State University, Sacramento Eastern Washington University University of Idaho Idaho State University University of Montana Montana State University-Bozeman

Northern Arizona University University of Northern Colorado Portland State University Southern Utah University Weber State University

Big West Conference (9)

California Polytechnic State University California State University, Fullerton California State University, Northridge University of California, Davis University of California, Irvine

University of California, Riverside University of California, Santa Barbara University of Hawaii, Manoa Long Beach State University

Mountain West Conference (11)

Boise State University California State University, Fresno Colorado State University University of Nevada, Las Vegas University of Nevada, Reno University of New Mexico

San Diego State University San Jose State University U.S. Air Force Academy **Utah State University** University of Wyoming

Pac-12 Conference (12)

University of Arizona Arizona State University University of California, Berkeley University of California, Los Angeles University of Colorado, Boulder University of Oregon

Oregon State University University of Southern California Stanford University University of Utah University of Washington Washington State University

West Coast Conference (10)

Brigham Young University Gonzaga University Loyola Marymount University University of the Pacific Pepperdine University

University of Portland University of San Diego University of San Francisco Santa Clara University Saint Mary's College of California

Western Athletic Conference (9)

*California Baptist California State University, Bakersfield Chicago State University **Grand Canyon University** University of Missouri-Kansas City

New Mexico State University Seattle University The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley **Utah Valley University**

Future Changes/Reclassifiers (3)

Bia West

California State University, Bakersfield (joining league in 2020-21)

Big West

University of California, San Diego (joining league in 2020-21; eligible in 2024-25)

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference

Savannah State University moving to Division II (after 2018-19)

*Ineligible for postseason

Appendix C • Selections Principles and Procedures

NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING THE BRACKET

There are three phases in the process:

- Select the 32 at-large teams;
- II. **Seed** the field of 64 teams; and
- III. **Place** the teams into the championship bracket.

General Principles for Selection, Seeding and Bracketing

The basketball committee will abide by the following principles:

- A committee member ("member") shall not be present during discussions regarding the selection or seeding of a team the individual represents as an institutional or conference administrator.
- At no point in the process shall a member vote for a team the individual represents as an institutional or conference administrator.
- A member shall not answer questions about the team the individual represents, except for factual questions (e.g., dates of injuries, status of injured players). A conference administrator is permitted to answer general questions (i.e., relative strengths of teams within a conference) about teams in the conference the individual represents. An athletics administrator is permitted to discuss other teams in the individual's conference only when asked.
- All votes will be by secret ballot.
- Principles must be followed by the committee during selection, seeding and bracketing of the championship field. Selection, seeding and bracketing principles are not considered in priority order. All principles must be adhered to throughout each of the three processes. The committee will make every effort to apply "additional considerations", provided they do not cause a violation of the principles.

Among the resources available to the committee are complete box scores, game summaries and notes, various computer rankings, head-to-head results, chronological results, Division I results, non-conference results, home and away results, results in the last twelve games, rankings, polls, injured and available/unavailable reports and the coaches' regional advisory committee rankings.

The NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Principles and Procedures for Establishing the Bracket document is included in the comprehensive review of the Division I Women's Basketball Championship, conducted annually by the Division I Women's Basketball Committee.

I. Selecting At-Large Teams

The committee shall select the 32 best teams to fill the atlarge berths.

To be selected as an at-large team, a team must have a record of .500 or above.

There is no limit on the number of teams the committee may select from one conference.

Procedures for Selecting At-Large Teams

1. Prior to selection weekend, each committee member will receive an "initial ballot" comprised of two columns listing all eligible Division I teams in alphabetical order.

Each committee member will submit the ballot by a designated time on the first full day of the selection meeting.

- In the first column, each committee member shall identify not more than 32 teams that, in that member's opinion, should be at-large selections in the tournament based upon play to date, regardless of whether the team could eventually represent its conference as the automatic qualifier.
- In the second column, each committee member shall identify all teams that should receive consideration for at-large berths. There is no minimum or maximum limit in the second column.
- 4. A member need not vote for a team that has earned automatic qualification at the time the initial ballot is submitted.
- 5. Any team receiving all but one of the eligible votes in Column 1 shall move into the tournament field as an atlarge selection.
- The committee will form an "at-large nomination board" consisting of an alphabetical listing of all teams that:
 - a. Received more than one vote in either of the columns of the initial ballot but, did not receive enough votes to move onto the at-large board.
 - b. Did not receive more than one vote on the initial ballot, but was subsequently recommended by more than one member prior to closing initial nominations.

- c. Won or shared the regular-season conference championship or conference divisional championship.
- 7. The process for creating the initial "at-large nomination board" will then be closed.
- 8. A team may be removed from the nomination board if it receives all but two of the eligible votes.
- A team may be **added** to the at-large nomination board at any time provided it receives at least three eligible votes.
- 10. Verbal nominations are permitted.

Remaining Ballots

- 1. The committee will evaluate those teams on the at-large nomination board.
- 2. Each committee member will submit a list of the best eight teams from the nomination board, not in rank order, to be added to the at-large field.
- The eight teams receiving the most votes comprise the next at-large ballot.
- 4. Each committee member will "rank" the eight teams, using a cross country scoring system (e.g., first or best is valued at one point).
- 5. The four teams receiving the fewest points shall be moved into the tournament field as an at-large selection. The other four teams will be held for the next ballot.
- 6. The "list" eight, "rank" eight, "move" four process will be repeated until all at-large berths have been filled.
- 7. If a team fails to move onto the at-large board for two consecutive at-large ballots, it shall be returned to the at-large nomination board.
- 8. A team may be removed from the at-large field and returned to the at-large nomination board if it receives all but two of the eligible votes.

Additional Considerations

At any time during the process, the chair may suggest that the committee begin reviewing teams that should be eliminated from the at-large nomination board. A team may be removed from consideration if it receives all but two of the eligible votes.

NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP ● PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING THE BRACKET ● 2

- The number of teams eligible to receive votes may be increased or decreased by the chair if circumstances warrant. Further, the chair has the option to revise the number of teams to be moved onto the at-large board from four to two.
- At any time, the chair may call for a cross-country vote of all remaining teams on the at-large nomination board.
- At any time during the process of selecting the at-large teams, the committee may elect to begin seeding the teams.

II. Seeding of Teams

The committee will create an **s-curve** (i.e., rank of the teams 1 through 64) which is used as a reference to assess competitive balance across the four regions. Once the s-curve is finalized, it remains unchanged while placing the teams into the championship bracket.

The bracket-placement principles may preclude a team from being placed in its "true" seed, in accordance with the scurve.

Procedures for Seeding Teams

- Each committee member will submit a list of the best eight teams, not in rank order, from teams that are in the tournament as automatic qualifiers or at-large selections.
- 2. The eight teams receiving the most votes of the eligible votes comprise the next s-curve ballot.
- 3. Each committee member will "rank" the eight teams, using a cross country scoring system (e.g., first or best is valued at one point).
- 4. The four teams receiving the fewest points shall be moved into the s-curve, in rank order. The other four teams will be held for the next ballot.
- 5. The "list" eight, "rank" eight, "move" four in rank order process will be repeated until all teams have been seeded in the s-curve.
- After a team has been voted into the s-curve, it may be moved to a different position by a simple majority of eligible votes.

7. The committee is not obligated to seed the lines in chronological order. For example, at any time, the committee may use the procedures to determine the fourth quadrant of teams in the s-curve.

III. Principles for Placing Teams into the Championship Bracket

The committee will attempt to achieve **relative balance in the bracket and provide comparable competition**, while abiding by the remaining principles. Balance does not mean equal. After all teams have been placed in the bracket, the committee will formally adopt the bracket.

- The committee will assign all four teams in each bracket "group" (seeds 1, 16, 8, 9), (seeds 4, 13, 5, 12), (seeds 2, 15, 7, 10), (seeds 3, 14, 6, 11) to the same first-/secondround site. The first-/second-round sites that feed into a regional site may be in different geographic areas from the regional.
- Each of the first four teams selected from a conference shall be placed in different regions if they are seeded on the first four lines.
- Teams from the same conference shall not meet prior to the regional final if they played each other three or more times during the regular season and conference tournament.
- The committee will attempt to keep conference teams from meeting until the regional final round.
- If the committee is unable to balance the bracket after exhausting all possible options, it has the flexibility to permit two teams from the same conference to meet each other after the first round.
- By order of the s-curve, the committee will assign each team to a regional and first-/second-round site by taking into account distance from site, mode of transportation and accessibility by fans.
- First- and second-round sites will be awarded to the top 16 seeded teams that submit a bid that meets the requirements for hosting.
- In the event that a top 16 seeded team does not submit a bid, or the bid does not meet requirements for hosting, the committee will select a host from the remaining submitted bids that meet the requirement for hosting. In order to adhere to the bracketing principles, it may not be possible to select the next highest seed to host.

NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP • PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING THE BRACKET • 3

- For the regional competition, a team may not be assigned to play in any arena in which it has played more than three regular-season games, not including conference post-season tournaments.
- A team may be moved one bracket line from its true seed line (e.g., from a No. 13 seed line to a No. 12 seed line) when it is placed in the bracket, if necessary to meet the principles.

Procedures for Placing Teams into the Championship **Bracket**

- 1. The committee will place teams in the bracket by order of the s-curve.
- 2. Place the teams seeded 1-4 in each of the four regions pairing the No. 1 seed's region against the No. 4 seed's region and the No. 2 seed's region against the No. 3 seed's region. Place the Nos. 2, 3, 4 seeds in each region.
- 3. After the top four seed lines have been assigned, the committee will review the relative strengths of the regions by adding the "true" seed numbers in each region to determine if any severe numerical imbalance exists. Generally, no more than five points should separate the lowest and highest total.
- 4. In bracket line Nos. 5 through 16, the committee will use seed number to determine balance of the bracket.
- 5. After all teams have been placed in the bracket and the bracket assignments have been checked to ensure that the principles have been met, the committee will formally adopt the bracket.

Additional Considerations

- If possible, rematches of regular-season games should be avoided in the first- and second-rounds.
- If possible, rematches of previous years' tournament games should be avoided in the first- and secondrounds.
- The committee shall attempt to avoid moving a team or a conference out of its natural region or geographic area an inordinate number of times and will examine the previous three tournament brackets to determine the number of times a team or conference has been assigned out of its natural region.

Ratings Percentage Index (RPI)

The Rating Percentage Index (RPI) was created in 1981 to provide supplemental data for the Division I Men's Basketball Committee in its evaluation of teams for at-large selection and seeding of the championship bracket. The Division I Women's Basketball Committee adopted the RPI in 1984.

The basic RPI consists of a team's division I winning percentage (25 percent weight), its opponents winning percentage (50 percent weight) and its opponents' opponents winning percentage (25 percent weight).

The RPI is intended to be used as one of many valuable resources provided to the committee in the selection, seeding and bracketing process. It never should be considered anything but an additional evaluation tool. No computer program that is based on pure numbers can take into account subjective concepts (e.g., how well a team is playing down the stretch, what the loss or return or a top player means to a team or how emotional a specific conference game may be).

While the various elements of the RPI are important in the evaluation process, the tournament bracket each year is based on the subjectivity of each individual committee member to select the best at-large teams available and to create a nationally-balanced championship.

DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

	LINE NO.		3-CORVL		
1	4.		3.	2.	1.
2	5.	5	6.	7.	8.
3	2.	12	11.	10.	9.
4	3.	13	14.	15.	16.
5	0.	20	19.	18.	17.
6	1.	21	22.	23.	24.
7	8.	28	27.	26.	25.
8	9.	29	30.	31.	32.
9	6.	36	35.	34.	33.
10	7.	37	38.	39.	40.
11	4.	44	43.	42.	41.
12	5.	45	46.	47.	48.
13	2.	52	51.	50.	49.
14	3.	53	54.	55.	56.
15	60.	60	59.	58.	57.
16	1.	62	62.	63.	64.

S-CURVE

LINE NO.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association Oct. 2018 MAC