



*2020 DIVISION I WOMEN'S*  
**BASKETBALL**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**

***PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP***  
***2019-20 MANUAL***

# NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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### THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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October 2019

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# Section 1 • Introduction

During the 2019-20 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 II 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 II 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 3.2.4.20 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Constitution 3.3.4.17 in the NCAA Division II Manual, and Constitution 3.2.4.17 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 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

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

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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

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*[Reference: Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual and Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.3 in the NCAA Divisions II and III Manuals.]*

Student-athletes who compete in NCAA championships may be subjected to drug tests in accordance with Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.2 (Division I); 31.2.3 (Divisions II and III), 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

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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

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#### 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, that 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/march-in 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

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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; mobile betting; 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 where 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 where 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

It is permissible for NCAA championships to be conducted at locations in states that permit sports wagering.

## Section 4•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey

After each championship, institutional administrators, coaches and student-athletes will be asked to participate in a post-event 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 student-athletes by honoring individuals who have reached the pinnacle of competition at the national championship level in their sport, while also achieving the highest academic standard among their 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](http://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](http://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:

1. 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 warmups) 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 September 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

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# Section 1 • General Administration

## Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

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## Section 1•2 Women's Basketball Oversight Committee

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**Current voting members of the Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee are:****Anna Claire Atha**

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee  
Wofford College

**Lisa Campos**

Director of Athletics  
University of Texas at San Antonio

**Cori Close**

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

**Irma Garcia**

Director of Athletics  
St. Francis College Brooklyn

**David Harris**

Director of Athletics  
University of Northern Iowa

**Jennifer Strawley**

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

**Jamie Boggs**

Senior Woman Administrator/Deputy Athletics Director  
Grand Canyon University

**Jackie Carson**

Head Women's Basketball Coach  
Furman University

**Rich Ensor**

Commissioner  
Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference

**Darrice Griffin**

Deputy Director of Athletics  
University of Georgia

**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:**

**Danielle Donehew**  
Executive Director  
Women's Basketball Coaches Association

**Nina King**  
Division I Women's Basketball Committee Vice Chair  
Deputy Director of Athletics/Chief of Staff  
Duke University

**Alyson Hagy**  
Faculty Athletics Representative  
University of Wyoming

**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:**

**Diane C. Turnham, Chair**  
Senior Associate Athletics Director  
Middle Tennessee State University

**Ken Bothof**  
Director of Athletics  
Northern Kentucky University

**Beth Goetz**  
Director of Athletics  
Ball State University

**Nina King, Vice Chair**  
Senior Deputy Director of Athletics/Chief of Staff  
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

**Jill Shields**  
Deputy Athletics Director/SWA  
Kansas State University

## Section 1•4 Regional Advisory Committees

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
<b>EAST REGION</b>		
Debbie Richardson, Chair	Atlantic 10 Conference	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member
Caroline McCombs	Stony Brook University	America East Conference
Lisa Stone	Saint Louis University	Atlantic 10 Conference
Quentin Hillsman	Syracuse University	Atlantic Coast Conference
Kelly Cole	Northeastern	Colonial Athletic Association
Kathy Delaney-Smith	Harvard	The Ivy League
Lynn Milligan	Rider	Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference
Beryl Piper	Central Connecticut State University	Northeast Conference
Dave Plitzuweit	U.S. Military Academy	Patriot League

## DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
<b>MIDWEST REGION</b>		
Ken Bothof, Chair	Northern Kentucky	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member
Teresa Phillips	Tennessee State University	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member
Anthony Bozzella	Seton Hall University	Big East Conference
Lisa Bluder	University of Iowa	Big Ten Conference
Austin Parkinson	IUPUI	Horizon League
Fred Castro	Eastern Michigan University	Mid-American Conference
Kristen Gillespie	Illinois State University	Missouri Valley
Dawn Plitzuweit	South Dakota	The Summit League
<b>SOUTH REGION</b>		
Nina King, Chair	Duke University	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member
Beth Goetz	Ball State University	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member
Bill Fennelly	Iowa State University	Big 12 Conference
Cara Consuegra	Charlotte	Conference USA
Greg Todd	Morehead State	Ohio Valley Conference
Royce Chadwick	Texas A&M-Corpus Christi	Southland Conference
Margaret Richards	Alabama A&M University	Southwestern Athletic
Jaida Williams	Coastal Carolina University	Sun Belt Conference
<b>SOUTHEAST REGION</b>		
DeJuena Chizer, Chair	University of Houston	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member
Jill Shields	Kansas State University	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member
Katie Abrahamson-Henderson	University of Central Florida	American Athletic Conference
Karl Smesko	FGCU	Atlantic Sun Conference
Rebecca Tillett	Longwood University	Big South Conference
Ty Grace	Howard University	Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference
Cameron Newbauer	University of Florida	Southeastern Conference
Susie Gardner	Mercer University	Southern Conference
<b>WEST REGION</b>		
Tamica Smith Jones, Chair	University of California, Riverside	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member
Ceal Barry	University of Colorado, Boulder	DI Women's Basketball Committee, Non-Voting Member
Lynn Kennedy	Portland State University	Big Sky Conference
Jennifer Gross	University of California, Davis	Big West Conference
Amanda Levens	University of Nevada, Reno	Mountain West Conference
Scott Rueck	Oregon State University	Pac-12 Conference
Lisa Misplay Fortier	Gonzaga University	West Coast Conference
Jacie Hoyt	UMKC	Western Athletic Conference

## Section 1•5 Important Dates

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### CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

Monday, March 16	Selection Monday
Friday-Saturday, March 20-21	First-round games
Sunday-Monday, March 22-23	Second-round games
Friday-Saturday, March 27-28	Regional semifinals
Sunday-Monday, March 29-30	Regional finals
Friday, April 3	National semifinals at Smoothie King Center in New Orleans, Louisiana
Sunday, April 5	National championship at Smoothie King Center in New Orleans, Louisiana

## Section 1•6 Equipment

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The Wilson Solution B0701R basketball shall be used for all of the 2020 tournament games.

## Section 1•7 Rules

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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 <https://www.ncaa.org/championships/division-i-womens-basketball>.

## Section 1•8 Uniforms

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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

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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 20 and 22) or Saturday and Monday (March 21 and 23) at the home institutional sites of the top-16 seeded teams. Winners will advance to four neutral, predetermined regional sites (Dallas, Texas; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Greenville, South Carolina; and Portland, Oregon), March 27 and 29, or March 28 and 30, which will be comprised of four teams each. The four regional winners will meet for the national semifinals and championship in New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 3 and April 5.

Effective for the 2023 championship, regional rounds will be played at two neutral regional sites comprised of eight teams at each site.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Refer to the participant manual (available January 2020) on [www.ncaa.org](http://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 16, 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 p.m. ET and 30 minutes after the conclusion of game one, 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

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### 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 began using the RPI in 1984.

The RPI should never 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% of the RPI
2. Opponents' Winning Percentage — 50% of the RPI

**3. Opponents' Opponents' Winning Percentage — 25% 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.

The RPI will remain the sole metric for team selection for the 2020 championship.

## Section 2•3 Selection Information

### AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

The 2020 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 2020 championship are:

America East Conference	Mid-American Conference
American Athletic Conference	Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference
ASUN Conference	Missouri Valley Conference
Atlantic 10 Conference	Mountain West Conference
Atlantic Coast Conference	Northeast Conference
Big 12 Conference	Ohio Valley Conference
Big East Conference	Pac-12 Conference
Big Sky Conference	Patriot League
Big South Conference	Southeastern Conference
Big Ten 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 16, at 7 p.m. Eastern time on ESPN and visit [www.ncaa.com](http://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](http://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**

The Division I Women's Basketball Championship first- and second-round sites will be awarded to the top-16 seeded teams, as of Selection Monday, March 16, 2020, that submit a bid meeting minimum requirements (specifically venue and hotel availability) for hosting in their regular season women's basketball home facility.

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 2019-20 regular season for it to be used for the 2020 NCAA championship.
- The Division I Women's Basketball Committee retains flexibility to make an exception to this policy when necessary.

<b>Now</b>	Confirm availability and reserve competition venue. Complete the form available at <a href="http://www.ncaa.org/championships/division-i-womens-basketball">http://www.ncaa.org/championships/division-i-womens-basketball</a> .
<b>Dec. 2</b>	Bid checklist posted on <a href="http://www.ncaa.org/championships/division-i-womens-basketball">http://www.ncaa.org/championships/division-i-womens-basketball</a> .
<b>Jan. 17</b>	Bid submission deadline
<b>February</b>	Bid review
<b>March 16</b>	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 2020 are: Dallas, Texas (Moody Coliseum), Fort Wayne, Indiana (Allen County War Memorial Coliseum), Greenville, South Carolina (Bon Secours Wellness Arena) and Portland, Oregon (Moda Center).

### CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the bid process, please contact Meredith Cleaver at [mcleaver@ncaa.org](mailto: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](#).

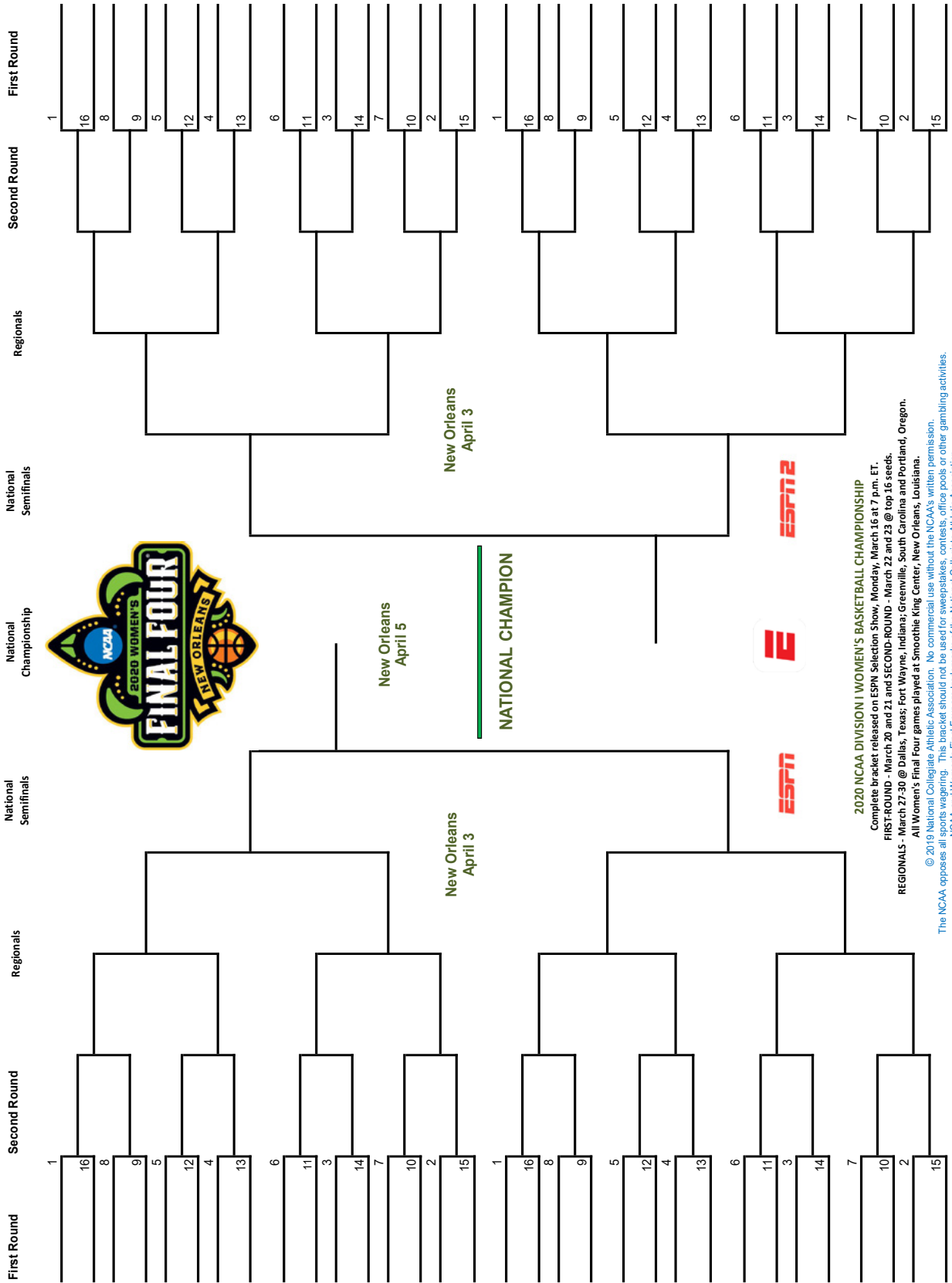
# Appendixes

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# Appendix A • Bracket

## 2020 NCAA Division I Women's BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



2020 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP  
 Complete bracket released on ESPN Selection Show, Monday, March 16 at 7 pm. ET.  
**FIRST-ROUND** - March 20 and 21 and **SECOND-ROUND** - March 22 and 23 @ top 16 seeds.  
**REGIONALS** - All Women's Final Four games played at Smoothie King Center, New Orleans, Louisiana.  
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 The NCAA opposes all sports wagering. This bracket should not be used for sweepstakes, contests, office pools or other gambling activities.  
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## 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

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

#### 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  
 Saint Joseph's University  
 Saint Louis University  
 St. Bonaventure 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 Ivy 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

## DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

### 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  
\*Merrimack College  
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  
Louisiana 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 San Antonio  
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  
 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  
North Dakota State University

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)**

**Atlantic Sun**

Bellarmine (joining league in 2020-2021; eligible in 2024-2025)  
 North Alabama (eligible in 2022-2023)

**Big East**

UCONN (joining league in 2020-2021)

**Big West**

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

**Northeast Conference**

Merrimack (joining the conference in 2019-2020; eligible in 2023-2024)

**Summit League**

UMKC (joining league in 2020-2021)

**Western Athletic Conference**

Dixie St. (joining in 2020-2021; eligible in 2023-2024)  
 Cal Baptist (eligible in 2022-2023)

\*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:

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

<b>General Principles for Selection, Seeding and Bracketing</b>
---

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. This document was approved by the Division I Women's Basketball Committee, September 2019 and will be in effect for the 2020 championship.*

**I. Selecting At-Large Teams**

The committee shall select the 32 best teams to fill the at-large 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.

2. 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.
3. 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 at-large selection.
6. 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.
9. 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.
3. 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.

- At any time, the chair may call for a review of teams on the holding board. A majority of eligible votes can remove or add teams from the holding board. Teams that have been removed from the holding board will return to the At-Large Nomination board.
- 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 s-curve.

**Procedures for Seeding Teams**

1. 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.

6. 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.

**Additional Considerations**

- At any time, the chair may call for a review of teams on the holding board. A majority of eligible votes can remove or add teams from the holding board. Teams that have been removed from the holding board will return to the Not Seeded board.

**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.

- 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.
- 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-/second-round 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.

- 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.
- 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, outside of the top four seed lines, 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**

After adhering to all principles for placing teams in the bracket, the committee will take into consideration the following items:

- Avoiding rematches of regular-season games in the first- and second-rounds.
- Avoiding rematches of previous years' tournament games in the first- and second-rounds.
- After examining the previous two years' brackets, the committee shall attempt to avoid moving teams or conferences out of its natural region or geographic area an inordinate number of times.

**Ratings Percentage Index (RPI)**

The Rating Percentage Index (RPI) will remain the sole metric for team selection for the 2020 championship.

The 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 of 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

S-CURVE				LINE NO.
1.	2.	3.	4.	<b>1</b>
8.	7.	6.	5.	<b>2</b>
9.	10.	11.	12.	<b>3</b>
16.	15.	14.	13.	<b>4</b>
17.	18.	19.	20.	<b>5</b>
24.	23.	22.	21.	<b>6</b>
25.	26.	27.	28.	<b>7</b>
32.	31.	30.	29.	<b>8</b>
33.	34.	35.	36.	<b>9</b>
40.	39.	38.	37.	<b>10</b>
41.	42.	43.	44.	<b>11</b>
48.	47.	46.	45.	<b>12</b>
49.	50.	51.	52.	<b>13</b>
56.	55.	54.	53.	<b>14</b>
57.	58.	59.	60.	<b>15</b>
64.	63.	62.	61.	<b>16</b>

The National Collegiate Athletic Association  
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MAC