



PRECHAMPIONSHIP 2025-26 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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Section 1 • Introduction

During the 2025-26 academic year, the Association will sponsor 92 national championships – 43 for men, 47 for women and two for both men and women. Of the men's championships, four 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, eight 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 Prechampionship 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.

Sections one through nine apply to policies applicable to all 92 championships, while the remaining sections are sport specific.

Section 1.1 Definitions

Prechampionship Manual. Resource for institutions to prepare for the championship.

Administrative Meeting. Prechampionship 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).

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. In any championship in which a squad limit has been established by the governing sport committee or by the bylaws, the number of eligible student-athletes in competitive uniform eligible to participate at the start of competition.

Tournament Physician. The physician designated by the host institution/conference to serve as the chief medical advisor for the championship event(s) to be hosted at the host venue.

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).

Section 3 • Conduct

Section 3.1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability

[Reference: Certification of Eligibility/Availability in Bylaws 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20.2.4, 31.2.1.7.1, 31.2.1.7.1.2 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Bylaws 7.3.1.5 and 18.2.1 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Division II Championships Committee Policy and Bylaws 31.2.1.5, 31.2.1.5.2, and 31.2.2 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 3.2 Drug Testing

As part of preparation and planning to participate in championship events, member institutions are reminded and encouraged to review all applicable policy and legislative requirements pertaining to banned substances, drug testing and related eligibility requirements with their student-athletes. Student-athletes who compete in NCAA championships may be subjected to drug tests in accordance with legislation 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 3.3 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 3•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, 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 online.

Section 3•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; 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) 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 3•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey

During the NCAA championships, the student-athlete experience is paramount. NCAA staff and hosts dedicate themselves to planning the best experiences for all involved. As part of our commitment to getting better, following the championship, participants will receive a survey to provide feedback on their experience and input on how championships can be improved for future NCAA student-athletes. Institutional administrators and coaches will receive

an email containing a link to the survey and will be asked to forward the survey to student-athletes. Additionally, this survey will be accessible via QR code found on the back of NCAA-issued championship credentials.

We also understand that sometimes certain circumstances or conditions occurring during the events may require real-time consideration. When this is the case, student-athletes may reach out to their site representative or NCAA national office staff on-site.

Section 4 • Elite Scholar-Athlete™ Award

The Elite Scholar-Athlete 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 competing at the finals site. 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. For more information or to access the online form and submit a nomination, [click here](#).

Section 5 • Fan Travel

Through support from Marriott International as the Official Hotel Partner of the NCAA, NCAA championships are pleased to provide easy and affordable accommodations 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 Marriott and NCAA Travel help support NCAA student-athletes. Please direct your fans to ncaa.com/travel to search and book online hotel reservations.

Section 6 • Health and Safety

As part of preparation and planning to host and/or participate in championship events, member institutions are reminded and encouraged to review all applicable health and safety policy and legislative requirements and guidance including, among others, those relating to concussion management, catastrophic injury prevention, inclement weather and independent medical care. These requirements and related information can be found in applicable division manuals, sports playing rules and the materials located on the [Health, Safety & Performance website](#). In addition, a summary of some of the key health and safety considerations related to traveling to championship events can be found in the [NCAA's Guidance for Medical Care and Coverage for Student-Athletes at Away Events](#).

Section 7 • Logo Policy

[Reference: Bylaws 12.5.4, 31.1.7 and 31.1.8 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Bylaw 17.1.10 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

In order to avoid inappropriate and unnecessary participant distraction and disruption of championship events, it is expected any data collection or other research efforts conducted at or during championship events will be coordinated through the national office, with notice and a description of any research proposal to be submitted to the NCAA research staff at least six weeks before the championships event begins.

Section 9 • Travel Party

Please refer to the NCAA travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. NCAA Travel policies are updated annually and can be found online [here](#). Please reference Appendix A of the travel policies for reimbursable travel party numbers. The travel policies supersede all other documents.

Section 10 • Division III

Section 10•1 Division III Philosophy

The Division III championships philosophy is to field the most competitive teams within a regular-season philosophy that emphasizes regional competition and minimizes missed class time; and to provide representation in NCAA championship competition by allocating berths to eligible conferences and at-large teams.

Section 10•2 Commencement Conflicts

[Reference: Bylaw 31.1.4.5 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

If an institution's commencement conflicts with participation in the championship, it shall inform the NCAA championship manager in writing one week before the selection date for the governing sport committee to consider an accommodation and a change to the championship schedule.

The following guidelines apply to commencement requests:

- Applies to team sports only.
- The governing sport committee, in consultation with participating institutions, may reschedule the game on the nearest possible date.
- Does not apply to predetermined finals sites.
- The governing sport committee shall make a good-faith effort to accommodate participating institutions in non-predetermined preliminary-round contests with multiple teams participating at the same site.

Section 10•3 Gameday the DIII Way

Division III promotes an atmosphere that is a respectful and engaging educational environment through athletics, for everyone through Gameday the DIII Way. Gameday the DIII Way establishes an expectation for championship hosts, coaches, student-athletes and spectators to focus on the common standards of safety, responsiveness, dignity and experience while participating or attending a championship event. We ask that each participant and attendee be personally accountable for their actions and do their part to ensure this event is a positive reflection of Gameday the DIII Way.

Section 10•4 Religious Conflicts

[Reference: Bylaws 31.1.4.1 and 31.1.4.2 in the NCAA Division III 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 before May 1 of the preceding academic year to be excused from competing on that day. The notification shall be valid for a period of two years. The championship schedule shall be adjusted to accommodate that institution, and such adjustment shall not require its team or an individual competitor to compete before the time originally scheduled.

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

Division III Men's Basketball

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Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1.1 NCAA Championship Manager

Amir Hicks

Coordinator, Championships and Alliances
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
317-372-8213 / avhicks@ncaa.org

Section 1.2 National Committee

REGION I

Paul Booth, vice-chair

Head Men's Basketball Coach/Scheduling Coordinator
Norwich University

REGION III

Jeff Gorski, vice-chair

Head Men's Basketball Coach
Clarkson University

REGION V

Jacob Fleegle

Head Men's Basketball Coach
Messiah University

REGION VII

Doug Zipp

Athletics Director
Ohio Wesleyan University

REGION IX

Tim Grosz

Associate Athletic Director/Head Men's Basketball Coach
University of Northwestern-St. Paul

REGION II

Stephanie Dollar

Deputy AD for Internal Administration/SWA
University of Massachusetts Boston

REGION IV

Rahsaan Carlton

Director of Athletics
Penn State Harrisburg

REGION VI

Danny Miller

Director of Athletics
Averett University

REGION VIII

Cam Fuller, chair

Athletic Director
St. Norbert College

REGION X

Dwayne Hanberry

Commissioner
Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference

For additional information about the championship, contact the following:

Amir Hicks

NCAA
Coordinator, Championships and Alliances
317-372-8213 / avhicks@ncaa.org

Cam Fuller, chair

Athletic Director, St. Norbert College
cam.fuller@snc.edu

Section 1.3 Regional Advisory Committees

[Reference: Bylaws 21.5.1.4 and 21.6.1.6 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

Conference commissioners shall appoint individuals to their respective regional advisory committees. The role of the regional advisory committee is to assist the Division III Men's Basketball Committee in the evaluation of teams using the NPI system.

DIVISION III MEN'S BASKETBALL

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
REGION I		
Paul Booth	Norwich	GNAC
Tom Glynn	Rivier	GNAC
Tim Sweeny	Connecticut Col.	NESCAC
Warren Caruso	Husson	North Atlantic
Kathy Lynch	Framingham	MASCAC
REGION II		
Stephanie Dollar	UMass Boston	LEC
Jean Bain	Brandeis	UAA
Colin Tabb	Western New Eng.	CNE
Jeremy Viens	Babson	NEWMAC
Tim Barrett	VTSU Castleton	LEC
REGION III		
Jeff Gorski	Clarkson	Liberty
Rob Schoener	SUNY Poly	Empire 8
Ryan Mee	Vassar	Liberty
TBD	TBD	Skyline
Jason Leone	Oswego	SUNYAC
REGION IV		
Rahsaan Carlton	Penn St. Harrisburg	United East
Jeff Jean-Baptiste	Brooklyn	CUNYAC
Scott Coval	DeSales	MAC Freedom
Justin Potts	Montclair St.	NJAC
Jason O'Connell	Cairn	United East
REGION V		
Jacob Fleegle	Messiah	MAC Commonwealth
Anthony Macapugay	Pratt	Atlantic East
Patrick Doherty	Haverford	Centennial
Ryan Van Zelst	Drew	Landmark
Dan Pruessner	Eastern	MAC Commonwealth
REGION VI		
Danny Miller	Averett	ODAC
Joshua Brown	Covenant	CCS
Dave Macedo	Va. Wesleyan	ODAC
Steven Goodson	Rhodes	SAA
Trace Bevell	Southern Va.	USA South

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
REGION VII		
Doug Zipp	Ohio Wesleyan	OAC
Marcus Thomas	Mount Aloysius	AMCC
Sam Hargraves	Olivet	MIAA
Nathan Wahle	Muskingum	NCAC
Dave Richards	Chatham	PAC
REGION VIII		
Cam Fuller	St. Norbert	NACC
Steve Djurickovic	Carthage	CCIW
Ashley Birchmeier	Hanover	HCAC
Jordan Townsend	Benedictine	NACC
Austin Kirby	Blackburn	SLIAC
REGION IX		
Tim Grosz	Northwestern-St. Paul	UMAC
Sam Leal	Wartburg	ARC
Ryan Kershaw	Carleton	MIAC
Steve Schweer	Illinois Col.	MWC
Jeremy Becker	North Central (IL)	UMAC
Matt Lewis	Wis.-Oshkosh	WIAC
REGION X		
Dwayne Hanberry	SCAC	SCAC
Sam Patterson	Mary Hardin-Baylor	ASC
Damion Jablonski	Whitworth	NWC
Eric Bridgeland	Redlands	SCIAC
Jeff Conarro	Colorado Col.	SCAC

Section 1•4 Important Dates

Monday, Feb. 2	National Committee ranking #1.
Monday, Feb. 9	National Committee ranking #2.
Monday, Feb. 16	National Committee ranking #3.
Thursday, Feb. 19	Deadline for submitting proposed budgets and facility questionnaires for hosting.
Monday, Feb. 23	National Committee ranking #4.
Sunday, March 1	Deadline for conference offices to report their 2026 Automatic Qualifier. National Committee ranking #5.
Monday, March 2	Selection Show and bracket announcement.

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

Friday-Saturday, March 6-7	First-/second-round competition at 16 campus sites.
Friday-Saturday, March 13-14	Third-round competition at eight campus sites.
Thursday-Saturday, March 19-21	Quarterfinal and semifinals competition in Fort Wayne, Indiana.
Sunday, April 5	Championship competition in Indianapolis, Indiana.

DATE FORMULA

First/Second Rounds	First Friday/Saturday in March.
Sectionals	Second Friday/Saturday in March.
Semifinals/Final	Third Thursday/Saturday in March.

FUTURE DATES

(Subject to change)

Year	First-/Second-Rounds (Fri.-Sat.)	Sectionals (Fri.-Sat.)	Semifinals and Final
2027	March 5-6	March 12-13	March 18-20
2028	March 3-4	March 10-11	March 16-18
2029	March 2-3	March 9-10	March 15-17
2030	March 1-2	March 8-9	March 14-16
2031	March 7-8	March 14-15	March 20-22

Section 1•5 Equipment

The Wilson NCAA Evo NXT Official Game Basketball is the official basketball for NCAA men’s basketball championships and shall be used for all 2026 tournament games. All preliminary round sites will receive eight Wilson NCAA Evo NXT Official Game Basketballs. A game ball will be awarded to each competing team at the conclusion of sectional play and to the nonadvancing teams in first- and second-round games.

Additional practice balls, preferably the Wilson NCAA Evo NXT Official Game Basketball, are to be provided by the host institution.

Section 1•6 Rules

Per NCAA Bylaw 17.30, member institutions shall conduct all of their intercollegiate competition in accordance with the playing rules of the Association in all sports for which the NCAA develops playing rules. For those sports in which the Association follows rules that are developed by other governing bodies and modified by the governing sports committee, the adopted playing rules shall be used. The governing sports committee will not consider any results for selection purposes not played in accordance with the NCAA rules book, or those rules adopted by an outside organization.

The 2025-26 NCAA Men’s Basketball Rules and Interpretations shall be followed. The rule book may be downloaded for free [here](#).

Section 1•7 Uniforms

[Reference: Bylaw 12.5.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

Competing teams shall have both light- and dark-colored uniforms available for all tournament competition. In preliminary round competition, the home team must wear a light-colored uniform that is in clear contrast to the visiting team’s dark-colored uniform. However, in the event of a conflict, it is the responsibility of the home team to wear uniforms in clear contrast to those worn by the visiting team. For the quarterfinals, semifinals and final, the games committee will determine the home teams.

Student-athletes competing in the championship shall wear the official uniform of their institution in competition and related ceremonies. This applies to both warm-ups and competitive uniforms.

LOGOS

Refer to General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7.

Section 1•8 Championship Format

The Division III Championships Committee has approved a 64-team, single-elimination bracket for the 2026 Division III Men's Basketball Championship. All first-round, second-round and sectional competition will be hosted on the campus of one of the participating institutions. Sixteen first-/second-round sites will host four teams (including the host) competing Friday/Saturday, March 6-7. There will be eight on campus third-round sites competing on March 13-14. The quarterfinals and semifinals will be held at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on March 19 and 21. The finals will be held on Sunday, April at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, Indiana.

First-/second-round sites will be announced on [ncaa.com](https://www.ncaa.com) by the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Committee along with the team selections on Monday, March 2. Sectional sites will be announced Sunday, March 8.

If, due to unforeseen circumstances, it becomes impossible to play a game(s) during the championship, the committee is authorized to determine which team or teams advance in the bracket.

A championship bracket can be found in [Appendix A](#). A summary of the automatic-qualifying conferences and their members, along with the Pool B candidates, is listed in [Appendix B](#).

START TIMES (PRELIMINARY ROUNDS)

For **ALL** preliminary round competition, the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Committee will assign game times. The committee will not have any game start before 1 p.m. local time. The scheduled start of the second game of a two-game session will be two and a half hours after the scheduled start of the first game.

The home team will play in the second game during all two-game sessions.

TRAVEL PARTY

The official traveling party for the Division III Men's Basketball Championship is 20. Please refer to the NCAA Travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies can be found online [here](#).

Section 1•9 Results

SCORE-REPORTING

The score-reporting and stats-reporting processes are combined for division/sport. Schools will submit all schedule and results information to the NCAA statistics site (web1.ncaa.org/stats/StatsSrv/login), and this information will then be transferred into the score-reporting system for use by the sports committees. Specific instructions and reporting deadlines will be communicated to SIDs in a memo from the media coordination and statistics staff. For questions regarding the reporting process, please contact Sean Straziscar at sstraziscar@ncaa.org or 317-917-6122.

STAT CREW

All host sites should use Stat Crew programs to submit statistics for the contests. At the end of each game or day of competition, a packed file from each championship contest must be sent to ncaastats@ncaa.org and Sean Straziscar ([sstraziscar@ncaa.org](mailto:ssstraziscar@ncaa.org)) at the NCAA national office. These files should be sent immediately following each contest. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sean Straziscar.

REGIONAL RANKINGS

The committee will rank 20% of eligible teams in each region by applying the championship selection criteria. Based on this year's sponsorship report, the following number of teams will be ranked in each region:

Region	Eligible Teams	# of Ranked Teams
I	43	7
II	29	6
III	45	7
IV	41	7
V	36	7
VI	38	7
VII	48	7
VIII	44	7
IX	44	7
X	36	7

REPORTING RESULTS

During the championship, the host sports information director is responsible for reporting official results to the NCAA website at the conclusion of competition. Please email the results in the following manner:

- Send the information to ncaa-content@turner.com.
- Specify the sport (Division, Championship, Round) in the SUBJECT area.
- Paste the text directly into an email or send email as an attachment in an Microsoft Word document or Windows Notepad text document.
- Please convert photos to JPEG format and attach to the email.

The following information must be sent at the appropriate times:

- Halftime scores at intermission.
- End-of-regulation scores (even if the contest is headed to overtime).
- Final score with details of overtime(s), if applicable.
- Final box score.
- Game story.
- Photos, if possible.

The host should email a copy of the official final box score (PDF) with game attendance after the completion of the game to Amir Hicks, NCAA Coordinator of Championships and Alliances (avhicks@ncaa.org).

Section 1•10 Selections Information

Teams will be selected for the championship by the Men's Basketball Committee using the NCAA NPI system. Each member of the committee serves as the chair of their respective regional advisory committee. Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) assist the national committee in maintaining their NPI data within their regions through a series of conference calls.

ALLOCATION OF BERTHS – POOLS A, B AND C

1. Pool A will be composed of the conference champions from each conference that meets the requirements for automatic qualification (NCAA Bylaw 31.3.4). Conferences that meet automatic-qualification requirements are guaranteed only one Pool A berth. After the determination of the automatic bids, the committee will determine the Pool B selections followed by the Pool C selections.
2. Pool B will be composed of independent institutions and institutions that are members of conferences that do not meet the requirements for automatic qualification.
3. Pool C is reserved for institutions from automatic-qualifying conferences that do not win their conference's automatic bid and the remaining Pool B teams.

4. Berths from Pools B and C will be selected on a national basis, using regional selection criteria. There will be no predetermined regional allocations for Pools B and C.
5. There will be no maximum or minimum number of berths from one region.
6. No conference will receive more than one automatic berth.

The Championships Committee has clarified Bylaw 31.3.4 to reflect that institutions participating in conferences that meet the automatic-qualification requirements, and are eligible to be selected to a championship via Pool A and/or Pool C, may not elect instead to be selected via Pool B as an independent institution.

SPONSORSHIP DATA

- Division III institutions sponsoring men's basketball: 408
- Provisional/reclassifying institutions (not eligible for the championship): 4
- Declared ineligible (not eligible for the championship): 0
- Institutions eligible for the NCAA championship: 404
- Conferences meeting automatic-qualifying requirements: 43
- Eligible teams in automatic-qualifying conferences: 404
- Pool B teams: 0
- Access ratio (eligible teams in AQ conferences/# of AQ conferences): 1:9.39

Based on the sponsorship data, the following allocations will be implemented for the 2026 championship:

Pool A	43 teams	
Pool B	0 teams	# Pool B teams/Access ratio
Pool C	21 teams	Field size - Pool A - Pool B

The following 43 conferences shall automatically qualify their conference champion for the 2026 championship:

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference	New England Small College Athletic Conference
American Rivers Conference	New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference
American Southwest Conference	New Jersey Athletic Conference
Atlantic East Conference	North Atlantic Conference
Centennial Conference	North Coast Athletic Conference
City University of New York Athletic Conference	Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference
Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference	Northwest Conference
College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin	Ohio Athletic Conference
Collegiate Conference of the South	Old Dominion Athletic Conference
Conference of New England	Presidents' Athletic Conference
Empire 8	Skyline Conference
Great Northeast Athletic Conference	Southern Athletic Association
Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference	Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Landmark Conference	Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference
Liberty League	St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Little East Conference	State University of New York Athletic Conference
Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference	United East Conference
Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association	University Athletic Association
Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth	Upper Midwest Athletic Conference
Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom	USA South Athletic Conference
Midwest Conference	Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	

Please refer to [Appendix B on page 21](#) for the membership of these conferences and regional assignments.

IN-REGION COMPETITION

In-region competition is defined as:

1. All competition within an institution's defined region.
2. All competition within a 500-mile radius from one institution to another.
3. All competition within an institution's membership geographical region. The country is divided into four membership regions as listed below. For most institutions, this should result in a more expanded list of potential in-region opponents than in the past.

Region 1

- Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont

Region 2

- New York, Pennsylvania

Region 3

- Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia

Region 4

- Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

4. All conference games.

The NCAA Travel Expense System mileage calculator will be used to confirm distances from campus to campus using the "shortest" distance option. This program can be accessed online [here](#).

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Please refer to the NCAA Travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies can be found online [here](#).

Section 1.11 Selection Criteria

Countable Games. Only games listed on the institution's originally submitted schedule will be considered for tournament-selection purposes. The addition of games not listed on the institution's published schedule as an aid for selection shall not be considered.

In-Region Competition. (See In-Region Competition on page 16 for definitions of in-region competition.)

Selection Requirements. To be considered during the at-large selection process (Pools B or C), an institution must play at least 70% of its competition against Division III in-region opponents, unless a waiver has been approved by the Division III Championships Committee.

Bylaw 31.3.3.1 – Countable Competition. For NCAA team-championship selection purposes, competition is countable only when the teams played are varsity intercollegiate teams of four-year, degree-granting institutions that conduct a majority of their competition in that team sport against varsity intercollegiate teams (see Constitution 3.2.4.4) of United States four-year, degree-granting institutions. Competition against service teams, professional teams, semiprofessional teams, amateur teams, two-year colleges and club teams shall be excluded.

In addition, only games listed on the institution's originally submitted schedule will be considered for tournament selection purposes. The addition of games not listed on the institution's published schedule as an aid for selection shall not be considered.

PRIMARY SELECTION CRITERIA

Division III championships have moved to using the NCAA NPI system as the criteria for selecting teams into the NCAA championships. The Division III Men's Basketball committee established the NPI weights prior to the 2025-26 season. The NPI criteria and their weights are below.

- Win%/SOS - 25/75
- Home/Away Win/Loss - 1.2/0.8 (Nonconference), 1.1/0.9 (Conference)
- Quality Win Base Value - 53.00
- Quality Win Base Multiplier - 0.667
- Overtime - 100/0
- Minimum Wins - 12.5
- Nullification (Bylaw 31.02.4).

NOTE: Contests versus provisional and reclassifying members in their third and fourth years shall count in the primary criteria. Provisional and reclassifying members shall remain ineligible for rankings and selections.

PAIRINGS AND SITE SELECTION

Once automatic qualifiers are identified and the Pool B and C teams are selected, the following criteria will be used for pairing and site selection:

- Once selected, teams shall be grouped in clusters according to natural geographic proximity. Teams shall then be paired according to geographic proximity. A team may be moved to numerically balance the bracket if geographic proximity is maintained. Teams shall be paired and eligible according to geographic proximity (within 500 miles). An exception may be granted when there are not enough teams within the 500-mile radius to fill the region;
- Teams may be seeded on a regional basis using the regional-selection criteria. However, geographic proximity shall take precedent over seeding;
- Teams from the same conference shall not play one another in the first round as long as geographic proximity is maintained; and
- The highest-seeded team that meets all selection criteria shall be selected as the host institution, provided geographic proximity is maintained.

It is the intent of the committee to create competitive brackets with a maximum of eight teams competing in each bracket. Flights will be kept to a minimum. The host institution will play the second game when applicable.

The higher-ranked team will be listed at the top of the competition bracket. The top team on the bracket is the designated home team and will wear the light-colored uniform in contrast with the visiting team's dark uniform.

Section 1.12 Site Selection

Any institution interested in hosting preliminary round competition of the Division III Men's Basketball Championship must submit a proposed budget, respond to sport-specific questions, and ensure the institution's key contacts and facility information are up to date via the Championships Bid and Host Profile portal. To submit a bid, first search for the desired championship under "championships available for bid" and select "add bid."

Member institutions are able to regularly and easily access their profiles [here](#). For profile issues, user access or to reset a password, please email championshipbid@ncaa.org.

The Championships Committee has prioritized the following site-selection criteria for all championships:

1. Complete bid;
2. Quality and availability of the facility and other necessary accommodations;
3. Geographical location (which may include such factors as rotation of sites, weather, accessibility and transportation costs);
4. Seeding; and
5. Attendance history, hosting history and revenue potential, which shall be considered necessary to assure fiscal responsibility.

DIVISION III MEN'S BASKETBALL

In addition, the Men's Basketball Committee requires the host to record all competition at its site and provide a digital copy of each game to each nonhost team. The committee prefers sites that will not be hosting conflicting events during the championship competition. Sites will also be evaluated on the availability of appropriate practice times for all competing teams. To host first-round, second-round, or sectional contests, a regulation court as defined in the 2025-26 NCAA Men's Basketball Rules and Interpretations must be used. To host sectional competition, the committee requires the arena to seat at least 1,000 spectators. Please also review the host operations manual for a detailed list of facility requirements.

CHAMPIONSHIPS BID AND HOST PORTAL PROFILE

The Championships Bid and Profile System can be accessed at championships.ncaa.org. The deadline to submit all bid materials for this championship is Feb. 19, 2026.

As a reminder, prospective hosts' budgets should include committee/site representative's lodging expense, game officials' lodging expense, state and city taxes/fees, if applicable, and any ticket fees. Committee/site representative's per diem, mileage and luggage fees will now be paid by the NCAA instead of the host institution. Game officials will be reimbursed via the RefQuest system for their game fees, per diem, mileage and luggage fees.

FACILITY PROFILE

Institutions interested in hosting preliminary round competition of the Division III Men's Basketball Championship must add (or ensure accuracy of) facility information for the applicable competition venue. This information is located [here](#). Any supporting information (e.g., facility diagram, pictures) may be uploaded and attached to that facility's profile. This information will be made available to the sport committee to aid in its deliberations of prospective host sites. All facilities must comply with NCAA Men's Basketball Rules.

KEY CONTACTS

Each institution should list and then maintain its key contacts associated with each sport and the institution. Individuals can be added via the Championships Bid and Host Profile portal [here](#).

SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

Based on 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. We urge each competition venue to take these Best Practices into account when developing its safety and security program. As part of your bid, please submit a safety and security plan for your 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.

The best practices for venue safety and security, along with the safety and security contact form, are located [here](#).

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

A final financial report from each championship site must be submitted via the Championships Bid and Host Profile portal under the "budget" tab not later than 60 days after the event.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the bid process, please contact Amir Hicks at 317-372-8213 or email us at championshipbid@ncaa.org.

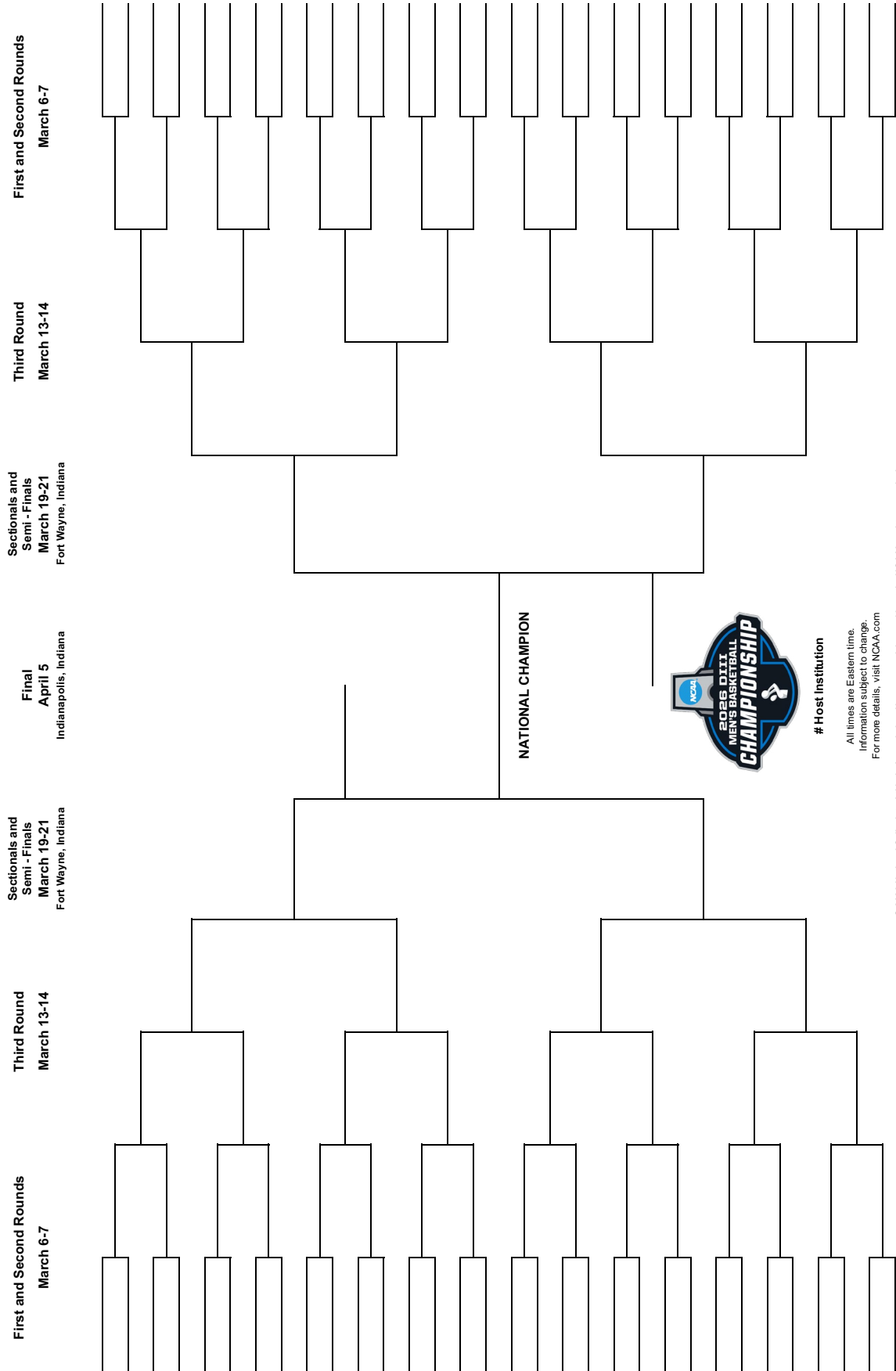
Appendixes

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Appendix A • Bracket

2026 NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

REGION I (44)

Conference of New England (1)

Johnson & Wales University (Providence)

Great Northeast Athletic Conference (13) | AQ

Albertus Magnus College

Colby-Sawyer College

Dean College

Elms College

Emmanuel College (Massachusetts)

Lasell University

Mitchell College

New England College

Norwich University

Regis College (Massachusetts)

Rivier University

Saint Joseph's College (Maine)

University of Saint Joseph (Connecticut)

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (8) | AQ

Anna Maria College

Bridgewater State University

Fitchburg State University

Framingham State University

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Salem State University

Westfield State University

Worcester State University

New England Small College Athletic Conference (11) | AQ

Amherst College

Bates College

Bowdoin College

Colby College

Connecticut College

Hamilton College

Middlebury College

Trinity College (Connecticut)

Tufts University

Wesleyan University (Connecticut)

Williams College

North Atlantic Conference (10) | AQ

State University of New York at Cobleskill

State University of New York at Delhi

Husson University

Lesley University

Maine Maritime Academy

University of Maine at Presque Isle

University of Maine, Farmington

Thomas College

Vermont State University Lyndon

Vermont State University-Johnson

REGION II (29)

Conference of New England (10) | AQ

Curry College	Nichols College
Endicott College	Roger Williams University
Gordon College	Suffolk University
University of Hartford	Wentworth Institute of Technology
University of New England	Western New England University

Little East Conference (9) | AQ

Eastern Connecticut State University	Rhode Island College
Keene State College	University of Southern Maine
University of Massachusetts Boston	Vermont State University Castleton
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth	Western Connecticut State University
Plymouth State University	

New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (9) | AQ

Babson College	Springfield College
Clark University (Massachusetts)	U.S. Coast Guard Academy
Emerson College	Wheaton College (Massachusetts)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Salve Regina University	

University Athletic Association (1) | [MRC] | AQ

Brandeis University

**Provisional/reclassifying member - not eligible for NCAA championship.*

REGION III (45)**Empire 8 (12) | AQ**

Alfred University
 State University of New York at Brockport
 Elmira College
 State University of New York at Geneseo
 Hartwick College
 Houghton University

Keuka College
 Nazareth University
 State University of New York Polytechnic Institute
 Russell Sage College
 St. John Fisher University
 Utica University

Liberty League (10) | AQ

Bard College
 Clarkson University
 Hobart and William Smith Colleges
 Ithaca College
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Rochester Institute of Technology
 Skidmore College
 St. Lawrence University
 Union College (New York)
 Vassar College

Skyline Conference (12) | AQ

Farmingdale State College
 Manhattanville University
 State University of New York Maritime College
 Mount Saint Mary College (New York)
 University of Mount Saint Vincent
 State University of New York at Old Westbury

Purchase College, State University of New York
 Sarah Lawrence College
 St. Joseph's University, New York L.I.
 St. Joseph's University, NY (Brooklyn)
 U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
 Yeshiva University

State University of New York Athletic Conference (10) | AQ

Buffalo State, State University of New York
 State University of New York at Canton
 State University of New York at Cortland
 The State University of New York at Fredonia
 State University of New York at Morrisville

State University of New York at New Paltz
 State University of New York at Oneonta
 State University of New York at Oswego
 Plattsburgh State University of New York
 State University of New York at Potsdam

University Athletic Association (1) | [MRC] | AQ

University of Rochester

REGION IV (44)

Atlantic East Conference (1)

Saint Elizabeth University

City University of New York Athletic Conference (8) | AQ

Baruch College

Brooklyn College

Hunter College

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Lehman College

Medgar Evers College

The City College of New York

York College (New York)

Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom (8) | AQ

Arcadia University

Delaware Valley University

DeSales University

Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham

King's College (Pennsylvania)

Lebanon Valley College

Misericordia University

Stevens Institute of Technology

New Jersey Athletic Conference (10) | AQ

Kean University

Montclair State University

New Jersey City University

The College of New Jersey

Ramapo College

Rowan University

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Camden

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark

Stockton University

William Paterson University of New Jersey

United East Conference (14) | AQ

Cairn University

Gallaudet University

Keystone College

Lancaster Bible College

Notre Dame of Maryland University

Penn State Berks College

Penn State Brandywine (9/1/2027)*

Penn State Harrisburg

Penn State University, Abington

Pennsylvania College of Technology

Rosemont College

St. Mary's College of Maryland

University of Valley Forge

Wilson College

University Athletic Association (1) | [MRC] | AQ

New York University

**Provisional/reclassifying member - not eligible for NCAA championship.*

REGION V (36)**Atlantic East Conference (7) | AQ**

Centenary University (New Jersey)
Gwynedd Mercy University
Immaculata University
Marymount University (Virginia)

Marywood University
Neumann University
Pratt Institute

Centennial Conference (10) | AQ

Dickinson College
Franklin & Marshall College
Gettysburg College
Haverford College
Johns Hopkins University

McDaniel College
Muhlenberg College
Swarthmore College
Ursinus College
Washington College (Maryland)

Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference (1) | [MRC] | AQ

Salisbury University

Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth (8) | AQ

Albright College
Alvernia University
Eastern University
Hood College

Messiah University
Stevenson University
Widener University
York College (Pennsylvania)

Landmark Conference (10) | AQ

Catholic University
Drew University
Elizabethtown College
Goucher College
Juniata College

Lycoming College
Moravian University
University of Scranton
Susquehanna University
Wilkes University

REGION VI (40)

Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference (3) | [MRC] | AQ

Christopher Newport University
University of Mary Washington

Warren Wilson College

Collegiate Conference of the South (7) | AQ

Asbury University
Belhaven University
Covenant College
Huntingdon College

LaGrange College
Maryville College (Tennessee)
Piedmont University

Old Dominion Athletic Conference (12) | AQ

Averett University
Bridgewater College (Virginia)
Eastern Mennonite University
Guilford College
Hampden-Sydney College
University of Lynchburg

Randolph College
Randolph-Macon College
Roanoke College
Shenandoah University
Virginia Wesleyan University
Washington and Lee University

Southern Athletic Association (6) | AQ

Berry College
Centre College
Millsaps College

Oglethorpe University
Rhodes College
University of the South

Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (1)

Hendrix College

University Athletic Association (1) | [MRC] | AQ

Emory University

USA South Athletic Conference (8) | AQ

Brevard College
Greensboro College
Mary Baldwin University
Methodist University

North Carolina Wesleyan College
Pfeiffer University
Southern Virginia University
William Peace University

REGION VII (50)**Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (9) | AQ**

Alfred State College
 Carlow University*
 Hilbert College
 La Roche University
 Mount Aloysius College

Penn State University, Altoona
 Pennsylvania State University Erie, the Behrend College
 University of Pittsburgh, Bradford
 University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg

Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (8) | AQ

Adrian College
 Albion College
 Alma College
 Calvin University

Hope College
 Kalamazoo College
 The University of Olivet
 Trine University

North Coast Athletic Conference (9) | AQ

Denison University
 DePauw University
 John Carroll University
 Kenyon College
 Oberlin College

Ohio Wesleyan University
 Wabash College
 Wittenberg University
 The College of Wooster

Ohio Athletic Conference (9) | AQ

Baldwin Wallace University
 Capital University
 Heidelberg University
 Marietta College
 University of Mount Union

Muskingum University
 Ohio Northern University
 Otterbein University
 Wilmington College (Ohio)

Presidents' Athletic Conference (12) | AQ

Allegheny College
 Bethany College (West Virginia)
 Chatham University
 Franciscan University of Steubenville
 Geneva College
 Grove City College

Hiram College
 Saint Vincent College
 Thiel College
 Washington and Jefferson College
 Waynesburg University
 Westminster College (Pennsylvania)

University Athletic Association (2) | [MRC] | AQ

Carnegie Mellon University

Case Western Reserve University

REGION VIII (45)

College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (9) | AQ

Augustana College (Illinois)
Carroll University (Wisconsin)
Carthage College
Elmhurst University
Illinois Wesleyan University

Millikin University
North Central College
North Park University
Wheaton College (Illinois)

Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (10) | AQ

Anderson University (Indiana)
Berea College
Bluffton University
Earlham College
Franklin College

Hanover College
Manchester University
Mount St. Joseph University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Transylvania University

Independent (1) | Pool B

Maranatha Baptist University

Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (13) | AQ

Aurora University
Benedictine University (Illinois)
Concordia University Chicago
Concordia University Wisconsin
Dominican University (Illinois)
Edgewood College
Illinois Institute of Technology

Lakeland University
Marian University (Wisconsin)
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Rockford University
St. Norbert
Wisconsin Lutheran College

St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (9) | AQ

Blackburn College
Eureka College
Greenville University
Lyon College
Mississippi University for Women

Principia College
Spalding University
Webster University
Westminster College (Missouri)

University Athletic Association (2) | [MRC] | AQ

University of Chicago

Washington University in St. Louis

**Provisional/reclassifying member - not eligible for NCAA championship.*

REGION IX (45)**American Rivers Conference (9) | AQ**

Buena Vista University
 Central College (Iowa)
 Coe College
 University of Dubuque
 Loras College

Luther College
 Nebraska Wesleyan University
 Simpson College
 Wartburg College

Midwest Conference (9) | AQ

Beloit College
 Cornell College
 Grinnell College
 Illinois College
 Knox College

Lake Forest College
 Lawrence University
 Monmouth College (Illinois)
 Ripon College

Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (11) | AQ

Augsburg University
 Bethel University (Minnesota)
 Carleton College
 Concordia College, Moorhead
 Gustavus Adolphus College
 Hamline University

Macalester College
 Saint John's University (Minnesota)
 Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
 St. Olaf College
 The College of St. Scholastica

Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (7) | AQ

Bethany Lutheran College
 Crown College (Minnesota)
 Martin Luther College
 University of Minnesota, Morris

North Central University
 University of Northwestern-St. Paul
 University of Wisconsin-Superior

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (8)

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
 University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
 University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
 University of Wisconsin-Platteville

University of Wisconsin-River Falls
 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
 University of Wisconsin-Stout
 University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

REGION X (37)

American Southwest Conference (4) | Pool AQ

East Texas Baptist University	Howard Payne University
Hardin-Simmons University	University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference (1) | AQ

University of California, Santa Cruz

Northwest Conference (9) | AQ

George Fox University	University of Puget Sound
Lewis & Clark College	Whitman College
Linfield University	Whitworth University
Pacific Lutheran University	Willamette University
Pacific University (Oregon)	

Southern Athletic Association (2)

Trinity University (Texas)	Southwestern University (Texas)
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Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (9) | AQ

California Institute of Technology	Occidental College
California Lutheran University	Pomona-Pitzer Colleges
Chapman University	University of Redlands
Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges	Whittier College
University of La Verne	

Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (11) | AQ

Austin College	McMurry University
Centenary College (Louisiana)	University of the Ozarks (Arkansas)
Colorado College	Schreiner University
Concordia University Texas	University of St. Thomas (Texas)
University of Dallas	Texas Lutheran University
LeTourneau Universit	