



2026 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Championship

Preliminary-Round Information and Bid Checklist

Selections

Selections for the 2025-26 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Championship will be announced at 12:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday, March 2, 2026 via web stream on ncaa.com.

Preliminary-Round Schedule

First Round:	Friday	March 6, 2026
Second Round:	Saturday	March 7, 2026
Third Round:	Friday/Saturday	March 13-14, 2026
Quarterfinals:	Thursday	March 19, 2026
Semifinals:	Saturday	March 21, 2026

Bid Checklist

The following materials must be submitted by institutions that wish to be considered as hosts for preliminary-round competition. All materials are due by **5 p.m. Eastern time, Thursday, February 19, 2026**.

Each of the online forms listed below may be accessed and submitted through the championships host portal at <https://championships.ncaa.org>.

To begin the process of submitting a bid, you will need to locate the specific divisional sport and round in the Championships Available for Bidding section and click on Start Bid.

Proposed Budget(s). An online proposed budget must be completed for each round of competition you wish to host. For those institutions submitting bids for multiple rounds, a 'copy' function is available in the system and will allow you to copy the budget for another round. The appropriate round and date of competition must be indicated on each budget. Please be sure to include projected ticket sales in the Receipts section.

Please carefully review the [2025-26 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Pre-Championship Manual](#), before submitting a proposed budget, and make note of the following for all preliminary-round competition:

- All lodging expenses for officials and site representatives must be included in your budget. Officials' fees, per diem and travel expenses do not need to be included, nor do per diem and travel expenses for site representatives – the NCAA will pay those expenses directly.

_____ **Facility Profile.** An online facility profile must be completed and/or maintained as necessary by each institution interested in hosting preliminary-round competition. Information regarding video board, LED board and/or ribbon boards should be entered via the “Boards/Control Room” tab of the applicable venue profile.

A facility profile can be maintained and updated on a regular basis. If a facility can host multiple sports, check the appropriate box(es) under the Sports tab of the facility profile to provide the information for that facility. Refer to page (page 20) of [2025-26 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Pre-Championship Manual](#) for facility requirements and site selection procedures.

_____ **Key Contacts.** The key contacts for your institution should be entered and/or maintained as necessary within your profile. Please enter the information for the key personnel associated with running a championship at your site.

When starting a bid, you will be prompted to enter new key personnel, or edit or confirm your existing key personnel. In addition, you will be asked to designate individuals who should receive the various host shipments (e.g., sport equipment, merchandise, awards, etc.). Please include the proper mailing address for overnight deliveries. P.O. box addresses will not be accepted.

Personnel who will administer the competition also will be listed and can be edited within the Profile section of the Championships Bid and Host portal. When entering individuals in this manner, information must be entered on both the General tab and the Role/Titles by Sport or Facility tab.

_____ **Safety and Security Plan.** Based on a review of current and future championships competition venues, discussions with safety and security experts, and their 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 [here](#). 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. You must **also submit the NCAA Championships Safety and Security Team contact information form**, located in Appendix A of the *Best Practices* document. These documents should be uploaded in the document section of the facility profile. Both documents can be uploaded under the Safety and Security tab.

_____ **Alcoholic Beverages.** All Division I and National Collegiate championships are eligible to engage in the sale of beer and wine, provided certain criteria are met. After starting a bid in the Championships Bid and Profile System, users will be prompted to answer a few questions that will determine their institution's eligibility to sell beer and wine at a given venue. If a school is deemed eligible and is interested in selling beer and wine, it will be required to complete one of the

agreement options that must be signed and uploaded into the bid portal. Please thoroughly review the Championships Alcohol Sales Policy before determining and completing the appropriate agreement.

_____ **Lodging**. The host institution/agency shall negotiate a courtesy hold for the participating institutions/student-athlete(s). The selected hotel properties shall be within no more than 30 miles of the competition site and be priced at a fair and reasonable market room rate while remaining sensitive to daily divisional per diem allowances. The selection of a competition site may be dependent on availability and quality of rooms for participating institutions/student-athletes. A [letter of intent template](#) is provided by the NCAA for the host to use to confirm the hold with the hotel(s).

_____ **Liability Insurance**. Host institutions must maintain and provide proof of at least \$1 million of general liability insurance on an occurrence form for Bodily Injury and Property Damage, including Products Liability (including completed-operations coverage), coverage for contractual liability, independent contractors, and personal and advertising injury. Coverage cannot exclude liability arising from athletic participation, spectators, alcohol, or food-borne illness. The certificate must be submitted to NCAA prior to competition. State institutions subject to state governing tort laws are permitted to provide proof of limited liability under state laws instead of general liability coverage. (This is the minimum requirement per NCAA bylaws).

If applicable, off-campus venues must also maintain and provide a minimum of \$1 million in general liability insurance on an occurrence form for Bodily Injury and Property Damage, including Products Liability (including completed-operations coverage), coverage for contractual liability, independent contractors, and personal and advertising injury. Coverage cannot exclude liability arising from athletic participation, spectators, alcohol, or food-borne illness. The NCAA must be named as an additional insured.

All insurance must be provided by an insurance company with an A.M. Best Rating of A-, VII or higher.

Host institutions must provide the national office with the appropriate certificates of insurance or documentation of self-insurance. This information must be provided via the Certificate of Insurance link in the bid portal. As this is a new feature in the portal, all prospective hosts must upload their documentation once. Depending on the coverage, users must subsequently verify their documentation is still valid, or upload a new certificate once the previous version has expired.

_____ **Official Evaluator**. An NCAA official evaluator will be present at each game of the championship. The evaluator will need a seat opposite the benches with a table to work. The host will have to provide a monitor or laptop that the evaluator will be able to access the live-stream from.

Game Times. As noted on (page 13) of the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Pre-Championship Manual, the Division III Men's Basketball Committee will assign all game times for the Championship. No game will be slated to start prior to 1 p.m. local time.

Additional Host Information/Resources

Host Operations Manual. The [2025-26 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Championship Host Operations Manual](#) will assist your institution in all stages of the bidding and hosting process.

Drug Testing. Drug testing may occur at any round of the championship and the assistance of the host institution will be a vital part of the testing. You will be notified in advance if the round you are hosting has been selected for drug testing. Please review the [drug testing site coordinator manual](#) and note that Drug Free Sport International will provide materials to assist in the program.

Americans with Disabilities Act. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that public establishments offer equal access and services to people who are physically and mentally challenged. The host institution/conference is required to confirm that each facility in which an NCAA championship or ancillary event occurs is in compliance with the Act by the various facilities hosting NCAA championship events. The host institution/conference is responsible for determining if the competition site will be in compliance as of the dates of the championship. If the host institution/conference becomes aware that a competition site hosting an NCAA championship event will not be in compliance, it shall immediately notify the NCAA national office staff member with responsibility for the event in order to discuss the issue.

Statement of Inclusion. The host institution/conference plays a central role in fostering, growing and preserving an inclusive culture on-site at NCAA championship events. Potential hosts should review the NCAA statement of inclusion [here](#) and prepare to deliver and maintain an environment that is safe, healthy and free of discrimination and respects the dignity of all persons.

NCAA Bylaw 31. Please review Bylaw 31 of the NCAA Division III Manual as it contains policies regarding the administration of an NCAA event.

Contact Information. If you have any questions regarding the bid process, please contact Amir Hicks, Coordinator of Men's Basketball Championships at 317-372-8213 or avhicks@ncaa.org.