



## 2025-26 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship Preliminary-Round Information and Bid Checklist

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### Selections

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Selections for the 2026 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship will be announced at 2:30 p.m. (TENATIVE) Eastern time, Monday, March 2, via web stream on NCAA.com.

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### Preliminary-Round Schedule

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First/Second Rounds: Friday & Saturday, Mar. 6 & 7, 2026

Sectionals: Friday & Saturday, Mar. 13 & 14, 2026

The women's basketball committee will determine game times. Games will be slotted in half-hour increments and will start between 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. local time for the first game on Friday. The second game of the double header at a site will be scheduled 2.5 hours after the first game at the site. The second game begins 30 minutes after the completion of the first game after both benches and the floor are cleared, or the announced starting time, whichever is later. For the Saturday game, start times will be scheduled between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. local time. The start time for Saturday's game will be in a consistent time frame as Friday.

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### Web Streaming and Video Review

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The Division III Championship Committee approved that video streaming will be a facility requirement in the bid specifications for hosting preliminary-round contests for all sports. Also approved for men's and women's basketball, it is required that hosts provide video review for preliminary rounds. A minimum of one camera angle is required, there must be a monitor (laptop or tablet) at the scorer's table that is connected to the livestream that includes rewind capabilities and is hard-wired or connected to a strong wireless internet connection.

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### Bid Checklist

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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, Friday, Feb. 20.**

Each of the online forms listed below may be accessed and submitted through the championships bid portal at <https://championships.ncaa.org>. The application is now part of My Apps and new users need to go through their SSO administrator to have it added to their My Apps account.

**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 or bid 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.

**Note: Due to budget system upgrades, budgets submitted before the 2023-24 academic year can no longer be copied. Any newly submitted budgets will again be available for copying for future years/additional rounds. Previous budgets may still be accessed via the Home tab.**

Free-form fields in the budget templates have been eliminated. Bidders will have to make their selections from a predetermined menu of options for each category. To assist with determining the appropriate option, bidders can hover over each option for examples/details.

Please carefully review pages (17-19) of the [2025-26 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Prechampionship 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 (if needed) 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 (pages 17-19) of the pre-championship manual for facility requirements and site selection procedures. Facility information must be reviewed for completeness and accuracy once a year. Instructions on the process are included in the bid portal.
- **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 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. **It is important to list the correct person for each Role/Title.** Those listed will be the contact for information and shipments.

- **Critical Incident Response Team Contact Information.** The system automatically will generate a critical incident response team contact information form based on data entered into the key contacts form and the new Emergency Numbers tab in the facility profile. If applicable, site representative information will be added by the championship manager once a site has been selected for hosting. Please complete in its entirety. **Note:** 911 is not the acceptable number for the local police/fire/EMS; while we recognize that is the number to call in an emergency, what we ask to be listed is the local number to contact in case there is a need to collaborate the event of an incident.
- **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 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. Your safety and security plan documents should be uploaded in the Documents tab of the facility profile, under in the Safety and Security Plan section.

- **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).

All prospective hosts for non-predetermined sites will be required to identify the hotel properties they secured for the event via the Hotels tab, along with an upload of signed hotel agreement(s)/letter(s) of intent.

- **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.

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#### **Additional Host Information/Resources**

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**Host Operations Manual.** The [2025-26 NCAA Division III Women'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 Kelly Whitaker at 317-917-6511 or [kwhitaker@ncaa.org](mailto:kwhitaker@ncaa.org).