



MEMORANDUM

September 26, 2025

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Women's Bowling Conference Commissioners and Head Coaches.

FROM: John Williamson, chair
NCAA Women's Bowling Committee

SUBJECT: National College Women's Bowling Season and Championship Information.

In preparation for the women's bowling season and championship, please be aware of the items outlined below. For additional updates throughout the year, please check the [National Collegiate Women's Bowling landing page](#), and review the monthly championships newsletter.

1. **Prechampionship Manual**. The Women's Bowling Prechampionship Manual will be posted on the [bowling landing page](#) no later than December 5.
2. **Important Dates**. Please pay close attention to the following dates throughout the season.

October – March	Institutions must submit scores by 7 p.m. Eastern each Monday, starting October 6 through March 16.
December 5	Women's Bowling Championship Prechampionship manual posted on the women's bowling landing page.
January 6, February 10, March 10 and March 16	RPI release on NCAA.com.
March 22	Final submission of results via the NCAA statistics website. No later than 5:30 p.m. Eastern.
March 23	Institutions must notify the NCAA national office if any student-athletes are ineligible or unavailable for championship competition.
March 25	National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship Selections. Selection show on NCAA.com. RPI release on NCAA.com.
April 2-4	National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship Regionals: Arlington, Texas; Lansing, Michigan; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Rochester, New York.
April 10-11	National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship Final Site Cleveland, Ohio.

3. **Rules.** The 2024-25 and 2025-26 rules book shall be used for all NCAA competition throughout the season and at the championship. A copy of the rules book was sent to each head coach and conference commissioner in 2024-25. To download a free digital version of the rules book or to purchase additional physical copies click [HERE](#). Any additional updates that may occur will be communicated as soon as possible via email announcement, RefQuest (RQ+) and included in the NCAA Championships monthly newsletter.

RULES UPDATES: Two important rule updates are included below. Please reference additional information provided via email, as well as found on the [Women's Bowling Rules of the Game landing page](#).

- a. ***Ineligible balls:*** Based on the recent ruling by the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) to make ineligible the use of slow oil-absorbing high-performance (Urethane) bowling balls for tournament play, the committee has determined that these balls will be ineligible for all NCAA regular season and championship competition. Please also reference the memo from NCAA women's bowling Secretary Rules Editor, Michael Fine for more information.

Balls that are ineligible for use during NCAA competition can be found [HERE](#).

As this list may evolve throughout the season, it is each coaches' responsibility to check this list and remain informed of changes.

- b. ***Six-ball limit enforcement protocol:*** Reminder of this protocol update, as was announced on August 14. The initial warning for violation of the six-ball limit will now be issued during the pre-competition coaches meeting. Any violation of the six-ball limit rule once play has started will be considered a second offense and result in a penalty being issued, as outline in rules 7.10a and 8.1.b.1.3.
4. **Schedule and Score Reporting.** It is the responsibility of each institution to submit results throughout the season. Each institution must also email [score reporting forms](#) to their respective regional chair by 7 p.m. Eastern, each Monday following competition through Monday, March 16. After the final regular season weekend of competition, results must be submitted by 5:30 p.m. Eastern Sunday, March 22.

NOTE: The process for entering results is being updated to allow for the inclusion of total pinfall, which will enhance the data available to the committee throughout the evaluation process. Schools will now submit scores through the NCAA statistics portal. Additional information, including proper access and instructions on the new process will be provided as soon as possible and covered more thoroughly during the preseason coaches meeting.

Failure to submit scores by the deadline each week will result in the information not being considered for the regional and national ranking process. Failure to submit forms on time shall result in a warning for the first offense and may result in a \$200 fine for each offense thereafter.

5. **Championship Format.** The committee will select 19 teams to participate in the championship, with one regional of four teams and three regionals of five teams. The committee will follow the procedure below during the selection process.
 - a. The championship format involves four predetermined regional sites (Region 1, 2, 3 and 4) with four teams assigned to one regional site and five teams assigned to three regional sites. Regional competition will be conducted April 3-4 at the four-team site and April 2-4 at the three five-team sites.
 - b. The regional teams and matchups will be determined by the women's bowling committee based on selection criteria and NCAA Division I bracketing principles.
 - c. The top four seeded teams, as determined by the committee, will be placed in separate regional brackets.
 - d. For the remainder of the brackets, the committee will attempt to avoid conference opponents in the first round of competition unless there are five or more teams in the field from one conference. If five or more teams from one conference are selected for the championship, then the integrity of the bracket will be protected (i.e., maintaining the pairing process according to seed will take priority over avoidance of first-round conference matchups).
 - e. The six lowest-ranked automatic qualifying teams, as determined by the committee, regardless of conference RPI, will compete in single-elimination opening round matches at the five team regional sites. This will determine the final spot in the four-team double-elimination regional brackets.
 - f. Each match, other than if-necessary regional final matches and the championship final, will consist of teams competing in a best-of-three match format, bowled in the following order:
 - a. Five-person team match,
 - b. Baker total pin fall,
 - c. Best-of-seven Baker match play.
 - g. Any if necessary regional final matches, and the championship final, will be best-of-seven Baker match-play.
 - h. The four regional winners will advance to the National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship final site conducted April 10-11 in Cleveland, Ohio at Yorktown Lanes.
6. **Automatic qualification.** The following 11 conferences will receive automatic qualification (AQ) for the 2026 National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship:

Allegheny	Mountain	Collegiate	Conference Carolinas
Conference			Conference USA
Central Atlantic	Collegiate	Conference	East Coast Conference
Central	Intercollegiate	Athletic	Great Lakes Valley Conference
Association			Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference
College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin			Northeast Conference
			Southwestern Athletic Conference

7. **2026 Championship.** The 2026 championship will be held at Yorktown Lanes in Cleveland, Ohio and will be hosted by the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission and the Mid-American Conference.

8. **Season and Championship Coaches Videoconference.** The NCAA championship manager and the committee will conduct a videoconference to provide additional information regarding the championship on October 1, at 7 p.m. Eastern. A TEAMS teleconference meeting invitation will be sent to all head coaches and conference administrators.

If you have questions regarding any of the above information, please contact Eric Breece at ebreece@ncaa.org or 317-917-6781

Cc: NCAA Women's Bowling Committee

Select NCAA Staff