



PRECHAMPIONSHIP 2025-26 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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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 was 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 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 with 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 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

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 • 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 Sept. 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).

Section 11 • Team Replacement Policy

Division I developed a team replacement policy considering the possibility of unforeseen circumstances impacting championship fields. The policy will be implemented in accordance with the terms set forth in the policy document available [here](#) when, despite best efforts, a team within the championship field is impeded or hindered from participating in the championship for reasons beyond its control.

National Collegiate Women's Bowling

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Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1.1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

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Section 1.2 National Committee

The National Collegiate Women’s Bowling Championship is under the control, direction and supervision of the NCAA Women’s Bowling Committee. **The current members of the committee are:**

NORTHEAST REGION

Ian Parisi
Head Women’s Bowling Coach
Molloy University

CENTRAL REGION

John Williamson, chair
Head Women’s Bowling Coach
Vanderbilt University

NORTHEAST REGION

Diane Jones
Head Women’s Bowling Coach
La Roche University

SECRETARY-RULES EDITOR

Michael Fine
Director, Crenshaw Lanes/Head Bowling Coach
Florida State University

NORTHEAST REGION

Jody Fetterhoff
Head Women’s Bowling Coach
Duquesne University

CENTRAL REGION

Kim Sorensen
Assistant Athletics Directors/Head Athletic Trainer
Marian University

CENTRAL REGION

Adeanah Pooler
Deputy Commissioner/Senior Woman Administrator
Southwestern Athletic Conference

For additional information about the Women’s Bowling Championship, contact:

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317-917-6781 / ebreece@ncaa.org

John Williamson, chair
Head Women’s Bowling Coach
Vanderbilt University
615-878-3039 / john.williamson@vanderbilt.edu

For questions regarding the playing rules change cycle and associated policies, please contact the secretary-rules editor.

Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
CENTRAL REGION		
*John Williamson	Vanderbilt	CUSA
Richard Gucwa	Belmont Abbey	Conference Carolinas
Scott Taylor	Lewis	GLVC
Kimberly Sorensen	Marian (WI)	CCIW
Barry Doyle	Southern U.	SWAC
Adeanah Pooler	SWAC	SWAC
NORTHEAST REGION		
*Jody Fetterhoff	Duquesne	NEC
Ian Parisi	Molloy	ECC
Diane Jones	La Roche	NEC
Aundray Darden	Norfolk St.	MEAC
Robert O'Neal	Claflin	CIAA
Andrew Toriello	Felician	CACC

*Denotes regional chair.

Section 1•4 Important Dates

Tuesday, Sept. 30	Preseason coaches videoconference.
Monday, Oct. 6, or 14 days before first day of competition.	Institutions are required to enter the team's competition schedule in the NCAA online score-reporting system.
Monday, Oct. 6-Monday, March 16	Each institution is responsible for entering match results in the online score-reporting system and submitting score report forms to the respective regional chair by 7 p.m. Eastern time each Monday.
Tuesday, Jan. 6	Release of RPI on ncaa.com .
Tuesday, Feb. 10	Release of RPI on ncaa.com .
Tuesday, March 10	Release of RPI on ncaa.com .
Wednesday, March 11	National committee ranking No. 1.
Monday, March 16	Release of RPI on ncaa.com .
Wednesday, March 18	National committee ranking No. 2.
Sunday, March 22	Final submission of results on the online score-reporting form - 5:30 p.m. Eastern time.
Monday, March 23	Institutions must notify the national office if any student-athletes are ineligible or unavailable for NCAA championship competition.
Wednesday, March 25	National committee selection meeting and release of final RPI. Championship selections announced via an online selection show on ncaa.com at 4 p.m. Eastern time.
Friday, March 27	Videoconference with regional hosts, committee members, NCAA staff, head officials and head coaches of all selected teams - 1 p.m. Eastern time.
Thursday-Saturday, April 2-4	Five-team regional matches hosted by three predetermined regional sites.
Friday-Saturday, April 3-4	Four-team regional matches hosted by a predetermined regional site.
Friday-Saturday, April 10-11	National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

2026 Finals

April 10-11 at Yorktown Lanes in Parma Heights, Ohio; hosted by Mid-American Conference and the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission.

DATE FORMULA

The National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship will be held annually the Friday and Saturday after the second Thursday in April. Regionals will be held the Thursday, Friday and Saturday the week prior to the championship.

FUTURE DATES

2027 Finals

April 9-10 at AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania; hosted by Duquesne University and SportsPittsburgh.

2028 Finals

April 14-15 at Royal Scot Golf and Bowl in Lansing, MI; hosted by the University of Olivet and the Lansing Sports Commission.

Section 1•5 Eligibility for National Collegiate Championships

An active member institution in good standing, regardless of division, is eligible for the National Collegiate Championships if a division championship in the respective sport is not offered in its division. Such an institution normally is required to meet only the institutional individual eligibility requirements of its division that govern the sport in question.

Section 1•6 Equipment

Each student-athlete is limited to using six bowling balls during the championship.

Per Bylaw 12.5.4, all equipment can bear only the official manufacturer's mark. Balls with extra commercial marks in or on them will be excluded from championship competition.

Any equipment that did not meet official specifications can be altered by the competing coach or player and submitted for reapproval prior to the start of the first block of competition.

All equipment must be approved by the head official and checked into the paddock before the competition on begins. Alterations of the ball surface may also be made in between competition blocks/rounds or during practice.

Section 1•7 Rules

For the championship, the current NCAA Women's Bowling Rules Book will be used. The rules book is available for purchase or download on the NCAA website at ncaapublications.com.

Section 1•8 Uniforms

Uniforms must comply with the provisions set forth in the current NCAA Women's Bowling Rules Book.

LOGOS

Refer to General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7.

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2•1 Championship Format

The 2026 National Collegiate Women’s Bowling Championship will feature a 19-team double-elimination tournament. Eleven conferences were granted automatic qualification, and eight additional teams will be selected at-large and placed into the bracket. The women’s bowling committee will follow the procedure below during the selection process.

- The championship playoff format involves four predetermined regional sites (Regions 1, 2, 3 and 4). Four teams will be assigned to one site. Three sites will host five teams. Regional competition will be conducted April 3-4, 2026 (four team sites) and April 2-4, 2026 (five team sites).
- The regional teams and matchups will be determined by the women’s bowling committee based on selection criteria and geography.
- The six lowest-ranked, automatic qualifying teams as determined by the committee, regardless of conference RPI, will compete in opening-round matches to determine the final AQ spots in the championship bracket.
- All regionals are double elimination except for the opening-round match at the five-team regional sites which will be single elimination.
- One of each of the top four seeded teams will be placed into one of the four corresponding regionals.
- 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).
- The four regional winners will advance to the National Collegiate Women’s Bowling Championship final site, which will be conducted April 10-11.
- Each match of the double-elimination tournament, other than the if-necessary regional final match and championship final match, will consist of teams competing in a best-of-three match format, bowled in the following order:
 - Five-person team match.
 - Baker total pinfall.
 - Best-of-seven Baker match play.
- The winner of each of the regional final matches will advance to the championship final site. **Any if-necessary regional final match and the championship final match will be best-of-seven Baker match play.**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All times listed are local to the host location and are subject to change.

APRIL 1-2

Teams arrive at the regional host sites. (practice day).

APRIL 2-4

Regional matches at the five-team predetermined host sites.

APRIL 3-4

Regional matches at the four-team predetermined host site.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Monday, April 6	Virtual coaches meeting.
Wednesday, April 8	Teams arrive.
Thursday, April 9	Practice/equipment check. Championship banquet.
Friday, April 10	Rounds 1 and 2.
Saturday, April 11	Round 3 and Championship final.

TRAVEL PARTY

The travel party for the National Collegiate Bowling Championship is 13 people. The number of eligible players in uniform shall not exceed 10.

Section 2•2 Regular-Season Competition

To be considered for the championship, teams must comply with the following regulations during the regular season.

- Only competition against NCAA member schools will be used for consideration. However, outside competitions against nonmember schools will count toward the day of competition limitations. This includes club and NAIA programs which may be played but will not count toward NCAA selection.
- Institutions are required to participate in a minimum of 15 days of competition to be considered for an at-large selection. A day of competition is defined as any day on which a team competes using one of the approved formats. NCAA teams at the same tournament/invitational must randomly select the order in which matches will count. If a tournament manager chooses to predetermine the NCAA teams' rotation before competition, that is acceptable as well.
- Matches – number per day. A maximum number of matches (identified by a win or loss) during each day of competition will count toward a team's daily performance, with the number of matches based on the following guidelines.

Number of Teams	Number of Matches Each Day
1-6 teams	Maximum of five matches a day.
7-11 teams	Maximum of five matches for a one-day event. Maximum of five matches for a two-day event. Maximum of five matches for a three-day event.
12-16 teams	Maximum of five matches for a one-day event. Maximum of five matches for a two-day event. Maximum of five matches for a three-day event.
17 or more teams	Maximum of five matches a day.

For information regarding pool play contest guidelines and maximum matches per day, see rule 7.3.a.

- Forfeits are not counted toward championship selection. Unopposed matches are to be considered "No Contests" and are not to be recorded within the online system.
- When competing at tournaments where NCAA varsity and club teams are present, only competition against NCAA varsity teams can count toward championship selection.
- Each NCAA varsity team will be able to count only the first five or six predetermined matches each day based on the chart above.
- Only team competition can count toward championship selection.
- For purposes of an institution's win-loss record, competition must be against another team.
- For each match, scores must be counted for each competing team as either a win or a loss.
- The results of each date of competition must be reported online (stats.ncaa.org/login) and complete tournament/dual match/invitational results must be sent to the respective regional advisory committee chair by 7 p.m. Eastern time each Monday following competition and by 5:30 p.m. Sunday, March 22.
- Institutions need to indicate whether the matches they played were in Baker or regular team format. The appropriate box must be checked in the online score-reporting system when a Baker match is played.
- Schedule certification and event certification forms must be completed and verified by the regional advisory committee chair for results to be declared official.
- A predetermined schedule of matches must be completed prior to the start of competition.
- For more information, please see rule 7.7.

Section 2•3 Forms

NCAA Event Certification Form. When hosting an event, the event manager must submit an event certification form to the secretary-rules editor at least ten days before the start of the event. Designated event information also must be provided to all participating teams at least ten days before the event. The event manager must submit a complete event certification form, the postevent report, a summary copy of event standings (team and individual) and the head officials' form to the secretary-rules editor within seven days of the conclusion of the event. **Failure to submit these forms by the designated deadlines may result in a \$200 fine.**

Score Reporting. All institutions that sponsor women's bowling must report results via the NCAA online results reporting portal. The system and instructions are available on the [women's bowling landing page](#). Only results against NCAA institutions should be included in the portal. Each institution is responsible for entering complete and accurate match results in the online system by 7 p.m. Eastern time each Monday, Oct. 13 through March 16; and 5:30 p.m. Eastern time on Sunday, March 22. If an institution fails to submit results by a designated deadline, the institution's coach and director of athletics will receive a written warning. **Any subsequent failure to submit complete and accurate match results by a designated score-reporting deadline may result in a \$200 fine per occurrence.**

Score Sheet. In addition to entering results in the online score-reporting system, coaches must submit a score report form (three pages) to their respective regional advisory committee chair by 7 p.m. Eastern time each Monday following competition through March 16. After the final regular season weekend of competition, results must be submitted by 5:30 p.m. Eastern time Sunday, March 22. If an institution fails to submit score sheets by a designated deadline, the institution's coach and director of athletics will receive a written warning. **Any subsequent failure to submit score sheets by a designated deadline may result in a \$200 fine per occurrence.**

Section 2•4 Selection Information

Teams for the championship will be selected by the Women's Bowling Committee on March 25. The 19 selected teams will be announced via an online selection show March 25 at 4 p.m. Eastern time on [ncaa.com](#).

To be considered for an at-large bid for the NCAA championship, a team must compete in a minimum of 15 days of competition. A day of competition is defined as any day on which an institution competes using one of the approved formats.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

The following conferences were granted automatic qualification for the 2026 championship.

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

AT-LARGE SELECTION

Eight teams will be selected at large using the criteria.

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 3.2.4.5) of United States four-year, degree-granting institutions. Competition against service teams, professional teams, semi-professional teams, amateur teams, two-year colleges and club teams shall be excluded.

Section 2•5 Selection Criteria

The following criteria shall be employed by a governing sports committee in selecting participants for NCAA championships competition [Bylaw 31.3.3; Criteria for Selection of Participants]:

- Win-loss record.
- Strength of schedule.
- Eligibility and availability of student-athletes for NCAA championships.

The Women's Bowling Committee received approval from the Division I Championships/Sports Management Cabinet to consider the following criteria in the selection of teams for the Women's Bowling Championship (not necessarily in priority order):

Overall Criteria (Primary)

- Overall win-loss record.
- Head-to-head competition.
- Results versus common opponents.
- Results versus teams previously selected or ranked.
- Overall strength of schedule (average opponents' winning percentage).
- Rating Percentage Index (RPI) (See [Appendix A](#)).
- Tournament results.

Secondary Criteria (Baker)

- Overall win-loss record.
- Head-to-head competition.
- Results versus common opponents.
- Results versus teams previously selected or ranked.
- Overall strength of schedule (average opponents' winning percentage).
- Rating Percentage Index (RPI).
- Total pinfall.

Secondary Criteria (Regular Team)

- Overall win-loss record.
- Head-to-head competition.
- Results versus common opponents.
- Results versus teams previously selected or ranked.
- Overall strength of schedule (average opponents' winning percentage).
- Rating Percentage Index (RPI).
- Total pinfall.

Tiebreaker

- The event finish between two teams in the same conference.
- The event finish between two teams not in the same conference.

Appendixes

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Appendix A • Rating Percentage Index (RPI)

THE RATING PERCENTAGE INDEX (RPI)

Factor I: Overall winning percentage – 25%

Factor II: Opponents' average winning percentage – 50%

Factor III: Opponents' opponents' average winning percentage – 25%

Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

2025-26 National Collegiate Women's Bowling Sport Sponsorship

CENTRAL REGION

College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin (8)

Augustana College (Illinois)
Aurora University
Carroll University (Wisconsin)
Carthage College
Elmhurst University
Illinois Wesleyan University
Lakeland University
Marion University (Wisconsin)

Automatic Qualification Conference

Great Lakes Valley (8)

Lewis University
Maryville University of Saint Louis
McKendree University
Newman University
Oklahoma Christian University
Quincy University
University of Central Missouri
University of Indianapolis

Automatic Qualification Conference

Conference Carolinas (6)

Barton College
Belmont Abbey College
Emmanuel University (Georgia)
Thomas More University
Ursuline College
Walsh University

Automatic Qualification Conference

Southwestern Athletic Conf. (8)

Alabama A&M University
Alabama State University
Florida A&M University
Grambling State University
Jackson State University
Prairie View A&M University
Southern University, Baton Rouge
Texas Southern University

Automatic Qualification Conference

Conference USA (13)

Arkansas State University
Jacksonville State University
Louisiana Tech University
Sacred Heart University
Sam Houston State University
Stephen F. Austin State University
Tulane University
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Valparaiso University
Vanderbilt University
Wichita State University
Wright State University
Youngstown State University

Automatic Qualification Conference

Independents (5)

Baldwin Wallace University
Edgewood University
Rockford University
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Western Illinois University

Non-AQ

NORTHEAST REGION

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (8)

Alvernia University
Hilbert College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
La Roche University
Penn. State Univ. Erie, the Behren College
Saint Vincent College
University of Pittsburgh, Bradford
University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg

Automatic Qualification Conference

East Coast Conference (9)

Adelphi University
Bryant University
D'Youville University
Daemen University
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
Molloy University
Roberts Wesleyan University
Saint Anselm College
St. Thomas Aquinas College

Automatic Qualification Conference

Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (6)

Caldwell University
Chestnut Hill College
Dominican University New York
Felician University
Holy Family University
Wilmington University (Delaware)

Automatic Qualification Conference

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (8)

Coppin State University
Delaware State University
Howard University
Morgan State University
Norfolk State University
North Carolina A&T State University
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Automatic Qualification Conference

Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (8)

Bowie State University
Elizabeth City State University
Fayetteville State University
Johnson C. Smith University
Livingstone College
Shaw University
Virginia State University
Virginia Union University

Automatic Qualification Conference

Northeast Conference (7)

Duquesne University
Fairleigh Dickinson U., Metropolitan Campus
Long Island University
Mercyhurst University
Monmouth University
Niagara University
Wagner College

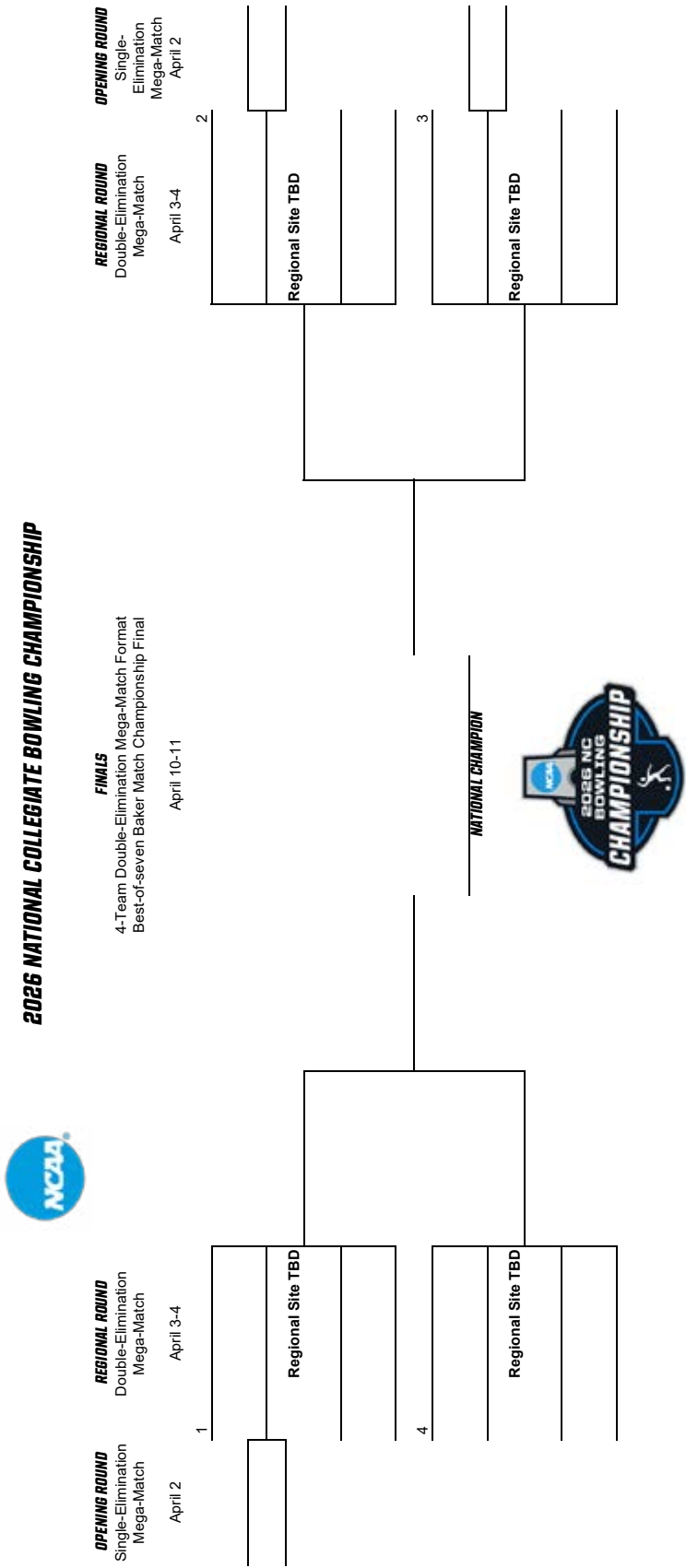
Automatic Qualification Conference

Independents (2)

Merrimack College
Mount St. Mary's University

Non-AQ

Appendix C • Women's Bowling Championship Bracket



Note:
The NCAA Women's Bowling Committee may revise the schedule (e.g., match times) when necessary.