

PRECHAMPIONSHIPS 2025-26 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
317-917-6222
ncaa.org
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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.

Appendices. 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 • 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.

Division I Outdoor Track and Field

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Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

Jeff Mlynki
Associate Director, Championships and Alliances
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222
317-917-6503 / Cell: 317-874-7154
jmlynki@ncaa.org

Demetria Young
Coordinator, Championships and Alliances
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222
317-917-6270
dyoung@ncaa.org

Section 1•2 National Committee

Current members of the committee are:

Taylor Sanderson
Associate Athletic Director
University of Memphis

Chris Brock
Head Track and Field/Cross Country Coach
Princeton University

Cody Brousek
Director of Operations
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Connie Price-Smith
Head Track and Field/Cross Country Coach
University of Mississippi

Pam Bruzina
Faculty Athletics Representative
University of Missouri

Shirelle Jackson
Executive Associate Athletic Director
University of Miami

Darren Gauson
Head Track and Field/Cross Country Coach
University of New Mexico

Jahi McDonald
Division I SAAC Representative
Wright State University

Terren Peterson
Track and Field Student-Athlete
University of South Florida

Gary Martin
Cross Country Student-Athlete
University of Virginia

Rhiannon Davies
Division I SAAC Representative
Eastern Washington University

Karina Handeland
Senior Associate Athletic Director
University of Portland

Sean Graham
Head Cross Country and Track and Field Coach
American University

Ritchie Beene
Head Track and Field Coach
Alabama State University

Dave Smith
Director of Track and Field and Cross Country
Oklahoma State University

Uri Farkas
Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics
Northern Arizona University

Molly Sullivan
Senior Associate Athletic Director
Butler University

Milan Donley
National Officials Assignor

Sam Seemes
USTFCCCA

For additional information about outdoor track and field rules, contact:

Secretary-Rules Editor
Mark Kostek
Cell: 515-208-8300
kostekmt@gmail.com

NCAA Playing Rules and Officiating
Jay Fitzwater
Assistant Director, Championships and Alliances
317-917-6819 / jfitzwater@ncaa.org

Section 1•3 Important Dates

Sunday, March 1	The qualifying window for the Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships opens. This will go through the second Sunday before the start of First round competition.
Sunday, May 17	Last date a qualifying performance may be achieved, except for conference championships. Mandatory meet results submission deadline for all regular season and conference championships is 5 p.m. Eastern time, Monday, May 18. <i>NOTE: the only allowable competition that may occur and be used toward NCAA qualifying on Monday, May 18, is that of a conference championship. Results must be submitted to TFRRS. Marks submitted after 5 p.m. Eastern time, Monday, May 18 will not be eligible for qualifying.</i>
Monday, May 18	Last date a qualifying performance may be achieved for conference championships ONLY. Results must be reported to TFRRS by 5 p.m. Eastern time. Marks submitted after 5 p.m. Eastern time will not be eligible for qualifying. Final descending-order lists posted and declarations open by 8 p.m. Eastern time. Coaches must submit electronic declaration through DirectAthletics by Wednesday, May 20, at 2 p.m. Eastern time. Declarations submitted between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Eastern time will be accepted as LATE and the institution will be fined a minimum of \$400 per team, per gender (Reference: Declaration Process in this manual).
Tuesday, May 19	Challenge period ends at noon Eastern time. Challenges must be submitted by email to Sean Laughlin (sean@recordtiming.com) and Jeff Mlynski (jmlynski@ncaa.org).
Wednesday, May 20	As stated above, the declaration window closes at 2 p.m. Eastern time. Declarations submitted between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Eastern time will be accepted as LATE and the institution will be fined a minimum of \$400 per team, per gender (Reference: Declaration Process in this manual). There is no opportunity to submit declaration forms after 4 p.m. Eastern time. Declarations review window will open at 5 p.m. Eastern time and close at 7 p.m. Eastern time. It is the responsibility of each coach to check this list and report any discrepancies by 7 p.m. Eastern Time. To report a discrepancy, the coach will need to contact Jeff Mlynski (jmlynski@ncaa.org). The coach should be prepared to provide a copy of his or her confirmation email. Please note the review window is not an extension of declarations and is not an opportunity to change student-athletes from scratched to declared or vice versa. It is solely an opportunity to make sure there were no technical glitches that occurred in the processing of
Thursday, May 21	The data from the DirectAthletics (declaration site) to the NCAA data specialist, the list of student-athletes, by event, who have been accepted to compete in each first round championships competition, plus those who have been accepted to compete in the heptathlon or decathlon at the final championships competition, will be posted on the NCAA's website under Membership, Division I, Division I Championships, Spring Sports, Outdoor Track & Field (M/W), by 1 p.m. Eastern time.
Sunday, May 24	Deadline for scratches after declarations (e.g., medical, eligibility, family emergency) for first-round championships competition, 2 p.m. Eastern time. Any scratches must be emailed to Sean Laughlin (sean@recordtiming.com) and Jeff Mlynski (jmlynski@ncaa.org). Deadline for replacement due to scratches. No additional participants will be added to the First round championships competition after 8 p.m. Eastern time. <i>NOTE: Scratches after declarations are all-inclusive and not selective by event.</i>
Monday, May 25	First round championships competition start lists posted on NCAA website under Membership, Division I, Division I Championships, Spring Sports, Outdoor Track & Field (M/W), by 8 p.m. Eastern time.
Tuesday, May 26	Packet pickup at each First round championships competition site. First-day heat/flight sheets will be available to each competing team.
Wed.-Sat., May 27-30	First round championships competition of the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

DIVISION I OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Sunday, May 31	The list of qualifiers from each event contested in the First round championships competition with their performance will be posted by 5 p.m. Eastern time on the NCAA website under Membership, Division I, Division I Championships, Spring Sports, Outdoor Track & Field (M/W). Coaches must review the list between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Eastern time to ensure that the information listed is accurate for their student-athletes. Contact Sean Laughlin (sean@recordtiming.com) and Jeff Mlynski (jmlynski@ncaa.org) with any corrections.
Tuesday, June 2	Final list of the championships competition participants will be posted on the NCAA website by 3 p.m. Eastern time under Membership, Division I, Division I Championships, Spring Sports, Outdoor Track & Field (M/W). Teams advancing to the championships will be sent a link to complete credential requests. All credential requests must be submitted by noon Eastern time on Friday, June 5.
Friday, June 5	Final championships competition start lists are posted on the NCAA website under Membership, Division I, Division I Championships, Spring Sports, Outdoor Track & Field (M/W) (except heptathlon and decathlon).
Sunday, June 7	Deadline for scratches (e.g., medical, eligibility, family emergency), 11:59 p.m. Eastern time. Medical scratches must be reported by email to Sean Laughlin (sean@recordtiming.com) and Jeff Mlynski (jmlynski@ncaa.org). <i>NOTE: Scratches after declarations are all-inclusive and not selective by event.</i>
Monday, June 8	Final championship start lists for the heptathlon and decathlon are posted on the NCAA website under Membership, Division I, Division I Championships, Spring Sports, Outdoor Track and Field (M/W).
Tuesday, June 9	Packet pickup; University of Oregon, host.
Wed.-Sat., June 10-13	NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships, Eugene, Oregon.

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

First Round Championships Competition – May 27-30, 2026

East – Lexington, Kentucky; University of Kentucky, host.

West – Fayetteville, Arkansas; University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, host.

National Championships Competition – June 10-13, 2026

Eugene, Oregon; University of Oregon, host.

DATE FORMULA

The outdoor track and field national championships meet will conclude on the second Saturday in June, running from Wednesday through Saturday. The First round championships competition will run from Wednesday through Saturday, concluding on the Saturday 11 days before the start of the national championships competition.

FUTURE DATES

2027

First Round Championships Competition – May 26-29, 2027

East – Jacksonville, Florida; University of North Florida and Visit Jacksonville, co-hosts.

West – College Station, Texas; Texas A&M University, host.

National Championships Competition – June 9-12, 2027

Eugene, Oregon; University of Oregon, host.

Section 1•4 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 that are not played in accordance with the NCAA rules, or those rules adopted by an outside organization.

The 2025 and 2026 NCAA Men's and Women's Cross Country and Track and Field Rules shall be followed where appropriate. Reference is made in the rules to certain publications of World Athletics, which provide more comprehensive detail in certain instances. Information on obtaining World Athletics publications may be obtained by accessing usatf.org. The World Athletics website address is worldathletics.org. All markings must be in accordance with NCAA Men's and Women's Cross Country and Track and Field Rules.

Section 1•5 Uniforms

All uniforms must comply with the NCAA Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Book.

LOGOS

[Refer to General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7.](#)

Section 1•6 Equipment

All student-athletes will be required to use the blocks and batons as supplied by Gill Athletics and exclusive for this NCAA championships. Gill will supply shots, discuses and hammers for use by the participants, if needed.

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2•1 Championships Format

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Please visit ncaa.org for the schedule of events.

ANNUAL FORMS

[Reference: Budgets and Site Selection in the Division I General Section, Squad Size and Per Diem in the Divisional General Section, and Bylaws 31.4.6 and 31.4 in the NCAA Manual.]

Team Roster Form. NCAA Division I men's and women's track and field programs will be required to register or update their official team roster with the Track and Field Results-Reporting System (TFRRS) before entering their first competition. Rosters can be updated on DirectAthletics or TFRRS. Institutions will be required to register their roster each season to confirm eligibility status. Access to and instructions for roster submission can be found at tfrrs.org. (Refer to Declarations of Student-Athletes for more information in this prechampionships manual.)

Expense Reimbursement. Institutions with individuals competing in the final championships competition must request reimbursement through the online system in order to receive appropriate reimbursement for their trip to the championships site. For individual-team championships, transportation expenses and per diem allowances shall be provided for all qualifying student-athletes and all eligible nonathletes. The Travel Expense System (TES), as well as per diem allowance policies, are available on the NCAA website under Membership, Division I, Division I Championships, Championships Travel Information.

Future Championships Bid Packets. Bid information for all available championships is located on the NCAA website at ncaa.org, championships, Championships Bid Information.

SQUAD SIZE AND TRAVEL PARTY

[Reference: Per Diem and Transportation in the Division I General Section.]

Please refer to the NCAA Travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies can be found online at ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information.

Section 2•2 Results

ADJUSTED PLACE STANDINGS

[Reference: Bylaw 31.2.2.3-(a) in the NCAA Manual.]

If a student-athlete is found to be ineligible, that individual's performance shall be stricken from the championships record, the points the student-athlete contributed to the team's total shall be deleted, the team standings may be adjusted accordingly, and any awards involved shall be returned to the Association. Further, the placement of other competitors may be altered and awards presented accordingly.

PROTEST PROCEDURES

All protests shall be written in triplicate on a form provided by the committee/host at a specified location within the facility. The results will be marked as PROTESTED. The form must be accompanied by a protest fee of \$100 cash. The fee is refundable only if the protest is upheld. The protest form shall be given to the referees.

The referees' decision shall be written on each copy of the protest. One copy shall be returned to the protesting coach, one will be posted with the results and the other copy shall be placed in the committee's files. The referees' decision is final.

The protest rule allows for the use of official photo timing and official video designated by meet management before the meet. An immediate and identifiable oral protest may be made by the affected participant or his/her coach to the event's head official in order to preserve a mark. The oral protest must be followed up in writing within the normal time frame. Also, the coach(es) of any participant(s) implicated in a protest must be notified and the results of the protest shall be posted and announced. The coaches of competitors affected by the protest decision shall be notified.

The viewing of videotape or photos, or the use of any wireless communication device, by a competitor within the competition area is prohibited. Field event student-athletes may view video taken outside the competition area and not brought in the competition area, between attempts. Under the direction of an official, they are permitted to cross the track.

Section 2•3 Selection Information

[Reference: Important Dates in this manual.]

DECLARATION PROCESS

A student-athlete whose institution does not comply with the provisions below will not be allowed to compete in the championships.

[Reference Important Dates within this manual for timeline.]

Track and Field Results Reporting. In order to be considered for selection to the Outdoor Track and Field Championships, all institutions must ensure that the electronic submission of results from any competition in which their student-athletes compete is reported by the meet host to the Track and Field Results Reporting System (TFRRS) through the online provider DirectAthletics.

Meet Results. It will be the responsibility of the meet host to submit meet results to TFRRS, one day after the completion of a competition by midnight Eastern time. Marks may not be considered for championships selection if meet results are not received from the host within the designated time period. Late or incorrect results that are the basis for championships selections will result in a minimum fine of \$200 per team per gender, with potential additional fines for repeated violations. Participating institutions must ensure that the electronic submission of results from any competition in which their student-athletes compete is not only reported, but reported correctly by the meet host within five days of the performance and not later than 5 p.m. Eastern time, Monday, May 18. Results will be accepted only for student-athletes on the institution's TFRRS roster form. The submission of incorrect performances may result in the disqualification of the student-athlete. If a result is submitted more than five days after the qualifying performance and the performance is the basis for championships selection, the institution of the selected student-athlete will be subject to a fine. It is the responsibility of each coach to check his or her team's marks after each meet within the designated time period to ensure they were reported correctly.

The fine assessed will be a minimum of \$200 per gender per team.

Additional points – Meet hosts and host institutions need to ensure the following tasks are completed regarding the eligibility of performance marks:

- Correct TFRRS IDs for all student-athletes;
- Relay times submitted without the names of the student-athletes who participated will not be accepted for championships consideration. It is recommended that meet hosts require relay cards at check-in to assist in this process;
- English Marks will not be accepted;
- Wind readings must be in the official results in order to be used for qualification; and
- Field series must be included as a part of results reporting so that performances other than the best mark can be considered during championships selection. Only submitted performances, including field series, will be considered for championships selections and tiebreaking; and
- See qualifying criteria on ncaa.org - Membership, Division I, Division I Championships, Division I Championships Home, Spring Sports Outdoor Track & Field (M/W) for additional information.

DIVISION I OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Detailed account information and instructions to set up meets and download team rosters in preparation for uploading 2025-26 outdoor track and field results are available for meet hosts, meet directors and timers at tfrrs.org (select the login/register button and see the Meet Director/Timer information). In addition, please note:

- Meet hosts may use their method of choice to manage meet entries; however TFRRS IDs are available only via the DirectAthletics meet entry system at directathletics.com;
- There is no cost to use the DirectAthletics meet entry system for college and junior college meets;
- It is the responsibility of the meet directors/timers to download valid TFRRS for their entering teams, regardless of the meet entry method; and
- All TFRRS IDs are single-meet IDs and not transportable from meet to meet; entry downloads for each meet will contain valid IDs for tracking results for that meet only. TFRRS IDs are available at no cost to any meet director/timer at directathletics.com via the DirectAthletics entry system.

If you experience technical difficulty using DirectAthletics or the TFRRS system, please contact DirectAthletics (support@directathletics.com) and notify the NCAA national office (jmlynki@ncaa.org or 317-917-6503) if the difficulty will trigger a late fine.

Minimum Contests and Participant Requirements for Championship Eligibility. In order for student-athletes to be eligible to participate in the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships, his or her member institution must meet the minimum contest and participant requirements for sports sponsorship as is detailed in the NCAA Division I Manual. Failure to meet these minimum requirements will preclude an institution's student-athletes from being allowed to be declared for participation in any round of the championships.

Championships Declaration and Performance Challenge Period.

1. The declaration form can be accessed at directathletics.com.
2. Access to the declaration form is controlled through the use of the same username and password assigned for team roster form submission. Any coach unable to access the online declaration form by 9 a.m. Eastern time on Tuesday, May 19, must notify DirectAthletics at support@directathletics.com.
3. See technical manual for relay policy.
4. Guidelines for Reporting Qualifying Criteria Violations. One role of the NCAA Division I Track and Field and Cross Country Committees is to review and act upon reported qualifying criteria violations throughout the indoor and outdoor track and field seasons. Coaches and student-athletes are afforded the opportunity to monitor effective meet management and officiating by following the protest process outlined in the NCAA Cross Country and Track & Field Rules Book. Challenges of qualifying marks made after the completion of a meet must be made according to the Guidelines for Reporting a Qualifying Criteria Violation, which are available online [ncaa.org, Membership, Division I, Division I Championships, Division I Championships Home, Spring Sports, Outdoor Track and Field (M/W)].
5. For additional information, see "**Important Dates**," Section 1.3 of this manual.

Championships Declarations. Declaration for the overall championships occurs prior to the First round championships competition of the final competition and those who qualify in any round of competition must continue to participate in the next round of competition. Failure to participate, after declaring or qualifying, is a violation of Rule 14-2 and subject to the penalties outlined in Rule 14-2. In accordance with the NCAA Cross Country/Track & Field Rules Book, no replacement or substitution, within the rounds of the championships, including the First round championships competition, will be made if a qualifier fails to participate.

The Track and Field and Cross Country Committee will authorize an online posting of a declaration form for each institution. Coaches will have access to their declaration form at directathletics.com and can make changes up to the deadline [Reference: Important Dates]. Declaration forms submitted after the deadline and within the late deadline window will be accepted as late and the institution will be fined a minimum of \$400 per team per gender. There is no opportunity to submit a declaration form after the late deadline. Institutions failing to complete and submit the declaration form will have their student-athletes scratched from competition in all rounds of the championships.

Access to the declaration form is controlled through an institutional password assigned within the mandatory meet results reporting system. Any coach unable to access the online declaration form beginning at 8 p.m. Eastern time Monday, May 18, should contact Jeff Mlynki, championships manager, at 317-917-6503.

The declaration process for the First round championships competition, held at the two sites, is the first step in the overall procedure for the final championships. Declarations for all events, including the combined events, are submitted as part of the declaration process for the First round championships competition. A declaration is a binding intent to participate.

All student-athletes must be declared or scratched on the declaration form in every event in which they are listed. A declaration is a firm commitment to compete in every declared event, unless a preference statement is filed to indicate a choice among several declared events. The list of student-athletes, by event, who have been accepted to compete in each First round championships competition, plus those who have been accepted to compete in the heptathlon or decathlon at the final championships competition, will be posted on the NCAA website. Coaches are responsible for including a telephone number (preferably a mobile phone number) on the declaration form in the event the NCAA committee needs to make contact.

Only one relay team per institution per relay event may be declared for the First round championships competition.

Declaration of a relay team verifies the naming of the four declared members of the relay and their qualifying time. Not more than four student-athletes may be named as alternates for a relay in First round championships competition. These alternates must be named and declared not later than the close of packet pickup for the First round championships competition at each First round competition site.

After being notified of a scratch after declaration (e.g., medical, eligibility, family emergency), every appropriate effort will be made by the committee to maintain the desired number of participants in an event (48) through direct contact with head coaches of eligible replacements. No additional participants will be added to the field for First round championships competition after 8 p.m. Eastern time on Sunday, May 24. A scratch after declarations is all-inclusive and not selective by event, including events not contested in the First round competition of the championships.

Relay Personnel and Participation. For relay personnel and participation policies, please refer to the Outdoor Technical Manual on the NCAA website, Membership, Division I, Division I Championships, Division I Championships Home, Spring Sports, Outdoor Track & Field (M/W).

Scratching Student-Athletes from First Round Championships Competition after Declarations (e.g., medical, eligibility, family emergency). Scratching a student-athlete from any event for any reason at any point after the declaration deadline eliminates the student-athlete from First round championships competition and from advancing to the final championships competition in any event (including combined events). Final notice of scratches must be submitted by the deadline and not later than 2 p.m. Eastern time on Sunday, May 24. All scratches must be emailed to Sean Laughlin (sean@recordtiming.com) and Jeff Mlynski (jmlynski@ncaa.org). Failure to notify Mr. Laughlin and Mr. Mlynski may result in a minimum of \$400 fine.

Once competition begins, a student-athlete who fails to start or finish in any event at the First round or national championship sites, and is entered in additional events, must receive medical verification from the host medical staff stating that they were unable to finish or start the event. Additionally, they must then get medically cleared before they can be eligible to return to competition in any other event. The proper medical paperwork must be completed and will be available in the medical area at each site. (Rule 12-19)

National Championships Declarations. There is no separate declaration period or procedure for the final championships competition. Declaration for the overall championships occurs before the First round championships competition and those who qualify in any championships competition must continue to participate in the next round of competition. The Track and Field and Cross Country Committee will post online the qualifiers from the events at each First round championships competition. Failure to participate, after qualifying, is a violation of Rule 14-2a and subject to the penalties outlined in Rule 14-2d.

Scratches after First Round Championships (e.g., medical, eligibility, family emergency). Scratches must be reported by email to Sean Laughlin (sean@recordtiming.com) and Jeff Mlynski (jmlynski@ncaa.org) before the deadline by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on Sunday, June 7. Every possible effort will be made to replace a competitor in events not contested at the first round championships competition (Heptathlon and Decathlon). A first round championships qualifier, who has earned advancement as prescribed in the NCAA Cross Country/Track & Field Rules Book, cannot be replaced. The reporting of a scratch facilitates more equitable seeding in the event affected.

If a medical scratch occurs before arriving on site, then the scratch must be verified by the institution's team doctor. If a medical scratch occurs after arriving on site, the scratch must be verified by host medical personnel.

Challenge Period. All challenges must be emailed to Sean Laughlin at sean@recordtiming.com and Jeff Mlynski at jmlynski@ncaa.org.

[Reference: Important Dates]

Section 2•4 Selection Criteria

Qualifying Period. Qualifying performances for the First round championships competition of the Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships must be made during the current season in outdoor competition using an outdoor facility. Qualifying performances must be made during a regularly scheduled outdoor meet.

Qualifying Criteria. Refer to the NCAA Qualifying Criteria posted online at the NCAA website under Membership, Division I, Division I Championships, Division I Championships Home, Spring Sports, Outdoor Track & Field (M/W).

FIRST ROUND CHAMPIONSHIPS COMPETITION

Qualification to the First round championships competition is based on the descending-order list for the season, segregated by east and west sites, and prepared solely from the mandatory submission of meet results during the season and adhering to the qualifying regulations. For each individual event contested at each of the First round championships competition sites, the top 48 declared student-athletes will be accepted into the competition. For each relay event contested at each of the First round championships competition sites, the top 24 declared relay teams will be accepted into the competition. The stated maximums are absolute and will not be extended as a result of ties.

Combined Events. The heptathlon and decathlon events are not contested at the First round championships competition. Qualification to the championships in these two events is accomplished through a competitor's position on the national descending-order list. The top 24 declared student-athletes in each of these two events will be accepted into the national championships. Declaration for these two events is completed during the one and only declaration period, which is before the First round championships competition.

Technical Manual. The Outdoor Track and Field Technical Manual outlines the technical procedures for all rounds of the championships, including qualifying and advancement procedures to the final championships competition. This manual can be found on the NCAA website at ncaa.org under Membership, Division I, Division I Championships, Division I Championships Home, Spring Sports, Outdoor Track and Field (M/W).

Ties. *[Reference: 2026 Outdoor Track and Field Technical Manual]*

FINAL CHAMPIONSHIPS COMPETITION

The championships qualifying procedure allows for a field size of 24 in all individual and relay events at the final championships competition. *[Reference: 2026 Outdoor Track and Field Technical Manual]*

Qualifying. Qualifying to the final championships competition is accomplished through performance in the First round championships competition at each site for events contested at those competitions. Twelve competitors from each individual event and 12 teams from each relay event advance from each First round championships competition site to the final championships competition. Qualification, through competition in an event at a First round championships competition, requires participation in that event at the final championships competition. Any individual or relay team must remain eligible for advancement throughout all rounds of the championships. The specific event formula for advancement to the final championships competition, as well as the tie-breaking procedure, is detailed in the 2026 Outdoor Track and Field Technical Manual at the NCAA website under Membership, Division I, Division I Championships, Division I Championships Home, Spring Sports, Outdoor Track & Field (M/W).

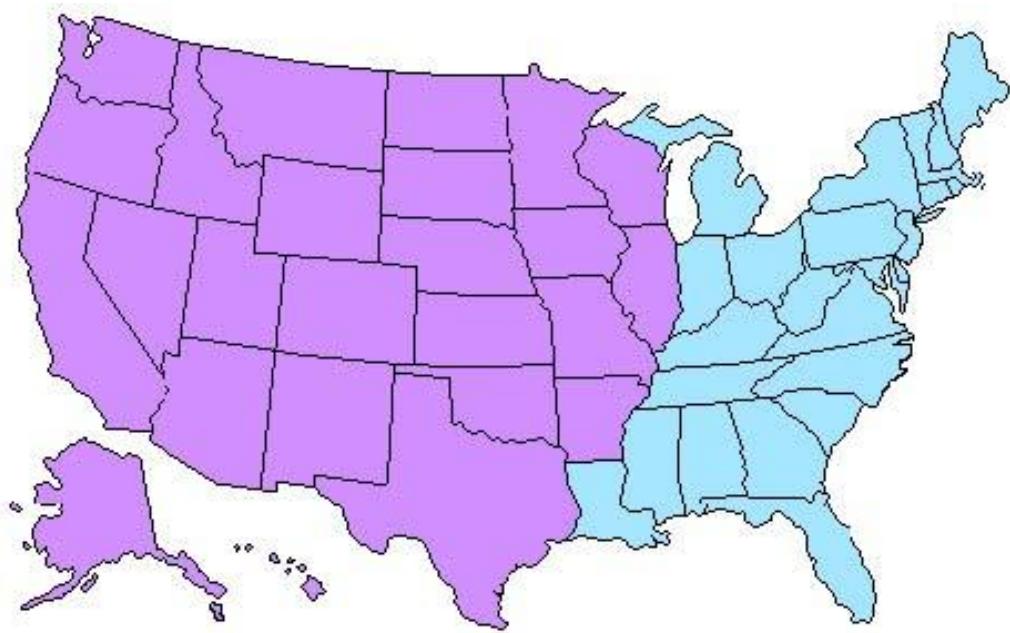
Qualification for the Heptathlon and Decathlon Events of the Championships. See above under First Round Championships Competition; Combined Events.

Appendices

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Appendix A • Sport Sponsorship



A complete Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field sponsorship list may be found at:

<https://web3.ncaa.org/directory/> (SSO login required).