2026 DI FIELD HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

PRECHAMPIONSHIP 2026-27 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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Section 1 • Introduction

During the 2026-27 academic year, the Association will sponsor 94 national championships — 43 for men, 49 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, 10 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 94 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.

Nonpredetermined 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: Bylaw 22.4.1, 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 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 Field Hockey

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Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

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P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
317-917-6779 / whopkins@ncaa.org

Mariah Martin
Coordinator, Championships and Alliances
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
317-287-9078 / msmartin@ncaa.org

Section 1•2 National Committee

Current members of the committee can be found at the following link: web1.ncaa.org/committees/#/reports/roster?committeeCode=1FHOC

For additional information about the Division I Field Hockey Championship, contact:

Will Hopkins
Associate Director, Championships and Alliances
317-917-6779 / whopkins@ncaa.org

Amy Densevich, chair
Associate Athletic Director
Kent State University
330-472-8175 / adensevi@kent.edu

Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
Joanie Milhous	**Villanova**	**Big East**
Justin Jackson	**Monmouth**	**CAA**
Caitlyn Prandato	**Harvard**	**Ivy League**
Stacey Bean	**VCU**	**Atlantic 10**
Amy Densevich	**Kent St.**	**MAC**
Richard Zhu	**Stanford**	**Atlantic Coast**
Jarred Martin	**Ohio St.**	**Big Ten**
Martu Loncarica	Richmond	Atlantic 10
Tara Danielson	UC Berkeley	Atlantic Coast
Andrew Griffiths	ODU	Big East
Missy Meharg	Maryland	Big Ten
Denise Zelenak	Drexel	CAA
Scott Tupper	Penn	Ivy League
Emily Dinsmore	App State	Mid-American
Sydney Van Der Merwe	Sacred Heart	Northeast
Jennifer Stone	Lafayette	Patriot
Kate Pfeifer	Vermont	America East

Bold indicates National Committee member.

Section 1•4 Important Dates

Monday, Sept. 21	Daily distribution of rating percentage index (RPI).
Monday, Sept. 28	NCAA begins accepting proposed budgets to host opening-round games and first- and second-round games of the championship.
Late October	Memo to conferences regarding 2027-28 automatic qualification forms available online.
Friday, Oct. 30	Deadline for institutions to submit proposed budgets to host opening-round games and first- and second-round games of the championship.
Saturday, Nov. 7	Deadline for notifying the NCAA championship manager of any student-athlete(s) who may be ineligible or unavailable for championship play.
Sunday, Nov. 8	Selection and notification of teams that will be participating in the championship at 10 p.m. Eastern time.
Monday, Nov. 16	Coaches and administrators of semifinal teams will meet via videoconference at 11 a.m. Eastern time.
Thursday, Jan. 28, 2027	Deadline for online automatic qualification forms to be submitted for 2027-28 academic year.

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

Wednesday, Nov. 11	Opening-round games.
Friday & Sunday, Nov. 13 & 15	First and second rounds.
Friday & Sunday, Nov. 20 & 22	Semifinals and final, University of Louisville, host.

DATE FORMULA

Opening-round games	Wednesday before first/second rounds.
First/second rounds	Friday/Sunday one week before finals.
Semifinals/finals	Friday/Sunday before Thanksgiving.

FUTURE DATES

Year	Opening round	First/second rounds	Semifinals/finals
2027	Wednesday, Nov. 10	Friday/Sunday, Nov. 12 & 14	Friday/Sunday, Nov. 19 & 21, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, host.

Section 1•5 Equipment

The Kookaburra Standard Dimple (white) field hockey ball is the official ball on “nonfilled” watered artificial surfaces for the NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship. The orange ball will be used at the discretion of the games committee.

Penn Monto is the official supplier and will provide Kookaburra game balls to each opening-round, first-/second-round and final site host institution. Those quantities will be communicated after selections.

Each preliminary-round host institution shall provide 100 practice balls.

Section 1•6 Rules

[Reference: Bylaw 31.1.6 in the NCAA Manual.]

The NCAA Rule Modifications are available on the NCAA website at **ncaa.org/championships/division-i-field-hockey**.

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 NCAA rules or those adopted by an outside organization.

The field hockey championship will be conducted according to International Field Hockey rules and the NCAA rules modifications.

Section 1•7 Uniforms

LOGOS

Refer to General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7.

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2•1 Championship Format

The NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship provides for an 18-team tournament. There will be five regions: Mid-Atlantic, Mideast, Northeast, South and West. A listing of the regions appears in **Appendix B**.

Inclement Weather. If a game is suspended or postponed, it will be the decision of the games committee and the game officials to determine if the game can be continued that day. If conditions dictate that the game cannot be completed, the NCAA site representative and tournament manager shall contact Will Hopkins (cell: 317-363-0843). Only after contacting Mr. Hopkins may a game be suspended until the next day or moved to an alternate site. Teams should be prepared with footwear for any playing surface.

Once all efforts have been exhausted and the game cannot be completed, the field hockey committee shall determine the advancing team as follows: If fewer than 30 minutes have been played, the team that advances is determined based on the selection process currently in place, which states that the game must be completed within a reasonable time period, within 24 hours. If more than 30 minutes have been played, the leading team shall advance. If at least 30 minutes have been completed when play is suspended, and the score is tied, the team that advances is determined based on the selection process currently in place.

START TIMES

Whenever possible, teams should be given 24 hours of recovery time between games. Opening-round games must begin by 2 p.m. Eastern time. For the first and second rounds, first-round games should begin at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. or noon and 2:30 p.m., and the second-round game should begin at noon or 1 p.m. The committee will determine game times for each site. For the semifinals, game times are noon and 3 p.m. The championship game starts at 1:30 p.m.

TRAVEL PARTY

Transportation and per diem expenses will be provided for an official traveling party of a maximum of 28. The squad size is 27 student-athletes in uniform. The bench size is all rostered student-athletes and up to eight team personnel/institutional staff members. Please refer to the NCAA travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies are located online at **ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information**.

Section 2•2 Results

STAT CREW

All host sites should use Stat Crew programs to submit statistics for postseason contests. At the end of each game or day of competition, please submit the XML file as done throughout the regular season.

Please contact Nick Moeller (**nmoeller@ncaa.org**) with any questions.

SCORE REPORTING

Schools will submit all schedule and results information to the NCAA statistics site (**web1.ncaa.org/stats/StatsSrv/login**), and this information is transferred into the score-reporting system for use by the sports committees. Specific instructions and reporting deadlines are communicated to sports information directors in a preseason memo distributed by the media coordination and statistics staff. For questions regarding the reporting process, please contact Mr. Moeller at **nmoeller@ncaa.org** or 317-917-6390.

RPI

Schools will submit all schedule and results information to the NCAA statistics site (**web1.ncaa.org/stats/StatsSrv/login**), and this information is transferred into the RPI system for use by the sports committees. Specific instructions and reporting deadlines are communicated to sports information directors in a preseason memo distributed by the media coordination and statistics staff. For questions regarding the reporting process, please contact Mr. Moeller at **nmoeller@ncaa.org** or 317-917-6390.

Section 2•3 Selection Information

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

[Reference: Bylaws 31.3.4 and 31.3.5 in the NCAA Manual.]

The following conferences have been granted automatic qualification privileges for the 2026 championship:

America East Conference
Atlantic 10 Conference
Atlantic Coast Conference
Big East Conference
Big Ten Conference
Coastal Athletic Association
The Ivy League
Mid-American Conference
Northeast Conference
Patriot League

AT-LARGE SELECTION

To be considered during the at-large selection process, a team must have an overall won-lost record of .500 or better and complete a minimum of 11 contests.

Bylaw 31.3.3.1 – 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 the United States four-year, degree-granting institutions. Competition against service teams, professional teams, semiprofessional teams, amateur teams, two-year college and club teams shall be excluded.

Opening-round games are contested among the four lowest automatic-qualification teams (regardless of conference RPI). The intent is to have opening-round games hosted by two of the four first- and second-round hosts that submit a bid and meet hosting requirements; however, due to geographic proximity and missed class time, host sites may be determined at the committee's discretion.

The NCAA will oversee the conduct of the opening-round game competition. The games will be funded by the NCAA. Institutions will receive reimbursement of transportation and per diem costs.

The host institution of all sites should conduct two on-site meetings: one with the umpires and one with the coaches and team personnel. There will be an NCAA site representative in attendance. A participant manual shall also be created and provided to the visiting teams.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

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

Section 2•4 Selection Criteria

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]:

- Won-lost record.
- Strength of schedule.
- Eligibility and availability of student-athletes for NCAA championships.

In addition to Bylaw 31.3.3, the Division I Field Hockey Committee has received approval from the Division I Competition Oversight Committee to consider the following criteria in the selection of at-large teams for the field hockey championship (not necessarily in priority order):

- Rating Percentage Index (RPI). The RPI includes a team's Division I winning percentage (25%), opponents' average winning percentage (50%) and the opponents' opponents' average winning percentage (25%).
- Head-to-head competition.
- Results against common opponents.
- Late-season performance in the last seven games, including conference tournament play (strength and results).
- Significant wins and losses.
- KPI.

Additionally, input is provided by regional advisory committees for consideration by the field hockey committee. Coaches' polls and/or any other outside polls or rankings are not used as a selection criterion by the field hockey committee.

A selection announcement will be broadcast at 10 p.m. Eastern time Sunday, Nov. 8 on **ncaa.com**.

COUNTABLE GAMES

For selection and/or ranking purposes, the field hockey committee will only consider games that include four periods of 15 minutes each, with ties played off by using the entire championships tiebreaker procedure, including shootouts. Games terminated because of rules modification 6.3 also are countable games (see rules modifications at the following link: **ncaa.org/championships/division-i-field-hockey**). Games played against mixed teams and club teams will not be counted for rankings and selections. Non-Division I games will not be counted.

PAIRINGS

For non-revenue generating championships that seed a quarter of the bracket, sites will be awarded to the seeded teams that submit a bid that meets the requirements for hosting. In the event that a seeded team does not submit a bid that meets the requirements, the sports committees will maintain the current policy of geographic consideration when assigning those host sites. The committees will use the geographic considerations to help maintain the balance and integrity of the bracket. The committees will also separate first-round conference opponents when assigning teams to sites.

The other 14 teams will be placed in the bracket based on geography and using the minimum number of flights. The committee will use the distance of 400 miles to determine when a flight would be necessary. The NCAA will use **web1.ncaa.org/TES/exec/TES/exec/miles** for the official mileage.

Section 2•5 Site Selection

Any institution interested in hosting preliminary-round competition of the 2026 championship, including opening-round games, must submit a proposed budget, respond to sport-specific questions and ensure that the institution's key contacts and facility information are complete and current in the Championships Bid and Profile System. Please note that in order to submit a bid, you must first locate the desired championship in the "Championships Available for Bidding" section and select "Start Bid."

Please note that all member institutions have regular and easy access to their profiles by visiting **championships.ncaa.org**. For profile issues, user access or to reset a password, please email **championshipbid@ncaa.org** or contact the respective championship manager.

CHAMPIONSHIPS BID AND HOST PROFILE PORTAL

The Championships Bid and Profile System can be accessed at **championships.ncaa.org**. The deadline to submit all bid materials for this championship is Friday, Oct. 30.

The opening round games will be conducted at two of the four first-and second-round host sites. All bids should include expenses for an opening-round game on Wednesday. There are no longer stand-alone opening-round sites.

In addition to projected ticket sales and game expenses, prospective hosts should include the following when completing a proposed budget:

- Committee/site representative lodging.
- Game officials lodging.
- State and city taxes/fees.
- Ticket and facility fees.

Committee's/site representative's per diem, mileage and luggage fees will be paid by the NCAA, not the host institution. Game officials will be reimbursed via RefQuest for their game fees, per diem, mileage and luggage fees.

FACILITY PROFILE

Institutions interested in hosting championship preliminary-round competition must add (or ensure accuracy of) facility information for the applicable competition venue. This information is located at **championships.ncaa.org**. Any supporting information, e.g., facility diagram, pictures, may be uploaded and attached to that facility's profile. This information will be made available to the sport committee to aid in its deliberations of prospective host sites.

KEY CONTACTS

Each institution should list and then maintain its key contacts associated with each sport and the institution. Individuals can be added via the Championships Bid and Host Profile portal at **championships.ncaa.org**.

SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

Each facility profile should include the safety and security plan for that facility. This information can be uploaded and attached to the profile by visiting **championships.ncaa.org**.

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

A final financial report from each championship site must be submitted via the Championships Bid and Host Profile portal under the "budget" tab not later than 60 days after the event.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact Will Hopkins at 317-917-6779 or **whopkins@ncaa.org**, or email **championshipbid@ncaa.org**, if you have any questions regarding the bid process.

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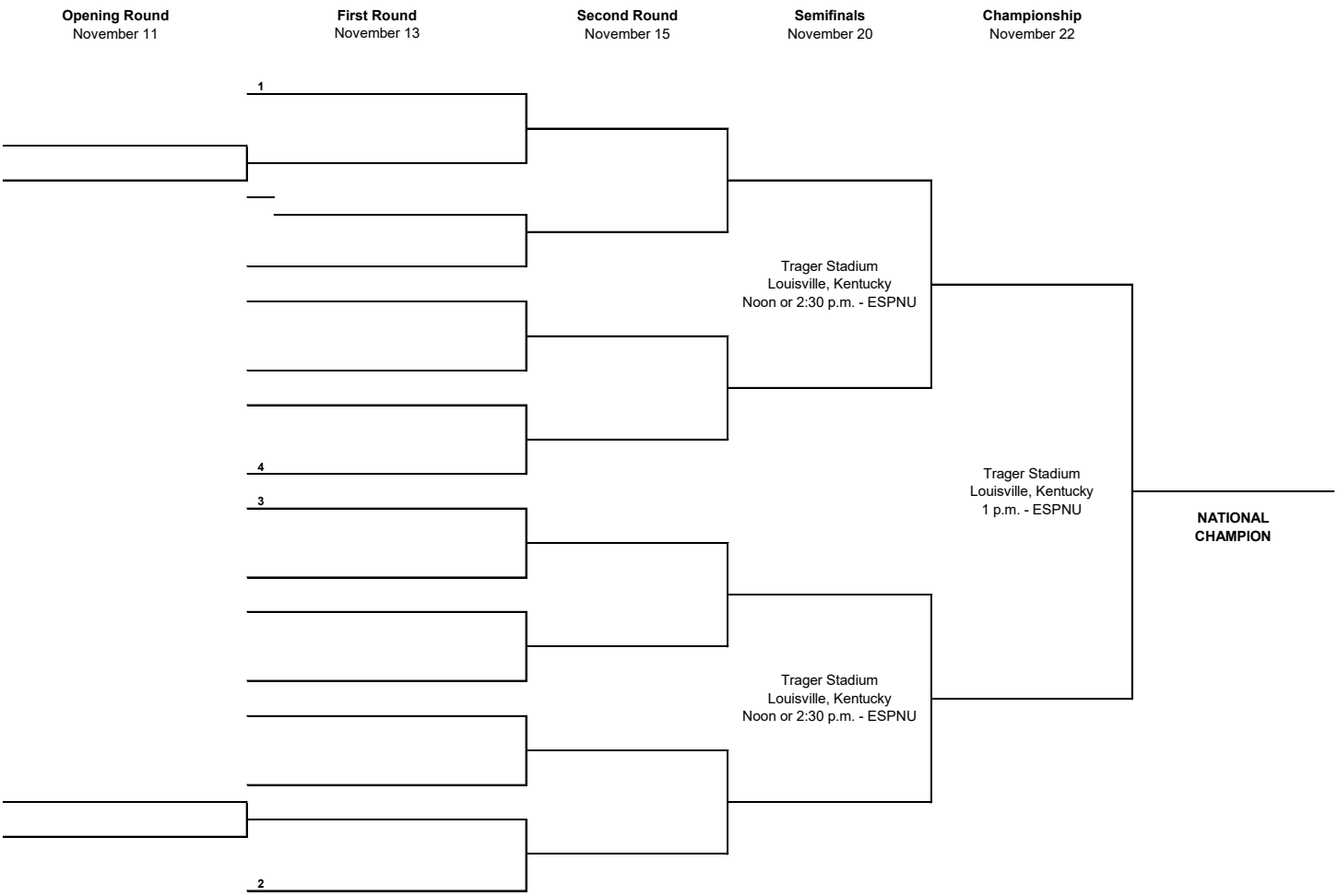
Appendix A • Bracket

2026 NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship



Placement of opening round games are subject to the discretion of the Division I Field Hockey Committee.
* Host Institution for first- and second-round games
**Host institution for opening round and first- and second-round games
Home team is the seeded team in the seeded game
Home team in the non-seeded game

All times are Eastern time.
Information subject to change.

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Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Atlantic 10 Conference (2)

La Salle University
Saint Joseph's University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Big East Conference (2)

Temple University
Villanova University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Big Ten Conference (2)

University of Maryland, College Park
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Coastal Athletic Association (3)

Drexel University
Monmouth University
Towson University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (1)

University of Delaware

No AQ

Northeast Conference (1)

Rider University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Patriot League (1)

American University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

The Ivy League (2)

University of Pennsylvania
Princeton University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

**Not eligible for NCAA championships.*

MIDEAST REGION

Atlantic 10 Conference (1)

Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Atlantic Coast Conference (1)

Syracuse University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Big East Conference (1)

University of Connecticut

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Big Ten Conference (1)

Pennsylvania State University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Coastal Athletic Association (2)

Fairfield University
Hofstra University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Northeast Conference (5)

Long Island University
Mercyhurst University [Reclassifying]
Quinnipiac University
Sacred Heart University
Wagner College

AQ – Postseason Tournament

The Ivy League (3)

Columbia University-Barnard College
Cornell University
Yale University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Patriot League (4)

Bucknell University
Colgate University
Lafayette College
Lehigh University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

**Not eligible for NCAA championships.*

NORTHEAST REGION

America East Conference (6)

University at Albany
Bryant University
University of Maine
University of Massachusetts Lowell
University of New Hampshire
University of Vermont

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Atlantic Coast Conference (1)

Boston College

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Big East Conference (1)

Providence College

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Coastal Athletic Association (1)

Northeastern University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Mid-American Conference (1)

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Northeast Conference (3)

Merrimack College
*University of New Haven [Reclassifying]
Stonehill College

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Patriot League (2)

Boston University
College of the Holy Cross

AQ – Postseason Tournament

The Ivy League (3)

Brown University
Dartmouth College
Harvard University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

**Not eligible for NCAA championships.*

SOUTH REGION

Atlantic 10 Conference (3)

Davidson College
University of Richmond
Virginia Commonwealth University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Atlantic Coast Conference (4)

Duke University
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Virginia
Wake Forest University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Big East Conference (3)

Georgetown University
Liberty University
Old Dominion University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Coastal Athletic Association (1)

William & Mary

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (1)

Queens University of Charlotte

No AQ

Mid-American Conference (3)

Appalachian State University
James Madison University
Longwood University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

**Not eligible for NCAA championships.*

WEST REGION

Atlantic 10 Conference (1)

Saint Louis University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Atlantic Coast Conference (3)

University of California, Berkeley
University of Louisville
Stanford University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Big Ten Conference (6)

Indiana University, Bloomington
University of Iowa
University of Michigan
Michigan State University
Northwestern University
The Ohio State University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (1)

University of California, Davis

No AQ

Mid-American Conference (6)

Ball State University
Bellarmine University
Central Michigan University
Kent State University
Miami University (Ohio)
Ohio University

AQ – Postseason Tournament

Appendix C • Conference Alignment

2026 DIVISION I FIELD HOCKEY

CONFERENCE ALIGNMENT

11 Conferences -- 82 Teams

ACC (9)
Boston College
California
Duke
Louisville
North Carolina
Stanford
Syracuse
Virginia
Wake Forest

AMERICA EAST (6)
Bryant
Maine
New Hampshire
UAlbany
UMass Lowell
Vermont

ATLANTIC 10 (7)
Davidson
La Salle
Lock Haven
Richmond
Saint Joseph's
Saint Louis
VCU

BIG EAST (7)
Georgetown
Liberty
Old Dominion
Providence
Temple
UConn
Villanova

BIG TEN (9)
Indiana
Iowa
Maryland
Michigan
Michigan St.
Northwestern
Ohio St.
Penn St.
Rutgers

CAA (7)
Drexel
Fairfield
Hofstra
Monmouth
Northeastern
Towson
William & Mary

IVY LEAGUE (8)
Brown
Columbia
Cornell
Dartmouth
Harvard
Penn
Princeton
Yale

MAC (10)
App State
Ball St.
Bellarmine
Central Mich.
James Madison
Kent St.
Longwood
Massachusetts
Miami (OH)
Ohio

MOUNTAIN PACIFIC (3)
Delaware
Queens (NC)
UC Davis

NEC (9/7)
LIU
*Mercyhurst
Merrimack
*New Haven
Quinnipiac
Rider
Sacred Heart
Stonehill
Wagner

PATRIOT (7)
American
Boston U.
Bucknell
Colgate
Holy Cross
Lafayette
Lehigh

CONFERENCE CHANGES FROM 2025

Fairfield
- NEC to CAA

Queens (NC)
- Independent to Mountain Pacific

Quinnipiac
- Big East to NEC

RECLASSIFIERS

NEC
- Mercyhurst, eligible in 2027-28
- New Haven, eligible in 2028-29

NOTES

Saint Francis moved down to Division III.