



2022 DIVISION I  
**FOOTBALL  
CHAMPIONSHIP**

# ***PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP 2022-23 MANUAL***

# NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

## Contents

<b>Section 1 • Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
Section 1•1 Definitions	2
<b>Section 2 • Championship Core Statement</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Section 3 • Conduct</b>	<b>3</b>
Section 3•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability	3
Section 3•2 Drug Testing	3
Section 3•3 Honesty and Sportsmanship	3
Section 3•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies	4
Section 3•5 Sports Wagering Policy	4
Section 3•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey	4
<b>Section 4 • Elite 90™ Award</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Section 5 • Fan Travel</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Section 6 • Health and Safety</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Section 7 • Logo Policy</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Section 8 • Research</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Section 9 • Travel Party</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Section 10 • Division I</b>	<b>6</b>
Section 10•1 Religious Conflicts	6
<b>Section 11 • Division I</b>	<b>6</b>
Section 11•1 Team Replacement Policy	7

### THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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# Section 1 • Introduction

During the 2022-23 academic year, the Association will sponsor 90 national championships – 42 for men, 45 for women and three for both men and women. Of the men's championships, three 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, six 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 Pre-Championship 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 90 championships, while the remaining sections are sport specific.

## Section 1•1 Definitions

**Pre-championship Manual.** Resource for institutions to prepare for the championship.

**Administrative Meeting.** Pre-championship 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, etc.).

**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 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, 31.2.1.7, 31.2.1.7.2 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division II Manual 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

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### 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

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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

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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. However, we 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 onsite.

## Section 4 • Elite 90™ Award

The Elite 90 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 on all teams competing at the finals site. Each institution that has at least one student-athlete qualify for the final round/site is eligible to nominate a student-athlete for the award. 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](http://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 [NCAA Sport Science Institute 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 12.5.4 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. Travel policies can be found online [here](#). Please reference Appendix A of the travel policies for reimbursable travel party numbers.

Please reference the NCAA travel policies as they are updated annually [here](#), and 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 September 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

The Division I Competition Oversight Committee 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 Football

## Contents

<b>Section 1 • General Administration</b>	<b>8</b>
Section 1•1 NCAA Staff Contact Information	8
Section 1•2 National Committee	8
Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees	10
Section 1•4 Important Dates	10
Section 1•5 Equipment	11
Section 1•6 Rules	12
Section 1•7 Uniforms	13
<b>Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation</b>	<b>14</b>
Section 2•1 Championship Format	14
Section 2•2 Selection Information	15
Section 2•3 Selection Criteria	18
Section 2•4 Site Selection	18
Section 2•5 Preliminary-Round Hosting – Proposed Budget	19
<b>Appendix A • Bracket</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship</b>	<b>23</b>



# Section 1 • General Administration

## Section 1.1 NCAA Staff Contact Information

### **Ty Halpin**

Director, Championships and Alliances  
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317-917-6136 / [thalpin@ncaa.org](mailto:thalpin@ncaa.org)

### **David Lentz** (Media Coordination)

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### **Alyssa Rice**

Assistant Director, Championships and Alliances  
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317-917-6627 / [arice@ncaa.org](mailto:arice@ncaa.org)

### **Kerstin Hunter**

Assistant Coordinator, Championships and Alliances  
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317-917-6645 / [khunter@ncaa.org](mailto:khunter@ncaa.org)

## Section 1.2 National Committee

Current members of the committee are:

### **WEST REGION**

#### **Kent Haslam**

Director of Athletics  
University of Montana

### **SOUTH REGION**

#### **Chris King**

Director of Athletics  
Robert Morris University

### **EAST REGION**

#### **Brian Hardin**

Director of Athletics  
Drake University

### **WEST REGION**

#### **Steve Moniaci**

Director of Athletics  
Houston Christian University

### **SOUTH REGION**

#### **Matt Roan**

Director of Athletics  
Eastern Kentucky University

### **SOUTH REGION**

#### **Mark Wharton**

Director of Athletics  
University of Tennessee, Chattanooga

### **EAST REGION**

#### **Shawn Heilbron**

Director of Athletics  
Stony Brook University

### **CENTRAL REGION**

#### **Matthew Larsen**

Director of Athletics  
North Dakota State University

### **CENTRAL REGION**

#### **Tom Michael**

Director of Athletics  
Eastern Illinois University

### **EAST REGION**

#### **Tom Pincince**

Director of Athletics  
Central Connecticut State University

### **EAST REGION**

#### **Jermaine Truax**

Director of Athletics  
Bucknell University

**For additional information about the NCAA Division I Football Championship, contact:**

**Ty Halpin**, Championships and Alliances  
317-917-3136 / [thalpin@ncaa.org](mailto:thalpin@ncaa.org)

**Alyssa Rice**, Championships and Alliances  
317-917-6627 / [arice@ncaa.org](mailto:arice@ncaa.org)

**Jermaine Truax**, chair  
Director of Athletics / Bucknell University  
570-577-3054 / [jermaine.truax@bucknell.edu](mailto:jermaine.truax@bucknell.edu)

## Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
<b>CENTRAL REGION</b>		
Brian Hardin	Drake	Pioneer Football League
David Herbster	South Dakota	Missouri Valley Football Conference
Matt Larsen	North Dakota State	Missouri Valley Football Conference
Brady Barke	Southeast Missouri State	Ohio Valley Conference
Tom Michael	Eastern Illinois	Ohio Valley Conference
Phil Esten	St. Thomas (Minnesota)	Pioneer Football League
<b>EAST REGION</b>		
Mark Benson	UAlbany	Colonial Athletic Conference
Sherryta Freeman	Lafayette	Patriot League
James Downer	Saint Francis (Pennsylvania)	Northeast Conference
Thomas Pincince	Central Connecticut State	Northeast Conference
Jermaine Truax	Bucknell	Patriot League
Shawn Heilbron	Stony Brook	Colonial Athletic Association
<b>SOUTH REGION</b>		
Mark Wharton	Chattanooga	Southern Conference
Jason Donnelly	Furman	Southern Conference
Chris King	Robert Morris	Big South Conference
Connell Maynor	Alabama A&M	Southwestern Athletic Conference
Matt Roan	Eastern Kentucky	ASUN
Jason Cable	Alabama State	Southwestern Athletic Conference
Greg Seitz	Jacksonville State	ASUN
Alecia Shields-Gadson	Delaware State	Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference
Dr. Louis Perkins	North Carolina Central	Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference
Jeff Barber	Charleston Southern	Big South Conference
Ryan Ivey	Stephen F. Austin	Western Athletic Conference
Ken Beazer	Utah Tech	Western Athletic Conference
<b>WEST REGION</b>		
Kent Haslam	Montana	Big Sky Conference
Steve Moniaci	Houston Christian	Southland Conference
Mark Orr	Sacramento State	Big Sky Conference
Richard Duran	Incarinate Word	Southland Conference

## Section 1•4 Important Dates

<b>Monday, Oct. 17, 2022</b>	Championship information and forms available on <a href="https://www.ncaa.org">ncaa.org</a> for prospective preliminary-round host institutions.
<b>Monday, Nov. 14, 2022</b>	Prospective preliminary-round host institutions bid submission deadline.
<b>Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022</b>	Final selections and announcement of bracket during a selection show at 12:30 p.m. Eastern time on ESPNU - tentative.

## CHAMPIONSHIP DATES (2022-23)

The dates and sites of the NCAA Division I Football Championship are determined by the Division I Football Championship Committee, subject to the approval of the Division I Football Oversight Committee.

<b>First Round</b>	Saturday, Nov. 26, at on-campus sites (8)
<b>Second Round</b>	Saturday, Dec. 3, at on-campus sites (8)
<b>Quarterfinal Round</b>	Friday, Dec. 9 and Saturday, Dec. 10, at on-campus sites (4)
<b>Semifinal Round</b>	Friday, Dec. 16, and Saturday, Dec. 17, at on-campus sites (2)
<b>Championship Game</b>	Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, at Toyota Stadium - Frisco, Texas

## DATE FORMULA

<b>First Round</b>	Last Saturday in November
<b>Second Round</b>	First Saturday in December
<b>Quarterfinals</b>	Second Friday/Saturday in December
<b>Semifinals</b>	Third Friday/Saturday in December
<b>Championship Game</b>	Between Dec. 29 and the day before the College Football Playoff Championship Game

## FUTURE DATES

### 2023-24 Championship (*tentative*)

<b>Championship Selections</b>	Sunday, Nov. 19
<b>First Round</b>	Saturday, Nov. 25, at on-campus sites (8)
<b>Second Round</b>	Saturday, Dec. 2, at on-campus sites (8)
<b>Quarterfinals</b>	Friday, Dec. 8 and Saturday, Dec. 9, at on-campus sites (4)
<b>Semifinals</b>	Friday, Dec. 15, and Saturday, Dec. 16, at on-campus sites (2)
<b>Championship Game</b>	Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024

## Section 1•5 Equipment

### GAME BALLS

The Wilson F1233 (Classic - Tan), F1002 (GST - Red), F1003 (GST - Tan), F1105 (GST Prime - Red), F1103 (GST Prime - Tan) footballs are the official balls for the championship and will be used in all rounds of competition. Institutions will be allowed to choose the model of Wilson football they wish to use while on offense throughout the championship.

After selections, each participating team will receive 12 Wilson footballs that are to be used throughout the duration of the preliminary rounds. Should extra footballs be needed, please contact Ty Halpin and Alyssa Rice at the NCAA national office. The two teams advancing to the Football Championship Subdivision Championship Game will receive a separate shipment of 12 footballs to be used for the 2023 NCAA Division I Football Championship Game.

### INSTANT REPLAY

Instant replay will be used at each game of all rounds of the championship. Instant replay equipment will be provided to each site using instant replay by DVSPORT. Each stadium will be responsible for providing all audio/video cabling and ring-down phone connections from the broadcast truck positions to the replay booth.

### Personnel

- 1. Replay Official and Communicator.** The conference selected to officiate the preliminary-round game will recommend a replay official and a replay communicator for the game. The recommendations must be approved by the

NCAA, in consultation with the national coordinator of football officials, Steve Shaw. Those selected should not have any conflict of interest (perceived or actual) to any team or conference participating in the game they are assigned to work. The NCAA will coordinate air travel, if necessary, and help secure the use of a rental car for the replay official and communicator. Rental car expenses will be direct billed to the NCAA (when using Enterprise or National).

The NCAA will be responsible for reimbursing the replay official and replay coordinator for the game fee (\$710 for the replay official; \$500 for the communicator), transportation between home and the game site in their personal automobile (at the current rate per mile, if the official did not fly) and per diem (\$45 per day).

NCAA staff will reimburse these positions via ArbiterPay and these individuals will receive information on setting up an account in ArbiterPay once they are selected to work a game.

The host institution will be responsible for securing, and will need to be direct billed for, lodging for these individuals for up to two nights. The host institution should reflect these instant replay lodging expenses in the proposed budget as a budgeted expense.

2. **DVSPORT Staff.** Two representatives from DVSPORT will be on-site to manage the technical aspects of the instant replay equipment and work with the replay official in the replay booth during the game as the communicator and technician. These individuals will be responsible for all of their personal expenses (lodging, meals, transportation, etc.). However, the host institution will be responsible for assisting the DVSPORT personnel in securing lodging during their stay (two to three nights).
3. **Sideline Assistant.** The host institution will secure two local individuals to serve as sideline assistants. The sideline assistants assist the replay official in communicating with the on-field officials for the review and discussion of plays, when necessary. The sideline assistants should each be paid a \$100 fee for their service, which should be paid by the host institution. The host institution should reflect these expenses on its proposed budget and financial report as a budgeted expense.

### Space and Power Requirements

Dedicated “private” space in the press box or suite level to accommodate not fewer than four people is required. This space should contain the following:

1. An unobstructed view of the playing field.
2. Adequate counter space (at least 10 feet long and two feet deep) in the front of the box.
3. At least two dedicated power sources with a minimum of four power outlets.
4. Enough power to accommodate a power consumption of 520 Watts/110 Volts = 4.73 amps.
5. Separated from any other activity (media, fans, etc.).

A representative from DVSPORT will be present at the mandatory administrative meeting to answer any questions.

## Section 1•6 Rules

Per NCAA Bylaws 17.32 and 31.1.6, member institutions shall conduct all intercollegiate competition in accordance with the playing rules of the Association in all sports for which the NCAA develops playing rules.

NCAA Football Rules and Interpretations will be followed and may be downloaded at [www.ncaapublications.com](http://www.ncaapublications.com). Questions regarding the interpretation of rules should be addressed to Steve Shaw, secretary-rules editor, 205-458-3000, ext. 205 or [footballrules@ncaa.org](mailto:footballrules@ncaa.org).

### OFFICIALS

A sport committee or games committee may not require membership in any specific officials’ association as a prerequisite for selection to officiate in an NCAA meet or tournament. Officials shall be selected and assigned by the sport committee or games committee (with the assistance of Steve Shaw), which shall ensure that officials adhere to the Association’s policies relating to gambling activities and drug and alcohol use. Furthermore, officials must conduct themselves in a manner befitting intercollegiate athletics. Failure to do so may result in termination of the officiating assignment.

The seven game officials and one alternate for all games will be selected by the NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee/College Football Officiating, LLC (CFO) from Division I Football Championship Subdivision conferences. The committee will use the following criteria when assigning officials: (1) Officials must be neutral, and games between two institutions from the same conference must be officiated by an officiating crew from another conference; (2) proximity of officials to the playoff site; and (3) frequency of assignments.

Note: If a conference used an eight-person officiating system during the regular season, that system may be used during the championship.

## Section 1.7 Uniforms

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The host institution will be the home team and will wear dark jerseys in the first-round, second-round, quarterfinal and semifinal contests. The visiting team will wear white jerseys. At the championship game, the higher-seeded team will be the home team and wear dark jerseys. The visiting team will wear white jerseys. If neither team is seeded, the home team will be determined by the NCAA. In all cases, the visiting team will be introduced first and will take the field first.

The logo restriction on student-athletes' apparel set forth in Bylaw 12.5.4 shall apply during NCAA championships to all personnel (e.g., coaches, athletic trainers, managers) who are in the team area for practices and games, or who participate in news conferences. The logo restriction on student-athletes' apparel set forth in Bylaw 12.5.4 shall apply to commercial logos on uniforms worn by band members, cheerleaders, dance team members and the institution's mascot during NCAA championship events.

### LOGOS

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

# Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

## Section 2.1 Championship Format

The NCAA Division I Football Championship provides for a maximum field of 24 teams. Eleven member conferences have been granted automatic qualification for the 2022 championship. The remaining 13 teams will be selected at large by the NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee.

The top eight teams in the 24-team bracket for the championship will be seeded. Team pairings will be determined according to geographical proximity. Teams from the same conference will not be paired for first-round games (except for teams from the same conference that did not play against each other during the regular season; such teams may play each other in the first round).

Eight first-round games will be conducted on the campus of one of the competing institutions, and the winners will advance to the second round. The second round features eight games (including the eight teams that received a first-round bye) on the campus of one of the competing teams. Second-round winners meet in the quarterfinals on the campus of one of the competing institutions. Quarterfinal winners will advance to the semifinals on the campus of one of the participating institutions. The winners of the semifinal games will play in the 2023 NCAA Division I Football Championship Game in Frisco, Texas, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023.

### START TIMES

Starting times shall be determined by ESPN in consultation with the NCAA and the host institution.

During the first three rounds of the championship, the NCAA will solicit the preferred starting times of host institutions. However, games may start not earlier than 2 p.m. local time and shall be determined by ESPN.

#### Tentative ESPN Broadcast Schedule:

ROUND	DATE	TIME	BROADCAST NETWORK
First-Round Games (8)	Nov. 26	TBD	ESPN+
Second-Round Games (8)	Dec. 2 or 3	TBD	ESPN+
Quarterfinal-Round Game	Dec. 9	TBD	TBD
Quarterfinal-Round Game	Dec. 10	TBD	TBD
Quarterfinal-Round Games (2)	Dec. 9 or 10	TBD	TBD
Semifinal-Round Game	Dec. 16	TBD	TBD
Semifinal-Round Game	Dec. 17	TBD	TBD
Championship Game	Jan. 8	2 p.m. Eastern Time	ABC

The quarterfinal and semifinal rounds will be conducted on different days. One quarterfinal game will occur Friday, Dec. 9, and one quarterfinal game will occur Saturday, Dec. 10. The other two quarterfinal games may take place either Friday, Dec. 9 or Saturday, Dec. 10. One semifinal game will be played Friday, Dec. 16 and the other Saturday, Dec. 17.

The quarterfinal and semifinal schedules will be determined by the NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee the Saturday night of the preceding round. Prospective hosts should note these date possibilities in their facility evaluation forms and when developing their proposed budgets.

\*Note: Friday games are not permitted in the first or second rounds.

### TICKETS

Each competing institution will have access to an allotment of 500 tickets for each round of the championship. The host institution may use its discretion in the location for the visiting team tickets. Host institutions may place the visiting team fans in the same location(s) as they do for all regular-season games.

The host institution or sponsoring agency will retain 250 of the 500 tickets, and the competing institutions will be advised that they are available, if needed. Additional tickets may be purchased, but the seat locations will not be guaranteed.

The visiting institution is required to purchase a minimum of 200 tickets from the host institution at the standard price point for tiering in that location for any preliminary-round playoff game.

Each institution shall return all money and unsold tickets and inform the host institution or sponsoring agency of the number it will require from the 250 tickets being retained, not later than 6 p.m. three days before the game (i.e., Tuesday for a Friday game and Wednesday for a Saturday game). If the tickets are not returned to the host institution or sponsoring agency by this time, the institution shall be responsible for all unreturned tickets at face value. Once the competing institutions release the tickets being retained, the host institution or sponsoring agency will use them for public sale.

There are no minimum ticket prices for first-round games. However, for the second round, quarterfinals and semifinals, the host institutions shall not set ticket prices lower than the regular-season ticket prices. Host institutions may not offer complimentary tickets for the championship.

Should the visiting team bring its band to a preliminary-round game, band members should be provided admission at no charge. The seating for the visiting band should be in addition to the visiting team ticket block. Visiting teams are required to officially notify the host institution tournament manager not later than 5 p.m. (host institution local time) Monday of game week whether they plan to bring a band and, if so, how many seats are needed for the band.

## TRAVEL PARTY

The size of the travel party is 130 persons for the first-round, second-round, quarterfinal and semifinal contests, including a maximum of 64 student-athletes in uniform.

For the championship game, the travel party will be 145 persons, including a maximum of 70 student-athletes in uniform.

## Section 2•2 Selection Information

### ALLOCATION OF BERTHS

The championship provides for a field of 24 teams. Eleven conference champions qualify automatically; the balance of the field is selected at large by the Division I Football Championship Committee.

### AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

Conference champions must be determined not later than Saturday, Nov. 19. Conferences must submit their notification of automatic qualifier online at [www.planningpoint.net/Events/CHAMPSAQ](http://www.planningpoint.net/Events/CHAMPSAQ).

The following 11 conferences have been granted automatic-qualification privileges for the 2022 championship:

ASUN Conference / Western Athletic Conference	Ohio Valley Conference
Big Sky Conference	Patriot League
Big South Conference	Pioneer Football League
Colonial Athletic Association	Southern Conference
Missouri Valley Football Conference	Southland Conference
Northeast Conference	

The NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee will annually make the determination of which eligible conferences will receive automatic qualification. The following criteria are used when determining which conferences shall receive annual automatic qualification for the NCAA Division I Football Championship:



## DIVISION I FOOTBALL

1. Non-conference records.
2. Strength of non-conference opponents.
3. Recent postseason history.
4. Competition against Football Bowl Subdivision opponents.

### AT-LARGE SELECTION

For the 2022 NCAA Division I Football Championship, 13 at-large spots will be available in the 24-team championship field.

### PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES (COUNTABLE COMPETITION)

For NCAA team-championship selection purposes per NCAA Bylaw 31.3.3, 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.

### NCAA SIMPLE RATING SYSTEM (NCAA SRS)

The NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee will use the NCAA Simple Rating System (NCAA SRS) as a tool for evaluating teams for selection into the 24-team championship.

The NCAA SRS is a ranking system used to gauge team quality. Within the NCAA SRS, the rating of a team will be calculated largely by two components: a strength-of-schedule measure (SOS) and a win-loss differential (WL).

A team's SOS measure is simply the average NCAA SRS rating of that team's opponents for the season.

A team's WL measure factors whether a game was won or lost; the location of the game (home/away/neutral site); and the NCAA (sub)division of the opponent.

1. In a game between two FCS teams played at a neutral site, the winning team gets one point and the losing team loses one point.
2. In a game between two FCS teams played at a non-neutral site, a home win counts 0.75 for the home team and -0.75 for the losing team. A road team win counts 1.25 for the visiting team and -1.25 for the home team. In other words, there is a bonus/penalty of +/- 0.25 for the home/away teams depending on the outcome.
3. An additional bonus/penalty of +/- 0.1 is added/deducted for games that FCS teams play against FBS/non-Division I opponents. For instance, a home FCS win against a Division II opponent counts only as +0.65 points (0.75 for a home win - 0.1 penalty for playing a Division II opponent). In addition, a road FCS win against an FBS opponent counts +1.35 points for the FCS team (1.25 points for a road win + 0.1 bonus for beating an FBS opponent).
4. The WL measure is then doubled to equalize the contributions of the WL factor and SOS factor toward a team's NCAA SRS rating.
5. Margin of victory will be factored into a team's NCAA SRS rating. This component is capped at 21 points.

The teams' ratings are interdependent in that one team's rating depends on its opponents' ratings, which depend on their opponents' ratings, etc., based on the "network" of college football games played each week during the football season. The NCAA SRS will also standardize the data in order to equalize the variance in total number of games played (i.e., 11 or 12 regular-season games).

Games against Division III or non-NCAA opponents are not factored into any team's NCAA SRS rating.

The time of the season in which a game is played (early-season versus late-season games) is also not factored into a team's NCAA SRS rating.

The NCAA SRS will not "force select" any teams into the championship; rather, it is one of several resources that the Division I Football Championship Committee will have at its disposal when debating the merits of teams under consideration for championship selection.

The NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee will begin reviewing NCAA SRS data during the later portion of the football season as it prepares for championship selections. At that time, NCAA SRS rankings may also be posted on the NCAA website ([NCAA.com/fcs](http://NCAA.com/fcs)).

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

During the championship, institutions that are playing within 400 miles (one way) of their campus will be required to travel to that site via bus. Institutions traveling equal to or more than 400 miles (one way) to their game will be approved for air travel to that site. All air travel arrangements will be made via Short's Travel Management.

1. **Arrival Times at Playoff Sites.** Participating institutions in first-round, second-round, quarterfinal and semifinal games shall arrive not later than the established practice time the day before competition.
2. **Lodging.** The host institution or sponsoring agency shall make local reservations for the visiting team and advise them of the arrangements. These arrangements should include an appropriate amount of meeting space at the hotel for the visiting team. Each visiting institution is obligated to confirm their accommodations. A minimum of 60 double-double rooms should be reserved by the host institution for the visiting team for all preliminary-round games. It is strongly recommended that the hotel reserved for the visiting team meet the following specifications:
  - a. Lodging accommodations all located in one hotel property.
  - b. A full service property.
  - c. Be located within 30 miles of the competition venue.
  - d. Have minimum meeting space to accommodate one room for 100 for the purpose of team meals, two breakout rooms for 40 per room and a conference room for athletic training needs.
  - e. Provide a late check-out for any game starting after 4 p.m. local time.

Failure to meet any of the above recommendations may have an impact on a site being selected to host during the preliminary rounds. If any of the above recommended requirements cannot be met, the host institution must make the NCAA championship managers (Ty Halpin and Alyssa Rice) aware of the shortfall when submitting other bid materials.

A visiting team hotel lodging/accommodations questionnaire will be required to be submitted with the hosting bid materials. If a visiting team prefers to stay at a hotel other than the one to which it has been assigned, it may be released from all or a portion of its room obligation only if it obtains a written release of the reserved rooms from the hotel general manager before 5 p.m. local time on the Tuesday prior to the game. The hotel is under no obligation to provide this release. The visiting institution must file a copy of the written release with the NCAA site representative and the host institution. If a visiting institution fails to obtain this written release with the assigned hotel for the use of the original reserved rooms, full charges for these rooms will be the visiting institution's financial responsibility. Unless approved by the NCAA in advance, an institution is precluded from relocating to a hotel where the game or instant replay officials may be assigned.

The host institution is responsible for making hotel arrangements and providing payment for the lodging of the seven officials, instant replay official and the NCAA representative assigned to its site. These lodging expenses should be budgeted for and included the proposed budget. DVSPORT, the instant replay technology provider, will have two individuals on-site to run the instant replay system.

3. **Transportation.** Please refer to NCAA travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies can be found online at [ncaa.org/sports/2013/11/7/championships-travel-information.aspx](http://ncaa.org/sports/2013/11/7/championships-travel-information.aspx).
4. **Expense Reimbursement.** Transportation expenses and a \$150 per diem will be provided for each member of the travel party. The size of the travel party is 130 persons for preliminary-round contests, including a maximum of 64 student-athletes. For the FCS Championship Game, the travel party will be 145, including a maximum of 70 student-athletes.

## Section 2•3 Selection Criteria

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At-large teams shall be selected by the NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee, assisted by four regional advisory committees that serve in an advisory capacity only.

The following principles shall apply when selecting at-large teams:

1. The committee shall select the best teams available on a national at-large basis to complete the bracket. Per NCAA Bylaw 31, the basic criteria used in the selection of at-large participants are (1) won-lost record, (2) strength of schedule, and (3) eligibility and availability of student-athletes for the NCAA championship;
2. There is no limit to the number of teams the committee may select from one conference;
3. The won-lost record of a team will be scrutinized to determine a team's strength of schedule; however, fewer than six Division I wins may place a team in jeopardy of not being selected;
4. The committee may give more consideration to those teams that have played all Division I opponents; and
5. If a committee member's institution is under consideration, that committee member will not be allowed in the room during discussions involving his/her team and may not vote for his/her team during the voting process. Similarly, a committee member from a conference office may not be present during discussions, nor vote for any team from his/her conference.

### BRACKET PAIRINGS

All pairings will be made by the NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee. The following principles are applied when pairing teams:

1. The teams awarded the top eight seeds shall receive a bye in the first round and are placed in the appropriate positions in the bracket (Nos. 1, 8, 4 and 5 in the upper half; and Nos. 2, 7, 3 and 6 in the lower half);
2. The remaining 16 teams will play first-round games and will be paired according to geographic proximity and then placed in the bracket according to geographic proximity of the top eight seeds previously placed in the bracket;
3. The NCAA mileage threshold for mandatory team travel via ground is 400 miles (one way);
4. If a conference has four or more teams in the championship, the committee may allow an additional flight in the first or second round in order to avoid a conference having all of its teams on the same side of the bracket;
5. Regular-season non-conference match-ups in the first round of the championship should be avoided, provided it does not create an additional flight(s);
6. Teams from the same conference will not be paired for first-round games (except for teams from the same conference that did not play against each other during the regular season; such teams may play each other in the first round); and
7. Once the first-round pairings have been determined, there will be no adjustments to the bracket (e.g., a seeded team may play a conference opponent that advanced out of the first round).

## Section 2•4 Site Selection

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Regarding first-round, second-round, quarterfinal and semifinal sites, in addition to the criteria listed in Bylaw 31.1.3.2.1, the NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee shall consider the following additional criteria when selecting playoff sites:

1. The committee will consider previous crowd-control measures and crowd behavior of the prospective host institution (regardless of seeding).
2. Prospective host institutions must submit the following minimum financial guarantees, which shall be 75% of the estimated net receipts as submitted on the proposed budget:

First round – \$30,000

Second round – \$40,000

Quarterfinals – \$50,000

Semifinals – \$60,000

3. If the minimum financial guarantees are met, the committee will award the playoff sites to the higher-seeded teams.
4. When determining host institutions for playoff games when both teams are unseeded, criteria shall apply as follows: (1) quality of facility, (2) revenue potential plus estimated net receipts, (3) attendance history and potential, (4) team's performance (i.e., conference place finish, head-to-head results and number of Division I opponents), and (5) student-athlete well-being (e.g., travel and missed class time).
5. A conference champion would host a first-round game against a conference opponent (if applicable). This policy would be contingent upon the conference champion meeting the facility requirements to host and submitting an acceptable bid by the established deadline.
6. If a second-round, quarterfinal or semifinal playoff site is not available due to the fact the institutions involved did not submit a proposed budget, the committee will contact the institutions and offer the opportunity to submit a bid at the current round's minimum financial guarantee level. If seeded teams are not involved, the committee will determine the host institution by applying the championship site-selection criteria in Bylaw 31.1.3.2.1.

## Section 2•5 Preliminary-Round Hosting – Proposed Budget

Any institution interested in hosting preliminary-round competition of the 2022 NCAA Division I Football Championship must submit a proposed budget, respond to sport-specific questions, ensure that the institution's key contacts and facility information is up to date, submit proof of insurance, and upload the video board questionnaire (if applicable), instant replay questionnaire and photos of the designated instant replay space via the Championships Bid and Host Profile portal ([championships.ncaa.org](https://championships.ncaa.org)). To submit a bid, first search for the desired championship under "Championships Available for Bid" and select "Add Bid."

Please note that all member institutions are allowed to regularly and easily access their profiles by visiting [championships.ncaa.org](https://championships.ncaa.org). For profile issues, user access or to reset a password, please email [championshipbid@ncaa.org](mailto:championshipbid@ncaa.org) or contact Kerstin Hunter ([khunter@ncaa.org](mailto:khunter@ncaa.org)) at the NCAA national office.

### CHAMPIONSHIPS BID AND HOST PROFILE PORTAL

The Championships Bid and Host Profile portal can be accessed at [championships.ncaa.org](https://championships.ncaa.org). The deadline to submit all bid materials for this championship is Monday, Nov. 14, 2022.

As a reminder, prospective hosts' budgets should include committee/site representative's lodging expense, game officials' lodging expenses, state and city taxes/fees, if applicable, and any ticket fees. Committee/site representative's per diem, mileage and luggage fees will now be paid by the NCAA instead of the host institution. Game officials will also be reimbursed by the NCAA using the ArbiterPay system for their game fees, per diem, mileage and luggage fees.

### FACILITY PROFILE

Institutions interested in hosting preliminary-round competition of the 2022 NCAA Division I Football Championship must add (or ensure the accuracy of) facility information for the applicable competition venue. This information is located at [championships.ncaa.org](https://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 NCAA Division I Football Championship Committee to aid in their 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](https://championships.ncaa.org).

### SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

Based on a review of current and future championships competition venues, discussions with safety and security experts, and its own expertise and knowledge, the NCAA has established a Safety and Security Advisory Group (SSAG) to develop a compilation of Best Practices for NCAA Championships. We urge each competition venue to take these Best Practices

## DIVISION I FOOTBALL

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into account when developing its safety and security program. As part of your bid, please submit a safety and security plan for your venue, which would be inclusive of the NCAA Championships Safety and Security Team contact information form, located in Appendix A of the Best Practices document.

The best practices for venue safety and security, along with the safety and security contact form, are located at [championships.ncaa.org](https://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

If you have any questions regarding the bid process, please contact Ty Halpin (317-917-6136 / [thalpin@ncaa.org](mailto:thalpin@ncaa.org)) or Alyssa Rice (317-917-6627 / [arice@ncaa.org](mailto:arice@ncaa.org)). If you experience technical difficulties with the Championships Bid and Host Profile portal, please contact [championshipbid@ncaa.org](mailto:championshipbid@ncaa.org).

# Appendixes

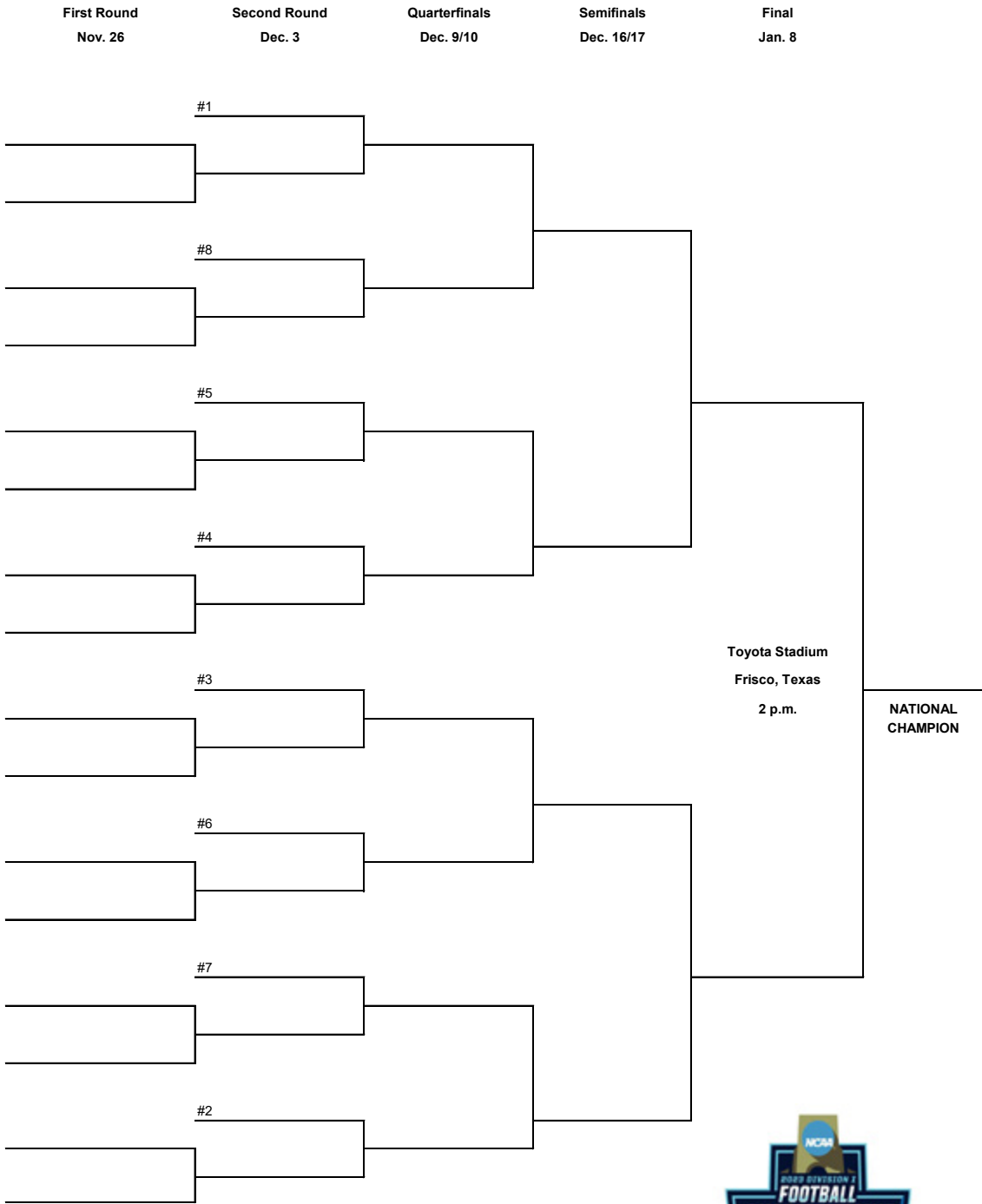
## Contents

Appendix A • Bracket .....	22
Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship .....	23

Appendix A • Bracket



2022 NCAA Division I Football Championship



All games are available on



\* Host Institution  
All times are Eastern time. Information subject to change.  
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Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

CENTRAL REGION

Missouri Valley Football Conference (11)

Illinois State University	University of South Dakota
Indiana State University	South Dakota State University
Missouri State University	Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
University of North Dakota	Western Illinois University
North Dakota State University	Youngstown State University
University of Northern Iowa	

AQ Conference

Ohio Valley Conference (6/\*7)

Eastern Illinois University	University of Tennessee at Martin
*Lindenwood University (reclassifying - eligible 2026)	Tennessee State University
Murray State University	Tennessee Technological University
Southeast Missouri State University	

AQ Conference

Pioneer Football League (10/\*11)

Butler University	Presbyterian College
Davidson College	University of San Diego
University of Dayton	*University of St. Thomas (Minnesota) (reclassifying - eligible 2025)
Drake University	Stetson University
Marist College	Valparaiso University
Morehead State University	

AQ Conference



EAST REGION

Colonial Athletic Association (13)

University at Albany	University of Rhode Island
University of Delaware	University of Richmond
Elon University	Stony Brook University
Hampton University	Towson University
University of Maine	Villanova University
Monmouth University	William & Mary
University of New Hampshire	
AQ Conference	

The Ivy League (8)

Brown University	Harvard University
Columbia University	University of Pennsylvania
Cornell University	Princeton University
Dartmouth College	Yale University
Non-AQ Conference	

Northeast Conference (6/\*8)

Central Connecticut State University	Sacred Heart University
Duquesne University	Saint Francis University (Pennsylvania)
Long Island University	*Stonehill College (reclassifying - eligible in 2026)
*Merrimack College (reclassifying - eligible in 2023)	Wagner College
AQ Conference	

Patriot League (7)

Bucknell University	College of the Holy Cross
Colgate University	Lafayette College
Fordham University	Lehigh University
Georgetown University	
AQ Conference	

**SOUTH REGION****ASUN/Western Athletic Conference (8/\*10)**

Abilene Christian University  
 Austin Peay State University  
 University of Central Arkansas  
 Eastern Kentucky University  
 Kennesaw State University

University of North Alabama  
 University of Southern Utah  
 Stephen F. Austin State University  
 \*Tarleton State University (reclassifying - eligible in 2024)  
 \*Utah Tech University (reclassifying - eligible in 2024)

AQ Conference

**Big South Conference (6)**

Bryant University  
 Campbell University  
 Charleston Southern University

Gardner-Webb University  
 North Carolina A&T State University  
 Robert Morris University

AQ Conference

**Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (6)**

Delaware State University  
 Howard University  
 Morgan State University

Norfolk State University  
 North Carolina Central University  
 South Carolina State University

Non-AQ Conference

**Southern Conference (9)**

The Citadel  
 East Tennessee State University  
 Furman University  
 Mercer University  
 Samford University

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
 Virginia Military Institute  
 Western Carolina University  
 Wofford College

AQ Conference

**Southwestern Athletic Conference (12)**

Alabama A&M University  
 Alabama State University  
 Alcorn State University  
 University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff  
 Bethune-Cookman University  
 Florida A&M University

Grambling State University  
 Jackson State University  
 Mississippi Valley State University  
 Prairie View A&M University  
 Southern University, Baton Rouge  
 Texas Southern University

Non-AQ Conference

WEST REGION

Big Sky Conference (12)

California Polytechnic State University  
California State University, Sacramento  
University of California, Davis  
Eastern Washington University  
University of Idaho  
Idaho State University

University of Montana  
Montana State University-Bozeman  
Northern Arizona University  
University of Northern Colorado  
Portland State University  
Weber State University

AQ Conference

Southland Conference (7/\*8)

Houston Christian University  
University of the Incarnate Word  
Lamar University  
McNeese State University  
Nicholls State University

Northwestern State University  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
\*Texas A&M University, Commerce (reclassifying - eligible in 2026)

AQ Conference