

**PRELIMINARY ROUND SCHOOL HOST PRODUCTION  
DII FOOTBALL FAQ (Revised 7/31/2025)**

**Please Refer to the Minimum Technical Requirements Found on the Sport Landing Page!**

TOPIC	QUESTION	RESPONSE
<b>Break Structure</b>	Who is responsible for coverage of breaks and halftimes?	Schools are responsible for covering breaks. They can be produced breaks from site or these can simply be lock off camera of the field with the audio cut off. If able, please post a graphic stating "Will Be Right Back After This Break".
	Who provides the commercial format?	The NCAA, in conjunction with ESPN, will provide a commercial format and timing sheet.
	Communication of breaks?	The host is responsible for communicating to each team the timeout format and timing sheet.
	Are schools allowed to promote their own sponsors within broadcast?	All sponsored content should be removed from the shows (e.g., presenting sponsors; sponsored segments).
	When should the schools come on air for the broadcast?	If you are wanting to produce a pregame show, you may go live no earlier than 30 minutes before kickoff. For no pregame show, come up live at the half hour or hour based on timing, and follow the provided NCAA timing sheet until kickoff.
<b>Pregame/Halftime/Postgame Shows</b>	How long after the game do schools have to produce a post-game show (if applicable)?	Shows should not last longer than 30 minutes after the final play.
	Do schools have to produce a pregame, halftime or postgame show?	No, schools are not required to produce any shows.
	Who does the school notify for plans to produce a pregame, halftime or postgame show?	Schools planning to host a pre/postgame show <b>must</b> email the NCAA broadcast liaison no later than Noon ET the day before your planned production.
<b>PSAs</b>	Are schools allowed to have their institutional PSA air within the broadcast?	These productions are considered "pass-through" meaning there is no sales inventory and no space for PSAs.
	Are schools allowed to have their institutional PSA air within the broadcast?	No, this inventory is dedicated to NCAA PSA content.

<b>Production Specific Minimums</b>	Camera Complement	A two-camera minimum is required for the broadcast(s). Please refer to the Minimum Technical Requirements camera map for ESPN preferred camera location options, which may be dependent on the facility layout.
	Are radio feed passthroughs permissible?	Radio feed passthroughs are permissible, however the preference would be to have a separate crew for both. If that's not possible, the radio play-by-play production can be used as the video stream play-by-play commentary as well. For the television broadcast purpose, any commercial ads that run on the radio broadcast must be muted during commercial radio reads or sponsored segments, if any.
	Can productions favor the home team?	No, all NCAA championship productions should be produced from a neutral standpoint and should prioritize documenting the event.
	Are hosts required to supply the TOC?	It is not mandatory, but if you would like to provide a TOC to communicate with your production crew from the field, that is permissible.
	Who is responsible for graphics?	The host production is responsible for producing graphics. ESPN will be providing a toolkit with graphics to help assist host with consistent broadcast "look and feel". This requires specific graphic machines (Xpression and VIZ). NOTE: ESPN does not support any graphics platform outside of Xpression and Viz, and is unable to provide graphic templates for other platforms.
	What will be provided in the toolkit?	The toolkit will contain the following: instructions for transmission booking, commercial formats and integration, timing sheet, rights and melts information for uploading, graphic elements with links for access, music with links for access, clock and score bug information, courtesy rights instructions, interview specifics for timing, contact information for additional questions or needs.
	How do you access the toolkit?	The NCAA broadcast liaison, in partnership with the championship manager and ESPN, will supply the host video production lead the link to all necessary toolkit items via email once hosts are confirmed.
	What music do we use for the broadcast?	ESPN and the NCAA will have a toolkit that contains approved music that can be used.
	Are schools required to upload the game post event and is there a melt required?	The game record, as well as any melts that are created, are required to be sent to Veritone, the NCAA partner for video archive and licensing. ESPN will handle the delivery of this content to Veritone. Melts are not required but strongly preferred. If you are able to create a melt from your production, it is preferred to slate and send your melt down the line as soon as possible following the event. If you are unable to create a melt from your production, please notify ESPN and the NCAA broadcast liaison.
	How do we confirm transmission?	The NCAA and ESPN will work directly with your school on transmission requirements. Should your institution not have the correct equipment, ESPN can assist in loaning you the specific equipment.

	Are schools required to provide clock and score?	Yes, ESPN and the NCAA will provide specific clock and score placement, titling and branding within the toolkit. If you do not have an ESPN branded scorebug for this sport, you may use your own but needs to be free of all school, other network or conference branding.
	Are in-game interviews mandatory?	The NCAA does not mandate interviews during preliminary rounds but encourage this opportunity should the school production have the resources to conduct. Please receive participating school permission prior to interviews. Please offer this to all participating schools.
	Are hype videos allowed to be played in broadcast?	No - all highlight packages need to be built by school production due to potential music rights and footage rights issues.
<b>ESPN+ Access</b>	How do we access ESPN+?	A subscription is required for ESPN+ access. Monthly options as well as annual or bundle options are available.
	Does the NCAA supply hosts with free ESPN+ subscriptions?	No, ESPN does not supply the NCAA with logins for ESPN+. All must be purchased on your own.
<b>Stipends</b>	Will a stipend be provided to hosts?	No.
	Will personnel costs be reimbursed?	Yes, personnel costs associated with streaming will be reimbursed. These costs should be submitted as part of your host budget.