



PRECHAMPIONSHIPS 2025-26 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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Section 1 • Introduction

During the 2025-26 academic year, the Association will sponsor 92 national championships – 43 for men, 47 for women and two for both men and women. Of the men's championships, four are National Collegiate Championships, 13 are Division I championships, 12 are Division II championships and 14 are Division III championships. Of the women's championships, eight are National Collegiate Championships, 12 are Division I championships, 13 are Division II championships and 14 are Division III championships. The combined men's and women's championships are National Collegiate Championships.

The Prechampionship Manual will serve as a resource for institutions to prepare for the championship. This manual is divided into three sections: General Administrative Guidelines, Sport-Specific Information and Appendixes.

Sections one through nine apply to policies applicable to all 92 championships, while the remaining sections are sport specific

Section 1.1 Definitions

Prechampionship Manual. Resource for institutions to prepare for the championship.

Administrative Meeting. Prechampionship meeting for coaches and/or administrators.

Appendixes. Any supplemental documents to be provided and distributed through the various resources.

Championship Manager. The NCAA staff member(s) responsible for the operational oversight of the championship.

Games Committee. The committee assigned to supervise the conduct of each championship session at a specific site. For finals sites, the games committee is typically the NCAA national committee.

NCAA National Committee. The sport committee with direct oversight responsibilities for the championship.

Non-predetermined Sites. Those sites that are selected to host at the time of the participant/team selections announcement.

Playing Rules. The rules under which the competition will be conducted.

Predetermined Sites. Those sites that are selected to host before the participant/team selections announcement.

Preliminary Rounds. The rounds of the championship before the final or championship round.

Regional Alignment. The geographic location of institutions or regional advisory committees.

Schedule of Events. Official event schedule – includes all required activities (e.g., practices, banquets).

Selection Criteria. Policies and procedures in place to guide the team selection process.

Site Selection Criteria. Policies and procedures in place to guide the site selection process.

Squad Size. In any championship in which a squad limit has been established by the governing sport committee or by the bylaws, the number of eligible student-athletes in competitive uniform eligible to participate at the start of competition.

Tournament Physician. The physician designated by the host institution/conference to serve as the chief medical advisor for the championship event(s) to be hosted at the host venue.

Section 2 • Championship Core Statement

The championships and alliances staff strives to administer competition in a fair, safe, equitable and sportsmanlike manner so that the experience of the student-athlete is paramount.

This is attained by:

Ensuring student-athletes' optimal experience.

Executing championship events reflecting appropriate quality and values to/for stakeholders – student-athletes, coaches, administrators, member institutions, sport committees, fans, broadcast partners and corporate champions/partners.

Coordinating all aspects of the championship in an efficient, effective manner through common operating policies and practices, using internal and external resources.

Integrating championships with broadcast and corporate relationships in a manner that maintains the integrity of the championship.

Assuring effective management of the business aspects of the operation.

Enhancing the assets of the NCAA and their value by collaborating with internal and external expertise to achieve heightened exposure (e.g., community programs, fan events, banquets, anniversaries).

Section 3 • Conduct

Section 3.1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability

[Reference: Certification of Eligibility/Availability in Bylaws 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20.2.4, 31.2.1.7.1, 31.2.1.7.1.2 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Bylaws 7.3.1.5 and 18.2.1 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Division II Championships Committee Policy and Bylaws 31.2.1.5, 31.2.1.5.2, and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

Only student-athletes eligible under Bylaws 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 may compete in NCAA championships. Member institutions are required to certify the eligibility of their student-athletes before the beginning of each academic year and to withhold ineligible student-athletes from all intercollegiate competition.

Member institutions are reminded to notify the NCAA national office before the selection date for each championship of any student-athlete who may have participated in regular-season competition but subsequently is determined to be ineligible or unavailable for NCAA championship competition.

DISCOVERY OF INELIGIBILITY OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE AFTER SELECTION

If an institution fails to report an ineligible student-athlete and the omission is not discovered until after the institution is selected to participate in the championship, necessitating the institution's withdrawal from the championship, that withdrawal shall be considered as one of the years of ineligibility, provided another institution participates in the championship in place of the disqualified institution. If the discovery of the ineligible student-athlete occurs so near the beginning of the championship that the governing sport committee does not have a reasonable period of time to replace the disqualified institution in the bracket, that fact shall be taken into consideration in determining the number of years the disqualified institution shall be ineligible to participate.

Section 3.2 Drug Testing

As part of preparation and planning to participate in championship events, member institutions are reminded and encouraged to review all applicable policy and legislative requirements pertaining to banned substances, drug testing and related eligibility requirements with their student-athletes. Student-athletes who compete in NCAA championships may be subjected to drug tests in accordance with legislation and may be determined to be ineligible as a result thereof. Only student-athletes who have consented in writing to such testing are initially eligible for these championships; and thereafter, student-athletes who are tested shall remain eligible only if they test negative.

Section 3.3 Honesty and Sportsmanship

Individuals employed by (or associated with) a member institution to administer, conduct or coach intercollegiate athletics and all participating student-athletes shall act with honesty and sportsmanship at all times so that intercollegiate athletics as a whole, their institutions and they, as individuals, shall represent the honor and dignity of fair play and the generally recognized high standards associated with wholesome competitive sports.

Section 3•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies

MISCONDUCT

Misconduct in an NCAA championship is any act of dishonesty, unsportsmanlike conduct, unprofessional behavior or breach of law, occurring from the time the championship field is announced through the end of the championship, that discredits the event or intercollegiate athletics. Each games committee shall hold an administrative meeting with the representatives of participating institutions to review and explain the policies related to misconduct.

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A governing sport committee may assess a financial penalty against an institution for failure of any of its representatives to adhere to the policies and procedures governing the administration of the competition. This includes, but is not limited to, failure to comply with the procedures and deadlines for submitting scores, score sheets, schedules, rosters and entry/march-in forms for qualification and other materials necessary for the efficient administration of the competition. [Click here](#) to see the full misconduct/failure to adhere to policies and procedures online.

Section 3•5 Sports Wagering Policy

Sports wagering includes placing, accepting or soliciting a wager (on a staff member's or student-athlete's own behalf or on the behalf of others) of any type with any individual or organization on any intercollegiate, amateur or professional team or contest. Examples of sports wagering include, but are not limited to, the use of a bookmaker or parlay card; internet sports wagering; mobile betting; auctions in which bids are placed on teams, individuals or contests; and pools or fantasy leagues in which an entry fee is required and there is an opportunity to win a prize.

The current NCAA legislation against sports wagering prohibits NCAA student-athletes, member institutions' athletics staff and non-athletics staff with athletics responsibilities, and conference office staff from participating in sports wagering activities or providing information to individuals involved in or associated with any type of sports wagering activities concerning intercollegiate, amateur or professional athletics practice or competition in a sport in which the NCAA conducts championship competition, in bowl subdivision football and in emerging sports for women.

A wager is any agreement in which an individual or entity agrees to give up an item of value (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner) in exchange for the possibility of gaining another item of value.

STUDENT-ATHLETES

A student-athlete found in violation of the prohibition against knowingly participating in any sports wagering activities or providing information to individuals involved in or associated with any type of sports wagering activity that involves intercollegiate, amateur or professional athletics competition shall be ineligible for further intercollegiate competition, subject to appeal to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of eligibility.

POSTSEASON

In championships in which a bracket format is used, student-athletes, coaches and administrators may not participate in bracket competitions where there is both a required entry fee and an opportunity to win a prize. Student-athletes and administrators may participate under current NCAA rules in bracket contests where there is no entry fee but a possibility of winning a prize. Some NCAA member schools, however, have chosen to ban student-athletes from participating in these types of bracket contests.

HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

It is permissible for NCAA championships to be conducted at locations in states that permit sports wagering.

Section 3•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey

During the NCAA championships, the student-athlete experience is paramount. NCAA staff and hosts dedicate themselves to planning the best experiences for all involved. As part of our commitment to getting better, following the championship, participants will receive a survey to provide feedback on their experience and input on how championships can be improved for future NCAA student-athletes. Institutional administrators and coaches will receive

an email containing a link to the survey and will be asked to forward the survey to student-athletes. Additionally, this survey will be accessible via QR code found on the back of NCAA-issued championship credentials.

We also understand that sometimes certain circumstances or conditions occurring during the events may require real-time consideration. When this is the case, student-athletes may reach out to their site representative or NCAA national office staff on-site.

Section 4 • Elite Scholar-Athlete™ Award

The Elite Scholar-Athlete award was created to recognize the true essence of student-athletes by honoring individuals who have reached the pinnacle of competition at the national championship level in their sport, while also achieving the highest academic standard among their peers. The award is presented in every sport, every division, and goes to the student-athlete who has the highest cumulative grade-point average of all student-athletes competing at the finals site. One student-athlete per championship will receive the award, and the announcement of the winner will be made at the finals site.

Institutions that wish to nominate a student-athlete must do so through an online nomination process. For more information or to access the online form and submit a nomination, [click here](#).

Section 5 • Fan Travel

Through support from Marriott International as the Official Hotel Partner of the NCAA, NCAA championships are pleased to provide easy and affordable accommodations for family and fans to follow their favorite student-athlete(s) and team(s) as they participate in NCAA championships competition. Travel arrangements completed through Marriott and NCAA Travel help support NCAA student-athletes. Please direct your fans to ncaa.com/travel to search and book online hotel reservations.

Section 6 • Health and Safety

As part of preparation and planning to host and/or participate in championship events, member institutions are reminded and encouraged to review all applicable health and safety policy and legislative requirements and guidance including, among others, those relating to concussion management, catastrophic injury prevention, inclement weather and independent medical care. These requirements and related information can be found in applicable division manuals, sports playing rules and the materials located on the [Health, Safety & Performance website](#). In addition, a summary of some of the key health and safety considerations related to traveling to championship events can be found in the [NCAA's Guidance for Medical Care and Coverage for Student-Athletes at Away Events](#).

Section 7 • Logo Policy

[Reference: Bylaws 12.5.4, 31.1.7 and 31.1.8 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Bylaw 17.1.10 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Bylaw 12.5.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

A student-athlete may use athletics equipment or wear athletics apparel that bears the trademark or logo of an athletics equipment or apparel manufacturer or distributor in athletics competition and pre- and postgame activities (e.g., celebrations on the court, pre- or postgame press conferences), provided the following criteria are met:

1. Athletics equipment (e.g., shoes, helmets, baseball bats and gloves, batting or golf gloves, hockey and lacrosse sticks, goggles and skis) shall bear only the manufacturer's normal label or trademark, as it is used on all such items for sale to the general public; and

2. The student-athlete's institution's official uniform (including numbered racing bibs and warmups) and all other items of apparel (e.g., socks, head bands, T-shirts, wrist bands, visors or hats, swim caps and towels) shall bear only a single manufacturer's or distributor's normal label or trademark (regardless of the visibility of the label or trademark), not to exceed 2-1/4 square inches in area (rectangle, square, parallelogram) including any additional material (e.g., patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo. The student-athlete's institution's official uniform and all other items of apparel shall not bear a design element similar to the manufacturer's trademark/logo that is in addition to another trademark/logo that is contrary to the size restriction.

Section 8 • Research

In order to avoid inappropriate and unnecessary participant distraction and disruption of championship events, it is expected any data collection or other research efforts conducted at or during championship events will be coordinated through the national office, with notice and a description of any research proposal to be submitted to the NCAA research staff at least six weeks before the championships event begins.

Section 9 • Travel Party

Please refer to the NCAA travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. NCAA Travel policies are updated annually and can be found online [here](#). Please reference Appendix A of the travel policies for reimbursable travel party numbers. The travel policies supersede all other documents.

Section 10 • Religious Conflicts

[Reference: Bylaws 31.1.4.1 and 31.1.4.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual.]

Institutional Policy. If a participating institution has a written policy against competition on a particular day for religious reasons, it shall inform the NCAA national office on or before Sept. 1 of each academic year in order for it or one of its student-athletes to be excused from competing on that day. The championship schedule shall be adjusted to accommodate that institution. *(Adopted: 4/22/98, Revised: 8/11/98, 10/28/99, 5/2/13)*

Individual Championships. In individual championships, an athlete must compete according to the institution's policy regarding Sunday competition (if the institution has no policy against Sunday competition, the student-athlete shall compete on Sunday if required by the schedule).

Section 11 • Team Replacement Policy

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

National Collegiate Men's Gymnastics

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Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1.1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

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Section 1.2 National Committee

Current members of the NCAA Men's Gymnastics Committee are:

EAST REGION

TBD

WEST REGION**Bryant Houk**

Assistant AD of Event and Game Operations
University of Oklahoma

EAST REGION**Rustam Sharipov**

Head Men's Gymnastics Coach
The Ohio State University

EAST REGION**Michael Powell**

Director of Gymnastics
William & Mary

EAST REGION**Daniel Ribeiro**

Head Men's Gymnastics Coach
University of Illinois

WEST REGION**Colin Payne**

Head Men's Gymnastics Coach
Simpson College

For additional information about the NCAA Men's Gymnastics Championships, contact:

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NCAA
317-917-6627 / arice@ncaa.org

Mike Powell, chair

Director of Gymnastics
William & Mary
757-221-3410 / mapowell@wm.edu

Section 1.3 Conference Liaisons

The NCAA Men's Gymnastics Committee shall appoint a committee liaison to each of the respective conferences to assist in the evaluation of teams throughout the season. The committee liaisons for 2025-26 are:

EASTERN COLLEGE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE**Michael Powell**

Director of Gymnastics
William & Mary
757-221-3410 / mapowell@wm.edu

BIG TEN CONFERENCE**Rustam Sharipov**

Head Men's Gymnastics Coach
The Ohio State University
614-477-6703 / sharipov.1@osu.edu

MOUNTAIN PACIFIC SPORTS FEDERATION

TBD

Section 1•4 Important Dates

Monday, Nov. 3	Deadline for entering schedules into Road to Nationals.
Friday, TBD	Judges for championships will be announced.
Monday, Nov. 10	Deadline for submitting team schedules and rosters to appropriate conference liaison and for submitting team schedules and judging requirements to appropriate judges' assignment chair.
Monday, Dec. 1	Any changes of FIG rules goes to the benefit of the athlete after this date. Prechampionship manual posted on ncaa.org .
Thursday, Jan. 1	After this date, all scores must be entered into Road to Nationals by 10 p.m. Eastern time the Monday after the competition.
Tuesday, Jan. 6	Weekly ranking posted on ncaa.com .
Tuesday, Jan. 13	Weekly ranking posted on ncaa.com .
Tuesday, Jan. 20	Weekly ranking posted on ncaa.com .
Tuesday, Jan. 27	Weekly ranking posted on ncaa.com .
Sunday, Feb. 1	No new meets may be added after this date without committee approval. Division I automatic qualification forms due to be completed online.
Tuesday, Feb. 3	Weekly ranking posted on ncaa.com .
Tuesday, Feb. 10	Weekly ranking posted on ncaa.com . Participant Manual posted on ncaa.org .
Tuesday, Feb. 17	Weekly ranking posted on ncaa.com .
Tuesday, Feb. 24	Weekly ranking posted on ncaa.com .
Tuesday, March 3	Weekly ranking posted on ncaa.com .
Tuesday, March 10	Weekly ranking posted on ncaa.com .
Tuesday, March 17	Weekly ranking posted on ncaa.com .
Tuesday, March 24	Weekly ranking posted on ncaa.com .
Tuesday, March 31	Weekly ranking posted on ncaa.com .
Sunday, April 5	Last day of qualifying.
Monday, April 6	All qualifying scores must be entered into Road to Nationals by noon Eastern time.
Tuesday, April 7	Selection announcement, 3 p.m. Eastern time.
Wednesday, April 8	Videoconference for coaches of teams that have qualified for championships, noon Eastern time.
Wednesday, April 15	Training facilities available at championships site. Teams must schedule training times by Friday, April 10.
Thursday, April 16	Mandatory coaches meeting, 9 a.m. local time. Championships Qualifier practice sessions, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. local time (Session I teams, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. local time; Session II teams, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. local time). Championships banquet, 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. local time.
Friday, April 17	Championships Qualifier, Session I, 1 p.m. local time Championships Qualifier, Session II, 7 p.m. local time.
Saturday, April 18	Championships Finals. Team, all-around and individual event finals, 6 p.m. local time.

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

2026 Championships Qualifier April 17 - State Farm Center, Champaign, Illinois; hosted by University of Illinois.

2026 Championships Finals April 18 - State Farm Center, Champaign, Illinois; hosted by University of Illinois.

DATE FORMULA

The championships qualifier and the championships finals will be held the third weekend in April.

FUTURE DATES

2027 Championships Qualifier April 16 - Lloyd Noble Center, Norman, Oklahoma; hosted by University of Oklahoma.

2027 Championships Finals April 17 - Lloyd Noble Center, Norman, Oklahoma; hosted by University of Oklahoma.

Section 1•5 Eligibility for National Collegiate Championships

[Reference: Bylaw 20.8 in the NCAA Manual.]

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

Section 1•6 Equipment

The equipment to be used in the championships will be furnished by American Athletic Inc. (AAI). All equipment used on the competition floor will be supplied by the official equipment company. Only equipment from the supplying equipment company may be used at the championships.

Representatives of the equipment company supplying the apparatus for the national championships must be present at all practice and competition sessions. A representative of the Men's Gymnastics Committee and the Technical Director will be responsible for reviewing the equipment, mats and floor arrangements to ensure that specifications are met.

NCAA specifications for mats will be used.

Three vaulting boards must be provided by AAI – two for vault and one for parallel bars.

New Equipment. New equipment and/or major modifications must be available for purchase by Sept. 1 each year and be fully approved by the NCAA Men's Gymnastics Committee by Oct. 1 each year if it is to be used at the championships that year.

Safety. Protective matting (i.e., the vault safety zone) must be used when round-off entry vaults are performed. A Yurchenko pad will be provided by the host school. Gymnasts are not required to use this mat. Any student-athlete who performs a round-off entry vault without the use of the vault safety zone will be disqualified from the competition.

RULES

The National Collegiate Men's Gymnastics Championships and all meets used to qualify for them will be conducted according to the current International Gymnastics Federation Men's Code of Points. 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 rules adopted by an outside organization.

Section 1•7 Uniforms

Each gymnastics team must conform to the following regulations for competition attire:

1. Gymnasts must have their name on the back of their competition shirts. All lettering must be at least 2 inches in height.
2. Official team clothing must be worn by all participants during all practice sessions, warmups and competition (including upper body). Official team bags should be used as well.

If a gymnast does not adhere to these policies, a warning will be given and failure to comply will result in a 1.0-point deduction in the team's score for each correctable infraction. For individual competition, the 1.0 deduction will be subtracted on the first event on which he competes by the head judge at that event.

NEW FOR 2025-26: Gymnasts are permitted to wear stud piercings, but no other jewelry is permitted. After a warning, a 0.3 deduction will be taken from the gymnast's score for each occurrence for attire violation.

LOGOS

Refer to General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7.

In Division I and National Collegiate Championships, these restrictions apply to all apparel worn by student-athletes and all personnel, including coaches, trainers, managers, team support personnel, cheerleaders, mascots and band and dance team members, during the conduct of practice and competition, which includes any pregame or postgame activities.

This bylaw will be strictly enforced at all NCAA championships and the names of individuals and institutions that are not in compliance with the bylaw shall be forwarded to the NCAA enforcement staff.

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2.1 Championships Format

The championships qualifier and championships finals competition will consist of competition on the following: floor exercise, pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars, horizontal bar, all-around and team competition.

PRACTICE

At the championships, equipment should be set up by 8 a.m. Eastern (local) time the Wednesday before competition. The following practice times have been established: Wednesday, teams must confirm practice time with the host by Friday, April 10; Thursday, 9 to 10:30 a.m. (open practice), 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Session I teams), 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. (Session II teams); Friday, 9 to 10 a.m. (open practice); Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (open practice). All times are subject to change.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, April 15	Facility available for scheduled practices.
Thursday, April 16	Facility available for practices as scheduled.
9 to 10 a.m.	Administrative/coaches meeting.
6:30 to 8:15 p.m.	Championships banquet.
Friday, April 17	Facility available for practices as scheduled.
1 p.m. Central time	SESSION I, Championships Qualifier. (ESPN+)
7 p.m. Central time	SESSION II, Championships Qualifier. (ESPN+)
Saturday, April 18	Facility available for practices as scheduled.
6 p.m. Central time	Championships Finals (ESPN2).

START TIMES

Championships Qualifier. Sessions one and two will be conducted Friday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Central time.

Championships Finals. Finals will take place Saturday at 6 p.m. Central time on ESPN2.

All times are subject to change.

TRAVEL PARTY

[Reference: Per Diem and Transportation in the Division I General Section and Bylaw 31.1.5 in the NCAA Division I Manual.]

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 the NCAA travel policy is updated annually [here](#), and the travel policies supersede all other documents.

An institution that is advised it is in violation of this regulation and does not automatically conform to it shall forfeit the competition. There shall be no inordinate delay of the competition to allow the institution to conform.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Please refer to the NCAA Travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. [Travel policies](#) can be found online on [ncaa.org](#). The NCAA travel department may be reached at 317-917-6757, or by email at travel@ncaa.org.

Transportation expenses and per diem shall be paid only for the championships finals, but not for the championships qualifier.

Section 2•2 Results

SCORE REPORTING/QUALIFYING INFORMATION

The NCAA Men's Gymnastics Committee will use scores submitted online to determine top-12 rankings. The rankings will be based on scores posted on the following dates:

All meet scores through March 1 Average of all scores to date, including all home and away.

March 2 through March 29 Select the four highest scores, counting not more than two home meets, and drop the highest score. Average the three remaining scores.

March 30 through April 5 **NCAA National Qualifying Average (NQA).** Select the four highest scores, counting not more than two home meets. The highest of these four scores will be replaced with the conference team championship meet score. These four scores will be averaged to determine the NQA. For conference meets with event finals, the individual score from event finals may replace one of the three remaining scores used to calculate the individual NQA. The highest of the four initial scores must be replaced with the individual score attained during the conference meet team competition. Institutions may participate in a maximum of two virtual competitions during a single season.

Section 2•3 Selection Information

A videoconference of the Men's Gymnastics Committee will be conducted to select the 12 teams, five all-around competitors and five individuals per event for the championships qualifier.

ALLOCATION OF BERTHS

Championships Qualifier. Based on the NCAA national qualifying average, the top 12 teams, the top five all-around competitors who are not members of a selected team and the top five individuals per event who are not members of a selected team or have not already been selected in the all-around will compete in the championships qualifier. The next two alternates will be identified for each event and the all-around and will be inserted if a scratch occurs before the start of timed warmups for the assigned qualifier session. Not more than 12 competitors may represent any one institution.

The meet format will consist of six rotations of six groups. Student-athletes who qualify as individuals in the all-around and individual events will be placed with one of the six teams in each session of the championships qualifier.

Championships Finals. The top three teams and the top three all-around competitors not on one of the qualifying teams, plus the top three individuals on each event not already qualified on a team or as an all-around competitor, will advance from each qualifying session to the championships. Not more than 12 competitors may represent any one institution. March-in will be limited to 12 individuals.

Any participant in the championships finals is eligible to win an award for any event.

The meet format will consist of six rotations of six groups. Each group will consist of one team, one event specialist and one all-around competitor. The No. 1-ranked event specialist and all-around competitor from Session I will compete with the No. 1-ranked team from Session I; the No. 2 event specialist and all-around competitor with the No. 2 team, etc. The event specialist will compete in the first position, followed by the all-around competitor and then the team.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

For 2026, the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) has been awarded automatic qualification for its conference champion.

AT-LARGE SELECTION

The committee will verify the top teams, all-around competitors and individuals in each event. To choose the top teams and individuals, rankings generated by Road to Nationals will be used. Once scores submitted online are verified, the computer ranking will become official and then will be used to select the participants for the championships qualifier.

Team and individual scores may be deleted or changed from the final computer rankings if they cannot be verified by an official-signed scoresheet. However, no team or individual scores may be added to the rankings by the conference liaison. No scores will be considered for meets held after April 5.

IN-REGION COMPETITION

Countable Competition. An institution may count scores obtained during a maximum of two regular-season meets against institutional club or approved international programs toward its national qualifying average. An institution may not count competition against its own institutional club program. All competitions must follow FIG rules with NCAA modifications. An individual may count scores from the Winter Cup competition.

QUALIFYING STANDARDS

To qualify for selection to the championships qualifier, institutions must meet the following criteria, during the regular season, as established by the NCAA Men's Gymnastics Committee:

1. **Assignment of Judges.** All judges must be nationally certified. The local judging association for the National Gymnastics Judges Association (NGJA) will make the assignments. If both the host and visiting institutions agree not to accept the assignment of a judge, the judge must be replaced by the assignment chair. Otherwise, a coach has the right to appeal any judging assignment to the chair of the NCAA Men's Gymnastics Committee. Any appeal of a judging assignment will be reviewed by the committee. In all cases, the NCAA Code of Ethics for Judges and Coaches must be followed. The Code of Ethics for Judges and Coaches is included in the manual as [Appendix B](#).
2. **Regular-Season Competition.** In all meets, current FIG rules with NCAA modifications must be used and a minimum of two nationally certified judges per event must work the meet. Dec. 1 is the cut-off date for changes to the Code of Points. After this date, any changes or skill evaluations or clarifications will go before the NGJA/NCAA rules subcommittee. For the most up-to-date FIG rules interpretations, see the NCAA section of the NGJA website at ngja.org.

The names of the judges at each competition must be printed on the official scoresheets. Head coaches, in addition to the meet referee and head judge, are required to sign and note the time of signature on the official scoresheet.

NOTE: All coaches and the meet referee must sign the final scoresheets.

Teams may compete a fifth man at four up/four count competitions to complete his all-around score, if he already competes for his team on three events.

Vault. Gymnasts will perform one vault only throughout the season.

3. **Submission of Results.** All team and individual scores must be submitted to Road to Nationals and the respective men's gymnastics conference liaison. The official national ranking website may be accessed at roadtonationals.com. Schedules must be entered into the system by Nov. 4. Beginning Jan. 1, scores must be entered by 10 p.m. Eastern time on the Monday after the respective competition, except April 5, the day of the close of qualifying. On April 7, scores must be entered by noon Eastern time. Trouble entering scores should be reported to the respective conference liaison. All results should be sent electronically (email or fax) and received by the conference liaison within 24 hours after the competition.

Each team is responsible for submitting its own results to the computerized statistical service (Road to Nationals).

Scoresheets must be typed and must conform to the standardized format.

4. **Determining National Qualifying Average (NQA).** When selecting participants for the championships qualifier, the NCAA Men's Gymnastics Committee will determine the national qualifying average according to the formula outlined in section 2.2 of this manual.

For the entire regular season, four individuals on a team may compete on each event, with all four scores counting toward the team score.

Section 2•4 Competition Information

PRACTICE/WARMUP ROTATIONS AND ORDER OF COMPETITION

Wednesday, April 15

The gym will be open for practice on a first-come, first-served basis. Teams should request their preferred practice time by Friday, April 10.

Thursday, April 16

Open Practice 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Teams will have assigned rotations for the Thursday session practices. Individual all-around and event qualifiers will warm up with their assigned team for the championships qualifier.

Session I Practice 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Session II Practice 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Friday, April 17

Open Practice 9 to 10 a.m.

Session I Warmup 10 a.m. to 12:41 p.m.

Session I Championships Qualifier 1 p.m.

Session II Warmup 4 to 6:41 p.m.

Session II Championships Qualifier 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 18

Open Practice 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Championships Finals Warmup 3 to 5:41 p.m.

Championships Finals 6 p.m. (ESPN2)

NOTE: All times are listed in local time.

CHAMPIONSHIPS QUALIFIER

Qualification

Based on the NCAA national qualifying average, the top 12 teams, the top five all-around competitors who are not members of a selected team and the top five individuals per event who are not members of a selected team or have not already been selected in the all-around will compete in the championships qualifier. The next two alternates will be identified for each event and the all-around and will be inserted if a scratch occurs, up until timed warmups for that session begin. Not more than 12 competitors may represent any one institution.

Head coaches may petition all-around and individual event participants into the championships qualifier if the gymnast does not meet the NQA qualifications. A written petition must be submitted to the Men's Gymnastics Committee chair and the NCAA championship liaison by 11 a.m. Eastern time on Tuesday, April 7.

Ties. For qualification to the championships qualifier, ties will be broken using the following guidelines (in priority order):

Championships Qualifier – Team

1. Conference championship score;
2. Highest away score; and
3. Second-highest away score. Keep evaluating regular-season scores until the tie has been broken.

Championships Qualifier – Individual

- Ties will not be broken. All tied individuals will be invited to attend the championships qualifier.

Meet Format

The meet format will consist of six rotations of six groups.

Individual Qualifiers

Student-athletes who qualify as individuals in the all-around and individual events will be placed with one of the six teams in each session of the championships qualifier. If the host team only qualifies individuals, they will be in the second session. Every attempt will be made to keep members of the same team in the same session. The individual qualifiers will perform first on each apparatus.

Judging

Five judges will be used for each event.

Seeding

At the championships qualifier, the national qualifying average will be used to determine the seeding of teams in each session. The highest qualifying team in each session will be given first choice of starting position. Then, the second-highest qualifying team in each session will be asked to choose its starting event, followed by the third-highest team, etc.

Teams that do not enter their scores on Road to Nationals on time may not get to choose according to their seeding. If the host institution is participating in the team portion, its entire group will compete in Session II. If the host institution does not qualify as a team, the No. 1 seed will get to select its session.

Grouping

Group One: Seed Nos. 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 12

Group Two: Seed Nos. 2, 3, 6, 7, 10 and 11

Open Warmup and Practices

During all open warmups and practices, 12 student-athletes per team, plus up to six additional student-athletes with "Floor Access Only" credentials, may have access to the floor. Only six (6) student-athletes per competing institution are permitted to warm up at each apparatus at a time. A warning will be issued followed by a one (1.0) point deduction if more than six (6) gymnasts are warming up at an apparatus.

Once controlled warmups begin, student-athletes with "Floor Access Only" credentials will be required to leave the floor and move into the stands.

Controlled Warmup

There will be a controlled warmup on the competition floor. This warmup will be for four members from the qualified teams, gymnasts competing on the event in order to obtain an all-around score, plus the event specialist and/or all-around competitors assigned to the group. Each group will have 12 minutes per event and a one-minute transition time.

Equipment may be adjusted and prepared, but teams cannot warm up until cued by the announcer. This will be strictly enforced and a penalty (as per FIG, a 0.3 deduction) may be applied for violations. Each group will finish its warmup on the apparatus it has drawn as its first competition event.

Only six (6) student-athletes per competing institution are permitted to warm up at each apparatus at a time. A warning will be issued followed by a one (1.0) deduction if more than (6) gymnast are warming up at an apparatus.

A five-minute warmup time block will be allowed before each rotation. Immediately after the final score of the last competing student-athlete in previous rotation is posted, the public address announcer will cue teams to rotate, and the five-minute warmup period will begin. The five-minute time block includes:

- Teams rotating corrals.
- Addressing any inquiries submitted by teams.

Teams should rotate to their next corral prior to getting on the podium to begin their warmup. Individual qualifiers will warm up first before the team.

Roster

The official 12-man team roster for the championships qualifier may not be changed after the timed warmups begin. An exception will be granted in the instance a member of the 12-man roster is injured during timed warmups and is unable to compete. In this instance, the injured athlete can be replaced with a member outside of the 12-man roster up until the start of competition. Once the competition starts, injury replacements must be made within the 12-member roster. A 1.0 deduction from the team score will be imposed on teams that do not comply.

Lineup Changes

Official lineup changes within the 12-man roster may be made up until the end of the five-minute warmup in each rotation. Communicate all lineup changes to ProScore and head judge of that event.

Competition Format

Four gymnasts may compete on each event, with all scores per event counting toward the team score. When a fifth competitor performs to complete the all-around, his score only counts for the all-around and not for the team score. This athlete must compete at the end of the team lineup.

The public address announcers will announce the first competitors on floor exercise, pommel horse and still rings. When the floor exercise competitor completes his routine, the vault performer will be announced; when the pommel horse competitor dismounts, the parallel bars competitor will be announced; when the still rings competitor dismounts, the horizontal bar competitor will be announced. Throughout the competition, three competitors will be competing at the same time.

CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS

Qualification

The top three teams and the top three all-around competitors not on one of the qualifying teams, plus the top three individuals on each event not already qualified on a team or as an all-around competitor, will advance from each qualifying session to the championships finals. Not more than 12 competitors may represent any one institution. March-in will be limited to 12 individuals. Any participant in the championships is eligible to win an award for any event.

Ties. For qualification to the championships finals, ties will be broken using the following guidelines (in priority order):

Championship – Team

1. Highest team event score from the championships qualifier.
2. Next highest team event score, etc., until the tie is broken.
3. The National Qualifying Average score.

Championship – All-Around

1. Highest championships qualifier individual-event place.
2. Next highest individual-event place, etc., until the tie is broken.

Championship – Individual Event

1. E-score from the championships qualifier.
2. D-score from the championships qualifier.
3. National qualifying average score.

Meet Format

The meet format will consist of six rotations of six groups. Each group will consist of one team, one event specialist and one all-around competitor. The No. 1-ranked event specialist and all-around competitor from Session I will compete with the No. 1-ranked team from Session I; the No. 2 event specialist and all-around competitor with the No. 2 team, etc. The event specialist will compete in the first position, followed by the all-around competitor and then the team.

Judging

Five judges will be used for each event.

Starting Event

The starting event for the six teams participating in the championships finals will be decided immediately after the evening session of the championships qualifier. If a coach is not available to select his team's starting position, the team will be assigned its starting position after all other coaches present have selected. Positions for the team finals will be determined as follows:

- First choice – Session winner with highest score from the championships qualifier.
- Second choice – Other session winner.
- Third choice – Second-place team from the same session as the team with the highest score.
- Fourth choice – Other second-place team.
- Fifth choice – Third-place team from the same session as the team with the highest score.
- Sixth choice – Other third-place team.

Open Warmup and Practices

During all open warmups and practices, 12 student-athletes per team, plus up to six additional student-athletes with "Floor Access Only" credentials, may have access to the floor. Only six (6) student-athletes per competing institution are permitted to warm up at each apparatus at a time. A warning will be issued by a one (1.0) point deduction if more than six (6) gymnasts are warming up at an apparatus.

Once controlled warmups begin, student-athletes with "Floor Access Only" credentials will be required to leave the floor and moved into the stands.

Controlled Warmup

There will be a controlled warmup on the competition floor. This warmup will be for four members from the qualified teams, gymnasts competing on the event in order to obtain an all-around score, plus the one event specialist and one all-around competitor. Each group will have 13 minutes per event and one minute transition time.

Equipment may be adjusted and prepared, but teams cannot warm up until cued by the announcer. This will be strictly enforced and a penalty (as per FIG, a 0.3 deduction) may be applied for violations. Each group will finish its warmup on the apparatus it has drawn as its first competition event.

Only six (6) student-athletes per competing institution are permitted to warm up at each apparatus at a time. A warning will be issued followed by a one (1.0) deduction if more than (6) gymnast are warming up at an apparatus.

A five-minute warmup time block will be allowed before each rotation. Immediately after the final score of the last competing student-athlete in previous rotation is posted, the public address announcer will cue teams to rotate, and the five-minute warmup period will begin. The five-minute time block includes:

- Teams rotating corrals.
- Addressing any inquiries submitted by teams.

Teams should rotate to their next corral prior to getting on the podium to begin their warmup. Individual qualifiers will warm up first before the team.

Roster

The official 12-man team roster for the championships finals may differ from the championships qualifier. The championships finals roster may not be changed after the timed warmups begin. An exception will be granted in the instance a member of the 12-man roster is injured during timed warmups and is unable to compete. In this instance, the injured athlete can be replaced with a member outside of the 12-man roster up until the start of competition. Once the competition starts, injury replacements must be made within the 12-member roster. A 1.0 deduction from the team score will be imposed on teams that do not comply.

Lineup Changes

Official lineup changes within the 12-man roster may be made up until the end of the five-minute warmup in each rotation. Communicate all lineup changes to ProScore and head judge of that event.

Competition Format

The public address announcers will announce the first competitors on floor exercise, pommel horse and still rings. When the floor exercise competitor completes his routine, the vault performer will be announced; when the pommel horse competitor dismounts, the parallel bars competitor will be announced; when the still rings competitor dismounts, the horizontal bar competitor will be announced. Throughout the competition, three competitors will be competing at the same time.

Awards

Individual events, the all-around, team awards, assistant coaches of the year and coach of the year awards will be presented at the end of the competition. Ties in the team competition at the championships finals will not be broken.

Ties

Ties will be broken in the all-around and individual event competition at the championships finals using the following guidelines (in priority order):

All-Around Awards

1. Highest individual-event place.
2. Next highest individual-event place, etc., until the tie is broken.

Individual Event Awards

- E-score from the championships finals.

If there are still ties, the ties will not be broken. The NCAA national office will order duplicate awards.

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Appendix A • Sport Sponsorship

Big Ten Conference (5)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	The Ohio State University
University of Michigan	Pennsylvania State University
University of Nebraska, Lincoln	
AQ - None	

Eastern College Athletic Conference (6)

Springfield College	U.S. Naval Academy
U.S. Military Academy	College of William & Mary
Greenville University	Simpson College
AQ - Conference Champion	

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (4)

University of California, Berkeley	Stanford University
University of Oklahoma	U.S. Air Force Academy
AQ - None	

Appendix B • Code of Ethics

Code of Ethics for Judges and Coaches of National Collegiate Men's Gymnastics Championships

It is imperative to the dignity and growth of the sport of gymnastics that judges be well educated in the details of gymnastics and the current rules, and are thoroughly prepared for each assignment to cover all possible circumstances. The following code of ethics for judges and coaches is mandated, and coaches in violation may be subject to NCAA misconduct provisions.

1. **Qualification:** It is the duty of each judge to prepare himself thoroughly and constantly update his preparation by recertifying his national card each year. He shall not accept any judging assignment for which he does not feel well qualified. All judges must be nationally certified. State-rated judges are not acceptable for dual meets or tournaments.
2. **Appearance:** Each judge shall be prompt and shall dress and conduct himself with the dignity appropriate to his status. Coaches shall help set and maintain such standards. Judges shall wear a dark-blue coat, gray slacks, and a shirt and tie.
3. **Activities:** Each judge shall confine his activities to the purpose for which he is assigned. This does not include coaching, demonstrating or recruiting. Coaches will not ask judges to double as coaches.
4. **Impartiality:** Every judge will avoid even the appearance of partisanship. For example, a judge will avoid:
 - a. Judging a meet involving an institution he attends or at which he is employed in the athletics department. For the championships qualifier and championships finals, judges may not be employed by a participating institution.
 - b. Judging any meet when he feels prejudiced toward any competing team.
 - c. Traveling with one of the competing teams to or from the meet, except on commercial transportation.
 - d. Accepting overnight lodging invitations with competitors or coaches before or after a meet.
 - e. Accepting social invitations from the host coach before or after the meet, unless the opposing coach also is included.
 - f. Giving any appearance, especially at the meet, of any particular friendship with any coach or competitor.
 - g. Leaving the judges' designated seating area during warmups.
5. **Coaches' Restrictions:** Coaches will avoid even the appearance of courting partisanship or unprofessional behavior. For example, coaches may not:
 - a. Discuss with judges before the meet the rules and their interpretations, unless the opposing coach also is included.
 - b. Offer gifts, favors or privileges to judges that can be interpreted as attempts to influence their judgments in favor of his team.
 - c. As home coaches, act as announcers of their own competition.
 - d. Make public statements critical of judging.
6. **Conduct of Competition:**
 - a. It is the duty of officials and coaches to see that every gymnastics competition is conducted with full regard for the safety of and justice to all competitors, and the edification and pleasure of the spectators.
 - b. Judges must maintain appropriate separation, arrive at scores independently and adhere strictly to score flashing procedures in accordance with the NCAA modifications and FIG Code of Points.